

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of December 21 to December 28, 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 Miscellaneous.*

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

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

DONATIONS: We welcome (and depend upon) your donations to the Disability and Abuse Project of Spectrum Institute that support this work.

Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Abandonment: 5

Sexual Assault: 3, 6, 15, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39

Physical Abuse: 10, 15

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 14

Financial abuse: 7, 9, 12

Human Trafficking (Sex): 6

Human Trafficking (Slavery): 37:

Neglected: 2, 9, 13

Related to special education: 14

Access (ADA): 8 (Marlee Matlin)

WINNER of most egregious award: 14: Team of teachers threaten to pour hot sauce down throat of student when he attempted to communicate.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 5, 6, 12, 13, 36

Caregiver: 2, 3, 13, 38

Friend: 39

Stranger: 10

Special education employee: 14

Law Enforcement: 0

LOCATION:

Nursing Home:

In-home care: 2

Psychiatric Hospital:

Adult Care Home: 3

Group home: 9

Men: 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 32, 35, 36, 38, 39

Women: 2, 5, 6, 7

Teams: 3, 6, 10, 14, 32, 37

Good News: 19: Legislature pre-filed to reduce seclusion/restraint in state schools; 21: New law permits families to install cameras in nursing home rooms of family members; 27: Non-profit works to match ASD adults to careers; 33: Australia found that criminal sanctions were required to effect real change in behavior of staff in their handling of older Australians in their care. 40: Film maker creates visual stories by and about individuals with autism to correct bias and stereotypes.

Bad News: 11: Special education services have been denied to a student for 15 years; 18 AR reduces pay for caregivers; 22: Report reveals massive use of physical restraint in special education schools; 24: restraint and seclusion incidents spike due to lack of oversight; 26: children in state care placed in hotel rooms.

NEWS ARTICLES

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “Ninth Circuit Accords Qualified Immunity to School District Over Use of Restraints” - The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday reversed an order denying qualified immunity to school officials who repeatedly used restraints on a severely emotionally disturbed elementary school student and subjected him to isolation. The boy, designated “A.T.,” brought the action, through his guardian ad litem, against the Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District and others based on alleged civil rights violations which, he said, began when he was in the second grade at Secret Ravine School. The district is located in Sacramento County. – Metropolitan News-Enterprise – December 26, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/MH1sDj>
2. “Boise Police Arrest Caregiver on 2016 Warrant for Suspicion of Abuse of Elderly Woman” - A caregiver who allegedly failed to properly care for an elderly adult is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 8 after Boise police arrested her last week on a warrant more than 3 years old. Kimi Myers, 52, is charged with abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult. The charge is a felony in Idaho. Police could not provide the name of the city where she lives, and the Ada County Prosecutor’s Office could not be reached Thursday. Police found the victim, who was unable to care for herself, living in a “filthy environment,” Williams wrote in an email to the Idaho Press. Myers had been caring for the woman at the time. – Idaho Press – December 26, 2019 – (Idaho)- <https://is.gd/Ag9EIh>
3. “Parolee Arrested for AFC Sexual Assault Takes Plea” - A parolee arrested in September at an adult care home and charged with multiple counts of criminal sexual conduct has accepted a plea deal. He was arrested Sept. 12 at Green Acres AFC, 127 Potter Road, after a female resident, 63, who

suffers from severe anxiety, speech impairment and has a cognitive disorder, told a family member she was assaulted. Investigations by licensing consultants with the state's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs determined the woman had been repeatedly assaulted over several months, that Green Acres staff "had knowledge" of the assaults and "did not respond properly to stop this behavior." – Traverse City Record Eagle – December 26, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/WUHbty>

4. "Applying for disability? Mississippi denies more claims that neighboring states" - The average field offices make a determination in eight days. Mississippi DDS takes 76 days on average to decide. Woman who fought to get disability offers insight, advice. Her experience is not an uncommon one in Mississippi, which has the lowest rate of allowances for initial claims and re-considerations among its neighboring Southern states, according to data from the Atlanta Regional office for the Social Security Administration. Mississippi has a higher processing time for claims that what SSA deems reasonable. Clarion Ledger – December 26, 2019 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/dPxMvU>

5. "Woman Who Abandoned Autistic Grandson Facing New Charges" - An Oklahoma woman accused of leaving her grandson who has autism at a Kansas rest stop faces new charges in a third state. [KVOE](#) in Emporia reports Janie Gill is being held at the Phelps County Jail in Ralla, Missouri on suspicion of forgery and disturbing the peace. Gill faces child endangerment charges in Kansas after reportedly leaving her then 17-year-old disabled grandson at the Beaumont rest stop in Greenwood County on Nov. 29. She also faces child neglect charges in Oklahoma. Gill will be in court again next month. – KWCH 12- December 26, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/c8G7X1>

6. "New Charges Added in Sex-Trafficking Case" - A woman accused of sex trafficking her disabled daughter faces additional charges following indictment by a Boone County grand jury. [Renee M. Collins](#), 50, was

charged in August 2018 with second-degree trafficking of a child under 18 and first-degree child endangerment. She is accused of exchanging money and drugs in July 2017 for sex with the child, who has cerebral palsy, autism, and other cognitive and physical disabilities. In addition, Collins' then-boyfriend William A. Thomas Jr., 45, of Rocheport, is charged with raping the child. – Columbia Tribune – December 19, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/4ljlQg>

7. “Miles City Woman Ordered to Pay \$94,000 Restitution in Elderly Exploitation Case” - Del Linda Frost, 60, of Miles City was charged with theft of property by embezzlement and the exploitation of an older person, both felonies, on Jan. 3, 2019. According to a press release from the Montana Department of Justice, at a change of plea hearing on Oct. 28 Frost pleaded guilty to the exploitation charge involving the now-deceased victim, Arthur Yamada, in Custer County between March 10, 2014 and March 14, 2018 – KTVQ – December 26, 2019 – (Montana) - <https://is.gd/YJEhCs>
8. “Marlee Matlin Calls Out Delta for Lack of Accessibility for Deaf and Hard of Hearing” - "There is absolutely no reason for any video to be shown on airlines without captioning given the fact that all such videos have captioning elsewhere," one advocate said. "Sad to see that my preferred airline, Delta Flight 1998 has provisions for various languages and audio description for in-flight entertainment but no closed captions for deaf and hard of hearing flyers," Matlin, who is the only deaf performer to have won an Academy Award, tweeted Thursday with the hashtags #noaccess and #ADACompliance. – NBC News – December 26, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/hHUgzM>
9. “Alleged Victims in Unlicensed Group Home Scheme in Las Vegas Evicted” - or more than a month after Calvin Leslie’s arrest on charges of elder abuse in connection with an unlicensed group home in Las Vegas, he continued to rent rooms to tenants and put bills in their names without their knowledge,

prosecutors say. Leslie, 56, obtained control “through deception, intimidation or undue influence” over tenants’ money, assets or property by collecting rent for November and December for one home, even though he had already received an eviction notice, prosecutors said in a court filing. Leslie was charged in October with multiple counts of neglecting and abusing an older or vulnerable person stemming from [“deplorable conditions”](#) reported at what investigators said was an unlicensed group home at 3105 Parkdale Ave., allegedly run by Leslie and a married couple, Mary Jefferson and Devon Floyd. – Las Vegas Review – Journal – December 23, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/5fiU3D>

10. “Suspect in Racist Attack on Autistic Man Outside 7-Eleven Appears in Court” - Suspect James Stephenson appeared in court Thursday, while prosecutors say his brother, the second suspect, unexpectedly died sometime earlier this month. Prosecutors say two New Hampshire brothers, [James Stephenson, 39, of Salem, and Jeremy Stephenson, 36, of Plaistow, attacked Jonathan Shumba, 22, outside a 7-Eleven in Dracut, Massachusetts, on Sept. 27.](#) The younger Stephenson died unexpectedly sometime after his first court appearance in early December, according to prosecutors who said in court that they received information from law enforcement as well as [an online obituary](#). Investigators allege the Stephenson brothers jumped out of their car and punched Shumba before hurling racial slurs at him and throwing him through a glass window. – NBC Boston – December 19, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/zw6raU>

11. “Special Education Student's Parents Say School District Not Performing Well” - Manuel and Amy said they are in a continuous fight with the Española School District to make sure their children receive the proper services according to their plan. It is a fight that has been going on for over 15 years, when their oldest son started school. The Martinezes, who filed a complaint on behalf of their son, received a response from the Department in July, in which investigators found their son’s IEP was not being met. “The District failed to develop and implement the Individualized Education

Program for student when they failed to provide transition services for the 2018/2019 school year,” the report read. – Rio Grande Sun – December 26, 2019 – (New Mexico) - <https://is.gd/jmfkg4>

12. “Man Pays \$32K in Restitution for Elder Financial Abuse Case” – A man who cashed out an elderly family member’s stocks without permission was ordered to pay \$32,000 in restitution. Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced David Walters was put on 2 years’ probation after he paid the \$32,000 as part of a pretrial agreement. The 63-year-old reportedly cashed the stocks while knowing they were protected. The investigation began in November 2017 when police first learned of a 91-year-old man with dementia who was the victim of a theft. The family of the victim told police that due to his dementia, the victim could not make his own financial decisions. – KOIN – December 23, 2019 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/50HY3v>

13. “S.C. Judge Bans Man from Seeing His 85-Year-Old Mom Ever Again After Neglect, Abuse Case” - A York County man who [abused his elderly, disabled mother](#) for months is banned from ever seeing her again, a judge has ruled. Yet Harvey Micah Barlow, 45, will not go to prison because he has already spent six months in jail pending trial, testimony showed. Barlow accepted a plea deal Wednesday in court, acknowledging prosecutors had substantial evidence showing he abused and neglected a vulnerable adult. The plea deal, called an Alford plea, included a permanent restraining order barring Barlow seeing his mother again as long as she lives. – WBTV – December 19, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/QfVLFD>

14. “Teachers Threatened to Pour Hot Sauce Down Autistic Child's Throat” - A Craig Middle School teacher and teacher’s aide are under police investigation after they allegedly abused a special needs boy at Craig Middle School. Danny Jay and Steven Gray are accused of threatening to pour hot sauce down an autistic 13-year-old’s throat. [According to KTXS](#), a

nurse's aide first witnessed Jay and Gray mistreat the child when he attempted to communicate. In addition to being on the autism spectrum, the child is non-verbal. – San Angelo Live – December 20, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/LUX8u6>

15. “Man, 27, to Face 48 Year Imprisonment for Molesting Two Mentally Unstable Teenagers and a 15-Year-Old Girl” - A guy from Wyoming will face 48 years in jail for physically abusing two adults and a young teen. He has thus mistreated and taken advantage of the innocence and disabilities of his victims. He faces charges and sentencing for physically abused two adults and a 15-year-old girl. According to references, on Thursday, 27-year-old Trae Derik Smith was sentenced after he pleaded blameworthy to abuse. He pleaded guilty for the physical touching of a brain-injured vulnerable adult and physical assault of a developmentally-disabled grown-up. – The Digital Wise – December 23, 2019 – (Wyoming) - <https://is.gd/up7AHK>

GUARDIANSHIP

16. “Reversal: Court Wrongly Denied Evidence Alleging Guardianship Mismanagement” - A Boone County trial court wrongly rejected a husband's effort to show that the guardianship for his wife was being financially mismanaged and should be terminated, the Indiana Court of Appeals ruled Thursday, finding the judge overseeing the case failed to properly notify him of regular accountings. A few years after Gwendolyn M. Reagan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, her daughter, Mary Elizabeth Spaw, was appointed as her sole guardian in September 2014. Reagan moved from Lebanon to live with Spaw in her home in Kendallville from November 2014-March 2015, at which time she returned to Lebanon to live with her husband, Thomas Meranda, who had retired and could care for her at home, according to the record. – The Indiana Lawyer – December 26, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/GP8jzp>

17. “Bonnie Kraham: Four Things to do When a Parent is Diagnosed with Dementia” - It is a sad and scary day when your parent first hears the diagnosis of dementia. The neurologist usually recommends getting legal affairs in order and consulting with an elder law attorney. Adult children often become involved at this point. The following is a checklist for management of legal and financial affairs. – Times Herald Record – December 21, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/4LiZ1B>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

18. “Arkansas Wage Law Pares Caregivers' Pay” - About 2,800 disabled Arkansans face a reduction in the amount of home-based care they are allotted by the state Medicaid program because the state has yet to fully account for the minimum wage increase that takes effect Jan. 1. Those facing the reduction receive care through the state's Independent Choices program. The program allows them to hire someone -- often a relative or friend -- to help them with daily tasks such as dressing and bathing. The hours of care that the recipients receive each week depends on the outcome of an assessment designed to measure their needs. The hour allocations are then translated into a budget based on the \$10.40 an hour that the state Medicaid program pays for the care. The problem is that \$10.40 covers not only the caregiver's wage but also unemployment and payroll taxes. – Arkansas Democrat Gazette - December 22, 2019 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/LUGXFS>

19. “State Rep Prefiles School Discipline Bill - Addressing Seclusion, Restraint” - State Rep. Dottie Bailey, R-Eureka, who serves as vice-chair of the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee, has prefiled legislation to strengthen Missouri’s law regarding seclusion and restraint of children, many with disabilities, in schools. Seclusion and restraint are dangerous practices and violate the sanctity of parental rights. Since there is no federal law regulating the content of seclusion or restraint policies and time-out rooms, many states have adopted laws to strengthen policies and

protect students and parental rights. – Emissourian – December 26, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/5ll9pj>

20. “Offensive Hypocrisy of Banning Abortion for a Down Syndrome Diagnosis” - Last week, the full Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals announced it would hear arguments in a challenge to HB 214, an Ohio law criminalizing abortion if even part of a person’s reason for seeking the abortion is a fetal diagnosis of Down syndrome. Politicians have packaged this law somewhat differently from the 20 other [abortion](#) restrictions [enacted](#) in Ohio since 2011, but make no mistake: This is just another not-so-thinly-veiled attempt to push abortion out of reach. – The Hill – December 24, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/CyT9eT>

21. “New Law Would Let Families Put Cameras in Nursing Home Rooms” - In September of 2018, Ohio law expanded the number of people required to report suspicions of elder abuse. As a result, the number of reports exploded. In 2018, the number of reported elder abuse cases totaled 14,597. So far this year — 29,824. It's those kinds of numbers that has some lawmakers concerned that even more abuse is happening that is never reported because victims are not able to talk or have memory issues preventing them from telling loved ones. Under a bipartisan bill that will be introduced in the Ohio House and Senate next week, it would give residents the power of attorney to have surveillance cameras in their room. – WTSP – December 18, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/ymOOCT>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

22. “Schools aren’t supposed to forcibly restrain children as punishment. In Illinois, it happened repeatedly.” - An analysis of more than 15,000 physical restraints in 100 Illinois school districts from August 2017 to early December 2018 found that about a quarter of the interventions began without any documented safety reason. Instead, they often happened after a student was disrespectful, profane or not following rules. These instances

violate a 20-year-old state law that allows children to be restrained at school only for safety reasons. Records show that most of the children restrained had behavioral or intellectual disabilities. The law defines physical restraint as holding a student or otherwise restricting the child's movement. The student can be standing, seated or lying down. A brief hold intended to keep students safe or to escort them from one place to another is not considered a restraint. Illinois law prohibits the use of mechanical restraints, such as straps or handcuffs, in schools. – RRSTAR – December 24, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/Vztilu>

23. "60% Of Women at Refuge Suffered at Least Two Adverse Childhood Events" - Almost 60% of women surveyed at a refuge had at least two adverse childhood experiences, led by emotional abuse but with physical abuse and domestic alcohol abuse pronounced in many cases. The study, entitled 'Fostering Understanding, Empowering Change: Practice Responses to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Intergenerational Patterns of Domestic Violence', looked at the experiences of women at the Cuan Saor Women's Refuge in Tipperary. The Tusla-funded project found of the 60 clients interviewed over a four-month period, 58% had experienced at least two ACEs in their childhood. – Irish Examiner – December 26, 2019 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/ZhQodU>

24. "Report Finds Lack of HSE Oversight as Restraint and Seclusion in Mental Health Facilities Spikes Dramatically" – The practice of physically restraining and secluding patients in Ireland's in-patient mental health facilities spiked by 57% over the past 10 years. A new report by the Mental Health Commission has revealed a dramatic increase in the use of seclusion, mechanical restraint and physical restraint since the commission began reporting on the prevalence of restrictive practices in 2008. – The Journal – December 23, 2019 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/QLfoKG>

25. “Five Hot Topics in Autism Research in 2019” - Advances in tiny models of the human brain bared new details about the biology of autism and provided possible platforms for testing therapies. Studies of heart rate put a spotlight on the autonomic nervous system as a potential wellspring of autism traits. And others forged a controversial connection between the gut microbiome and autism. A few studies revealed important information about the time points at which different forms of autism are amenable to therapy. This year also saw scrutiny of tests used for screening and diagnosis, revealing gaps and limitations in the system for identifying autistic children. – Spectrum – December 23, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/Sdnn3m>

26. “Crazy Bad Idea’: More Kids in State Care are Sent to Hotels” - The state is taking charge of more kids with mental illness and developmental disabilities. Seventy-seven nights. That’s how many an 11-year-old spent in a hotel in one year’s time — the most by any child in state care. In other respects, the kid was far from an anomaly. More than 280 children spent roughly 1,500 nights in hotels or, in a half-dozen cases, offices of the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) during that time period, ending in August. “Unfortunately, the placement of children in hotels continues at an alarming rate in Washington,” reads an annual report with those figures released by Patrick Dowd, director of the state Office of Family and Children’s Ombuds. The number of nights spent in these “emergency placements” increased 39 percent from the previous year and more than 1,000 percent since 2015. – Herald Net – December 25, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/gBwNLE>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

27. “Non-Profit Helping to Match Autistic Adults with the Right Career” - Los Angeles-based Autism Movement Therapy’s program, “Autism Works Now,” aims to pair autistic adults with the right job for them. “Criminal Minds” actor Joe Mantegna, an autism education advocate, is also taking a

very personal role in helping the program. His daughter, Mia, is 32-years-old and is on the spectrum. He and his wife have been working with the non-profit to match her with the right job. Mantegna's latest acting role also works to promote autism awareness. He stars in Amazon's "On the Spectrum." "It deals with, in this particular instance, three young adults all living on the spectrum, they live together," he says. "And I play the father of the lead boy, and so for me, what it was, it was a case of almost like art imitating life." – WCBS 880 Radio – December 23, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/83BDyE>

28. "Pop-Up Creating Opportunity and Community for Special Needs Adults" - If you're looking for a new lunch spot, you might want to make a trip to Matthews for a Feast with Friends However, the name is not just a gimmick! When you walk into Matthews United Methodist Church for this pop-up you feel like a friend! The pop-up is provided by Rainbow Express Ministries, where special needs adults learn new skills and connecting with the community. You are greeted by a Rainbow Express Ministries member, your table is set, and your food is cooked, with a little help from some volunteers. – Spectrum News – December 22, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/h9bBrc>

29. "These Women are Making Charlotteans with Disabilities a Priority"- Monique Stamps and Judith Brown are using their personal experiences to advocate for Charlotteans with disabilities. Among Charlotte's diverse population, those who are disabled rarely get the attention they deserve. Monique Stamps and Judith Brown want to use their personal experiences to help change that, especially for people of color with disabilities. – City Metro – December 20, 2019 – (North Carolina) - Among Charlotte's diverse population, those who are disabled rarely get the attention they deserve. Monique Stamps and Judith Brown want to use their personal experiences to help change that, especially for people of color with disabilities. <https://is.gd/Bx1nxL>

30. “Autism Closet Exchange Assists Families Searching for Sensory Gifts” - Two mothers are pairing up to ease financial stress for some families this holiday season with their first Autism Closet Exchange. Saturday, Cristy Tondeur and Maya Deleon hosted the exchange at the Friends School of Wilmington. Tondeur says the two came up with the idea about 3 weeks ago to help families with members on the autism spectrum like them. “Folks who have family members living on the autism spectrum can come and shop for items that are usually expensive and get those items for free,” Tondeur said. “In the hopes that right before the holidays it might free up some of their money to be able to purchase things that they want instead of things that they need for their family.” – WWAY TV – December 21, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/dlHJne>
31. “Brookwood Schools Join Wilmot Special Ed Consortium” - Special education students at Brookwood elementary and middle schools are now part of a consortium aiming at improving service to students and their families. The Genoa City Joint No. 2 School District, which includes both Brookwood schools, has joined the Wilmot Pupil Services Consortium for special education students. Both schools had previously been part of a consortium that involved multiple districts in the Kenosha County area. But in 2015, some of the schools that fed into Wilmot decided to create a smaller consortium to improve services. – Kenosha News – December 21, 2019 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/sMbyFR>

INTERNATIONAL

32. “Priests who Abused Deaf Children get 40 – Year Jail Terms in Argentina” - two Roman Catholic priests were each sentenced to more than 40 years in prison in Argentina for the sexual abuse, including rape of deaf children, a court in the western city of Mendoza ruled on Monday. Argentine priest Horacio Corbacho was sentenced to 45 years in jail, while a 42-year sentence was imposed on Italian Nicola Corradi for the abuse of some 20 children at the Provolo Institute for deaf and hearing-impaired children

between 2004 and 2016. The trial, one of several involving the school that have yet to begin, has sent shockwaves through the Catholic Church in the homeland of Pope Francis. – Dodson Digest – December 24, 2019 – (Argentina) - <https://is.gd/oc9r4U>

33. “Criminal Liability Call for Aged Care” - Managers and management of aged-care providers should be made criminally liable for serious incidents of physical abuse of residents at their facilities, the royal commission has heard. In a new submission to the aged-care commission, advocacy group National Seniors warned that regulation in the industry had been “captured by providers and their owners” and said criminal sanctions were required to effect real change in behavior of staff in their handling of older Australians in their care. Professor McCallum noted that the ACT and Queensland have introduced industrial manslaughter as a crime to protect workers, and the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Victoria were expected to follow. – The Australian – December 27, 2019 – (Australian) - <https://is.gd/SJA5jy>

34. “Transitioning into Woman: Man Asks Court to Cancel Sex Assault Charges” - He claimed that he never had an inclination towards women and was in the process of transitioning. The man told the court that he has gender dysphoria since childhood and identified himself as a woman. The man said that the relationship between him and the complainant was that of two “sisters”, so he could not have assaulted her. Victim wants to go ahead with the case. The woman, bed-ridden due to multiple sclerosis, was brought to the court in a wheelchair and refused to compromise the matter. Her lawyer told the court that she categorically denied her consent to get the FIR cancelled. “I would like to go ahead with the case. – Republic World – December 25, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/4h9DRy>

35. “Hyderabad Man Booked for 'Marrying', Raping Maha Professor” - A 37-year-old Hyderabad resident was booked for allegedly raping a physically disabled professor from Vasai in Maharashtra's Palghar district after 'marrying' her in an illegitimate way, police said on Monday. Mohammad Anwar Moinuddin, a teacher, developed a friendship with the 28-year-old victim, who is a professor at a Vasai college, in May this year and then 'married' her by getting a fake qazi to solemnise the ceremony, said Senior Inspector Rajendra Kamble of Manickpur police station. – Yahoo News – December 23, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/3Fo990>

36. “Mentally Ill Woman Raped in Chittoor District” - A mentally ill woman has been sexually assaulted by a man in the Chittoor district. According to the sources, a married woman (32) of a village in Yadamari mandal here in the district is under medication as she is suffering from mental illness problems for the last four years. On Saturday evening, a young man (35) who was staying at his relative's house in the same village has approached the woman when there was no one present in the house and raped her. Over receiving the complaint from the victim's husband on Sunday, the police have registered a case and investigating further. – The Hans India – December 23, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/vgw93R>

37. “Exploitation, Slavery, Abuse and Neglect: 35,000 Safeguarding Concerns Flagged Over Vulnerable Adults Last Year” - Allegations of sexual exploitation, modern slavery, neglect and cruelty were at the heart of more than 35,000 safeguarding concerns raised about vulnerable adults last year, The Northern Echo can reveal. Disturbing [NHS](#) figures suggest that North-East councils investigated such concerns at almost twice the national rate in 2018/19. The rate of safeguarding enquiries made under Section 42 of the Care Act was higher in the region than anywhere else, prompting experts to call for a “zero tolerance” approach to the abuse of vulnerable people. – The Northern Echo – December 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/H4RG1b>

38. “Twisted Scots Care Home Sex Attacker Caught at Vulnerable Victim's Bedside with Pants at his Ankles” - A predatory care home worker who [sexually abused](#) a “mentally disordered” resident has been jailed for three years. Lewis Collings, 28, from [Dundee](#) was caught by a colleague exposing himself to the vulnerable woman. He was seen crouching down beside her bed with his trousers and underwear pulled down to his knees. – Daily Record – December 24, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/V85eKw>
39. “Disabled Woman Gave Friend a Place to Stay - He Repaid the Favor by Attacking Her” - A disabled woman who helped a friend when he needed somewhere to stay was repaid by being assaulted and abused by him, a court heard. Ryan Kiezik, 25, who had been drinking, called wheelchair-bound Sally Young a “cripple”, put his hands around her throat, kicked her in the thigh and punched her several times. – North Wales Live – December 23, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/JKu6VD>

MISCELLANEOUS

40. “Photographer Captures Intimate Scenes of Daily Life with Autism” - Visual stories by and about people with autism are crucial for raising awareness about the condition. Stock photography, films and television series have started to depict autistic people and characters, but the media landscape remains imbalanced and riddled with damaging stereotypes. New York City-based photographer Erin Lefevre aims to help correct that bias through intimate portraits of her 19-year-old brother, Liam, who is on the spectrum. The ongoing series, titled “Liam’s World,” has received acclaim from [The New York Times](#) and the [British Journal of Photography](#). In July, a photo of Liam ‘[stimming](#)’ — engaging in a [repetitive behavior](#), playing with string — won the prestigious [Wellcome Photography Prize 2019](#). – Spectrum News – December 23, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/cNtvEg>