

# Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of September 14 to 20, 2019

Articles Compiled by Debra J. Stemmler

Editing and Commentary by Nora J. Baladerian, Ph.D.,

Posted to Newsfeed Archive on our Website by Thomas F. Coleman

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](mailto:nora@disability-abuse.com) or [baladerian@gmail.com](mailto:baladerian@gmail.com)

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Men: 1,3, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 33, 55, 58

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**Good News:** 37: New AZ law will help reduce financial abuse; 46, Dance classes for adults with ID under grant; 48, MA: official calls for improvements in nursing home investigations; 56: three-year inquiry into abuse and neglect to begin in Amsterdam.

**Bad News:** 11: University failed to provide ASL to Deaf students as agreed; 42: ND: DHC reports an increase of 18% of reports of abuse of vulnerable adults; 44: Children with autism and anxiety: under 40% to get treatment and even less for children with autism.

## **ABUSE & NEGLECT**

1. “Poinsett Co. Suspect Arrested in Rape Case Involving Mentally Handicapped Victim” - A Poinsett County man will appear in circuit court Oct. 31 after a mentally handicapped victim told police she was sexually assaulted by the man, Trumann police said Thursday. Stanley Smith, 38, of Tyronza was arrested Sept. 17 on a warrant, on suspicion of rape after an investigation by Trumann investigators. According to a police report, officers got a call Aug. 26 from a Jonesboro hospital about the victim reporting a rape at FOCUS in Trumann. The victim told hospital officials that she was raped Aug. 19 in the kitchen area of the facility, police said. – KAIT 8 – September 19, 2019 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/FHiUyk>
2. “Woman Arrested for Attacking Person in Wheelchair and 1 Other in Phoenix, Police Say” - While on the bus, Nicole Carroll punched the wheelchair-bound woman in the mouth, court documents say. The punch knocked a tooth out of the woman's mouth and gave her a nosebleed. Carroll then ran out of the bus to a Quick Trip gas station where she punched a man, giving him a bloody mouth, court documents say. – AZ Family – September 20, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/WGLp9t>
3. “Nursing Home Worker Accused of Sexually Assaulting At Least 4 Patients” - A nursing assistant is accused of sexually assaulting at least four elderly women at various nursing

homes in Clearwater, Florida. Police arrested 32-year-old Falo Kane, who faces four counts of sexual battery, according to a Clearwater Police Dept. news release. Police say two of Kane's alleged victims used wheelchairs and one was 80 years old. Another woman had suffered a stroke. Kane allegedly abused two of the victims while changing their adult diapers, according to the [Tampa Bay Times](#). Police began investigating after one of the facilities reported the sex assault of a patient. – WTKR – September 18, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/w5TNRo>

4. “Senior VA Leaders Disciplined after Ant Infestation at Nursing Home” - Veterans Affairs officials are disciplining nine department workers — including the regional director for three southeastern states — in response to [ant-infested conditions](#) at a department-run community center in Georgia uncovered earlier this month. Officials have also promoted the head of the VA medical center in Charleston, S.C., to take over as acting regional director immediately and lead reform efforts at facilities across that part of the department's health network. Last week, lawmakers reacted with horror at local news reports that at least three patients suffered injuries from numerous insect bites at the Eagle's Nest Community Living Center near Atlanta. The family of one veteran (who later died from unrelated causes) said their complaints about the conditions were met with apathy from center staff. – Military Times – September 17, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/eOYRTB>
5. “Man ordered to spend four days in jail for abuse of elderly mother-in-law” - Douglas Howell, 49, was originally charged with felony abuse and neglect of a vulnerable adult, [but after striking a deal with prosecutors](#), that charge was amended to a misdemeanor. Howell admitted shoving 78-year-old Naoma Ware to the ground during an argument in 2014 because she had more than 30 cats living in her bedroom, according to court documents. She was bedridden for two months before her death. Howell's son, 24-year-old Harley Howell, told investigators he killed Ware by shoving and kicking her. He said he buried the body with help from his now-dead mother and Ware's daughter, Danielle L. Howell. Ware's body wasn't discovered until friends tried to notify her of Danielle Howell's death in a November car crash. – East Idaho News – September 19, 2019 – (Idaho) - <https://is.gd/RAmqVn>
6. “Former Special Education Assistant Admits Solicitation” - Devin H. Gilliam, 28, of the 1300 block of Putnam Street, pleaded guilty in Allen Superior Court to felony child solicitation as part of a plea agreement. The agreement calls for a three-year suspended sentence, which means he likely will not be ordered to serve time in prison when he is

sentenced Oct. 25. A charge of dissemination of matter harmful to minors will be dismissed, and Gilliam will be placed on probation for three years, according to the agreement. Police were called Aug. 16, 2018, to the school, where a girl told them she had gotten an inappropriate text message from a member of the staff. The girl, who has a disability, later told a forensic interviewer she received several texts from Gilliam, according to a probable cause affidavit. – The Journal Gazette – September 28, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/LHdwzt>

7. “Caregiver Accused of Sexual Battery of Disabled Woman in Group Home” - Theodore Dennis Kasting, 65, of Bargersville, was arrested on charges of sexual battery and neglect of a dependent after the woman he had cared for four years told police about three incidents that happened in June and July. The incidents took place in a Trafalgar group home where she lives and Kasting works as an employee of Indiana Mentor, a statewide nonprofit organization that serves the disabled. – Daily Journal – September 19, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/DMc4aR>
8. “Charges Pending After Teen with Special Needs is Punched at School” - An Iowa mom is looking to press charges after her son with special needs was beaten up while walking to class at Muscatine High School. Vicky Zahn is just like any other mom - she never wants to see her child get bullied. But a video taken on Monday through Snapchat began circulating on social media. – Fox 8 Cleveland – September 18, 2019 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/cqMeeD>
9. “Police: Woman Charged with Abuse and Assault After Allegedly Attacking Disabled Son” - Penny Lou Rominger, 55, was arrested on Friday. Police said that Rominger was arguing with her son, who has severe autism and cerebral palsy, when she allegedly threw a wooden flag decoration at him through a glass door. - Lex 18 – September 14, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/shqqfD>
10. “Fayette County School Sued, Accused of Mistreating Child with Special Needs” - The parents of a Kentucky middle school student with autism are suing school district officials, accusing employees of dragging their son down a hallway, kicking him and carrying him unwillingly upstairs. The Herald-Leader reports Courtney Jo Grayson and Donnie Jack Grayson Jr. filed the suit last week in Lexington. They say Fayette County school employees improperly handled their son who they describe as a "relatively non-

verbal" special needs student. – WKYT – September 19, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/9oipa1>

11. "Lawsuit Claims SU 'Repeatedly Discriminated' Against International Deaf Students" - Before the students enrolled in the undergraduate program, they met with a representative for the university's Office of Disability Services to request an American Sign Language interpreter, A lawsuit filed on behalf of the students states American Sign language is their, "expressed, preferred, and most effective means of communication." Gore says the school ensured the students they would be accommodated, however, for some reason those assurances fell through. "They ignored it. They were aware of that fact. We have the proof of it," said Gore – WAFB 9 – September 17, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/CxrPP2>
  
12. "Ex-Macomb Twp (township) Teacher Gets Probation for Abusing Students with Autism" – Stevens, A former Macomb County teacher who abused students with special needs will not spend a day in jail. – Fox 2 – September 17, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/rhIGS4>
  
13. "Sex Offender Accused of Prostituting Disabled Woman in Miss." - A Mississippi coast man is now behind bars as the Pine Belt Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force works to stop sex crimes from happening in the area. The potential prostitution bust suddenly turned into a human trafficking investigation. "The passenger was a developmentally disabled female and the driver was a three-time convicted sex offender, and he was actually pimping her out to people at the rest area," Hendricks said. Deputies arrested 60-year-old Louis Remont, of Bay St. Louis, and charged him with multiple crimes, including exploitation of a vulnerable adult, abuse of a vulnerable adult and prostitution-accepting money from a prostitute. The victim was brought to safety as members from the Center for Violence Prevention stepped in. – WTVM – September 17, 2019 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/iiDu1M>
  
14. "Las Vegas Police Arrest Man in Connection with Elderly Abuse Investigation" – Bruce Wycoff was arrested for housing 12 people with no bathroom. Through the course of the investigation, detectives learned that employees of the group home were exploiting victims who were mentally handicapped, dependable or homeless and qualified for SSI or other benefits. The victims were promised their medical needs, health and food would be taken care of at the group home. It was reported the facility had unhealthful

or unsanitary conditions and had no operational bathrooms. The facility was employing several persons who had violent criminal backgrounds and were reportedly seen armed with firearms. Victims were being intimidated and told not to contact law enforcement. – KTNV – Sept 13, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/Nlz1z2>

15. “Nursing Home Staff Interrupts Sexual Assault of Patient, Waits to Report it” - After finding an 88-year-old woman being sexually assaulted by another resident, a Gowanda nursing home’s staff waited more than six hours to call police and destroyed possible evidence, the state Health Department has determined. Now the woman’s family is suing the Gowanda Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, alleging its negligence allowed the assault to occur. – The Buffalo News – September 17, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/jR1HrC>

16. “CMPD: Woman Leaves Disabled Person in Hot Car, Shoplifts at Walmart” - Sources told NBC Charlotte the 46-year-old victim was in a van for more than an hour. It involves a woman with disabilities left in a car without the engine running on the hottest day of the year. It happened in a Walmart parking lot on East Independence Boulevard around 5 p.m. on Thursday when temperatures almost hit 100 degrees. In the latest case, Medic responded to Walmart, and the disabled woman was treated on scene with no apparent injuries. The suspect, 52-year-old Janet Nunn, was cited for misdemeanor larceny and neglect of disabled persons. – WCNC – September 13, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/xj7NuC>

17. “More Victims Come Forward after Former Worker Charged with Sexual Assault of a Child at a Greensboro Group Home” - A man who cared for children in a group home is now facing charges of sexually assaulting one of them and more victims are coming forward, the Guilford County District Attorney's Office says. 51-year-old Richard Vernell Heath appeared in court Wednesday afternoon to face additional charges of first-degree sexual offense with a child. The alleged assaults happened in the 1980s, the victim told investigators. WFMY News2 – September 16, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/ld2NAX>

18. “Some Wake Special-Ed Kids Don’t Have Transportation Service Weeks after School Began” - Hundreds of Wake County special-needs students [started the school year without service](#) because Student Transportation of America, one of the companies hired by the school district, didn’t have enough drivers. In a Friday update, Wake school

officials said that “while we can report that service has been restored for most families, [we regret to report that it has not been restored for all.](#)” – The News & Observer – September 16, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/NmlK2D>

19. “Former Nursing Home Assistants Accused of Spraying 94-Year-Old Woman in the Face with Hairspray and Posting Video to Social Media” - Two former nursing home assistants in Ohio are accused of spraying a 94-year-old woman in the face with hairspray, and sharing a video of the "cruel" incident on social media. The Franklin County Grand Jury indicted 28-year-old Roberta I. Bowers and Makiah Chane'I Halsell, 22, for one count of patient abuse, according to a [statement](#) released on Monday. The pair were presumed to have been caring for the patient at The Inn at Winchester Trail assisted living facility in Canal Winchester, Ohio, on June 3 2019 when Bowers took a canister of hairspray and used it on the 94-year-old. – Newsweek – September 17, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/li89AL>
  
20. “17-Year-Old with Autism Sucker-Punched in High School Hallway” - The assault took place Thursday morning at Thurgood Marshall High School. Meagan Bistreck, [the boy's mother, said no one notified her](#) of the attack after it happened. She learned about the incident after her son sent her a video of the assault, which was sent to him by other students. – AJC – September 14, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/QllneR>
  
21. “Kettering Police Investigate Alleged Sexual Assault of Paralyzed Patient” - Kettering police are investigating an alleged sexual assault of a paralyzed patient at the Heartland of Kettering nursing facility. A woman was sexually assaulted overnight Sunday by a nurse's aide at the nursing home, her partner said. “We are awaiting the results of the police investigation,” Beckert said in a statement. “Our background and employee check are in good standing.” – Dayton Daily News – September 16, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/1cd7WE>
  
22. “Man Charged with Abuse Against Patients with Disabilities” - A man who worked with patients with disabilities was charged with two counts of assault/patient abuse, Akron police said Thursday. William Morgan, 48, is facing two fourth-degree felonies “due to the patients being totally disabled,” police said in a release. The city's websites were malfunctioning Thursday, and the municipal court website was down. Captain Chris Brewer said Morgan was working as an aide at a house owned by his employer and

security video showed him slapping two clients. – Akron Beacon Journal – September 19, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/ve4Zbt>

23. “Mannford Police Make 2 More Arrests in Elder Abuse Case” - Three of the four suspects who used to work at the Cimarron Pointe Care Center have been arrested, after one turned himself in Tuesday night, and another Wednesday morning. John Rose and Blake McLellan, both 19, are the two latest suspects Mannford police arrested in the case. They are accused of failing to report abuse they knew about. McLellan is also accused of abuse as a caretaker. Officers said McLellan and 21-year-old Senite Smith took a selfie with a naked, elderly man in the background. Smith was arrested earlier this month. – News On 6 – September 18, 2019 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/QXxVrz>
  
24. “Parents of Bullied Special-Needs Boy Speak Out” - A Yukon boy with special needs was bullied and beaten by classmates, and his parents are speaking out to prevent bullying from happening to others. The parents of 12-year-old Rayden said they have received supportive calls and messages from people across the country. KOCO 5 – September 19, 2019 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/TvzfYe>
  
25. “Nadine Kirk's Body May Never be Found” - Theodore Martin Kirk, 64, of Bonanza, was sentenced Friday in U.S. District Court in Medford to 18 months in prison for stealing more than \$30,000 worth of Social Security benefits in the name of his mother, who is presumed dead, according to a press release issued Tuesday by the U.S. Attorney’s Office. – Mail Tribune – September 18, 2019 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/spAwsn>
  
26. “Philly Police Didn’t Have to Shoot Mentally Ill Man Behaving Erratically in Kensington” - But according to various cell phone videos, that’s not what happened on Labor Day when Darin Lee, an East Oak Lane resident with a long history of mental illness, showed up following a family cookout and began behaving erratically. Instead of helping Lee, [police shot him multiple times](#), leaving the 31-year-old father of a 3-year-old boy critically wounded. – The Philadelphia Inquirer – September 17, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/hKgYlt>
  
27. “Lawsuits: Two Orangeburg Special Needs Students Repeatedly Sexually Assaulted by Special Needs Classmate” - A lawsuit filed against the Orangeburg Consolidated School District states two special needs students at Edisto High School were sexually abused by

a special needs classmate. Attorney Justin Bamberg said the “horrific incidents” were committed while under the care and supervision of teachers and school officials. According to the lawsuit, the alleged assaults took place when the school’s normal special education teacher took a leave of absence and a substitute took over the special education class. – Live 5 News – September 13, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/DP0zeA>

28. “Tennessee Man Gets 10 Years for Bathing Daughter in Alcohol, Setting Her on Fire” - Timothy Shane Medley pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and abuse of an adult in August. The TBI says Medley bathed his daughter in 91 percent alcohol and set his daughter's wheelchair on fire while she was in it. – Local 12 – September 19, 2019 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/wEgMUm>

29. “Naked Man Assaulted Disabled Woman with Her Own Wheelchair, Texas Police Say” - According to court documents, Williard Lee Houston, 39, assaulted the woman, [KXAN](#) reported. He was arrested and booked into the Travis County Jail on a count of injury to a disabled individual, [KEYE](#) reported. He was being held in lieu of a \$75,000 bond, according to arrest records. – WSB TV – September 16, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/iRY4uF>

30. “7-year-old student with Autism taken from school in handcuffs” - We met with the boy's mother, Maria Herrera Arias Tuesday to talk about what happened. Arias said the incident took place at Hirsch Elementary School. "They're treating him like a criminal, and he's not," Arias said. “This is a 7-year-old kid." Arias said her son was diagnosed with Autism and a mood disorder when he was 5. – Fox San Antonio – September 17, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/ayn6AG>

31. “Henry County Grand Jury Issues 163 Indictments” - Jeffrey Louis Ihrig, 49, and Crystal Rae Painter, 41, Martinsville, abuse/neglect of incapacitated adult resulting in death, on or about April 12. The indictment alleges that Jeffrey Louis Ihrig was “a responsible person who abused or neglected Stephen Ihrig, an incapacitated adult, and such abuse or neglect resulted in death of such incapacitated adult.” – Martinsville Bulletin – September 19, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/q3FPhM>

32. "Mother Furious after Discovering School's Plan to Put Son with Autism's Desk in Bathroom" - A woman is furious with the Bellingham School District because of how she says they treated her son. Danielle Goodwyn says her 11-year-old son Lucas has special needs and requires a quiet learning environment. She says she received a shock this week when she went into her son's classroom at Whatcom Middle School. "The teacher informed us that he would be studying in the bathroom," she said. In a photo that Goodwyn took, a desk is seen sitting over the toilet, and a chair is next to the sink. – Q 13 Fox – September 19, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/2Ui2kA>
33. "West Milwaukee Man Accused of Neglecting, Abusing Paraplegic Girlfriend" - Daniel Christopher Stanford, 24, is charged with recklessly subjecting an individual at risk to abuse causing great bodily harm, and forgery as party to a crime. Police responded to a West Allis hospital on June 10 and spoke with the victim, who was being treated for an infection of pressure and bed sores. According to a criminal complaint, the woman is a paraplegic, resulting from a 2010 car accident. The woman told officers that Stanford was her boyfriend and employed caretaker. She said that the bed sores were a result of Stanford's neglect, which had been going on for about six months. – CBS 58 – September 13, 2019 – (Wisconsin)- <https://is.gd/ybAnT2>

## **GUARDIANSHIP**

34. "State of Florida Sued for Trafficking and Abuse of Elderly Under Guardianship" - A group of adult children sued the state of Florida's governor and attorney general in Florida Northern District Court, alleging that, under court appointed guardianship, their parents' estate, assets, 401k funds, social security money, jewelry, cars and homes are being stolen. After all is liquidated or redistributed, the senior citizens under these alleged unconstitutional court appointed guardianships are starved, denied medical care or prescribed high doses of toxic psychotropic medication to intentionally cause death, according to a press release. – SE Texas Record – September 17, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/JIODp1>
35. "Nursing Home Agent Disputes Attorney General's Claims, Appealing Ruling on Estate" - Lisa Tramski said seeing herself called "unscrupulous" by the Michigan Attorney General in a newspaper headline was not easy to digest. "(If) someone saw the relationship we had, they would not say that and they would not think that," Tramski said. The Michigan Attorney General's Office put out a press release Thursday stating it had

stopped a case of financial exploitation involving Tramski and a woman named Pauline Runyon. – Times Herald – September 18, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/O6B9mH>

36. Here's Why Britney Spears Still Has a Conservator After All These Years - In early September, [Britney Spears](#)' dad, Jamie Spears, stepped down as her conservator after 11 years in the role. He was named permanent conservator over her finances and daily life as well as co-conservator over her estate. A judge approved a change of conservatorship to the Vegas entertainer's care manager, Jodi Montgomery, to take over temporarily for Jamie, who suffered a life-threatening colon rupture in November 2018. – Distractify – September 17, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/HopM0J>

## **LAWS & LEGISLATION**

37. “New Arizona Law Helps Protect Vulnerable Adults, Seniors from Financial Exploitation” - The Arizona Corporation Commission will be enforcing Arizona’s newest law to protect vulnerable adults and senior investors from financial exploitation. SB 1483 went into effect Aug. 27, allowing securities dealers and investment advisory firms to report suspected or attempted financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult and delay such a disbursement or transaction, according to a release. The new law enables the firms to impose an initial delay of disbursements from an eligible adult’s account for up to 15 business days if financial exploitation is suspected. – Queen Creek Independent – September 16, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/tfLsEf>
38. “Wozniak’s Elder Abuse Proposal Makes Headway” - State Rep. Doug Wozniak’s plan to combat elder abuse and establish increased protections for Michigan’s senior population was approved today by the House Families, Children and Seniors Committee. Wozniak, of Shelby Township, said elder abuse is a serious crime that is becoming more and more common. The Aging and Adult Services Agency reports that one in 10 older adults in Michigan is a victim of elder abuse. The additional protections and increased criminal penalties included in the bipartisan package Wozniak spearheaded aims to make people think twice before targeting or taking advantage of older adults. – Michigan House Republicans – September 18, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/Od70ul>
39. “Chris Eaton: My End-Of-Life Bill Lets People Make Decisions About Their Health Care if They Can — and it Protects Those Who Can’t” - As author of the Minnesota End-of-Life Option Act, I am compelled to correct some of the misinformation expressed by

Minnesota state Sens. Hoffman and Abeler in their recent column ("[Minnesota must not pass assisted suicide legislation. Here's why we say that](#)," Sept. 10). That's not to say they don't raise legitimate concerns about protections for vulnerable people and against bureaucratic heartlessness. It is to say that those concerns and others have been front and center for me as well, and that's why we wrote the End-of-Life Option Act as we did. – Twin Cities Pioneer Press – September 15, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/jWkQXr>

## **STUDIES & STATISTICS**

40. "Preparing Students for Life After Special Education? Here's How Federal Dollars Can Help" - New guidance from the U.S. Department of Education spells out how school systems and state agencies can coordinate to help students with disabilities prepare for life after high school. A [16-page Q & A produced by the agency's special education and postsecondary education offices](#) outlines how schools can use the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and vocational rehabilitation funds to support dual-enrollment programs, create college and transition options for students with intellectual disabilities, and finance other initiatives designed to ease the transition between grades K-12 and postsecondary education and training. – Education Week – September 18, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/x3M2fR>
  
41. "Report Quantifies Economic Impact of Industries for Disabled" - A Rockefeller Institute of Government report issued in late August finds that New York State Industries for the Disabled and its government and corporate partners had a \$55.43 million economic impact and employed 967 people in the Capital Region in 2018. Statewide, NYSID's 120 member agencies and 40 corporate partners contributed a \$368.9 million economic impact, developed contracts worth of \$254.2 million and employed 6,565 individuals with disabilities, the report said. – The Daily Gazette – September 17, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/A4iJLP>
  
42. "State Sees Spike in Reports for Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults" - The Department of Human Services says it received more than 2,200 reports of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults last year, an 18 percent increase from the year before. The Vulnerable Adult Protective services program addresses the safety of vulnerable adults who are at risk. A vulnerable adult is someone who has a substantial mental or functional impairment that would inhibit their ability to

live independently. – KFYR – September 17, 2019 – (North Dakota) - <https://is.gd/OOCw1q>

43. “Lowest Ranked Nursing Homes had High Number of Health Citations” - Data from inspections at nursing homes in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties show facilities with the lowest ratings from Medicare generally racked up the most health citations as well. The data also reveals insight into alleged abuse and a failure to protect residents from harm at two of the local nursing homes that received the highest federal fines in connection with patient injuries. Mountain View Care and Rehabilitation Center in Scranton and The Gardens at Scranton, both of which the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid rated “much below average” in the latest overall ratings, tied for having the most health citations issued in inspections over the last three years — 74 citations each. In Luzerne County, The Gardens at Wyoming Valley in Wilkes-Barre received 64 citations for health deficiencies, while ManorCare Health Services, Kingston, was issued 61. Both of those facilities also are rated “much below average” by Medicare on the [Nursing Home Compare website](#). - The Citizen’s Voice – September 15, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/9ATFyn>
44. “Exploring Autism and Anxiety” - Nearly one in three children experience an anxiety disorder, the most common mental illness in the United States. While anxiety disorders are treatable, less than 40 percent of those suffering receive treatment, according to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America. When it comes to children with autism, that number is even higher. Anxiety in children with autism negatively impacts their social and emotional outcomes, relationships with peers and educational performance. – Texas A & M – September 16, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/YYlteQ>

## **IMPROVED SUPPORTS**

45. “Poway Unified Brings Students Together in Pilot Program with New Approach to Special Education” - All students who are in the special education program will have regular classes with students from the general education population. Those classes will have two teachers, one from special ed and one from general ed. That means all children will have more academic support, while there always be someone trained to give the special needs students the additional care they need. – 10 News – September 14, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/u6VEyp>

46. “For Adults with Special Needs, Another Form of Creative Expression — Through Dance” - It was around this time last year when [Southern California Ballet](#) was awarded a grant to start a six-week [adaptive dance program](#) for adults with special needs, spearheaded by the dance company's co-artistic director, Martha Leebolt. She hopes to offer that same rewarding experience to the students in this workshop, which begins Oct. 9 and continues each week through Nov. 13 at the dance company's studio in Carmel Mountain. The program is free and open to all, including adults 18 to 55 years old with special needs, as well as adults who don't have special needs. Students will learn different styles of dance, from modern to ballet to jazz, culminating in a community performance at the end of the six weeks. – The Baltimore Sun – September 15, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/S617fS>
47. “Iowa Department of Education Seeks Input on Seclusion Rooms” - The Iowa Department of Education will hold a series of public meetings to discuss whether schools should use seclusion rooms and other restraints. The state board last August rejected new rules to enforce stricter guidelines on the use of restraints in schools. The Iowa City Community School District stopped using seclusion rooms last school year. – CBS 2 – September 17, 2019 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/WJJ1J0>
48. “Mass. Official Calls for Improvements in Nursing Home Abuse, Neglect Investigations” - A top official in Massachusetts called on the state’s health department to improve its nursing home investigation efforts after an audit revealed significant delays in processing inspections of potentially deficient properties. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s investigative unit failed to conduct on-site inspections of nursing homes within the mandated 10-day timeframe in 148 of 200 cases, according to the [results of a probe](#) launched by the office of state auditor Suzanne Bump. – Skilled Nursing News – September 15, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/ko3NEK>
49. “Deaf Awareness Week Allows Students to Experience Deaf Culture” - Deaf Awareness Week is put on by the American Sign Language Division of the College of Health Professions here at Central Michigan University. The celebration includes events on and off-campus intended to get students informed and involved in Deaf culture. – Central Michigan Live – September 17, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/eNsH9Q>
50. “Dignity Through to the Final Days” - Advocate to ensure nursing home residents can continue to live their best possible life. Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten

by everybody – I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat.” – Mother Teresa - The LTC Ombudsman Program can train and support volunteer ombudsmen, attend care plan meetings, provide education about resident rights and provide information about how to advocate for quality care. Volunteer ombudsmen are desperately needed to help visit the 85+ facilities in the nine-county area of northeast Indiana; they can give nursing home residents a much-needed ear. – The Journal Gazette – September 15, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/Pc5k7w>

51. “As León Vows Improvements, Here are 5 Issues Facing Special Education in Newark’s Schools” - León’s Clarity 2020 plan includes a promise to analyze how often black and Latino students end up in special education classes and to train educators and administrators about how to best work with students with disabilities. León did not offer additional specifics about his plans at the board meeting, and the district did not respond to questions. – Chalkbeat – September 19, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/NzFVjX>

52. “Advocates Seek Long-Term State Plan to Treat Defendants with Mental Illness” - State officials say they’re now sending criminal defendants to the Oregon State Hospital within seven days of a court’s finding that they can’t assist in their own defense – a timeline that routinely went unheeded before advocates sued. But a lawyer for Disability Rights Oregon, one of the plaintiffs, urged a federal judge this week to order the state to issue a long-term plan to ensure compliance “moving forward, not just today,” and return to court in six months for a status hearing. – Oregon Live – September 13, 2019 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/d2pfRh>

53. “Nashville Airport Holding 'Mock Flights' to Help Kids with Autism Practice Traveling” - 'Mock flights' to help kids with autism and developmental disabilities practice real travel experiences is being held at the Nashville International Airport this weekend. American Airlines is hosting the event "It's Cool to Fly American" on Saturday. A news release says this will give families the opportunity to have kids with autism or developmental disabilities experience a "realistic flight journey" to practice certain touchpoints, like the security checkpoint and boarding a plane. – Fox 17 – September 12, 2019 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/SG4aMo>

## **INTERNATIONAL**

54. "Occupational Therapist Charged Over Alleged Sexual Assault of Intellectually Disabled Woman" - On Friday, police executed a search warrant at the woman's home, seizing several items. She was arrested at Wyong Police Station around 3.30pm the same day and charged with sexual intercourse with person with intellectual disability (x2) and one count of use intoxicating substance to commit indictable offence. She was granted conditional bail to appear at Wyong Local Court on Wednesday 2 October. – MyGC.com – September 14, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/mCLOAc>
55. "Nowra Man Jeffrey Donald Arstell Jailed for Three Years for Sexually Assaulting Disabled Man" - A man has been jailed for three years over the aggravated sexual assault of a male with a serious physical disability. Jeffrey Donald Arstell, 71, was found guilty by Judge Warwick Hunt at Sydney's Downing Centre District Court on Friday, September 13. Court papers said the sexual assault took place in Nowra between 4pm and 7pm on October 3, 2016. The papers said the victim suffers a serious physical disability. – South Coast Register – September 16, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/jDU6t>
56. "Disability Inquiry to Air 'Tragic' Stories" - A royal commission will hear stories of the abuse and neglect of people with disability that is still occurring today, say advocates who hope the long-overdue inquiry will finally bring about real change. The royal commission will hold its first public sitting in Brisbane on Monday, kicking off a three-year inquiry into violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability. People With Disability Australia CEO Jeff Smith expects it will be an emotional and difficult time. – Yahoo.Com – September 14, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/9zP6Rq>
57. "Calls to Boycott Disability Inquiry" - Disability advocates are [calling for a boycott](#) of the [Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability](#), which [begins today](#). Craig Wallace, the convener of the Disability Royal Commission Action Group, is one of dozens of disability advocates urging that two of the seven commissioners, John Ryan and Barbara Bennett, stand down due to perceived conflict of interest. "They were both in charge of and managed systems where people with disabilities have experienced abuse," he told [the ABC](#). – The Saturday Paper – September 16, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/loUAWk>
- \*This and story above are two different perspectives about same event

58. “Man Pulled from Wheelchair in Hate Crime at Bristol Pub” - A heartless thug pulled a disabled man out of his wheelchair and shouted abuse during a potential hate crime in south Bristol. Detectives have now released a CCTV image of a man they would like to trace in connection to the disability hate crime. A spokesman for [Avon and Somerset Police](#) confirmed a man in his 40s was pulled out of his electric wheelchair by the attacker. The offender also made derogatory comments to the victim who was left with discomfort and pain to his back. – Bristol Live – September 17, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/1xR0jF>
59. “Mum's Fury as Down Syndrome Son 'Left Outside Naked, Wet and Crying by Teacher'” - Deputy head Cecilia Maxwell, who allegedly asked for Levi to be taken outside, was previously investigated over the incident but was then allowed to return to the school - prompting fury from Suzanne. Levi Blackshaw, 11, was recorded on CCTV cameras "curled up in a ball" after being escorted outside on the cold afternoon of October 30 last year, at special needs Stanley [School](#) in Pensby, [Wirral](#), according to his mum Suzanne Cole. – Liverpool Echo – September 18, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/13BOSo>
60. “Far-Right Extremist Attacks Disabled Migrant in Germany” -A Libyan man in a wheelchair was attacked by a suspected right-wing extremist in the eastern German city of Chemnitz, a police spokesman said yesterday. The 22-year-old suspect pushed the 31-year-old Libyan out of his wheelchair and then attacked him, as well as hurling racial insults at him, according to the initial investigation. – Daily Sabah – Europe – September 19, 2019 – (Germany) - <https://is.gd/7roO9n>
61. “Centre For Children Suspected of Suffering Sexual Abuse Opens in Galway” - Children’s Minister Katherine Zappone along with Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan officially launched the Barnahus, Onehouse Galway pilot project at a special launch at The Institute for Lifecourse and Society At NUI Galway today. The project brings together health, medical, therapeutic and policing services for children and adolescents in a child-centred way where sexual abuse is suspected. – The Journal – September 16, 2019 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/jjN1XY>
62. “Batu Gajah Police Nab Driver for Molest, Rape of Disabled Stepdaughter” - A 49-year-old driver was nabbed by police yesterday on suspicion of molesting and raping his disabled stepdaughter. District police chief ACP Ahmad Adnan Basri said based on the investigation, the suspect first began molesting the alleged victim in 2015 when she was

12 years old and raped her when she was 13. – Malay Mail – September 14, 2019 – (Malaysia) - <https://is.gd/TpzEsP>

63. “Life Sentence and a Further 75 Years for Rapist” - The Oshakati High Court yesterday slapped 38-year-old Simon Nambuli with a life sentence and an additional 75 years for eight charges ranging from rape, assault, as well as defeating or obstructing the course of Justice. Salionga ordered that some sentences run concurrently, leaving Nambuli with a total of 75 years instead of what would have been 85 years. Nambuli is convicted of raping a disabled 50-year-old woman on varying dates at Oshitambi village in Eenhana between July 5 and 10, 2010. In addition to the rape charges, Nambuli also subjected the victim to physical abuse, having on one instance stepped her all over the body, dragged her in the room, took the mattress and set it alight – leading to injuries of the victim. – New Era Live – September 20, 2019 – (Namibia) - <https://is.gd/Fv2CsN>

64. “Hoodlums Rape Our Disabled Pupils, Cheshire Home Laments” - The management of Cheshire Home for the disabled and less privileged, Ibadan, Oyo State on Saturday lamented incessant attacks by suspected hoodlums. It deplored recurrence of hoodlums invading the home to steal items donated by good Samaritans and mindless defiling of some of their female residents. – Punch – September 16, 2019 – (Nigeria) - <https://is.gd/kkHy3z>

65. “‘I’m Tired and Desperate’ – A Disabled Victim of Domestic Violence on Her Struggle to Survive” - Disabled women are at higher risk of domestic violence than others, so why are there so few accessible refuges? As Sarah’s story shows, they are faced with an impossible system – The Guardian – September 19, 2019 – (International) - <https://is.gd/zaosfq>

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

66. “This Artist and Model Is Changing the Conversation Around Disability and Fashion” - With effortless California thrift-store style and a striking pixie haircut, Emily Barker knows how to make waves on Instagram. The 27-year-old artist, model, and actress wears clothes that fall somewhere between subtle and statement-making: semi-sheer '90s raver tops and hand-bleached pants by upstart Los Angeles label Fear Safe. – Vogue – September 17, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/7gZdf4>

67. “Air Quality Spurs State to Move Disabled Residents” - Amid concerns about poor air quality at two residence halls, the state last week moved 27 residents with developmental and intellectual disabilities into new living quarters at a state-run center in Northwest Florida. And that just may be the start. Marguerite Morgan, superintendent of the Sunland Center in Marianna, sent a letter Sept. 11 to staff members saying that air quality will be an “ongoing priority at Sunland for some time to come.” Patty Houghland, a disability-rights advocate for a federally funded watchdog organization, expressed worries, though, that the new residential quarters aren’t any safer than the buildings that residents vacated at the Jackson County facility. – 4 CBS Miami – September 18, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/JzRFiZ>
68. “Mom Sues, Saying Prolific Sperm Donor Passed Along Autism” - Rizzo's children, ages 7 and 6, were at the center of one of the most ethically complex legal cases in the modern-day fertility industry. Three years ago, while researching treatment options for her sons, Rizzo says she made an extraordinary discovery: The boys are part of an autism cluster involving at least a dozen children scattered across the United States, Canada and Europe, all conceived with sperm from the same donor. Many of the children have secondary diagnoses of ADHD, dyslexia, mood disorders, epilepsy and other developmental and learning disabilities. – Oregon Live – September 14, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/MjhcYJ>
69. “How A Sesame Street Muppet Became Embroiled in a Controversy Over Autism” - It says that resource materials from Autism Speaks encourage parents “to view autism as a terrible disease from which their child can ‘get better’”. “I think part of why people feel so let down right now is that Sesame Street, as a show, is very, very personal to a lot of our members and a lot of people in the autistic community,” said Julia Bascom, an autistic self-advocate and executive director of ASAN, explaining that many autistic people have relied on the show as a learning tool. – Independent – September 19, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/YrR2iP>
70. “School Custodian Esther McCool Comforts Girl with Autism in Touching Photo” - The elementary school custodian, known to students as “Miss Esther,” has become legendary after the mom of a Texas fourth-grader with autism shared a photo of the worker comforting her daughter went viral earlier this week. – NY Post – September 18, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/0Kh23Q>