

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of November 30 to December 6, 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 appreciate) your donations to the Disability and Abuse Project of Spectrum Institute that support this work.

Types of Abuse

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 8, 9, 11, 17, 23, 48, 49, 51, 54

Physical Abuse: 2, 3, 5, 12, 15, 16

Financial abuse: 7, 20, 22

Murder: 13, 18, 19, 53, 56

Neglected: 4

Restraint: 1 (chemical restraint used on children)

Related to special education: 2, 3, 10 (seclusion), 15 (PA), 23

Seclusion: 1, 10

WINNER of most egregious award: 6: About 20,000 adults waiting for help to live on their own face 7 year wait lists; 9: Pedophile adopts 2 girls with disabilities and rapes them from the age of 10 forward.

WINNER of “good job” award: 40 Man with autism starts his own business after not being able to get a job.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

RELATIONSHIP:

Family: 8, 22

Caregiver

Neighbor/Friend of Family:

Stranger: 49, 54, 56

Special education employee:

Law Enforcement:

Co-student: 23

Co-resident: 17, 53

Teacher’s Aide/staff: 2, 3, 10, 15, 23

School bus drivers: 3

Special Ed Principal: 5

Foster parents: 13

Archdiocese (priests): 9

LOCATION:

Nursing Home: 4, 11,16, 17, 18 Acute Care Hospital: 51
Psychiatric Hospital:53 Treatment Center (children): 1
Day program: 7 Group home: 12, 19, 20

By Gender:

Men: 2, 8, 9, 11, 12, 18, 23, 48, 49, 51, 53, 54, 56
Women: 3, 5, 7, 13, 15, 16, 29, 20, 22
Teams: 1, 54

Good News: 30: New bill introduced to decrease seclusion of students with disabilities; 31: NJ – A new law that lifts the statute of limitations for adult survivors of child sex abuse in New Jersey went into effect Sunday with some cases against the Catholic Church that allege the religious institution knowingly hired perverted priests; 34: Finding: 50% of homeless people have traumatic brain injuries; 37: Federal grants awarded to decrease and prevent child abuse and neglect; 38: MO initiates online abuse reporting option.

Bad News: 14: Patient dumping by nursing homes now in the thousands; 21: DHS agrees to comply with federal laws which protect people with disabilities from discrimination; 33: unequal disciplinary actions found for students of color; 43: abuse and living in fear is common in group homes; 47: Known sex offender hired to work in group home which was not round guilty of negligent hiring.

ARTICLES ON ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “Northwest Arkansas Child Site Violated U.S. Rules” - Piney Ridge Treatment Center in Fayetteville violated federal rules at least 13 times during a 30-day period by restraining its young clients with chemical injections while placing them in seclusion rooms, state records show. Medicaid rules prohibit simultaneous restraint and seclusion because it violates health and safety requirements for patients, according to an Oct. 11 Statement of Deficiencies and Plan of Correction report that detailed each incident. – Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette – December 1, 2019 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/52eM6T>
2. “Teacher’s Aide Accused of Punching 12-Year-Old with Special Needs at Ark. Middle School” - A teacher’s aide in Arkansas is on paid leave after a 12-year-old boy in his class came home with a black eye. Maria Alba, the mother of a 12-year-old boy with special needs, says her son came home Nov. 15 with a swollen face and bruises from Cloverdale Middle School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Initially, the boy told his mother he fell but later said a teacher’s aide punched him. In a police report, the teacher’s aide, identified as William Jarmon, is accused of hitting Alba’s son while they were in the bathroom. He was placed on paid leave following the allegation. – WTOC 11 – December 2, 2019 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/8VVP1I>
3. “Collier County Special Needs Bus Driver Arrested on Charge of Child Abuse” - Collier County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dayely Gonzalez, 37, after car camera footage showed she repeatedly slapped a 10-year-old special needs student while he was riding the bus, according to an arrest report. Gonzalez has been re-assigned to the district offices while the case is under investigation, according to the arrest report. – Naples Daily News – December 3, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/4Cd5jt>
4. “Signs of Neglect in 94-Year-Old Woman’s Care Leads to West Palm-Area Couple’s Arrest” - Julia Rodriguez-Dagnery [opted to end her elderly mother’s in-home nursing care](#), believing she could better attend to the woman’s needs, authorities said. Matthew Lake told investigators he helped

Rodriguez-Dagnery with household chores but refrained from involvement in her mother's care. The older woman didn't like him touching her.

The [West Palm Beach](#)-area residents now are facing criminal charges after authorities alleged they were negligent in their care for Gloria Dagnery in the months before her death at age 94 in June 2018. – The Palm Beach Post – December 4, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/JJQizY>

5. “Palmetto Elementary principal removed amid charge she abused disabled student” - The principal at Palmetto Elementary School has been removed from the school as authorities investigate an allegation that she “thrust” a disabled student out of a chair and onto the floor. The Palmetto Police Department concluded its investigation of the Nov. 1 incident as unfounded, but child protection investigators still had concerns about the incident, according to Chief of Police Scott Tyler. In Manatee County, child welfare cases are investigated by the Manatee County Sheriff's Office Child Protection Section on behalf of the Florida Department of Children and Families. The school district also concluded its internal investigation into principal Michelle Mealor's conduct. However, per Florida Statute 1012.31, the document will remain sealed for 10 days after the principal is notified. – Bradenton Herald – December 4, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/iuEjjM>

6. “Nearly 20k Adults with Developmental Disabilities are Waiting for Help From Illinois to Live on Their Own” - [Nearly 20k adults with developmental disabilities are waiting for help from Illinois to live on their own](#). Many of the people with developmental disabilities on Illinois' waiting list for adult programs come from families who don't have a way to pay for home care, job coaches or other services. Most wait an average of seven years before they are selected, despite a court order in 2011 that Illinois shrink the list. – Administration for Community Living -December 3, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/PMVcMQ>

7. “Woman Charged with Unlawful Financial Exploitation of 22 Identified Disabled Victims at William M. Bedell ARC” - Andrea R. Schultz (D.O.B.

12/31/82) was charged with 44 counts of Unlawful Financial Exploitation of a Disabled Person and Theft of Property by Deception, the Madison County State's Attorney Thomas Gibbons said. Shultz worked as a caregiver for William M. BeDell Achievement and Resource Center (ARC) which serves children and adults in Madison County with developmental disabilities. The defendant was in charge of managing the funds for the victims. The charges span from January 1, 2018, through October 24, 2019, with a total amount of \$14,948.91 taken from the victims. -River Bender - December 3, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/6dlv4c>

8. “Pedophile Dad Who Raped His Underage Daughters Including a Disabled Minor for 4 Years Avoids Jail” - A 49-year-old man who reportedly raped his two adopted underage daughters escaped jail after admitting to sexual misconduct with a minor. Steven Wells received a six-year suspended sentence and four-year probation at Allen County Superior Court in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on Friday. He was accused of raping his two daughters aged 14 and 13, of which the younger one's disability meant she had the mental capacity of a seven-year-old child. He abused them for over 4 years starting in 2012 at the family's home in Fort Wayne street, according to a report by [The Daily Mail](#). – Life Shared – November 20, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/CsUEqa>

9. “Archdiocese, Family of Special Needs Child Spar Over Alleged Abuse by Football Teammates” - Four football players are under investigation, according to a police report filed on Oct. 3. The letter recaps Woodruff’s claims that on Sept. 9 a boy took video of her son urinating and threatened to post it to social media. That boy and others, Woodruff claims, forced her son, the team manager, to suck a player’s nipples before the Sept. 27 homecoming game as retaliation. “This incident was also filmed and the optics certainly will not look good when these events and videos are made public,” Johnson wrote. – South Bend Tribune – December 1, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/GLj2XN>

10. “End the Use of Seclusion Rooms in Iowa Schools” - In 2016, The Gazette’s [Erin Jordan](#) found that seclusion rooms [in schools were used to punish children](#) for not tracing in pencil and for stepping outside of the lines. A ProPublica investigation into seclusion rooms in [Illinois](#), published last week, revealed the same. “The students, most of them with disabilities, scratch the windows or tear at the padded walls. They throw their bodies against locked doors. They wet their pants. Some children spend hours inside these rooms, missing class time. Through it all, adults stay outside the door, writing down what happens.” This week, in response to a 2019 ProPublica investigation, Gov. [J.B. Pritzker](#) o<URL destination="https://www.propublica.org/article/illinois-school-students-seclusion-rooms-state-emergency-action-pritzker-carroll">rdered Illinois schools to immediately stop secluding children. – The Gazette – December 2, 2019 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/Tf4VCS>

11. SICK ASSAULTS Care Home Worker ‘Raped Profoundly Disabled Patient and Another Mentally Ill Woman in String of Attacks’ - A 21-year-old is alleged to have raped two seriously disabled patients while working at a care home in Minnesota. Samuel Lee Sandbo is reported to have confessed the attacks to his supervisor after suffering "anxiety and guilt". In one case, he is reported to have pulled down his trousers, put on a condom, and raped a severely mentally disabled woman in her bed, stopping when the woman hit him. In a second case, he reportedly admitted raping a "profoundly intellectually disabled" woman in a bathroom. – The Sun – December 3, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/FsInGU>

12. “Police Investigating after Man, 19, Dies at Rochester Group Home” - Police are investigating the death of a 19-year-old man following an incident at a Rochester group home. According to the Rochester Police Department, witnesses said Antione Evans-Hill became aggressive that night and staff tried to restrain him. The group home is located in the 3800 Block of Winesap Drive Northwest. Police said Evans-Hill eventually agreed to stop, and lay down by himself. Authorities said that during that time, he stopped breathing. – KTTC – December 2, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/4ZuM8T>

13. “Brooklyn Park woman gets 32 years in prison for malnourished, neglected foster child's death” - A Brooklyn Park woman who admitted to causing the death of her severely malnourished and neglected 3-year-old foster daughter was sentenced Tuesday to 32 years in prison. Sherrie Dirk, 35, declined to speak when given a chance to address the court before the sentence was handed down. But the paternal grandparents of her victim, Arianna Hunziker, pleaded with the court for the maximum term — 35 years. — Minnesota Star Tribune – December 3, 2019 – (Minneapolis) - <https://is.gd/rKI8mM>

14. “Dumped: Nursing Home Evictions a Reality for Some Poor Patients” - Every year, thousands of Americans are evicted from nursing homes or discharged against their wishes—sometimes illegally because they’re low-income and on state assistance like Medicaid. – NBC News – November 26, 2019 - (National) - <https://is.gd/NO7I6j>

15. “Mom Says Teacher Dragged 6-Year-Old Downstairs” - A Buffalo Public School student’s mother wants answers after she says her son’s teacher dragged him down several stairs. “She was dragging him down the stairs by his knees,” said Tasha Dixon. Dixon says she didn’t witness what happened but someone else did, prompting an internal investigation by the district. – KTNV – November 22, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/z8s8MD>

16. “Syracuse Nursing Home Aide Slaps, Bruises 90-Year-Old Patient’s Face, Police Say” - A Syracuse nursing home employee slapped a 90-year-old resident in the face with a wet cloth, bruising the elderly woman, according to police. Syracuse police arrested a certified nurse aide Nov. 25 after conducting a lengthy investigation of the incident that occurred Oct. 19 at Bishop Rehabilitation & Nursing Center at 918 James St. Cania Williams, 29, of Syracuse, was charged with endangering the welfare of an incompetent or physically disabled person in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, and harassment in the second degree, a violation. – Syracuse - December 4, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/fJJQa2>

17. “Gowanda Nursing Home Fined in Connection with Sexual Assault” - A Gowanda nursing home has been fined \$10,000 by the state Health Department in connection with the sexual assault of an 88-year-old resident by another resident. The Gowanda Rehabilitation and Nursing Center waited more than six hours to report the May 29 assault to police and destroyed possible evidence related to the assault, [the state Health Department concluded](#) this summer. The penalty was noted on the department’s website among information about fines issued in recent months. The fine was issued on Oct. 15, according to the website, in connection with “multiple deficiencies” found by the department in a report this summer. – The Buffalo News – December 3, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/1Od3eI>

18. “Suspect in Developmentally Disabled Man’s Death: Dayton Home Search Illegal” - Erion Williams, 29, faces charges of involuntary manslaughter, patient abuse and tampering with evidence stemming from the 2018 death of Jerrold Duskey. Williams was indicted in August for the death of Duskey, 65, at the ResCare Inc. facility on Redbluff Drive. But the defendant’s attorney said in a recent filing there were several issues — including Fourth Amendment rights violations — with warrants obtained in July to search his client’s home. – Dayton Daily News – December 3, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/ByRUg2>

19. “Ex-Group Home Worker Pleads Guilty in Drowning of Teen Left Unsupervised at Edgewater Beach in 2018” - A state investigation found 37-year-old Christina Coleman left Shaud Howell and two other teens unsupervised at Edgewater Beach July 6, 2018 after lifeguards had left for the day. Howell, who didn’t know how to swim, drowned. His body was found two days later north of Perkins Beach. – News 5 Cleveland – December 4, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/55Ezj>

20. “Springfield Township Woman Accused of Stealing Money from People with Disabilities” - A Springfield Township woman is accused of stealing money from disabled residents of the group home where she worked,

according to Springfield Township police. Authorities say the woman, Carla Clark, also stole money from someone in North College Hill. The initial accusation surfaced last month when a routine Ohio Valley Residential Services audit of bank statements revealed around \$2,000 withdrawn from residents' bank accounts that was not actually given to the residents. – Fox 19 – December 4, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/DVx7iq>

21. “DHS Agrees to Comply with Federal Laws Protecting People with Disabilities from Discrimination” - The agreement was reached voluntarily after the Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Housing and Human Services reviewed Oregon’s operations, triggered by news reports and a complaint by an advocate regarding an Oregon couple with disabilities whose children were removed from their care. The couple had alleged that the state agency removed their kids based on “stereotypical beliefs and discriminatory assumptions” about them, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Human Services. In examining Oregon’s child welfare division, the civil rights office “identified systemic deficiencies regarding ... implementation of its disability rights policies, practices, and procedures to prevent discrimination against parents with disabilities in Oregon's child welfare system,” according to a press release from the federal agency. – Blue Mountain Eagle – December 4, 2019 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/egok7A>

22. “Elderly Man Loses Home after Being Financially Exploited” - "Anna was the last one left," he said. "I had been diagnosed with prostate cancer, and it came up on what was going to happen to me. I told her I'd reckon I'd go into a nursing home." Anna wasn't happy with that answer and agreed to take care of him if she could stay in his home. John agreed to put her name on the deed to his home. "I had been living in that neighborhood for 71 years," he said. "After she signed the deed to the property, she quit cleaning, quit cooking, grocery shopping. She just completely quit. "I told her one day, I said 'Sis, if you want out of this, if you don't want to do this, I won't be mad at you. We'll just go back, and we will make the deed back to me.'" But Anna didn't want to give up the trailer and land. – Herald Citizen – November 30, 2019 –(Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/3jvaCP>

23. “North Kitsap School District Settles Suit Over Sexual Assaults on Special Needs Bus” - The North Kitsap School District has settled a lawsuit with families of four students said to have been sexually assaulted by an older student on school bus trips during the 2014-2015 school year. The lawsuit, filed in January 2018, identifies four developmentally disabled children who were assaulted by an older, behaviorally disabled student during the 2014-2015 school year, saying that the school district provided no supervision to prevent the assaults despite knowing that the older student had previously engaged in “sexually aggressive and unwelcome behavior” with other students. – Kitsap Sun – December 1, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/WlhR9Y>

GUARDIANSHIP

24. “Some B-Ds Want More Power to Fight Senior Investor Exploitation” - Some broker-dealer firms are asking Finra to give them more power to stave off the exploitation of senior investors, according to Robert Cook, the SRO’s CEO and president. Finra has already put in place — since February last year — several additional protections for senior investors. The protections include a rule that lets broker-dealer firms place temporary holds on disbursements of funds or securities from the accounts of specified customers if there is reasonable belief of financial exploitation of these customers by third parties. – Financial Advisor IQ – December 3, 2019 – (D.C.) - <https://is.gd/UIpYcX>

25. “Iowa's Guardianship and Conservatorship Law Changes” - University of Iowa law professor Josephine Gittler discusses upcoming changes to Iowa's guardianship and conservatorship laws to better protect vulnerable adults. – Telegraph Herald – December 1, 2019 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/GTtM24>

26. “Guardianship Legislation: A Timeline” – Legislation timeline on Guardianship in Michigan listed in this article. – Record Eagle – December 1, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/q27OaB>

27. “Area Families Caught in 'Nightmare' of Guardianship” - “Perhaps no civil proceeding has greater impact upon an adult than guardianship,” said Bradley Geller, of Ann Arbor, an elder rights attorney and author of a [handbook on guardianship](#). “You can lose all your rights. Where to live, who your doctor is, what you can spend your money on.” Nationwide, critics have continually claimed professional guardians have too much power. That the unscrupulous among them take advantage of vulnerable adults by stealing from their estates, denying necessary medical care and hiding elderly parents from their children and grandchildren. – Record Eagle – December 1, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/jzAxsP>
28. “Nevada Guardianship Office Protects Seniors from Fraud, Abuse” - “1-833-421-7711, that’s the number to call regarding any matter dealing with abuse or fraud involving a guardian,” urged Kate McCloskey, manager of Nevada’s Guardianship Compliance Office. The office, under the jurisdiction of the Nevada Supreme Court, was created more than two years ago after some of the most contemptible episodes of elderly abuse had surfaced in the state, resulting in national headlines. They involved individuals, known as guardians, who gained access to the care of elderly people in need of assistance and monopolized their assets and income by circumventing a weak guardianship law that existed at the time. – Las Vegas Review Journal – December 4, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/xxFaiO>
29. “Senator Zaffirini Recognized by AARP for Guardianship Legislation” - Senator Judith Zaffirini, (D-Laredo), received the 2019 Legislative Achievement Award from AARP Texas. The organization presented the award to recognize the senator’s legislative efforts to improve the state’s guardianship system. Her Senate Bill (SB) 31, which went into effect on Sept. 1, established the Guardianship Abuse, Fraud and Exploitation Deterrence Program, which will help prevent the exploitation of persons who need a legal guardian because they cannot care for themselves. – Hays Free Press – December 4, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/ex0dZk>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

30. “Bill Aims to Set State Rules on Student Restraint” - Preventing abuses like placing students in seclusion to punish them is among the goals of a bill filed Tuesday in the Missouri House, said its sponsor, state Rep. Dottie Bailey, R-Eureka. The bill also would provide guidance for school districts for seclusion and restraint of students, said Bailey, vice chairwoman of the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee. State Rep. Chuck Basye, R-Rocheport, who is [chairman of the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee](#), said he will support Bailey’s bill as a co-sponsor. It was late in the session when the committee heard the bill last year and there was not enough time to get it to the floor, he said. – Columbia Daily Tribune – December 3, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/CVEr9T>
31. “New Jersey Law Brings New Child Sex Abuse Suits against Catholic Church” - A new law that lifts the statute of limitations for adult survivors of child sex abuse in New Jersey went into effect Sunday — opening the floodgates for lawsuits against powerful institutions and predators. Some of the first cases filed Monday include three suits against the Catholic Church that allege the religious institution knowingly hired perverted priests and allowed them “unfettered” access to vulnerable children, while keeping their proclivity for pedophilia a closely held secret. New York Post – December 2, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/SFk1nO>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

32. “Severity Predicts Autistic Children’s Ability to Learn Life Skills” - The severity of their autism also predicts how quickly they learn the tasks, according to a new study. The work also shows that their skills improve over their preschool years, in line with previous work. “I really wanted to sink my teeth into these daily living skills to ask what’s happening over the preschool years,” says lead investigator [Briano Di Rezze](#), assistant professor of rehabilitation science at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Studies suggest that autistic people who have high intelligence quotients (IQ) or

excel academically [still struggle with daily living skills](#). – Spectrum News – December 2, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/ciVZyp>

33. “State: Black Special Ed Students in Grand Ledge Face Unequal Discipline” - Black students enrolled in special education programs at Grand Ledge Public Schools are suspended or expelled at higher rates than their peers, according to a 2018 state report. The Grand Ledge school district was [one of 19 school districts statewide identified by the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education as having significant disproportionality](#) in discipline, meaning students of certain races or ethnicities are disciplined at higher rates. In Grand Ledge, Office of Special Education officials found that black students with disabilities faced disciplinary measures, including in- and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, more frequently than other students. – Lansing State Journal – December 4, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/UnW2Sx>

34. “Half of Homeless People Have Experienced Traumatic Brain Injury: Study” - Roughly half of people who are homeless or in unstable housing have experienced a [traumatic brain injury](#) in their lifetime, a new study has found, with potentially severe consequences for their mental and physical health. The study, by a group of B.C. researchers, analyzed previous research on the subject from six high-income countries including Canada, and was published Monday in the journal [Lancet Public Health](#). – Global News – December 2, 2019 – (Multi Country Study) - <https://is.gd/tUNYG2>

35. “Disabled Workers Paid 12% Less, 'Damning' UK Official Figures Show” - Disabled people continue to face prejudice in the workplace campaigners have said, after [latest government figures](#) showed they were paid on average 12.2% less than those without impairments, equivalent to £1.48 an hour. According to Office for National Statistics (ONS) data, the median pay for disabled employees in 2018 was £10.63 an hour, compared with £12.11 an hour for their non-disabled counterparts. The disability pay gap was widest for people classified as having a mental impairment – defined by the ONS as depression and anxiety, mental illness, nervous disorder, epilepsy or learning

disability – who earned an average of £9.82 an hour. – The Guardian – December 2, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/HVuO36>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

36. “Young People with Disabilities Aren’t Being Taught Sex-Ed — And it’s Putting Them in Danger” - What a young person is taught about [sexual health](#) will influence their behaviour and views about sex as they grow up. Unfortunately, for many youths with disabilities, these lessons never come — neither in school nor in conversations with health care providers. A new literature review found that of 5,500 research articles on talking to youth about sexuality, only two examined the topic of communication with a focus on youth with disabilities. – Global News – December 3, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/1VmwF1>
37. MDHHS 1 of 5 Agencies Nationally to Receive Federal Grant to Prevent Child Abuse or Neglect Deaths, Injuries - The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is one of five agencies nationwide that has been awarded a federal grant to reduce and prevent child abuse or neglect deaths and injuries. The U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime is providing \$750,000 over 3 years and assistance from experts in addressing child maltreatment injuries and fatalities. – 62 CBS Detroit – December 2, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/otuYNh>
38. “Missouri Offers New Online Option for Reporting Adult Abuse” - A new, online option might help the state of Missouri solve a big issue and protect the vulnerable. It's meant to boost a shocking statistic about Missouri's Adult Abuse Hotline: only 39% of the calls were answered earlier this year. The state is trying to right that wrong with an updated way to report abuse. For every documented report on elder abuse, about 113,000 go unreported in Missouri, according to a 2016 report from the DHSS. That might be because the adult abuse hotline is often a dead-end. More than a dozen states, including Oklahoma and Texas, already have online reporting systems. A Springfield attorney said it's "long overdue" for Missouri to follow suit. – KY3 – December 2, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/IsxmiF>

39. “Rockettes Celebrate Diversity at This Year’s Christmas Spectacular” - There are 13 new Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall this year, and Gadi Schwartz got a behind-the-scenes look at how the team is using its own unity to inspire audiences. This includes for the first time a Rockette with a disability. – NBC News – November 29, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/YSUyT1>
40. “No one would hire this man with autism. He opened his own coffee shop and now hires employees with special needs” - When Michael Coyne couldn't find a job, he took matters into his own hands and created one. Coyne, who has autism, decided to open his own coffee shop. "After I turned 21, I applied to multiple places. None of them would hire me," [he told CBS affiliate WPRI-TV](#). Now, he works in what he calls a "beacon of hope" for people with disabilities. Coyne decided to take business classes through Rhode Island Developmental Disability Center. Earlier this month, he went from business student to business owner, opening [Red, White and Brew](#). – CBS News – December 2, 2019 – (Rhode Island) - <https://is.gd/6Ec3BF>
41. “Newport News Police Department Launch ‘Project Guardian’ to Raise Awareness of Individuals with Autism” - The Newport News Police Department has launched 'NNPD Project Guardian'. Police say this new program aims to raise officers’ awareness of individuals in our community with autism spectrum disorder and provides them with information to help keep people with autism safe. Participation in the Project Guardian database is voluntary. Parents and guardians are asked to submit basic information about the individual with autism, a photo of the person, and any special concerns officers should be aware of should they encounter them. – WTKR 3 – December 2, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/OVHkdX>

INTERNATIONAL

42. “Medicos Dismissing Concerns of Intellectually Disabled People” - Experts are shining new light on the reasons why so many Australians with

intellectual disabilities are dying from potentially avoidable deaths at a young age. Those living with an intellectual disability say it's not uncommon for doctors to dismiss their concerns or even ignore them all together. The revelations have prompted calls for an overhaul in the way medicos are trained. – ABC News – December 2, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/0dIIES>

43. “Disabled 'Abused, in Fear' in Group Homes” - People with disability continue to be abused and live in fear in group homes over which they have little say. Advocate Kevin Stone says the overwhelming majority of group homes are safe and supportive, but the problems of abuse and neglect persist. “The problems are quite deep,” the Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability CEO told AAP. “The real solution to the problems - it's about political will. They can't be underestimated.” – 7 News – November 30, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/WfH6Jm>

44. “Australian Law Allows Disabled People to be 'Chemically Castrated', Inquiry Hears” - “To me, when we give someone medication against their will, forcefully against their will, we strap them down and we hold them down, when we lock them in rooms – that is violence and abuse.” Spivakovsky said [Victoria](#) had supervised treatment orders that apply only to people with intellectual disability who live in group homes and are said to have a pattern of violence or dangerous behavior. The orders can be made for up to a year, the senior lecturer in criminology at the University of Melbourne said. “That means that a person can have, in essence, a version of chemical castration – giving people quite a significant amount of chemical to change their behavior,” she said. “They can be locked within either their room or within the service provider’s premises. – The Guardian – December 2, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/PU89Ig>

45. “Australia Bans Life-Insurance Telephone Sales after Inquiry Revealed Abuses” - Among the many examples of abuse that shocked the country when they were revealed last year, the powerful Royal Commission inquiry heard an account of a telephone salesperson selling a complicated insurance

product to a man with Down Syndrome who clearly did not understand what he was buying. The life insurance arm of Australia's largest lender, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, was convicted for breaches of an anti-hawking law last week and fined A\$700,000 (\$475,020) for selling life insurance policies over unsolicited phone calls between October and December 2014. – Reuters – December 3, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/CG5f6o>

46. “Disabled Women Speak of Discrimination” - A group of disabled women yesterday raised concerns over discrimination faced by girls in getting an education, despite progress being made in the Kingdom to improve their rights. They raised their concerns during a forum jointly organised by Pact Cambodia, Agile, USAID and the government on challenges faced by women with disabilities which was held in the capital. “When parents have daughters who are disabled, they do not send them to school to get an education because they think that because of their disabilities they will not get a job in the future,” she said. – Khmer Times – December 2, 2019 – (Cambodia) - <https://is.gd/8xxHWG>

47. “Province Denies Liability for Sexual Assault in Special Care Home” - The province says it was not negligent when it allowed Andrew Douglas, who was registered as a sex offender in 2011, to be placed in one of its special care homes where, within weeks of his arrival, he molested a disabled adult resident. – CBC – December 2, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/FIQ6cK>

48. “The 6 Vile Criminals Locked Up in London This Week” - [Luke Sewell](#) , 30, from Westgate Road in [South Norwood](#) , was jailed for 12 years on Thursday, November 28, having previously been found guilty of rape and causing actual bodily harm at the end of an eight day trial. During the investigation, the victim, who suffers from Multiple Sclerosis (MS), told police Sewell had subjected her to hours of assault, including making her take a freezing cold shower for an hour, before going on to rape her at a home in Dunsfold, Surrey. – My London – December 1 ,2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/umIA96>

49. “Man Arrested for 'Raping' Distant Granddaughter” - The complaint states that the elderly man came to the girl's house when she was alone and then took her to his house, which is nearby, and raped her. Things came to the fore later only when the girl's belly started getting bigger. Upon inquiry, the girl told everything. When tested at the district hospital at Rumjhatar, she was found to be pregnant for 23 weeks. According to Inspector Basnet, the girl is mentally retarded. She has been referred to the maternity hospital of Thapathali, Kathmandu for an abortion. "She is now staying at a shelter home here in the district. She may go to Thapathali hospital," he said. – My Republica – December 2, 2019 – (Nepal) - <https://is.gd/GZxVsy>
50. “Nadra offers doorstep service to ill, elderly people” - The National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) has launched a countrywide service to register physically challenged and seriously ill people on their doorstep. The service, which in the past was arguably used to appease influential persons and their relatives, will now be available to the common people who really need it. DAWN – December 1, 2019 – (Pakistan) <https://www.dawn.com/news/1519775>
51. “Rape Attempt on Disabled Woman in Karachi’s Hospital” - An appalling incident occurred in a private hospital of the metropolis where a ward boy of the healthcare facility attempted to rape a disabled woman who was unable to defend herself, ARY News reported on Wednesday. According to the police, he was able to flee from the Ajmer Nagri neighborhood, where the criminal activity took place, as soon as the incident was reported to the police. However, authorities continued their search for the alleged rapist and succeeded in arresting him on Thursday afternoon. The accused was shifted to the police station for further investigations as the parents also reached to register a formal complaint with the authorities. – ARY News – December 3, 2019 – (Pakistan) - <https://is.gd/AOXaqy>
52. “[OPINION] Rethinking Procedures to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse” - A review of the context within which child sexual abuse is committed in the

Philippines gives us a chance to rethink our approach in the treatment of offenders and, in the process, also help the survivors. There is a terrifying form of child abuse that plagues the internet today. There are over 23.4 million reports of child sexual abuse imagery or material (CSAI) received by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), a non-profit private corporation in the United States, since the creation of its CyberTipline in 1998. Forty percent (40%) of these reports, according to a 2019 joint study from NCMEC, Google, and Thorn, were made in 2017 alone; 68% of the total reports relating to Asia, with Thailand and Indonesia as the two highest contributors in South East Asia. – Rappler – December 1, 2019 – (Philippines) - <https://is.gd/ifCfZ2>

53. “Limpopo Health Department Investigating after Mentally Ill Patient Killed in Ward” - The department of health in Limpopo has launched an investigation after a mentally challenged patient was assaulted and killed by another patient on Saturday. Spokesperson for the department Neil Shikwambana said it was saddened by the incident. “A mental health care user killed a fellow mental health care user in the psychiatric ward of the Mankweng Hospital,” he said. Circumstances surrounding the incident were being investigated by the department. – Sowetan Live – December 2, 2019 – (South Africa) - <https://is.gd/s2S3Pv>

54. “Appeal Court Rules Council Must Pay R630K for Rape of Disabled Girl at Resort” - Witzenberg Municipality has lost an appeal in the Supreme Court of Appeal over damages awarded to a family, after the rape and assault of their disabled daughter at the Pine Forest Resort in Ceres in 2009. Yesterday, the municipality was ordered to pay damages to the family of R630 780, together with interest accumulated from the date of the original award in 2017. While on the playground, she was forcefully led away by three minors aged 15, 14, and 11, who had gained access to the resort via an external staircase leading to the entrance of a squash court. – IOL.COM – December 4, 2019 – (South Africa) - <https://is.gd/I38hNN>

55. “PWD’s Want Inclusion in Sex Education Programs” - “Let me tell you. We are also sexually active. We produce children but when it comes to HIV/AIDS, sexual education we are excluded.” PWDs national representative Safia Nalule Juuko told parliament adding that they are more vulnerable to sexual abuse. This exposes PWDs to a higher risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases because they are not empowered to negotiate for safer sex. She also noted that PWDs still have challenges accessing services. “There are neither aides nor interpreters at polling stations, courts, schools and hospitals. When the PWDs are in conflict with the law, police bundle them up with the rest who end up abusing them.” – New Vision – December 3, 2019 – (Uganda) - <https://is.gd/9MH54L>
56. “Autistic Man Murdered after Police Broke His Door Down, Letting Killer Walk in, Family Say” - When the police checked on a vulnerable autistic man at his home it was hoped that the officer’s first thoughts would be for his safety. But after kicking down his door Christopher Laskaris’s family claim that the police left his home unsecured for five days, allowing a dangerous drug dealer just out of prison on license to walk in and stab him to death. Mr. Laskaris's killer is serving a life sentence behind bars, but now his family are fighting for answers about how and why they believe those who were meant to protect him failed him in the lead up to his death. – The Telegraph – December 1, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/UPhbGn>
57. “Killer of Three Elderly Devon Men Found Not Guilty of Murder Due to Insanity” - A man with paranoid schizophrenia who killed three elderly men wrongly thinking they were sex offenders or serial murderers has been found not guilty of their murders by reason of insanity and will be detained in a secure hospital. Alexander Lewis-Ranwell was having acute psychotic delusions when he used a hammer and spade to kill Anthony Payne, 80, and twins Dick and Roger Carter, 84, at their homes in Exeter, believing that he was acting with the police’s blessing because he had just been freed on bail following an earlier violent attack. – The Guardian – December 2, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/IwXNCv>

MISCELLANEOUS

58. “Workplace Evolution: Top 5 Challenges Faced by Specially Abled Employees” - However, getting the specially-abled people to the workplace is only one-half of the solution. The other and more significant half is to ensure that the workplace is suitably tailored to provide an optimized employee experience to them. Have organizations actually been able to achieve this? Let’s take a look at the top challenges faced by the specially-abled at the workplace and the possible solutions that organizations can offer to overcome them. – Entrepreneur – December 2, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/BpRE6o>
59. “I am Autistic’: The Autistic Perspective” -Chuck McIntyre has terrible executive function skills. Keeping organized, remembering to do the tasks on his to-do list, and even getting started with chores like doing laundry or doing the dishes often seems as complicated to the 27-year-old Mattapoissett man as a 1,000-piece puzzle with no picture of the final result to go by. On the flip side, he can memorize quotes and facts from the sophisticated literary and non-fiction books he’s read, and his astute attention to detail tells him as soon as he walks into a room if even the minutest of details has been changed. Such is the dichotomy of autism. Stigmatized as a pervasive disability throughout history, autism in contemporary times is considered more as a type of “neuro-divergence” than a disability. Autism is a spectrum of human neuro-diversity that is best understood under the more progressive “social model” of disability – ways in which our society is organized that is the disabling factor for an individual – rather than the traditional “medical model” of disability – where the individual is disabled by their ‘impairment’ or ‘differences’. – The Wanderer – December 3, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/4e7119>