

# Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of July 7 to July 13, 2017

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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 at the end. The categories are: *Abuse and Neglect*, *Accidents involving People with Disabilities*, *Laws & Legislation*, *Improved Supports*, and *Miscellaneous*.

This week's collection of articles has, sadly, the usual array of articles. Check the categories below for a guide. The categories are indicated by type, and the number of the article.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Visit our website at [www.disabilityandabuse.org](http://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>

## Type:

Sexual Assault: 1, 10, 12, 17, 23, 38, 44

Physical Abuse: 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 19, 20, 38, 39, 41

Emotional/Verbal: 4

Financial abuse: 18

Murder: 6, 13

Related to special education: 7, 14, 32

**WINNER of most egregious award:** 12, 15

**WINNER of “good job” award:** 2

## **ABUSE & NEGLECT**

1. “85-Year-Old Man Shoots, Kills Wheelchair-Bound Stepson.” Police are investigating a fatal shooting in Garden Grove where an 85-year-old man shot to death his 66-year-old wheelchair-bound stepson. --- nbclosangeles.com, May 13 (California) <https://is.gd/wuPeC3>
2. “Autistic Girl’s Family Releases Video of School Bus Driver’s Alleged Abuse.” Parents say their autistic child was attacked on a school bus by her own bus driver, and it was all caught on camera. --- sacramento.cbslocal.com, May 16 (California) <https://is.gd/6aUKiT>
3. “Woman charged in thefts from EH group home residents.” A Manchester woman who worked as manager and bookkeeper of a group home in East Hartford is accused of stealing almost \$20,000 belonging to the home’s residents, police say. --- journalinquirer.com, May 11 (Connecticut) <https://is.gd/Oajmuj>
4. “Behind lovely facade, allegations of slaps, bites, rapes, rats — and a horrific death.” William James Lamson was born with a devastating form of autism that caused him to obsessively and explosively strike himself. Over time, the damage to Lamson's head was so severe that he became blind in his right eye. --- miamiherald.com, May 12 (Florida) <https://is.gd/7fAXM8>
5. “Court docs: Mooresville man searched online for ways to ‘kill autistic child’.” A previously sealed probable cause affidavit detailing the short life and brutal death of a five-year-old child with special needs served as the basis for the prosecutor’s opening statement in the trial of Steven Ingalls, Jr., in Morgan County Tuesday. --- cbs4indy.com, May 15 (Indiana)

<https://is.gd/eaJDIN>

6. "Iowa boarding school director sentenced to 9 years for abuse." A former Iowa boarding school director convicted of sexually and physically abusing students at the private school he once owned was sentenced to nine years in prison and will be required to register as a sex offender. --- kpvi.com, May 11 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/f1u84O>
7. "Kansas City Police Look for Car That Hit Man in Wheelchair." Kansas City police are searching for a car that hit and killed a man using a motorized wheelchair--- usnews.com, May 14 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/JTDudc>
8. "Missouri mom found next to her blind, autistic son's body pleads guilty in his death." A southwest Missouri mother who was found lying next to her dead son in a field has pleaded guilty to charges of involuntary manslaughter and elder abuse in his death. ---- kansascity.com, May 10 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/xlpD3t>
9. "Woman indicted after assault of disabled girl on bus could have faced felony, professor says." The assault on a St. Martin special education student could have resulted in a felony indictment if a grand jury had the option to do so, a Mississippi criminal law professor said. ---- sunherald.com, May 13 (Mississippi) <https://is.gd/4xDsJe>
10. "Ex-Rutgers prof who sexually assaulted a disabled man to be sentenced again." When Anna Stubblefield is sentenced Friday, it will be the second time she has faced a prison term for the same crime. ---- nj.com, May 11 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/3YmHqq>
11. "Group home pays \$450K to family of boy who recorded abuse." A group home in upstate New York will pay \$450,000 to the family of a developmentally disabled boy who used his PlayStation to record caretakers threatening his life. ---- wpxi.com, May 1 (New York) <https://is.gd/o4r9ST>

12. "Woman killed when vehicle hits motorized wheelchair in Columbus." One woman is dead after she was hit by a car while using her in her motorized wheelchair in east Columbus. --- wkbn.com, May 12 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/RBA2xq>
13. "Cleveland Schools employee arrested for rape of student." A Cleveland Public Schools support staff member has been accused of raping a student, the police department says. --- theclevelandamerican.com, May 11 (Oklahoma) <https://is.gd/gANml3>
14. "Dad who stole from autistic daughter gets 18 months in prison for welfare fraud." A former Salem man was sentenced to 18 months in prison Monday for defrauding the Oregon Department of Human Services and using thousands of dollars intended for his autistic daughter to pay for his own international travel and clothes. --- statesmanjournal.com, May 16 (Oregon) <https://is.gd/B89c4x>
15. "12-year-old with autism arrested for using 'imaginary rifle' in art class, family says." David Sims' family says it was a harmless gesture as he and some other boys in class were talking about BB guns. --- star-telegram.com, May 10 (Texas) <https://is.gd/NEF3TU>
16. "Autistic child severely bruised after school officer handcuffed him, Denton parents say." A 10-year-old boy with autism was injured when a police officer at Lee Elementary School used handcuffs to restrain him, a Denton couple says. --- dallasnews.com, May 15 (Texas) <https://is.gd/FYkXDg>

## **GUARDIANSHIP**

17. "Disability Is No Reason to Strip A Person's Voting Rights." Right now in the U.S., people with disabilities can be stripped of their right to vote in 39

states and the District of Columbia. It happens like this: In families that include an adult with a developmental disability or mental illness, a guardian may be chosen to assist with management of their loved one's finances and health care decisions. Judges are also empowered to make decisions regarding voter participation competency during these guardianship proceedings. --- huffingtonpost.com, May 12 <https://is.gd/YAMeM6>

18. "Mental Capacity Standards in California Civil Litigation." What mental capacity standards apply in California civil litigation? Last month we presented on this subject at the Placer County Bar Association's annual spring conference in Roseville. I'll offer highlights here. --- jdsupra.com, May 15 (California) <https://is.gd/LgUe7O>
19. "Fairfax County siblings fight to see father after guardian terminated visitation rights." Adult children find themselves permanently banned from ever visiting their ailing parents because they asked too many questions about nursing home care. As the ABC7 I-Team discovered: It's legal and happening more than you may think. --- wjla.com, May 11 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/Yn9naN>

## **LAWS & LEGISLATION**

20. "House Republican Farm Bill Will Hurt People with Disabilities and Older Adults." The highly partisan 2018 Farm Bill proposal, which House Republicans released in mid-April, threatens to compound the hardships faced by millions of disadvantaged Americans by substantially increasing hunger and food insecurity for those who rely on food assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). ---- americanprogress.org, May 16 <https://is.gd/vHAr2I>

21. "Citing Medicaid fraud, state freezes enrollment of autism therapists in South Florida." Florida healthcare regulators are imposing a six-month moratorium on enrollment of new therapists who provide a costly but effective psychological treatment for poor children with autism in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, citing a statewide investigation that identified fraud and abuse, including "extraordinary overbilling," of the Medicaid program. --- miamiherald.com, May 15 (Florida) <https://is.gd/wiEGNQ>
22. "Officials say CPS special education policy violated federal law, suggest 3 years of monitoring." the Illinois State Board of Education will consider appointing an independent monitor to supervise a broad range of changes to Chicago Public Schools' special education system after concluding a district overhaul violated a swath of federal law and regulations. --- chicagotribune.com, May 11 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/t2Ms56>
23. "Bullying, seclusion restraint laws wouldn't apply to Muncie schools after Ball State takeover." State lawmakers approved House Bill 1315 in a special session Monday, which, if signed by the governor will put Muncie Community Schools under the control of Ball State University. --- theindychannel.com, May 15 (Indiana) <https://is.gd/Sd7VGp>
24. "Union calls Eldora boys school "downright dangerous for employees". The union for workers at the Boys State Training School in Eldora is again decrying working conditions at the facility in the wake of a recent attack on staff there. --- wfcourier.com, May 12 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/xtoVbr>
25. "Iowa senators call for federal investigation into school seclusion rooms." U.S. Sens. Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst are calling for a federal investigation into the use of seclusion rooms in public schools, and U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack wants to see them banned altogether. --- desmoinesregister.com, May 15 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/A9aoZ1>
26. "Community members, school board consider school closing, special-ed issues." The possibility of closing a school and a recent audit that revealed disparities in special education numbers involving minority students

continue to be hot-button issues Monday night for community members and the Davenport Community School Board --- qctimes.com, May 14 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/6Cqkmi>

27. "Solutions remain elusive as group home crisis looms." Advocates for adults with intellectual disabilities worried about group home closures peppered a top state official with questions Monday, but no definitive steps were taken to alleviate a potential crisis that could begin this summer. --- sunjournal.com, May 15 (Maine) <https://is.gd/Mey2lP>
28. "Last year, as the Legislature faced a state shutdown, legislative leaders got together to hammer out a bipartisan budget deal that would increase Medicaid reimbursements to provide wage increases for the state's 26,000 direct care workers who care for the elderly and people with disabilities. --- freepressonline.com, May 11 (Maine) <https://is.gd/bcgXlx>
29. "Veteran policymaker says 80 percent of special-ed kids don't need that label." After a long career looking at schools from every angle, Kalman R. "Buzzy" Hettleman has no fear of upending old assumptions and making people angry. He has served two terms on the Baltimore school board and been deputy mayor of Baltimore and Maryland secretary of human resources. --- washingtonpost.com, May 13 (Maryland) <https://is.gd/Z7uCM9>
30. "Lawsuit: Failed supervision led to sexual assault on boy." The Center for Disability Services failed to properly protect a 13-year-old client from sexual assault by an adult client, a new lawsuit alleges. The family of the boy filed the suit recently in Schenectady County, contending center employees at a Schenectady facility were supposed to provide proper supervision and protection, but failed to do either. --- dailygazette.com, May 11 (New York) <https://is.gd/b61YWB>
31. "The state of Ohio has been quietly trying to make it easier for abusive caregivers to harm again." The Ohio agency responsible for protecting the health and safety of people with disabilities quietly floated plans to allow

abusive caregivers easier access to thousands of children and adults. --- news5cleveland.com, May 11 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/GcGYfl>

## STUDIES & STATISTICS

32. “For Students of Color with Disabilities, Equity Delayed Is Equity Denied.” A core promise of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is that a child with disabilities will receive a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment possible. --- aclu.org, May 15 <https://is.gd/tVzQyK>
33. “AARP Study: Antipsychotic Use in Older Adults Is Up Among Those Outside Nursing Homes.” Last month, AARP released a study about the use of antipsychotic drugs in older adults with dementia. It found these drugs are increasingly being used outside nursing homes, despite the increased risk of death. --- kjzz.org, May 10 <https://is.gd/VHdR4k>
34. “Scientists just beginning to understand autistic adults' unique health needs.” In the 1990s, the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) among children rose sharply. These children are now entering adulthood, yet physicians and scientists know very little about the health outcomes they might face. Most studies of health have focused on children and adolescents. --- medicalxpress.com, May 11 <https://is.gd/kXxM1V>
35. “Can a Pill Help Autistic Kids Conquer Social Anxiety?” Just one daily balovaptan could help autistic kids who struggle with socializing—with no side effects. Is it too good to be true? --- thedailybeast.com, May 14 <https://is.gd/kcz9SP>
36. “Autism, developmental delay can have distinct genetic origins.” Mutations in certain genes contribute specifically to autism, and others only to developmental delay. This finding suggests that, despite overlap between

the two conditions, they can be distinct in origin. --- spectrumnews.org, May 11 <https://is.gd/kzzRBX>

37. "Gene disruption signals cerebral palsy and autism link." University of Adelaide researchers have uncovered a genetic signal common to both cerebral palsy and autism. ---- sciencedaily.com, May 10 <https://is.gd/sKleyg>
38. "Abuse, Attachment, and Resilience: Genes and the Environment. Charles Nemeroff, MD, PhD, discusses the role of social influences on biology, using the example of early life trauma. He explains brain changes, inflammation, and genetic risk factors that modulate the development of PTSD or depression in patients with a history of trauma. --- psychiatrictimes.com, May 10 <https://is.gd/lxTPu8>
39. "New research has potential to predict children at risk for autism." A groundbreaking study being done at Boston Children's that research say could potentially predict whether a child as young as 3 months old is at-risk for developing autism. --- fox25boston.com, May 17 (Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/mRYVjQ>
40. "Abuse, neglect claims investigated at 460 Tennessee schools." An analysis has found Tennessee's Department of Children's Services investigated 647 allegations of child abuse or neglect involving students at more than 460 schools during a recent 20-month period. --- wate.com, May 14 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/V5OTpv>
41. "Antipsychotic Drugs More Likely to Be Prescribed to Disadvantaged Kids." A new study has revealed that socially disadvantaged children are more likely to be prescribed antipsychotic drugs compared to any other children. --- techtimes.com, May 14 (Australia) <https://is.gd/uOwHQb>

## **IMPROVED SUPPORTS**

42. "Why I put my special needs son in a group home." As the mother of a disabled child, I was afraid I would end up in the gutter. Literally. --- groknation.com, May 16 <https://is.gd/0v2sSi>
43. "Therapy dogs are helping children with autism stay calm at the dentist's office." Visits to the dentist can be scary for any child but can be especially trying for many children with autism. Some can be unsettled by lights in their faces or overwhelmed by noises from dental equipment. --- abcnews.go.com, May 10 <https://is.gd/nrJtdP>
44. "Disabled folks paid little but call for shift stirs fear in state." Alexis Brown used to think that having a disability meant her life had to look a certain way, that she wouldn't have choices when she grew up. --- arkansasonline.com, May 13 (Arkansas) <https://is.gd/3idFsi>
45. "Autism Training Takes Place for First Responders." Santa Barbara County first responders completed autism awareness training last month, learning how to "identify, interact, and confront" individuals on the spectrum, stated a Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office press release, in partnership with the Autism Society. --- independent.com, May 12 (California) <https://is.gd/fMRVOU>
46. "Local Airport Makes Travel Easier for Children with Autism." Air travel can be challenging for any family but for those with children with autism, it is often a difficult task due to hypersensitivity to large crowds, loud noises and communication difficulties. --- miami.cbslocal.com, May 16 (Florida) <https://is.gd/JfrrpM>
47. "Foundation Academy team develops wheelchair to dance at prom." At the age of 3 Molly Paris was diagnosed with a rare neurological disorder called Rhet Syndrome and has used a wheelchair all her life. When Molly, a junior at The Foundation Academy, decided to attend her high school prom, she came up with an idea for a dancing wheelchair. --- jacksonville.com, May 11

(Florida) <https://is.gd/8SOcOV>

48. "Superintendent Dude says Decatur Schools declined to pay for special education report " But the report didn't meet the school system's expectations and it left parents of students in special education with more questions than answers. --- decaturish.com, May 11 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/PgJOFI>
49. "Special education kids fight for scraps as city touts shiny new developments." In the last week's Hunger Games-style competition for survival, it was developers one, kids with special needs nothing. --- chicagoreader.com, May 14 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/yuD9LE>
50. "Adult group homes facing crisis created by legislators." A workforce crisis threatens to close group homes and cut other Medicaid services this summer for thousands of adults with intellectual disabilities – a looming problem caused when Maine lawmakers failed to extend the legislative session. ---- pressherald.com, May 13 (Maine) <https://is.gd/yJicFw>
51. "Caryn Sullivan: Autism, mothers and the great gift of planning." One in 42. That was the prevalence of autism in 8-year-old Minnesotans in 2014, the CDC recently reported, compared to one in 59 nationally. --- twincities.com, May 13 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/XQ9r3Z>
52. "Rochester school budget provides more funding for special education." The death of Rochester teen, Trevyan Rowe and a report by the state comptroller - showed disturbing deficiencies in the city school district's handling of students with special needs. --- mpnnow.com, May 16 (New York) <https://is.gd/VZO9oq>
53. "Airport Rehearsal Day Helps Kids with Autism Fly." The Reno-Tahoe International Airport will soon host Wings for All, a program that provides an airport rehearsal day designed to help children with autism and their families learn to navigate air travel. Our reporter Holly Hutchings found out

more. --- kunr.org, May 12 (Nevada) <https://is.gd/8Bt74g>

54. "DHHS gains federal OK for pilot program on traumatic brain injuries." The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services has received federal Medicare approval for a pilot program addressing traumatic brain injuries. --  
- journalnow.com. May 13 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/68feYd>
55. "Disability Group Asks Ohio to Protect Patients at Columbus Psychiatric Hospital." Disability Rights Ohio released a report this week calling attention to Ohio Hospital for Psychiatry's violations of treatment standards and patient safety – including allegations of physical and sexual abuse. ---  
radio.wosu.org, May 10 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/OJWAV3>
56. "Police want 'death-related' charges for West Carrollton group home homicide suspects." Police said they plan to seek "death-related" charges on suspects in the homicide of a disabled West Carrollton group home resident.  
--- mydaytondailynews.com, May 16 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/plBU8b>
57. "Pa. bill banning abortions for Down syndrome divides special needs community." Lynne and Kevin Eddis had a difficult time starting a family. "I actually had three miscarriages before I became pregnant with Hazel," she said as her 20-month-old daughter coos happily on the floor of the couple's West Mount Airy home in Philadelphia. --- whyy.org, May 16 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/7bgLli>
58. "Amid rising abuse, exploitation of vulnerable adults in South Carolina, AARP seeks better services." The fragile elderly woman whose son is taking her money but not ensuring she's fed or bathed. ---- greenvilleonline.com, May 13 (South Carolina) <https://is.gd/AtmQaL>
59. "When Texas standardized tests have glitches, special education students can be deeply affected." When technical problems in 2016 affected more than 14,000 computerized State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness — or STAAR — tests, Sarah Martinez questioned whether online assessments were the way to go for her two daughters, who are both

dyslexic. --- texastribune.org, May 16 (Texas) <https://is.gd/a6x5Br>

60. "Elizabeth Nevin: shattering stereotypes about the intellectually disabled." Cheyenne pageant winner, disability advocate "can do anything" --- wyomingnews.com, May 13 (Wyoming) <https://is.gd/LiYqhJ>

## INTERNATIONAL

61. "Autistic boy attacked: Teen beaten with spanner outside Melbourne school  
"The mother of a bullied teen who was attacked by a group of boys armed with spanners outside a Melbourne school has spoken of the affect it has had on her son. --- dailytelegraph.com.au, May 10 (Australia)  
<https://is.gd/M9ApeG>
62. "This is what parents of autistic children want you to know." The majority of Australians have heard of autism but less than a third actually feel confident interacting with and supporting autistic people and their families. --- news.com.au, May 15 (Australia) <https://is.gd/U9jUPG>
63. "Students with special needs in B.C. still face seclusion, physical restraint in schools." A new report from the advocacy group, Inclusion B.C., claims routine restraint and seclusion of children with special needs in schools hasn't improved much since its previous report in 2013 led to new guidelines — prompting the provincial education minister to promise new guidelines for schools by the end of the calendar year. --- cbc.ca, May 16 (Canada) <https://is.gd/8JWgDR>
64. "18-year-old intellectually-disabled woman beaten up near Cuddalore." In yet another case of people taking the law into their own following rumours that child lifters were on the loose, an 18-year-old intellectually-disabled woman from North India was beaten up in the district on Thursday. Eight

persons were arrested following the incident. --- newindianexpress.com, May 11 (India) <https://is.gd/a1Mrx7>

65. “Mentally Impaired Woman Raped in Bhopal.” A 45-year-old mentally retarded woman was raped by two miscreants at Harrakheda under Gunga police station area. The matter came to fore after she got eight months pregnant and a case was registered on Wednesday. --- dailypioneer.com, May 11 (India) <https://is.gd/Nj3A2w>
  
66. “10 Things Everybody Should Know About Interacting with People Living with Disabilities.” There’s a new and growing conversation about disability rights in Iran. Here are 10 ways we can treat people with disabilities as equals and with respect ---iranhumanrights.org, May 15 (Iran) <https://is.gd/wbcnwx>
  
67. “Iran: Little Progress to Show UN on Disability Rights.” Iran is facing a looming deadline to present its response to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) a year after the UN body gave the Iranian government three recommendations for upholding and protecting the rights of the country’s disabilities community. --- iranhumanrights.org, May 16 (Iran) <https://is.gd/kcw2O6>
  
68. “Latest: Love Both: No vote will protect unborn children with Down syndrome; Taoiseach condemns poster images.” Campaigners have claimed a No vote in Ireland’s abortion referendum will protect unborn children with Down syndrome – despite Government assurances that disability will not be grounds to end pregnancy. --- irishexaminer.com, May 15 (Ireland) <https://is.gd/TCV6DK>
  
69. “A judge has made orders restraining two men from having any contact with a mildly intellectually disabled woman. One of the men is the subject of a Garda investigation arising from serious complaints made by the woman, who is aged in her 20s. --- irishtimes.com, May 14 (Ireland) <https://is.gd/e4vagn>

70. "More than half of Down Syndrome pregnancies in Republic terminated." More than half of babies diagnosed in the womb with Down Syndrome in Dublin's three main maternity hospitals are aborted, figures suggest. --- irishnews.com, May 11 (Ireland) <https://is.gd/EG4HOt>
71. "Canada native's 'Accessible Japan' website paves way for tourists with disabilities." Toronto native Barry Joshua Grisdale is smoothing the way for foreign visitors with disabilities to make the most of trips to Japan with the tourism site "Accessible Japan." --- mainichi.jp, May 13 (Japan) <https://is.gd/PI17aB>
72. "Grapevine: Diplomatically Speaking." French ambassador Helene Le Gal will this week host an event at her residence in Jaffa on behalf of ITLV Young Professionals working in conjunction with the Konrad- Adenauer-Stiftung. --- jpost.com, May 12 (Jerusalem) <https://is.gd/dZKrZo>
73. "Seclusion for children 'potentially traumatising' and unacceptable." Mental health staff are isolating distressed children, some aged under 12, in locked seclusion rooms at Christchurch's ageing Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH). Newly-released figures show, between 2013 and 2017, 45 patients aged under 18 were secluded 252 times – one for almost five days. --- stuff.co.nz, May 12 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/xX34so>
74. "Young Pakistani to become first blind judge." Yousuf Salim's appointment as judge could be a major moment for country's differently-abled population --- gulfnews.com, May 13 (Pakistan) <https://is.gd/L8sWAv>
75. "Vulnerable pensioner with the mental age of a child left homeless after thugs pelt his home with bricks." 65-year-old Gordon Ross, who has learning difficulties, had to be rescued by his nephew. --- dailyrecord.co.uk, May 12 (UK) <https://is.gd/tVOSwl>
76. "Council tax rebates for mental disability still going unclaimed." Families are claiming as much as £7,000 in council tax refunds thanks to an awareness campaign about a little-known discount for the severely mentally impaired

(SMI). --- theguardian.com, May 12 (UK) <https://is.gd/g0KLUQ>

77. “Prince Edward Theatre Receives National Autistic Society Award.” Disney’s hit musical Aladdin is delighted to announce that the Prince Edward Theatre, is the first theatre in the West End to receive an award from The National Autistic Society celebrating its achievements in welcoming autistic guests and their families through training, staff awareness and initiatives such as the hit show’s Autism-Friendly Performances. --- britishtheatre.com, May 11 (UK) <https://is.gd/qULvLE>

## MISCELLANEOUS

78. “Mate crime 'devastating' impact to be shown in short films.” It has been described as "just about as low as anyone can go", with the impact of so-called mate crime explored in a series of films. The deception involves befriending a vulnerable person with the intention of exploiting them financially, physically or sexually. --- bbc.com, May 11 <https://is.gd/49KV7d>
79. “Autism’s Dark Roots in Nazi Vienna.” A new book from the historian Edith Sheffer investigates the medical pioneer Hans Asperger’s involvement in a Third Reich eugenics program. --- theatlantic.com, May 13 <https://is.gd/0mg8zi>
80. “How a mother fought back against internet trolls who used her daughter to justify abortion.” Nine-year-old Sophia Weaver’s parents, Mark and Natalie, from North Carolina, know the meaning of this line with all their soul. Their first daughter, Sophia, was born with deformities to her face, legs and arms — and was later diagnosed with Rett Syndrome, a degenerative illness that affects language and motor functions. --- aleteia.org, May 11 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/sVtUOj>

Newsfeed Ending July 13, 2018

## ABUSE & NELECT

1. “Yorkton school bus driver sentenced after sexually assaulting 14-year-old” - T.A.S., who is now 26 and has mild learning disabilities, had no prior sexual experience and was primarily home-schooled in a “highly structured, and strict Catholic environment” where sex was taboo, according the decision. – the star phoenix – July 13, 2018 – (Arizona) <https://is.gd/OuMRhM>
2. “DeVos Sued Over Decision to Delay Rule for Disabled Kids” - In a 38-page federal complaint filed in Washington, D.C., the Council Of Parent Attorneys and Advocates Inc. says DeVos and the Education Department’s delay of regulations intended to aid in identifying racial disparities in special needs programs in the nation’s public schools was “an abuse of discretion” done without scientific merit, and without knowledge of the impact the delay will have on families, children and even the states who have already devoted 18 months to coming into compliance with the law. – Courthouse News Service – July 13, 2018- (D.C.) <https://is.gd/NJrD4W>
3. “Disabled man in Minion suit attacked in Daytona; suspect says it was for video” - On Sunday, he was taking kicks to the head and groin by a 25-year-old social media prankster who was hoping to create a viral video, witnesses said. Jamie Roehm, 40, is partially blind and mentally disabled, according to the Daytona Beach Police Department. His accused attacker, Ryan Nihart, was charged with battery and criminal mischief. He was released on his own recognizance from the Volusia County Branch Jail on Monday, according to court records. – The Daytona Beach News Journal- July 12, 2018 – (Florida) <https://is.gd/KSX0cQ>

4. "Women arrested for Snapchat video mocking a dying stroke victim at senior care facility" - heir patient – just off camera – had just suffered a stroke, but three employees of an assisted living facility made a video of themselves cussing, joking that she's about to die. Now they're facing possible prison time. Police say they ignored a critically ill stroke patient who was supposed to be under their care and allegedly took a Snapchat video of that patient mocking her condition, titling it, "The End." – Channel 11 – July 9, 2018 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/iy1ovr>
  
5. "Man arrested in Hogansville for elder abuse, animal neglect; 20+ dogs seized from home" - Police arrived at the home at around 10 a.m. and observed unsanitary conditions inside. Police immediately contacted Hogansville Code Enforcement to further investigate. A large amount of dog feces, derelict and dangerous building conditions, and signs of rodent infestation were found inside the home. McCoy's 80-year-old grandmother who was in the residence was transported by ambulance to West Georgia Medical Center for evaluation. – WTVM- July 12, 2018 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/l5pVIW>
  
6. "You're going to die tonight': He held autistic son under tub water to punish him, prosecutors say" - An "adoption party" had brought them together, the newspaper reported. Williams, 44, thought he was emotionally equipped to parent a child with autism and mental issues, AJC said. But less than a year later, Williams' attempt to discipline Kentae left the boy dead, police allege. Now he's charged with murder, the DeKalb Neighbor reported. – The Telegraph- July 10, 2018 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/NUFX1q>
  
7. "Lawsuit claims 3-year-old with special needs was pushed and pulled by JCPS teaching assistants" - A 3-year-old boy with special needs was allegedly pushed and pulled by JCPS Head Start teaching assistants. In a lawsuit filed Wednesday, the boy, who is non-verbal and has a sensory

disorder, is stated to be a victim at JCPS's Tully Early Childhood Head Start Program. "This is abysmal," said Teddy B. Gordon, the attorney for the 3-year-old boy's family. "This should never happen to those in the most tender years. - WDRB- July 13, 2018 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/Jpdwaz>

8. "Ringleader given 8 years in prison for beating teen with disability in attack livestreamed on Facebook" - he alleged ringleader in the racially charged beating of a teen with mental disabilities last year was sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty Thursday to a hate crime. The case drew national outrage when the attackers livestreamed video of the brutal assault on Facebook. Cook County prosecutors have said the victim, who knew his attacker from high school in Aurora, has schizophrenia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. - Chicago Tribune – July 5, 2018 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/99Ps2t>
9. "Workers at Livonia COPE facility charged in abuse of mental health patients" - Sources said Livonia police investigators began to review security camera footage showing at least three patients being brutally assaulted by four staff members. One of the staffers, Kyle Jackson, was charged this week with assault by strangulation, assault and battery, and vulnerable adult abuse. – The Detroit News- July 12, 2018- (Michigan) <https://is.gd/jnAr4E>
10. "La Crosse man charged with sexual assault of mentally disabled woman"- A 40-year-old La Crosse man could get 40 years behind bars, if he's convicted of raping a woman considered mentally disabled. Investigators say Karl Stoy IV and the woman had sexual intercourse last week at the care center in La Crosse where she lives, but Stoy did not stop when she told him to do so. – WIZM – July 12, 2018 – (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/Ok1lmi>

11. "Sunmount Employee Accused of Abuse" - A staff member at Sunmount in Tupper Lake is accused of abusing a client. State police say 21-year-old Nicholas Mellon of Tupper Lake allegedly pushed and injured a 33-year-old man in April. WNYF- July 11, 2018 – (New York) <https://is.gd/2uYoQ8>
  
12. "Shelby man sentenced to 13 years for rape" – A man charged with raping a blind, mute, handicapped woman and impregnating her pleaded guilty in court Tuesday morning. Daniel Thomas Archie will spend 13 to 21 years in prison for second-degree rape. The 58-year-old Shelby man pleaded guilty to the one count, but he denied accusations that he also sexually assaulted a 6-year-old girl. – Shelby Star- July 10, 2018- (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/SBnl9p>
  
13. "Disabled man and his caretaker found dead at two Holiday Inns" - A wheelchair-bound severely disabled man was found dead in a Dedham hotel room, and the woman who cared for him for much of his life apparently committed suicide in another hotel Monday, according to authorities who called the deaths related.- Boston Herald – Massachusetts – July 12, 2018 - <https://is.gd/TvtGFF>
  
14. "Detroit schools target special ed failures" - Michigan's largest school district is failing its special education students by not meeting their needs or identifying them as early as possible to provide necessary services, according to its superintendent and the early results of two audits. – The Detroit News – July 10, 2018 – (Michigan) <https://is.gd/H6fAiT>
  
15. "Cuomo's Justice Center is operating illegally and unconstitutionally" - Enough is Enough - Governor Cuomo is treating people with disabilities unequally and ensuring that almost all sex crimes committed against the

disabled are never criminally investigated or prosecuted. Cuomo is protecting sexual predators, not people with disabilities. EIN- July 9, 2018 – (New York) <https://is.gd/8Zwtex>

16. “Advocacy group calls for 'immediate' Congressional hearings into nursing home staffing” - Two days after a front-page New York Times article blasted alleged understaffing at U.S. nursing homes, the Elder Justice Coalition on Monday called for Congress to investigate. - McKnight’s Long-Term Care News – July 10, 2018 – (New York) <https://is.gd/5LU59K>

17. “Man charged with sexually assaulting mentally disabled 12-year-old outside Garner hotel” - Police say a 56-year-old Raleigh man sexually assaulted a 12-year-old girl in the woods behind the hotel where they had both been staying. It happened behind the InTown Suites in Garner. – ABC Channel 11 News- July 9, 2018 – (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/1nvPXk>

18. “Charges filed in robbery of disabled Durham couple” - Durham Police filed charges against a man who allegedly robbed a disabled couple, who both use wheelchairs, while they were heading home last Friday. Police released a photo of the suspect, Eric Lemel Campbell, 29, of Durham. Campbell is not in custody but has been charged with robbery, attempted robbery, and two counts of assault on a handicapped person. – Channel 11 ABC- July 12, 2018 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/N6OF8P>

19. “He was supposed to help SC’s most disabled. Now, he’s charged with abusing them” - A Midlands Regional Center employee was arrested Tuesday after being charged with abusing one of the adults in his care, according to a statement from the S.C. Law Enforcement Division. Charles Edward Alston, 56, of Columbia, was charged with abuse of a vulnerable

adult after he hit a center resident in the head with a wooden brush, according to the statement. – the state – July 11, 2018- (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/PfPSri>

20. Autistic teenager Tasered by Texas police after throwing rocks- Michael Moore, a 19-year-old Texan man, was shocked with a Taser by two officers responding to calls complaining of Mr. Moore throwing rocks, reports ABC News. The police officers, unaware of Mr. Moore's autism, confronted the confused teenager thinking he was high on drugs or alcohol and performed a sobriety test. New footage released of the June 26 incident shows Mr. Moore finding it difficult to follow the officers' instructions before being pushed to the ground and shocked twice with a stun gun. - News Hub – July 14, 2018 – (Texas) <https://is.gd/28fCrm>

21. “Disabled and vulnerable adult abuse way up in Washington state” - According to Washington’s Department of Social and Health Services, disabled and vulnerable adult abuse is becoming a big-time problem in Washington state. In 2012, there were 19,401 reported cases of adult abuse statewide and in 2017, there were 49,398 incidents of a similar nature. DSHS officials say financial exploitation is the most common type of adult abuse. Adult abuse now accounts for more than 25% of all investigations conducted by DSHS. - Columbia Basin- July 11, 2018 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/SKtXs4>

22. “2 Arrested for Neglecting Genetically Disabled Son, Locking Him in Cage” - According to the criminal complaint, A brother to the victim, who was also interviewed by the Children’s Listening Place, said the mother would tie the victim up inside a metal cage and leave him inside and had done this on several occasions. The criminal complaint also states that the mother would starve the victim and spray cleaning chemicals in the face and the genital

area of the victim. WOWK TV- July 11, 2018 – (West Virginia)  
<https://is.gd/7JGabP>

23. “Care facility operator sentenced to five years in prison for assaulting disabled resident” - s he faced a judge for sentencing Tuesday, Clarence “Skip” Mielke continued to maintain that he was innocent of charges that he sexually assaulted a disabled woman who lived in the care facility he and his wife operated. Mielke, 74, was convicted by a jury in March of second-degree sexual assault of a mentally ill victim and second-degree sexual assault by an employee of a residential facility. He was found not guilty by the same jury of four similar charges involving the same victim. - Kenosha News – July 10, 2018 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/itJu0p>

#### GUARDIANSHIP

24. “New stakeholders group focused on changes to adult guardianship program meets for the first time” - A new stakeholders group established to improve Kentucky’s adult guardianship program has held its first meeting. House Joint Resolution (HJR) 33, passed during the recent legislative session, recommended creation of a WINGS program to examine adult guardianship and identify needed changes. WINGS stands for Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders. - Northern Kentucky Tribune – July 10, 2018- (Kentucky) <https://is.gd/ukE019>

#### LAWS & LEGISLATIONS

25. “Official Says LePage's Bill Tackles Child Welfare System” - Maine's top health and human services official says Maine's struggling child welfare system needs staffing, a new computer system and changes to mandatory reporting and family reunification policies. Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner Ricker Hamilton told the Legislature's Government Oversight Committee that Republican Gov. Paul LePage will

propose such ideas in upcoming legislation. The governor's office didn't immediately respond to request for comment. – Maine Public- July 10, 2018 – (Maine) <https://is.gd/9UBhA5>

26. “Disability Education Compliance Bill Signed Into Law” - Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton (D/WF- 125th District) announced that her legislation to extend state Education Law provisions for three years to comply with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) was signed into law Monday by Governor Cuomo. "I am pleased that this legislation has been signed by the Governor, extending our state implementing law for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act," Lifton said. "This three-year extender law will ensure that federal funds allocated under IDEA will continue to flow unimpeded to New York Schools until June 30, 2021." – Lansing Star- July 6, 2018 – (New York) <https://is.gd/nl214o>

27. “New law protects those with communication disabilities” - House Bill 115 allows an individual to voluntarily submit a verification form, signed by their physician, to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to be designated as an individual with a communication disability. This information will be made available to state and local law enforcement through the (LEADS). Importantly, only members of law enforcement will be able to access this database, ensuring a no-labels system that keeps personal information private. The database would be available to individuals with autism, a hearing impairment, PTSD, or another communication disability. Information from this database will help law enforcement officers to effectively facilitate communication with disabled individuals in the event of a traffic stop. – The Columbus Dispatch – July 12, 2018 – (Ohio) <https://is.gd/egC4C8>

28. "Legislation Threatens Litigative Capacity of Americans With Disabilities" - Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in "places of public accommodation," mandating that areas open to the public remain accessible to individuals with mobility impairments. In response to select examples of "abusive" ADA litigants repeatedly challenging businesses on "boilerplate" grounds, the US House of Representatives passed the ADA Education and Reform Act. The bill requires that ADA litigants "provide...a cure period" of at least 60 days for the offending accommodation to correct any Title III violations before filing a lawsuit. – Medical Bag – July 6, 2018 - (Philadelphia) - <https://is.gd/eNupMm>
29. "Senator Cory Booker Inspires Special Education Advocates Before the Storm Capitol Hill" - We must do all we can to prepare each and every child for success, and that means supporting and empowering our teachers in the classroom," said Senator Booker. "Teachers across the country are being asked to do more with less—they're overworked and under-supported at a time when they are going above and beyond for our students. As the greatest, richest country in the world, we can, and should be doing more to prepare and support the people doing some of the most important jobs in our country – our teachers." - Cision- July 13, 2018 – (Virginia) <https://is.gd/PuaEHR>
30. "For Disabled Sex Workers, Congress' Anti-Trafficking Legislation Is Life Threatening" -FOSTA and SESTA claim to target websites that could be used for trafficking. In reality, they have restricted the ability of consensual sex workers to advertise their services, which has led to a decrease in income and safety—and disabled sex workers are feeling the strain particularly hard. - Rewire News- July 12, 2018- (Federal –No Specific State) - <https://is.gd/4ljI3U>

## STUDIES & STATISTICS

31. “First comprehensive study on child abuse in Madagascar points to alarming level of violence” - Following a request by the Malagasy government, UNICEF carried out a study on violence perpetrated against children in the country. The result of the study is beyond alarming. – Global Voices – July 5, 2018 – (Madagascar) <https://is.gd/H810qJ>

## IMPROVED SUPPORTS

32. “Special needs students suspended at twice rate of their general ed peers, report finds” - An audit of Fresno Unified’s special education services found that the district struggles to include students with disabilities in traditional classrooms and suspends students with individualized education plans at more than double the rate of their general education peers. – Fresno Bee- July 13, 2018 – (California) <https://is.gd/d6BnaQ>

33. “Texas Education Agency starts contracting process for special education overhaul” - The Texas Education Agency is now soliciting applications for more than \$20 million in grants to help school districts overhaul special education after a federal investigation found it had effectively denied students with disabilities needed services. - The Texas Tribune – July 9, 2018 – (Texas) <https://is.gd/px5WqK>

34. “Special needs activities unlimited at Camp No Limitations” - Every Thursday, behind the Central United Methodist Church, a growing group of special needs families attend Camp No Limitations, a new fitness camp for people of all abilities. “It’s like Camp Gladiator, but it’s modified for the entire special needs family where mom, dad, siblings, everyone can come out and work out,” No Limitations founder and President Coleen Heaton said. – Waco Tribune Herald – July 7, 2016 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/iQsCII>

35. "Idaho delegation attends special education summit" - Five special education professionals from Idaho volunteered their time to participate in the 2018 Special Education Legislative Summit from July 8–11 in Washington, D.C. For me, the highlight of the summit was meeting with members of Congress and their staffs," Mason said in a statement. "There are important policy issues before the U.S. Congress which can have a positive impact on the outcomes for children with exceptionalities." – My Magic Valley – July 11, 2018. – (D.C.) <https://is.gd/WWHLh9>

36. "Sexual Assault Risk Reduction & Disabilities"- As parents, we need to be aware there is a heightened risk of sexual abuse for our loved ones with disabilities. In this episode, we speak with Nora Baladerian, Ph. D., one of only a handful of therapists in the country specializing in sexual education and therapy for individuals with differing abilities. – Iomah – July 8, 2018 – (No specific state – Social Media Resource) - <https://is.gd/I09xWa>

## INTERNATIONAL

37. "Disabilities in Prison: A horror story in our backyard" - As the report confirms, many people with disabilities, through lack of support, find themselves on a pathway to prison and they are treated badly when they arrive, being deprived of the support in prison that was not provided to them in the community. – Independent Australia -July 6, 2018- (Australia) <https://is.gd/QwgDnY>

38. Bolivia: Rape of Down Syndrome Girl, 9, Sparks Call for Justice- In addition to having raped her, the man cut her tongue so she could not tell her parents," the municipal director of Sucre's Social Development department said. The rape and mutilation of a nine-year-old Bolivian girl with Down syndrome has spurred activists and sympathizers to demand justice. - Telesur- July 13, 2018 – (Bolivia) <https://is.gd/uw6dS7>

39. “Leamington victim of brutal assault slowly improving” - Haifa Gebrail was brutally assaulted on June 22 and is slowly showing improvements. OPP are investigating and have not released details about what happened. They arrested a 44-year-old Leamington man who is facing attempted murder, aggravated assault and breach of probation charges. Gebrail has a learning disability — her uncle said she can't tell good from bad. – CBS News – July 11, 2018 – (Canada) <https://is.gd/x4FzYQ>
40. “B.C. residents with disabilities demand a say on proposed accessibility law” - More than 600,000 people in B.C. have disabilities. Many of them encounter barriers in society that keep them from fully participating. While they are protected by human rights legislation, they must prove on a case-by-case basis that their rights have been denied. To address that — and after federal legislation was proposed last month to improve accessibility for people with disabilities — the B.C. government will begin creating a provincial disabilities act this fall. – Vancouver Sun- July 14, 2018 – (Canada) <https://is.gd/gbB1va>
41. “Disabled man in his 50s ‘beaten to a pulp and left laying on the ground unconscious with a broken jaw’ after vicious Soham assault by gang of men”- A disabled man in his 50s was “beaten to a pulp and left laying on the ground unconscious with a broken jaw” in Soham - despite pleading his attackers to stop. - Ely Standard- July 9. 2018- (England) <https://is.gd/Vlqi3k>
42. “Leprosy Has Been Curable Since 1980, Don’t Treat Leprosy Survivors as Disabled Persons” - The Supreme Court on Thursday recommended that the Union of India, as well as the states, take steps to repeal such provisions of legislations that represent leprosy as being non-curable and contagious- Live Law – July 5, 2018 – (India) <https://is.gd/c05i6o>

43. “Uncertified Companions for Disabled Permitted in Yogya Courtroom” - Head of the Yogyakarta District Court Soesilo assured that victims or witnesses with disabilities, especially children and women, will be able to be assisted by a companion such as certified or non-certified interpreters and interpreters that are legally lawyers. “[By showing] a letter of approval from SAPDA (Disabled People and Child Advocacy Center) that confirms the worthiness of a person’s companion is enough,” said Soesilo on Thursday at the Yogyakarta SAPDA headquarters in Yogyakarta. – Tempo – July 13, 2018 – (Indonesia) <https://is.gd/EENfEu>
44. “Family’s anger after vulnerable woman put on mixed ward where sex assault took place” - Megan, who has multiple physical and mental disabilities and uses a wheelchair, spent five weeks on a mixed ward after being transferred from an intensive care unit, before she was well enough to return the Newtownabbey home she shares with her mother Janet. However, Ms. Hunter said on Monday that while they were pleased with the medical care Megan received, they were left shocked and angry when they discovered recently that around eight months prior to her sister's admission to the ward, vulnerable disabled woman Natasha Mulholland had been the victim of a sexual assault in the same hospital. – Belfast Telegraph – July 10, 2018 – (Ireland) <https://is.gd/XAaEvg>
45. “Preventing sexual abuse at special-needs summer camps” - In the era of #MeToo, and in light of recent scandals involving Jewish summer camps, there has been a lot of discussion about the sexual abuse of children in the Jewish community. A certain slice of the population, however—as per usual—has been largely ignored: children with disabilities. – The Times of Israel – July 10 ,2018 – (Israel) - <https://is.gd/HWKBX2>

46. “Unearthing hidden treasures in the special needs community” - When a teacher and a parent noticed that Usain Bolt has scoliosis, and Michael Phelps' mom discovered he had a learning disability, each set of caregivers decided to work with these children and saw a bright future. History shows that these two Olympians overcame their respective challenges to become global stars and add to their countries' economic growth. - Jamaica Observer –July 8 ,2018 (Jamaica) <https://is.gd/upCadl>
47. “Legislators, municipal leaders discuss special education cost issues” - About 50 state legislators and municipal leaders gathered at City Hall Monday to discuss ways to tackle the skyrocketing cost of special education and the state and federal mandates they say are crippling local school budgets across the region. The group raised issues such as declining state and federal reimbursement rates, lack of control over special education placements and the uncertainty they all bring to local budget processes. - the day- July 9, 2018- (Norwich) - <https://is.gd/p6mJvw>
48. “Gang-rapes, lynchings: UN tallies latest South Sudan abuses” - Other findings from the five-week tally were: - At least 132 women and girls were abducted for suspected sex slavery or servitude. - Some elderly, sick and disabled people who could not flee were burned alive. - At least 10 children, including a 7-day-old baby, drowned in swamps as people fled. - In all, more than 30,000 people were displaced during a "scorched-earth" campaign in opposition-held areas in Leer and Mayendit, part of a South Sudan military operation after clashes with the rebels. – My Twin Tiers- July 10, 2018- (Sudan) - <https://is.gd/u5uXbq>
49. “Elderly disabled woman rescued from Chon Buri bus shelter” - A 78-year-old woman confined to a wheelchair was found to be living in a roadside bus shelter in Chon Buri with her grandson on Thursday and taken to a

welfare centre. – The Nation – July 5, 2018 – (Thailand) -  
<https://is.gd/XfzXWx>

## MISCELLANEOUS

50. “Lynn Hensler: For this death row inmate, severe child abuse calls for mercy” - Many studies confirm the detrimental effects on brain formation when children suffer traumatic abuse. Clinically, such incidents are called “adverse childhood experiences,” also known as ACEs. There are 10 primary ACE factors, including sexual and physical abuse, physical and emotional neglect, household mental illness and alcoholic parents. ACEs can contribute significantly to negative and physical mental health outcomes. - Akron Beacon Journal – July 1, 2018 – (Ohio) <https://is.gd/cdTL34>
51. “The video game industry needs to fix its relationship with disabled gamers” - It is great to see the industry start to take steps to ensure those with disabilities can join others in the fun that is gaming. But there is still work that needs to be done and we still have a long way to go. – Nintendo Enthusiast Magazine – July 5, 2018 – (New York) <https://is.gd/bM4rya>
52. Disability Rights Activists Raise Concerns Over Genetic Editing for Autism - Bioethicists and disability rights activists are concerned about new genetic alteration techniques that may allow scientists to edit out autism traits. – The Globe Post - July 10, 2018 – (Texas) <https://is.gd/9MLiBI>