

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of July 6 to July 12, 2019

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Articles are listed in alphabetical order by state within each category, so you can easily scan through the articles for those within your state or other states in which you have an interest. *International* articles are near the end. The categories are: *Abuse and Neglect*, *Guardianship*, *Laws & Legislation*, *Studies & Statistics*, *Improved Supports*, *International*, and sometimes, *Miscellaneous*.

Check the categories below for a guide to types of abuse. The categories are indicated by type, and the number of the article.

PLEASE NOTE: Visit our website at www.disabilityandabuse.org While on the homepage, we invite you to “like” us at the bottom of the page, making it easier to keep up with our activities! Prior weekly newsfeeds are archived at: <http://disabilityandabuse.org/newsfeed/contents.htm>

Please send comments or questions to: nora@disability-abuse.com or baladerian@gmail.com

Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 5, 9, 10, 16, 20, 21, 30, 31, 52, 56

Physical Abuse: 8, 12, 17, 24, 26, 28, 29, 37, 59, 60

Financial abuse: 7, 13, 14, 22, 34, 35

Kept enclosed: 18

Restrained: 60

Murder: 4

Neglected: 1, 17, 23, 62

Related to special education: 18, 21, 23, 60

WINNER of most egregious award: 6: Amazon under fire for selling restraint “equipment,”; 21: School principal dated the mother of a student to rape the nine-year old autistic child.

WINNER of “good job” award: (none this week)

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 7, 17, 34, 52

Carer: 1, 5, 12, 13, 15, 22, 24, 28, 29, 30, 31, 35, 37, 59

Acquaintance: 4, 16, 20

Stranger: 8, 56

Special education employee: 1, (Bus Driver), 18, 21, 23, 60

Pastor: 10

Foster home counselor: 59

Residential program: assisted living, senior living, SNF, Autism Treatment Center, in-home care, foster home.

Men: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 30, 31, 37, 52, 56

Women: 8, 11, 12, 13, 22, 26, 29, 35

Couple: 34

Good News: 33: WA will decrease 15 hours/day lockdown for inmates with mental illness; 39: Push begins for tougher school staff background checks.

Bad News: 2: Train suicide victim accused of sexually assaulting child(ren) with disabilities; 3: Advocacy groups petition Florida Governor to not create database which could endanger children with disabilities; 27: For fourth year, Texas special education programs “need assistance”; 44: HI provided inaccurate data on restraints and seclusion data incidence on DOE’s data given to the GAO; 46: Study shows most nursing homes are inadequately staffed; 51. Ohio’s Columbus police department reversed policies for transporting arrestees with disabilities; 66: Only 24% of subway systems in NY are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

You decide: #32: Couple with disabilities are separated as the law says individuals with the woman’s level of IQ cannot consent to sex. Now he’s in jail for 16 years charged with rape. Didn’t IQ alone as a measure to assess consent and capacity to consent become obsolete?

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “Autistic Teen Suffers Heat-Related Illness after Being Left on Hot Bus” - Police said the teen, who is non-verbal, was found on the empty bus after around three hours. The boy was treated at a local hospital and released after suffering heat-related issues. The owner of the Precious Home Services said both the driver and caregiver were trained to check the bus and get a head count before entering the facility. The driver and caregiver were fired immediately after the incident for failing to adhere to the policy. – News 4 San Antonio – July 10, 2019 – (Arizona)- <https://is.gd/Hv9Nnn>
2. “Train Suicide Victim was Caretaker Accused of Abusing Disabled Kids, Calif. Cops Say” - Deputies have [identified a Northern California man killed on](#)

[Sonoma County train tracks](#) on Tuesday as a 68-year-old caretaker who was accused of sexually abusing disabled kids. Keith Marcum of Rohnert Park was struck by the SMART train south of Santa Rosa around 9:30 p.m., according to the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. Deputies said they are "investigating the incident as a suicide as the train video clearly shows the man laid on the tracks in front of the train moments before impact." – The Charlotte Observer – (California)- <https://is.gd/zNIBNd>

3. "Advocacy Groups Protest Florida Database That May Discriminate Against Students with Disabilities" - On Tuesday, a coalition of 33 disability, mental health and digital privacy advocacy organizations [signed an open letter](#) to current Florida Governor Ron DeSantis opposing an upcoming database that may harm students with disabilities and mental health conditions. In an effort to identify school shooting threats, the proposed database would compare student social media posts with a wide range of personal information advocacy groups say set vulnerable students up for more discrimination. – Yahoo.com – July 9, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/5L3nUr>

4. "Police: Woman Missing after Boyfriend Accused of Killing Man with Special Needs" - Police say [Joshua Anderson mowed down Kevin Marshall, 20, after an argument on the Fourth of July](#). Witnesses said Anderson chased after Marshall in his truck as Marshall walked home in Newton County and ran him over. Marshall died at the scene. Anderson sped away, police said. Now, family members say Kendra Browning, Anderson's girlfriend, is missing. – WSB-TV – July 6, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/VMm3v1>

5. "Security at Assisted Living Facility Questioned After 94-Year-Old Claimed Assault" - In a press conference Tuesday, the family of Curliene Golden was joined by an attorney. Questioning a Clayton County assisted living facility's response to their 94-year-old loved one's story of being sexually assaulted while in residence. Golden would die shortly after the reported assault of September 2018. There is dispute about whether reporting guidelines were

followed, and if that would have preserved evidence. – CBS 46- July 10, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/T6FHPY>

6. “Amazon Under Fire for Selling Straitjackets and Restraints for People with Dementia” - Online retailer Amazon has come under fire for selling physical restraints and forms of straitjackets for dementia sufferers. Charities urged the site to stop selling the equipment, which they said endangered the rights of the most vulnerable. They spoke out as former care workers launched a petition, revealing the presence of dozens of such products on Amazon’s pages. -Yahoo.com – July 8, 2019 – (Global)- <https://is.gd/HbKCna>

7. “Des Moines Man Accused of Using Money Meant for Disabled Relative to Buy a New Car” - Authorities charged Steven Baker, 29, with first-degree theft and adult abuse. According to a criminal complaint, he transferred \$47,830 from his relative’s bank account to his own back in April. – Des Moines Register – July 9, 2019 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/Bkh6en>

8. Hyannis Female Allegedly Spray-Painted Homeless Woman and Threw Her Wheelchair Over a Fence Before Assaulting Others at the Ocean Street Docks - Charlene Mahoney of Hyannis is accused of spray painting a homeless woman and throwing her wheelchair over a fence before going to the Ocean Street Docks where she is accused of a second assault and battery. – Hyannis News – July 8, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/RUSwUS>

9. “Falmouth Man’s Bail Revoked in Rape Case” - An East Falmouth man charged with raping a mentally disabled woman had his bail revoked Thursday in Barnstable Superior Court after a series of alleged violations. Mark Rosenfield, 60, had been free since posting \$50,000 bail set June 25. Cape and Islands Assistant District Attorney Michael Patterson said

Rosenfield has a “desire not to comply” with pretrial supervision. – Cape Cod Times – July 11, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/0T02gV>

10. “Detroit Archdiocese Suspends Pastor Due to 'Credible Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor'” - Rev. Eduard Perrone, 70, has been restricted from any public ministry due to a [credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor](#) pending a church process, the Archdiocese of Detroit announced Sunday. Perrone was suspended Friday. Additionally, his name has been added to the Archdiocese of Detroit's list of clergy credibly accused of abuse. – Click on Detroit – July 7, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/DmHNWs>

11. “Woman Charged with Elder Abuse Set for Trial” - An Owosso woman charged with 10 counts of fourth-degree vulnerable adult abuse is set for a pre-trial conference in 66th District Court Tuesday, and then possibly a jury trial. Diane Lott, 58, is scheduled for a jury trial before 66th District Court Judge Terrance Dignan at 8:30 a.m. July 17. – The Argus Press – July 7, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/zFFuFj>

12. “Nursing Home Aide Charged with Assaulting Patient at Samaritas Senior Living” - Elizabeth Haines, 62, is charged with one misdemeanor count of assault and battery after she allegedly grabbed the wheelchair-bound victim's arm forcefully and pinned them to the chair in April 2018. The woman allegedly told Haines to stop, but she continued holding the woman's arms against the wheelchair. The victim had bruises on her arms afterward, according to prosecutors. Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel's Elder Abuse Task Force investigated the case and filed the charges, which were announced Thursday. She said restraining nursing home residents is considered abuse. – ABC 12 – July 11 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/kGWG7i>

13. “Woman Gets Probation for Financially Exploiting Vulnerable Adult” - Dolores Tritle, 54, in April pleaded guilty to taking \$7,330 from a woman who lived at a local nursing home and needed 24-hour care. Tritle was her power of attorney. – Alberta Tribune – July 10, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/Fq9qcy>

14. “Willmar Man Accused of Stealing More Than \$90,000 from Elderly Relative” - Jerry Lynn Olson is accused of four felonies for financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult. He allegedly wrote checks from the woman’s account to benefit himself and his family while the woman’s unpaid nursing home and medication bills topped \$50,000, and she was in danger of eviction. – West Central Tribune – July 11, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/qGI0pi>

15. “Moorhead Nursing Home Among 11 Troubled Minnesota Facilities, National Report Shows” - Undignified living conditions, holes in walls, a resident found wandering outside confused — those are some of the reasons federal regulators are scrutinizing 11 Minnesota nursing homes. – West Fargo Pioneer – July 7, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/xKxl0Q>

16. “Minnesota Man Charged with Criminal Sexual Misconduct” - Kelly Benjamin Birch, 51, of Elizabeth, Minnesota, was arrested April 9. The felony counts against him are fourth degree criminal sexual conduct with a mentally impaired victim, fourth degree criminal sexual conduct with a victim aged 16-17, storing meth paraphernalia in the presence of a child or vulnerable adult and fifth degree drug possession/not small amount of marijuana, according to a criminal complaint. – Daily News – July 7, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/tbsG2v>

17. “Mooreville Man Charged Abuse of Vulnerable Brother” - Charles E. Clifford, 46, of Mooreville, was arrested July 3 and charged with injury of a

vulnerable adult. He is being held in the Lee County Jail on a \$25,000 bond. Lee County deputy sheriffs responded to a residence in Mooreville June 26 to assist with a medical call. They found a 65-year-old vulnerable man strapped to a utility trailer, suffering from dehydration and severe sunburns. – Daily Journal – July 8, 2019 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/To4Xp1>

18. “Parent Sues Columbia Schools Over Student Kept in Isolation” - Named only as R.W. in the lawsuit filed by his mother, whose name is given only as H.W. in the legal documents, the case alleges the Columbia Public Schools, now-retired Principal Tim Majerus and kindergarten teacher Theresa Reinkemeyer failed to heed warnings about the boy’s behavior and anger issues and refused to consider him for evaluation for special education programs. – Columbia Daily Tribune – July 6, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/1mDkjH>

19. “First Police Interview Released of Woman Sentenced to Life in Prison for Killing Man” - Pamela Hupp, 60, of O’Fallan, was convicted of murder last week for fatally shooting 33-year-old Louis Gumpenberger. Authorities believe Hupp killed Gumpenberger as part of a bizarre attempt to frame Russell Faria, who was acquitted of the murder of his wife and Hupp’s friend Betsy. – Brinkwire – July 11, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/AcLs3U>

20. “State's Highest Court Upholds Former Cop's Sex Assault Conviction Against Disabled Woman” - The New Hampshire Supreme Court unanimously affirmed a lower-court ruling that Robert Magoon, 75, should have known his victim in her 20s was unable to make an independent choice to engage in sexual contact because she had significant disabilities. – Union Leader – July 11, 2019 – (New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/AlljiR>

21. “NJ Principal Dated Mom to Rape 9-Year-Old Girl with Autism — Lawsuit” - The allegations made in a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court on Wednesday say Frank Vanalesti befriended and dated a woman so that he could sexually abuse her daughter, a 9-year-old whose disability held her back several grades in school. She was in the second grade at his school when the abuse began, the lawsuit says. – NJ 101.5 – June 11, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/h8tleL>

22. “Indictment against Woman Alleged to Have Exploited Alamogordo Nursing Home Resident for Over \$80,000” - his afternoon, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that Guadalupe Evelyn Kingston was indicted by an Otero County Grand Jury on 18 felony charges including Exploitation, Forgery, Unlawful use of a Debit Card, Theft of Identity and Falsification of Documents, for allegedly stealing over \$80,000 from an elderly nursing home resident who suffers from dementia. – KRWG – July 10, 2019 – (New Mexico) - <https://is.gd/W66fgk>

23. “Queens Family Demands Answers after Autistic Teen Wanders Away from School, found in Manhattan” - It was early Monday afternoon, when family members say 14-year-old Ashilly Salce grabbed her backpack and walked out of the Phyllis L. Susser School in Queens, a Birch Family Services facility, where she’d been a summer school student for less than two weeks. – CBS New York – July 9, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/3biVCI>

24. “Investigation Begins into Alleged Incident with Elderly Woman” - According to the police department, a report was filed at the department 8:30 p.m. Wednesday night about an alleged incident at Lima Rehab and Nursing Center, where 70-year-old Susan Washington of Lima sustained significant facial injuries at the facility. – Hometown Stations – July 5, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/xn5tnp>

25. “When Your Emergency is a “Nuisance” For tenants with mental health needs or disabilities, chronic nuisance ordinances create an impossible choice between risking eviction and forgoing help in a crisis. We spent the past year [analyzing police reports and call logs](#) from towns and cities across the Midwest—and we found case after case in which cities use chronic nuisance ordinances to push people with disabilities out of their homes. – Slate – July 9, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/aP5TYs>
26. “DRO's Victims Of Crime Advocacy Leads to the Conviction and Sentencing of Abusive Cambridge Developmental Center Employee” - Yesterday, Dianna Stein, a former employee of the Cambridge Developmental Center, was sentenced to 59 months in prison for the abuse of Bradon Conway, a man who lived under her care in the facility. This extraordinary outcome was made possible thanks to the diligent work of DRO staff through its Victims of Crime Act program, Mr. Conway, his mother Jerri McCombs, and the Guernsey County Prosecutor's Office – Disability Rights Ohio – July 11, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/Wt73oS>
27. “For 4th Year, Feds Say Texas Special Ed. ‘Needs Assistance’” - For the fourth year in a row, federal education officials have found Texas “needs assistance” providing special education services required by law. The [Houston Chronicle](#) reports the U.S. Department of Education in June gave the state the same rating under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act it’s received every year since 2016. It comes despite state officials saying they’ve pushed to improve access to special education services since it was revealed Texas illegally capped how many children should get them. – Big Country Homepage – July 5, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/7K2mkf>
28. Dallas Police Issue Warrant for Autism Treatment Center Employee Accused of Kicking Patient's Teeth Out - An employee at the Autism Treatment Center in Dallas faces a charge of injury to a disabled person after a fellow

employee said he kicked a patient in the mouth, knocking out several of his teeth. Dallas police issued a warrant Monday for Troy Odell Freeman, the 49-year-old employee accused in the June 14 incident. – Dallas News – July 7, 2019 – (Texas)- <https://is.gd/mhC3TK>

29. “Woman Posing as Nurse Arrested for Assaulting Elderly Patient in Collin County” - Glenda Basanes, 44, was working at the Loving Care Home in Lucas when authorities said she assaulted a 92-year-old female patient June 21. Court records showed Basanes grabbed the resident by her buttocks and shook the woman's backside. The resident told investigators she felt pain all the way up her back. Investigators confirmed she was not licensed as a nurse and, during the investigation, learned Basanes was also accused of slapping an owner of the nursing home on the buttocks. – NBCDFW 5 – July 8, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/NqxnPK>

30. “Harris County Man Jailed for Allegedly Raping 77-Year-Old in Nursing Home Robbery” - The collar comes a day after Bryan Arellano Monasterio was indicted on three felony charges, including two counts of aggravated assault of an elderly or disabled person and one count of aggravated robbery of a person over 65. It was a DNA hit that ultimately helped deputies zero in on the 28-year-old as a suspect in the nighttime attack. – Chron.com – July 10, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/FqOxqQ>

31. “Woodbridge Caregiver Arrested for Allegedly Raping Disabled Woman” - An Alexandria man is behind bars for allegedly raping a woman he worked for as an in-home caregiver. According to a police report, Joachim Mmassy, 37, has been charged with two counts of rape. – Local DVM – July 9, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/yh13s0>

32. “Couple with Intellectual Disabilities 'In Love,' But He's in Prison for Rape” - James Desper was 26 when he connected with an 18-year-old woman from

Roanoke. His lawyer, Jerry Aquino, says the two texted for a time -- then agreed to meet. The two said they were in love and wanted to get married, but the law says a young woman with such a low IQ really can't give consent – so Desper was charged with rape – sentenced to 16 years in prison. The problem, Aquino says, is that Desper himself is mentally disabled. – WVTF Radio – July 9, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/oKTZQ8>

33. “WA Settles Lawsuit Over 15-Hour-A-Day Lockdown for Inmates with Mental Illness” - Washington's Department of Corrections has agreed to improve conditions for inmates with mental illness at the [Washington State Penitentiary](#) in Walla Walla. Under a [court-approved settlement](#) reached last week, the agency will open a new minimum- and medium-security unit for these inmates, with the goal of reducing the amount of time they spend locked up in their cells. – NW News Network – July 11, 2019 – (Washington)- <https://is.gd/VUijaN>

34. “Monongalia County Woman Sentenced in Financial Exploitation Case” - Court documents say Miranda Roach and Joseph Rosak demanded thousands of dollars from Rosak’s grandparents and when they refused Rosak physically threatened and told them he would burn their house down. When the grandparents continued to refuse, the pair began a series of transfers from their bank account totaling \$300,000. – WAJR – July 9, 2019 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/dPThED>

35. “Caregiver Arrested for Allegedly Using 72-Year-Old Man's Debit/Credit Cards” - A woman is facing charges after Kanawha County Sheriff's deputies say she used the debit and credit cards of a 72-year-old man she was taking care of for her own gain. Patricia Fisher, 49, of Charleston, is facing charges of financial exploitation of an elderly person, grand larceny and fraudulent use of an access device. – WSAZ – July 10, 2019 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/JvCvrD>

36. “Jury Finds Devils Lake Public Schools Retaliated Against Former Employee After She Reported Staff Misconduct” - Harmony House, a residential group home for foster and at-risk youth, is overseen by Devils Lake Public Schools and Lake Region Special Education. A jury decided late last month that leaders from Devils Lake Public Schools, Lake Region Special Education and Harmony House retaliated against Gray, a former staff member who reported what she considered misconduct by fellow employee David Kosmatka. – Bismarck Tribune – July 6, 2019 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/jC6bDE>

37. “Green Bay Man Charged in Sheboygan Nursing Home Abuse; Coworker Says He Punched Resident” - David Stephen Boozer, 66, was charged with two counts of intentionally subjecting an individual at risk to abuse and two counts of aggravated battery to the elderly. According to court documents, a coworker assigned to a floor for patients with dementia and Alzheimer's said she saw Boozer use violence to get a patient back to his room, including punching the patient in the chest. After Boozer pushed the patient back to his room in a wheelchair, she found the patient on the floor and the wheelchair tipped over, she told police. – Sheboygan Press – July 10, 2019 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/SF5J4S>

GUARDIANSHIP

38. “Disability Rights Analysis Finds Overuse of Guardianship for Adult I/DD Consumers” - An analysis of guardianships of people aged 18 to 22 years with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) found that guardianships are overused with less consideration of less restrictive decision-making supports. This is largely due to the influence of school officials. – Open Minds – July 8, 2019 – (National)- <https://is.gd/544e0F>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

39. “Timilty Pushes for Tougher School Worker Background Checks” - This legislation ensures that both the students and institutions within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, particularly Chapter 766 approved residential schools, which provide highly-specialized education and treatment programs for students with disabilities, remain both safe and secure within the confines of their campuses. – Stoughton Wicked Local – July 5, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/fAJxd6>
40. “Elder, Disability and Justice Advocates Urge Sununu to Sign HB 696” - On June 27, 2019, the Legislature passed HB 696, common sense legislation to better protect New Hampshire’s older and disabled adults from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The bill, which was the product of bi-partisan compromise, will soon be on its way to Governor Sununu’s desk for signature. A diverse group of stakeholders is urging the governor to sign this important bill into law. – In Depth NH – July 9, 2019 – (New Hampshire)- <https://is.gd/Qnv2g8>
41. “Texas Codifies Language for Persons with Disabilities” - Those who take that stance might be surprised to know that the Texas Legislature has determined that the language used in referring to persons with disabilities actually has an effect on shaping attitudes toward this segment of the population. These disparagers most probably do not know that this finding was codified into law in Texas Government Code Section 392.001, effective September 1, 2011. – Stephenville Empire Tribune – July 8, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/HosCNY>
42. “U.N. Security Council Resolution on Protecting People with Disabilities in Armed Conflict” - On June 20, the United Nations Security Council passed a unanimous [resolution](#) to protect people with disabilities in armed conflict and ensure they have equal access to humanitarian assistance. The [groundbreaking text](#) follows extensive advocacy from civil society and disability rights groups, and marks the first time the council has dedicated

an entire resolution to the unique challenges people with disabilities face during situations of armed conflict. – Law Fare – July 12, 2019 – (United Nations) - <https://is.gd/c5rXDv>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

43. “How the Social Hormone Vasopressin Might Help Autistic People” - Because of its effects on social behavior, the vasopressin system may offer therapeutic targets for easing social impairments in autism. Two clinical studies published this year [showed promising results](#). – Spectrum – July 9, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/UGPT4U>

44. “Hawaii Provided ‘Inaccurate’ Data on Student Restraint and Seclusion” - The Hawaii Department of Education was among several large school districts cited in a recent [U.S. Government Accountability Office report](#) pointing out discrepancies in the number of incidents of restraints and seclusions reported for the federal government’s civil rights data collection and the actual number of incidents that took place. – Civil Beat – July 8, 2019 – (Hawaii) - <https://is.gd/8rZ4kK>

45. “County Jails Move Toward Offering Drug Treatment Behind Bars” - Federal rulings, legal activism and an explosion of inmates with opioid addictions are moving county jail administrators to do the previously unthinkable — providing anti-opioid medication behind the walls. A 2018 Pew Charitable Trusts study concluded less than 1% of the incarcerated got one of the three drugs known to help addicts kick opioids — Suboxone, Vivitrol and methadone — even though three out of four living in most prisons come there with a substance abuse problem. – The New Hampshire Union Leader – July 7, 2019 – (New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/ntLfAq>

46. “Most Nursing Homes are not Adequately Staffed, New Federal Data Says” - Most nursing homes had fewer nurses and caretaking staff than they had reported to the government, according to new federal data, bolstering the long-held suspicions of many families that staffing levels were often inadequate. – PBS – July 13, 2019 (New York) - <https://is.gd/G25xE4>
47. “Report Shines Light on Poorly Performing Nursing Homes, including 6 in North Dakota” - Five North Dakota nursing homes performed poorly in routine inspections and are among 435 facilities in the nation that federal officials have on a watch list that could place them under added scrutiny. – The Jamestown Sun – July 6, 2019 – (North Dakota) - <https://is.gd/np9S6m>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

48. “Iowa School is Giving Students PE Credits for Helping the Elderly and Disabled with their Yard Work” - Unfortunately, because lawn work is so physically intense and not everyone can afford a gardener, the elderly and disabled sometimes have to let their lawns and backyards grow wild. An alternative learning center in Dubuque, Iowa is helping its kids stay physically fit while helping out their community with a new program that gives them high school PE credit for doing yard work for the elderly and disabled. – Upworthy – June 25, 2019 – (Iowa)- <https://is.gd/Ttizik>
49. “Groups Join Forces to Help Prevent Sexual Assaults on People with Disabilities” - The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV) held [two virtual](#) meetings last week to educate the public and create an advisory committee it says will focus on “prevention, support of survivors, improving access to services, and identifying and enhancing available resources.” Thirty participants from 15 advocacy organizations participated in the video conferences, sharing information on the different niches they occupy. – The Nevada Independent – July 8, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/7yvy4A>

50. “Yonkers Woman Spreads Autism Awareness Through Photography” - Michelle Manno's photographs are on display for the month of July at Coffee Lab Roaster. The photos are not for sale. Instead, Manno wants people to take away a new piece of information with each photograph. – Westchester News 12 – July 6, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/sq6pqj>

51. “Columbus Police Department Revises Policies for Transporting Arrestees with Mobility Impairments” - Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) is pleased to announce its dialogue with the Columbus Police Department (CPD) has led to revisions in policies for transporting arrestees who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices to detention facilities. Two years ago this week, the CPD arrested demonstrators from the disability rights organization ADAPT. DRO's subsequent investigation found that the CPD did not transport the demonstrators to the Franklin County Jail in a safe, appropriate, or accessible manner, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. – Disability Rights Ohio – July 9, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/OKLsys>

INTERNATIONAL

52. “Illawarra Man Granted Strict Bail Amid Rape Allegations from His Intellectually Disabled Ex-Wife” - An Illawarra man accused of sexually assaulting his intellectually disabled ex-wife has been granted strict conditional bail. The man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, is alleged to have had forced himself on the woman after having learned of her new address from one of their children and turning up at her house drunk one day in April. – Illawarra Mercury – July 11, 2019 –(Australia)- <https://is.gd/vp0OvF>

53. “Woman Installs Camera at Nursing Home after Mum Abused” - A Brisbane woman set up a surveillance camera in her mother's nursing home bedroom to protect her after she was assaulted by two staff members and

left unattended for hours with a broken leg. – 7 News – July 11, 2019 – (Australia)- <https://is.gd/UlyHSg>

54. “Stop Preying on Disabled Women” - The new President of the Barbados Council for the Disabled (BCD) is concerned about sexual predators who are looking to take advantage of disabled women, and some men too. There are a lot of myths and misconceptions about persons with disabilities and their sexuality. The general thinking in a lot of minds are that persons with disabilities are highly-sexed and therefore they will always be willing and up for that kind of thing. “There are others who believe that they can prey on somebody who is vulnerable and because many persons with disabilities still do not have ready access to information about sexual reproductive health, about sexuality in general, a lot of them are ignorant of a lot of issues. Therefore, people prey on them and take advantage of their naivety,” Ifill said. – Barbados Today – July 11, 2019 – (British Columbia)- <https://is.gd/2aQR0K>

55. Abbotsford advocate says special needs inclusivity still lacks in schools - In total, the 2016/17 school year saw 225 suspensions of students with special needs, compared with 174 in 2017/18. Superintendent Kevin Godden says a big part of the declining rate of suspensions of students with special needs can be credited to programs [with the YMCA](#) and the Abbotsford Restorative Justice and Advocacy Association. – The Abbotsford News – July 6, 2019 – (Canada)- <https://is.gd/DnJkjin>

56. Five Boys as Young as 12 'Gang Rape Mentally Disabled Woman in Playground' - group of youths aged 12 and 14 have been detained on suspicion of gang-raping an 18-year-old mentally disabled woman in a playground. The shocking incident allegedly took place on Friday evening in Muelheim, a city in the western German state of North Rhine-Westphalia. – Mirror – July 10, 2019 – (Germany) - <https://is.gd/JfxR2u>

57. “Criminal Justice System & Young Girls/Women with Disabilities - My Take by Shampa Sengupta” - Our guest column is by disability rights activist Shampa Sengupta, who takes an in depth look at why, despite adequate laws, the criminal justice system repeatedly fails girls and women with disabilities. – Newz Hook – July 8, 2019 – (India) - <https://newzhook.com/story/22762>
58. “PM Announces Spouses Will be Paid for Caring for Ill or Disabled Loved Ones” - Partners and spouses will be paid up to \$25.50 an hour to look after ill or disabled family members under new changes announced today by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. The changes will come into effect in 2020 once legislation has gone through a select committee process which will include public consultation. – NZ Herald – July 7, 2019 – (New Zealand)- <https://is.gd/HknqKw>
59. “Police Finds Child Tied to Pole by Neck in Large Fostering Family” - Svetlana Schaveleva explained her act to the fact that the boy has mental disorders and hyperactivity. Svetlana didn’t even untie Vladislav at the presence of the employees of the guardianship bodies, not understanding why this is considered cruel treatment. – Crime Russia- July 7, 2019 – (Russia)- <https://is.gd/ra6l5p>
60. “‘He Was Covered in Bruises’: The Vulnerable Children being Harmed in Special Schools” - Beth and Peter Morrison were thrilled when their son got into a school that catered for his disabilities. Then they learned he was being restrained, bound and injured. – The Guardian – July 6, 2019 – (Scotland) - <https://is.gd/tpC3aB>
61. “Advisor for Disabled People's Association Quits, Slams Lack of Passion and Slow Pace of Change in Sector” - For the past 10 years, Mr. Nicholas Aw has

been a [vocal advocate for the disabled community](#), championing their cause, highlighting their difficulties in getting about and lobbying to prevent the abuse of accessible parking lots, among other things. In a recent interview with TODAY, he laid bare his frustrations about what he described as slow implementation of policies and a lack of passionate leaders in the sector. – Today Online – July 11, 2019 –(Singapore) - <https://is.gd/SWxPOM>

62. “Waterloo Girl with Autism Found at Target after Bus Drops Her at Wrong Stop” - Nicole Luciano said her daughter, who is prone to wandering, left for the store after she was returned to their vacant house by a Durham School Services bus following the first morning of summer school. – The Courier – July 10, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/7mSDWF>

MISCELLANEOUS

63. “Failure to Find a Sexual Partner is Now a Disability Says WHO” - But now in dramatic move the World Health Organization will change the standard to suggest that a person who is unable to find a suitable sexual partner or is lacking a sexual relationship to have children - will now be equally classified as disabled. – Bulawayo – July 6, 2019 – (Global) - <https://is.gd/0iu95r>

64. “The Systematic Exclusion of Students with Disabilities at End-Of-School-Year Events” - Last year, my daughter with Down syndrome and all other students receiving special education were [not included in their yearbook](#). My main question to the principal was, “If you knew the special education students were missing from the yearbook, why did you still make the choice to distribute them?” - The Mighty – June 20, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/Z2vghn>

65. “High School Students Offer a Silent Ovation While a Classmate with Autism Receives His Diploma” - At his high school graduation, Jack Higgins approached the stage to receive his diploma with his fingers in his ears to block what he thought would be applause and cheers. Instead, he was met by silence. – CNN – July 9, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/qp5YFS>
66. “Inaccessible Subway Platforms Make Tough Trips for New Yorkers with Disabilities” - Commuters from all corners of the city have their struggles getting to and from work, but it's a whole different headache for those who cannot even reach their local subway platforms due to disabilities. In the nation's largest metropolis, 1.7 billion people ride the subway annually. Only 24% of the city's 472 subway systems are accessible, according to a 2018 report from the city comptroller's office. – Brooklyn News 12 – July 1, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/GGMi7U>