

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of December 28 to January 4, 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.

Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 1, 3, 10, 11, 16, 20, 38

Physical Abuse: 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 19, 22, 23, 40

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 14

Lost/Abandoned: 2

Murder: 13, 18, 21, 37 (murder/suicide)

Neglected: 4, 6, 8, 17, 22

Kept Enclosed: 19

Related to special education: 7, 9, 12, 14

WINNER of most egregious awards: 1: Woman in skilled nursing facility for ten years gives birth to a son; 5: Authority interferes with mandated reporting of abuse; 40: People with mental illness chained for years in India.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 6, 8, 11, 17, 21, 37

Carer: 20, 22

Co-resident: 16

Group Home: 5, 13 Hospital: 1, 4,15

Stranger: 19, 23

Special education: 12,14

Generic transporter: 3

NEW CATEGORY: Couples: 6, 8, 11, 17

Men: 1, 3, 5, 10, 16, 18, 20 22, 23

Women: 7, 21, 37

Good News: 2: Police seek identity of man, possibly autistic, caught “stealing” food at convenience store; 24: New law provides for treatment for people with autism; 25: Nursing home to allow cameras in patient rooms; 26. Nursing homes to be held accountable for abuse/neglect; 27: New federal law allows investigators to alert public with “missing person” alert; 38: officials to investigate sexual abuse of women with intellectual disability.

Bad News: 13: No one held responsible for murder at group home; 32: State has 13,000 people with developmental disabilities on waiting list for basic services.

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>

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. "Sex Abuse Investigation After Patient in Vegetative State Has Baby" Sources tell KPHO that the alleged victim has been a patient at the Hacienda HealthCare facility for at least a decade after a near-drowning incident left her in a vegetative state. That woman gave birth to a baby boy on Dec. 29.- Fox 8 – January 4, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/OXWfm5>
2. "OC Officials Ask Public Help in Identifying Possibly Autistic Man" – The suspect, who appears clean and well-groomed, was described as a 5-foot-6-inch Latino man weighing 135 pounds, approximately 30 to 40 years old, with brown eyes and black hair. He is possibly autistic. My LA News – December 30, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/IEz61z>
3. "Police Seek Victims of Unlicensed Masseur Suspected of Sexual Assault" - Huntington Beach resident Rusty Lee Love, 52, was arrested Dec. 21 on suspicion of sexually assaulting the women in their Costa Mesa homes and was later released on \$50,000 bail. Costa Mesa police said they are looking for other potential victims of Love, who drove for an unnamed ride-hailing service between Orange and San Diego counties. – Times of San Diego – December 30, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/VcPUoQ>
4. "Outraged Daughter Takes on St. Pete Nursing Home Over Father's Care" - "In my dad's room, they have a white sheet to the window as a cover, as a blind or as a curtain. It's a white sheet," Tonya stated. On December 31, Tonya decided she'd seen enough when she spotted a large bed sore on her father's backside. – WFLA- January 1, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/Oq7IMJ>
5. "Jacksonville Group Home Director Accused of Trying to Stifle Abuse Report" - The director of a Jacksonville group home is facing felony charges after

witnesses complained he told them not to report a claim that a child had been molested. – The Florida Times Union Jacksonville – December 28, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/5CCN1V>

6. “Parents 'Forced' 12-yr-old Boy with Severe Disabilities to Sleep in Room Filled with Feces and Insects” - The officer added that he did not get around to checking all the rooms in the house because of the amount of "filth and feces." Officials have reportedly alerted social services about the cases and the Bakers have been reportedly scheduled to be arraigned. – MEAW – December 31, 2018 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/f8kSzb> *This was on last month but is an updated one.
7. “Kentucky Special Education Teacher Arrested After Allegedly Giving Alcohol, Marijuana to Minors” - According to the police report obtained by WDRB, police said that Lewis “knowingly hosted a party in which she knew or assisted” with the minors "getting impaired." Lewis was charged with 14 counts of engaging in an unlawful transaction with a minor. – Fox 8 – January 2, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/03HAPa>
8. “Parents of Missing Autistic Boy Arrested” - Paul and Minette Thibodeaux, both 45 and from Point Blue, were booked into the Evangeline Parish Jail Sunday morning. They face charges of Cruelty to Juveniles. – KTBS – December 30, 2018 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/ZTlctq>
9. “Former Eagleton School Student Recounts Abuse by Staff” - The state Department of Early Education and Care revoked the license of the Eagleton School in Great Barrington on March 17, 2016. A grand jury later indicted 18 former staff in Berkshire Superior Court. The charges ranged from assault and battery with a dangerous weapon to caretaker abuse, as well as obstruction of justice for destroying surveillance footage. – The Berkshire Eagle – December 29, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/wxHwGm>

10. "Lismore Man Sentenced in Criminal Sexual Conduct Case" - Allen J. Vandekieft, 21, had been incarcerated at the Nobles County Jail since his arrest in early July related to criminal sexual assault allegations involving both a minor and woman considered "mentally impaired." – The Globe – December 29, 2018 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/ezg1R3>

11. MN Court: Marriage No Defense for Man Who Fathered Child with Vulnerable Adult - Vincent Michael Gosewisch was charged with two felony counts of criminal sexual conduct in July 2017. The woman reportedly functioned at the level of an 8-year-old, and their relationship was sanctioned by the woman's family. – Minnesota Public Radio – December 31, 2018 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/qvLN1i>

12. "Sun Herald Reporter Brought Shocking Story to Light That Helped Make a Difference" - Sun Herald reporter Margaret Baker's uncovered the story of a Jackson County School District special needs teacher and bus driver that had mistreated a student in 2018. Baker's reporting brought out videos that shocked the Mississippi Coast. – Sun Herald – December 26, 2018 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/9rJz8O>

13. "West Carrollton Homicide Case 'Strenuous Investigation', But Remains Top Priority" - Duskey, 65, died from complications of multiple blunt force injuries to his head, torso and left upper extremity, the Montgomery County Coroner's Office said in May. -WHIO TV 7 – December 31, 2018- (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/BsnWvq>

14. "Parents Sue, Claiming Disabled Students Were Abused" - Aberdeen American News reports the parents say their 13-year-old children were physically and mentally abused by staff at May Overby Elementary School and that administrators failed to take action when notified of the abuse. – Chron - January 2, 2019 – (South Dakota) - <https://is.gd/M8fmz1>

15. "Woman Calls Collierville Police After Mother Injured at Troubled Nursing Home" - "Looks like a black eye, like somebody just punched her in the eye," Bernard said, describing what her mother looked like. "And now it's infected and stuff and she can't open it. So I'm like, it's like real bad." – WREG – January 1, 2019 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/c08Jib>

16. "Court Dates Set for Suspects Charged with Raping Mentally Disabled Victim"- The Alabaster Police Department arrested 58-year-old Alabaster resident Barry Wendell Oliver on Oct. 23, 2018, and arrested 67-year-old Montevallo resident on Sept. 30, 2018, and charged both of them with counts of second-degree rape and second-degree sodomy. –Shelby County Reporter -January 3, 2019 - (Tennessee)- <https://is.gd/1zVC4J>

17. "Panola County Grand Jury Indicts Carthage Couple for Elder Abuse" - A Carthage couple was indicted on two counts each of injury to a child/elderly/disabled individual with criminal negligence Dec. 20. Shane Cody Campbell and Shannin Lea Campbell were arrested in November after Panola County Sheriff's deputies found Shane Cambell's mother and grandmother neglected at their home. -The Panola Watchman – December 31, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/zJwUxM>

18. "James Holland Pleads Guilty in Murder of Special Needs Girl" - The office of Lubbock County Criminal District Attorney said on Tuesday that James Holland pleaded guilty to capital murder for the death of Holli Jeffcoat, 18. Jeffcoat was found dead in a home in Northeast Lubbock County in February 2016. Jeffcoat had been described by officials as a special needs student. Prior to her murder, she made an outcry to officials at her school that she was sexually abused by Holland. – Everything Lubbock – December 19, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/Vn2hNT>

19. "CCPD: Special Needs Man Captured, Tortured" - Police are investigating a kidnapping and torture case Wednesday night that left a special needs person

seriously hurt. A 20-year-old victim told police he was held hostage at an apartment on Staples and Kostoryz for an hour before he was able to run away. – KIII TV – January 2, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/JtlyOq>

20. “Care Worker Pretended to be Dad of Mentally Ill Child’s Friend so he Could Have Sex with Her” - Robert Havens, 49, would drive to his victim’s house, then tell her mom that he was closely related to a non-existent friend so that he could continue to take advantage of the child after she was discharged. – Metro – January 2, 2019 – (Vermont) - <https://is.gd/lcNOBX>

21. “Police: Danville Woman Charged with Felony Homicide, Elder Neglect in the Death of Her Grandmother” – When officials arrived at the scene, 71-year-old Dorothy Jean George was pronounced dead. Police say George suffered from various health issues. Due to the conditions in the home and circumstances surrounding the initial call for EMS, detectives were notified and responded to investigate further. - Virginia First – January 3, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/jBeAcd>

22. “Troopers Arrest One Man Accused of Patient Abuse at Golden Harvest Nursing Home” - Friday December 28, the investigation lead to the arrest of Adam Wheeler. He is charged with three counts of Abuse and Neglect of Incapacitated Adults causing bodily injury, one county of Abuse and Neglect of Incapacitated Adults causing serious bodily harm, and four counts of crimes against the elderly. The ages of the victims range from 52 years of age to 92. – WVNS TV – December 29, 2018 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/FC5cAJ>

23. “Man Indicted in Alleged Attack Against Disabled Man”- A Ravenswood, West Virginia, man has been indicted in Cabell County after he was accused of shoving a man and hitting him with a chair. – Herald Dispatch – January 2, 2019 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/4i7fMu>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

24. “New Law Helping with Coverage for Autism Therapy” - A new law in effect will help families pay for therapy for children with autism. Some of Alabama’s most powerful companies fought this bill tooth and nail, but one mother tells us her son is the poster child as to why this autism bill was needed. – CBS 42 – January 2, 2019 – (Alabama) - <https://is.gd/KTafV3>

25. “Nursing Home Resident Praises New Law Allowing Cameras in Rooms” - The law took effect today and is part of the Nursing Home Virtual Visitation Act, which prohibits nursing homes from retaliating against residents who want to install cameras inside. – WBRZ – January 1, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/5NoOnp>

26. “Three Bills Aimed at Holding Nursing Homes Accountable in WNY” - Three bills aimed at holding nursing homes accountable in WNY – Rochester First – December 31, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/YpxT1g>

27. “Law Protects the Vulnerable” - A new federal law gives investigators the ability to alert the public when vulnerable adults go missing – Daily Press – January 2, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/94z3ay>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

28. “Core Set of Autism Traits Shows up in Diverse Cultures” - The new study examines which items on the Autism Spectrum Quotient (AQ) — a 50-item questionnaire that caregivers complete — best distinguish children with autism in three countries from their typical peers. – Spectrum – January 3, 2019 – (International) - <https://is.gd/foxILX>

29. “Utah Researchers Say Study is Breakthrough for Examining Low-Functioning Autistic Youth” - Researchers say a newly published study authored by experts at BYU and University of Utah represents a breakthrough in how to more adequately examine the brain activity of autistic youth who have low cognitive abilities. – Deseret News Utah – January 3, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/H9N0uL>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

30. “District 47 to Open New Center for Special Education Students” - Funded through a \$1.3 million federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act grant over the past two years, the new center includes a full kitchen and bathroom, washer/dryer, flexible area for group activities, private office and patio/rain garden, and it is fully compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act. – Northwest Harold – December 31, 2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/umX7wv>

31. NC needs to help thousands of people with disabilities live on their own. The progress is slow. - The agreement, known as the Olmstead settlement, was put into place in August 2011. The transitioning of individuals began in the spring of 2013 with modest progress over the past five years. – West Salem Journal – January 1, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/qAzzOx>

32. “Advocates Seek Funding to Help Virginians With Disabilities” - Dozens of disability-rights activists urged members of the Virginia General Assembly Thursday to approve funding to reduce the nearly 13,000-strong waitlist for developmental disability waivers. Developmental disability waivers, which are granted by Medicaid, include support services for mental and behavioral health, learning and employment. – WTKR – January 3, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/vxpsWv>

INTERNATIONAL

33. “Freed After 543 Days, Ryan Will End 2018 as he Began it, Behind Bars” - An intellectually disabled man who this year was released from jail after 543 days, despite being found unfit to stand trial, will end 2018 back in prison. – The Sydney Morning Herald – December 31, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/SXbOmQ>
34. “Police Investigating Elder Abuse Claims at Warilla Warrigal Care Nursing Home” - The Mercury on Friday reported that a staff member at the facility was stood down on Christmas Eve amid [allegations she was seen by other staffers to use “excessive force”](#) against one resident and a spray bottle containing some form of liquid on another. – Illawarra Mercury – December 30, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/PZjofg>
35. “Revealed: 29 Reports of Sexual Assault in NDIS” - A new disability watchdog that covers just two states has received 29 reports of sexual assault against participants of the \$22 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme in three months, a figure advocates say is the “tip of the iceberg”. – The Australian – January 3, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/7YHRVD>
36. “For China’s Disabled People, Sex is Still Taboo” - While the country is paying more attention to employment and health care, the need for intimacy is still often ignored. – Sixth Tone – December 29, 2018 – (China) - <https://is.gd/cMJw3N>
37. “Pregnant Woman Found Dead with Son on Christmas Day ‘Struggled with Bullying and Exclusion Over His Autism’ ” - Husband found charcoal burning in the bedroom where they died, and wife left two notes, according to report. She had begun to homeschool the boy after he was rejected by several schools and suspended from his latest school, which lacked specialist staff. – South China Morning Post – January 1, 2019 – (China) - <https://is.gd/WgTFDb>

38. “Body of Child Born to Mentally Challenged Woman Exhumed for DNA Paternity Test” - The baby was delivered by the mentally challenged woman in Kullan area of Ganderbal on November 20. He didn’t survive and was buried by locals in the graveyard in the area. Taking suo-motu cognizance of the incident, the J&K High Court has directed police to ensure that those who raped the mentally challenged woman are brought to book. – Kashmir Reader – December 31, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/6SlrYD>
39. “Time to Honour the Battles of Indians with Disabilities” - The reasons being attributed to the Bharatiya Janata Party’s defeats in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan include unemployment, corruption and farmers’ distress. Could it be that the constituency of the differently abled — their demands were left unaddressed in these states — were equally disenchanting? – The Telegraph – January 1, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/TYXmoe>
40. “Mentally Ill People Chained And Abused In Sheds In Uttar Pradesh” - People with psychological disorders are tortured with their feet tied with iron chains and padlocked for days, months and even years – Mid-Day.com – January 3, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/fbm5FN>
41. “People with Intellectual Disabilities in Iran Lack Crucial Services and Support” - The Iranian government meanwhile failed to provide specific programs to help citizens living with intellectual and psychological disabilities gain independence in their lives or protect them from abuse and violence. – Center for Human Rights in Iran – December 28, 2018 – (Iran) - <https://is.gd/OiaP4C>
42. “Israel’s ‘haredi’ Community Embrace Disability Inclusion, Integration” - Geula Avidan, dean of students at Ono Academic College’s Haredi Campuses, said “we need to think of individuals with disabilities as people first, not charity cases, and we need to consider what they deserve, what they can contribute, and how we can help them achieve in the classroom and beyond.” – Jewish News Syndicate – December 31, 2018 – (Israel) - <https://is.gd/kH8gni>

43. "49 Patients Rescued from Rehab Centre" - Police raided a rehab centre in Bishnumati of Budhanilkantha Municipality-5 and rescued 49 women patients, who were allegedly subjected to physical and mental torture by its owner. – The Himalayan Times – December 28, 2018 – (Nepal) - <https://is.gd/ayAs3i>
44. "Briones: The priest and the 15-year-old girl" - But I had a bad feeling about the whole thing when I learned that the alleged victim had "special needs." – Sun Star CEBU- December 29, 2018 – (Philippines) - <https://is.gd/pJKk8M>

MISCELLANEOUS

45. "The Leaked Louis C.K. Set Is Tragedy Masked as Comedy" - A year ago, the comic promised to reflect on his behavior after admitting to sexual misconduct. Now he's making jokes about the inconvenience of empathy. – The Atlantic – December 31, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/WT34ZI>