

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of September 21 to September 27, 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.

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>

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

DONATIONS: We welcome your donations to the Disability and Abuse Project of Spectrum Institute, if you would like to contribute to supporting this work.

Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 2, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22, 32, 50, 54, 56

Physical Abuse: 4, 6, 8 (drugged w/ cocaine), 13, 20, 28, 29, 30, 31, 37,60

Emotional/verbal Abuse: 34

Financial abuse: 5, 11, 19, 38, 52

Human Trafficking: 7

Kept Enclosed: 17

Murder: 9, 24, 51, 58, 59

Neglected: 3, 8, 9, 13, 15, 20, 26, 27, 35

Neglected to death: 12, 14

Related to special education: 1, 16, 17, 21, 30, 34

WINNER of most egregious award: 7: Man perpetrates human trafficking of people with I/DD had HIV; 9: Man with Down syndrome dies due to neglect of van driver; 10: Case of physical abuse dropped due to victim's choice not to prosecute.

WINNER of "good job" award: 40: "Abuser Registry Bill Expected to Advance"
- The registry would include the names of care providers against whom the Disabled Persons Protection Commission substantiates a claim of abuse or financial extortion. The bill got a favorable report from the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, and it is now under review by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, often the last stop before a full Senate vote.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Relationship:

Family: 13, 19, 26, 35, 51, 60

Stranger: 54, 56

Carer: 2, 5, 6, 9, 11, 14, 28, 29, 32, 37, 58

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “Federal Judge Rules against Hoover School System in 3-Year Special Ed Case” - School officials had offered instead to provide the girl a 504 plan, which is a type of plan designed to provide support and remove barriers for students with disabilities. However, the girl’s guardian, Rick Leventry, said the school system has zero accountability with that type of plan. He wanted an IEP, which requires the school to provide updates on a student’s progress. School officials refused, saying the girl did not qualify for special education services. – Hoover Sun – September 20, 2019 – (Alabama) - <https://is.gd/Pbx4bF>
2. “Arkansas Man Accused of Raping Woman Who has Mental Handicap” - According to Trumann Police, Stanley Smith of Tyronza allegedly raped the 29-year-old woman inside the kitchen of Focus, Inc., a facility for people with disabilities. Smith is now out on bond, and people in the area told WREG they were shocked when they heard the accusations. – KARK – September 21, 2019 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/OR6VzQ>
3. “Driver Accused of Leaving Teen with Special Needs Alone on Bus Charged with Child Abuse” - Diana Salgado-Gutierrez was charged Sept. 20 with child abuse, according to Maricopa County court documents. [Salgado-Gutierrez picked up the boy at 8 a.m. from his Avondale home on July 9.](#) The van reached the day care at 9:25 a.m., according to a Goodyear Police Department report. The boy, who is unable to unbuckle a seat belt or open car doors, was trapped in the 128-degree van for about two hours. Salgado-Gutierrez is scheduled to be in court for an initial appearance Oct. 21. – AZ Central – September 24, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/1X01bc>
4. “Wheelchair User Hospitalized After Market Street Fight” - Waldrop said the man taken into custody struck his friend in the face with a bottle after being denied a cigarette, even though his friend didn’t have any cigarettes.

“He’s a good guy,” Waldrop said. “If he had it, he would have given it to him.” The man taken to the hospital was on oxygen and using a motorized wheelchair at the time of the attack. He was on oxygen due to heart surgery he had last month, Waldrop said. – San Francisco Examiner – September 23, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/IEpw2w>

5. “Placer County Caretaker Arrested for Financial Elder Abuse” - Earlier in 2019, a family hired Michelle Lopez, 49, as a caretaker for their 100-year-old disabled family member. Lopez began stealing money from the man's accounts, including one he shared with his 76-year-old daughter. Authorities said Lopez stole over \$100,000 from the accounts. An employee at the man's bank noticed the activity and reported it, that's when the Sheriff's Office began to investigate. – Action News Now – September 25, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/azHvKw>

6. “Employee Charged with Elder Abuse at Senior Facility” - Kayla Marie Oeth, 26, was arrested Sept. 16 in connection with an incident that occurred Aug. 10. According to the arrest report, a deputy was called to the center after a resident accused Oeth of causing injury by using physical force on him. When the deputy approached the victim to conduct an interview, he began to cry. He had bandages on both arms from his wrists to his elbows. Under the bandages, the deputy observed multiple open wounds and bruises on each arm. – Navarre Press – September 26, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/d3c6ya>

7. “Man Sentenced for Human Trafficking Fights HIV Test Order” - A Connecticut businessman convicted for his role in a human trafficking ring that preyed on young men who were mentally ill and intellectually disabled is fighting a court-ordered HIV test. The Hartford Courant reports Bruce Bemer is arguing that the order violates his constitutional rights against

unreasonable searches. He's asking the state Supreme Court to overturn the test order. Some of the victims allege Bemer knew he was HIV-positive but never disclosed it while having unprotected sex. Bemer was sentenced to 10 years in prison in June but is free pending an appeal of his conviction. A jury found the Glastonbury resident guilty of patronizing victims of human trafficking in April. – The Baltimore Sun – September 20, 2019 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/20fZRO>

8. “Connecticut Nursing Home Fined After Four Residents Test Positive for Cocaine” - According to a [report by the News Times](#), the RegalCare facility in New Haven was hit with \$1,680 in fines after patients tested positive for cocaine. The case dates back to April 2018, when the state’s Department of Public Health stated that a RegalCare resident was seen passing around a dollar bill containing traces of a white powder. – The Epoch Times – September 22, 2019 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/FYIMQd>

9. “Florida Man with Down Syndrome Dies in Hot Car after Caregiver Takes Drug, Falls Asleep”- "Let's just call it what it is, this poor guy baked in that car," the Pinellas County sheriff said. "It had to be absolutely horrific in that car for that man." Joshua D. Russell was arrested Friday and charged with one count of aggravated manslaughter in connection with the death of 35-year-old John LaPointe. LaPointe, a resident of Crossroads of Pinellas group home, was found in the backseat of a van on May 9 after he was left in the vehicle without air conditioning for several hours as Russell napped in the front. On Friday, Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri announced at a press conference that caregiver Joshua Russell was arrested charged with aggravated manslaughter for the death of 35-year-old John Lapointe. A Florida resident, Lapointe had Down syndrome and was nonverbal and deaf, according to [Lapointe’s funeral notice](#). – The Mighty – September 23, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/9WU00D>

10. "Case Dropped Against Man Charged with Abuse of Wheelchair Bound Amputee" - Brian Christopher Holtman, 34, was charged with felony abuse of an elderly or disabled person in March 2019. According to court documents, the charge was dropped because the victim declined to prosecute. – North Escambia – September 21, 2019- (Florida) - <https://is.gd/GrejYn>

11. "Pasco Deputies: Nursing Assistant Exploited Disabled Vet with Dementia" - Allyn Lopez, 38, was a certified nursing assistant (CNA) at the victim's assisted living facility, who investigators said befriended the victim while she worked there. According to the sheriff's office, the victim wrote two checks to Lopez over the span of about six months. The first check was written in November 2018 for \$2,000, while the second check for \$4,000 was written in May 2019. – Fox 13 News – September 25, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/c7K53g>

12. "Florida Nursing Home Patients had Highest Temperatures Paramedics Had Ever Seen: Affidavit" - Twelve elderly patients died at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills after going three days without air conditioning in the wake of Hurricane Irma in 2017. Paramedics responded to the scene after receiving a call that a woman was in cardiac arrest, and when they arrived, her temperature was 107.5 degrees, according to the affidavit. "None of the paramedics had ever seen a patient with a temperature that high," the affidavit said. – Daily Beast – September 17, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/kD8Kv8>

13. "Grovetown Woman Arrested After Disabled Son Found Abused" - A Grovetown woman was arrested on Sept. 20 after authorities found a disabled man with his arms and ankles tied up. According to an incident report, Officer Karlton Williams and C.A.V.E. member Shannon Burnett responded to a call regarding an escort for Adult Protective Services (APS) on Whiskey Rd. in Grovetown. Upon arrival, Burnett stated that she

knocked on the door when 47-year-old Sarah Wadsworth opened the door and then shut it. Officer Williams reportedly had to use a knife to cut the restraints off of Fappiano and observed red markings on his wrists that indicated he had been tied up for a long period of time. When asked how long Fappiano had been tied up, Wadsworth responded, “since last weekend.” Investigator Long and Officer Williams stated Fappiano had a foul odor, as if he had not showered and that he urinated on himself. – WFXG – September 23, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/zZZ42L>

14. “Friend Remembers Disabled Boise Man Who Died after He was Left in Hot Bath” - Boise Police are now searching for the caregiver involved. Rubich lost his friend last May after police say, personal care aide Omar Hamadi left Reed in a bath [filled with scalding water](#) that left burns on 30% of his body. According to Rubich, Reed’s mother is now in the process of filing a lawsuit for wrongful death against A Caring Hand. – KTVB – September 25, 2019 – (Idaho) - <https://is.gd/8XsYY6>

15. “State Agencies Investigating Abuse Report at 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 worked as an employee of Indiana Mentor. – Daily Journal – September 20, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/jOHyg7>

16. Hearing Today for 3 Employees Accused of Sexually Abusing Students at Frederick Co. School - The suspects - Jermaine Thomas, 35, of Frederick; Ariel Eppard, 27, of Hagerstown; and Wesley Dean 32, of Montgomery Village - were staff members responsible for supervising students in the residential area, according to the news release. The victims are 17 and 18 years old, and were students at The Jefferson School and Residential

Treatment Center at the time of the alleged incidents. – Fox 45 Baltimore – September 4, 2019 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/qgl8l4>

17. “Residents File Complaints Regarding Billerica Schools’ Safe Rooms” - In the complaints, residents Doreen Healy and Carole Reardon question where the rooms are overused and say there is no clear policy and procedure regulating their use. Healy, a part-time education advocate, and Reardon, a parent and former Billerica teacher, filed their complaints separately with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) at the end of August. – The Sun – September 24, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/Ntq4Gc>

18. “Workplace Sex Abuse Involved 17-Year-Old Boy with Down Syndrome, a Lawsuit Alleges. A Former IFB Employee Faces Charges.” - John Dorsey Caldwell, 52, of the 1400 block of Bragg Avenue in High Point, has been charged with two counts of misdemeanor sexual battery and two counts of felony crimes against nature, Winston-Salem police said in a news release late Thursday afternoon. – Winston Salem Journal – September 27, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/8Huu1C>

19. “Relative Accused of Stealing from Nursing Home Resident” - A Muskegon Heights man is accused of stealing from a vulnerable family member. Charles Burvan Holmes Sr, 50, has been charged with embezzlement from a vulnerable adult, usually a five-year felony, and forgery of a financial transaction device, a felony typically punishable by up to four years. – Michigan Live – September 23, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/ma2Wlk>

20. “LARA Shuts Down Southfield Special Needs Group Home Due to Violations, Unsanitary Conditions” - I'm trying to get a hold of anybody to help me get medications from his home," Caruso said. "He has been locked out, although his rent has been paid." Around 5 p.m., investigators with

Michigan's Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) descended on the group home and posted violation notices. The facility was licensed to care for people who are physically handicapped, developmentally disabled, mentally ill, traumatically brain injured, or suffer from Alzheimer's. The name of the group home is "My Beloved Group Home". Action News has obtained a report of major violations. Among the complaints, it states, a staff member punched a resident. There are also allegations of unsanitary conditions and an overall unhealthy environment. – WXYZ – ABC Detroit – September 26, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/DUFupU>

21. "Hamtramck Man Charged in Sexual Assault of Disabled Student" - According to Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, Ibrahim Aljahim is employed as a student liaison Oakland International Academy, at Florian and Lathem in Hamtramck, where the 18-year-old male victim goes to school. The inappropriate sexual contact occurred on Sept. 18, "on school property during school hours," prosecutors said, while Aljahim was in a position of authority over the victim. Hamtramck police were called to the school the day of the alleged crime, and Aljahim was arrested following an investigation. – WWJ News Radio – September 26, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/GvY62f>

22. "Willmar Man Gets 4 Years in Prison for Raping a Woman in a Wheelchair" - Willmar man who raped a woman in a wheelchair was sentenced Monday to 4 years in prison. On August 6th, 27-year-old Anthony Jones pleaded guilty to a charge of 3rd Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Mentally Impaired or Helpless Victim. The incident happened in Jones' Willmar apartment after a night of drinking January 18th. In Kandiyohi County District Court Monday, Judge Stephen Wentzel sentenced Jones to 48 months at the prison in St. Cloud and 15 years of supervised probation. – Willmar Radio – September 23, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/CsVQK0>

23. “Willmar Man Who Raped Woman Using a Wheelchair Sentenced to Probation, Stayed Prison Term” - Anthony Parnell Jones, 27, was ordered in Kandiyohi County District Court to serve 15 years of supervised probation and could face a 48-month prison sentence if he is unsuccessful in completing probation. He was ordered to pay \$590 in fines and court fees. He was given credit for 160 days already served in jail. He must follow a list of conditions — register as a predatory offender, stay in contact with his probation officer and have no contact with the woman. He may not possess firearms or ammunition. – West Central Tribune – September 25, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/24TNcu>
24. “Caregivers, Relatives Hope Mentally Ill Man’s Death after Police Encounter Can Bring Changes to ‘Impossible Situation’” - In 2006, Julius Graves was pepper-sprayed, shocked with a Taser and beaten by police during a mental health crisis. He ended up in the ICU, then jail, charged with assaulting officers. Graves’ final encounter with police, on April 13, 2019, led to up to three more Taser shocks, a struggle with police and the forced medication of Graves with a sedative and an antipsychotic drug. Graves went into cardiac arrest and ended up in the ICU again. His family took the 43-year-old [off life support](#) four days later. – St. Louis – September 23, 2019 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/1OYb9E>
25. Jail Has Been the Go-To Spot for all the Mentally Ill’ - Mississippi’s Department of Mental Health data show that almost 91,000 Mississippians experienced a serious mental illness in 2017 that interfered with their life activities. A significant number of these individuals are trapped in a dysfunctional mental health system that deprives them of their civil rights and shuffles them from jails to psychiatric hospitals to homeless shelters or leaves them on the streets, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, which has prevailed in a lawsuit against the state over its treatment of people with mental illness. – Daily Journal – September 26, 2019 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/s8Ps9o>

26. “Brandon Man Arrested for Dog Neglect, Dependent Adult Abuse” - A Brandon man has been arrested for allegedly leaving his mother and more than a dozen dogs in a feces-laden home last month. On Sept. 19, Buchanan County sheriff’s deputies arrested David Don Rogers, 61, for 18 counts of animal neglect, four counts of animal neglect causing injury or death, four counts of failure to dispose of animal carcasses and one count of dependent adult abuse. – The Courier – September 25, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/SWkgTK>
27. “Alleged Group Home Operator Disputes ‘Deplorable Conditions’ Claims” - Reached by phone Saturday, Mary Glenn confirmed that she rented out rooms at 3105 Parkdale Ave., where Metropolitan Police Department officers conducted a search Sept. 12 and [arrested 51-year-old Bruce Wycoff](#) on suspicion of elder abuse. Wycoff allegedly worked as a “house manager.” Some residents used wheelchairs, but no wheelchair ramps were found in the home, the report states. Eleven adults and two children under the age of 10 were living there Sept. 12, but residents who spoke to police during the investigation said that up to 20 people at a time have lived in the home. – Las Vegas Review – Journal – September 22, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/N9I58u>
28. “Authorities Investigating Claims of Abuse at Westfield Nursing Home” - Benny Gomez told TAPinto Westfield that his mother was hit in the head multiple times at the Westfield Center on Lamberts Mill Road, and while a spokeswoman for the facility said the woman sustained the injuries in a fall, police are investigating. “My mother was assaulted numerous times,” said Gomez, a resident of Newark. “She tells me that they were rough with her. They hit her over the head with a hairbrush multiple times.” – Tap into East Brunswick – September 24, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/c7pwqC>

29. "Toledo Man Accused of Raping Mentally-Handicapped Woman He was Hired to Care for" - A central Toledo man is behind bars after being accused of raping a mentally-handicapped woman he was being paid to take care of. According to court documents, 40-year-old Anthony Hodges raped a 38-year-old woman who required 24-hour in-home care. Hodges was employed as the victim's in-home care provider. – WTOL – September 25, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/3SmBTz>
30. "Special Education Aide Placed on Leave after Spanking Child" - A special education aide at Salem Township Elementary was placed on leave after staff members witnessed them spanking a child, the principal said. Principal Lisa Smith sent a letter to families on Wednesday about the incident that occurred on Tuesday. According to Smith, the staff members immediately reported the action and the parents of the child were also immediately contacted. – Fox 19 – September 25, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/Eq5hbZ>
31. "Trial Delayed for Man Accused of Assaulting Disabled Victim with Golf Club" - Brian Joseph Hansen faces one count of first-degree assault, a Measure 11 offense that carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 7½ years. The trial set to begin Sept. 20 was canceled and Hansen is now scheduled to return to court Sept. 30 for a pre-trial conference. Hansen is accused of using a golf club on July 23 to strike a man in the face. The 57-year-old victim, who uses a wheelchair, suffered fractures to his face, including four areas of his jaw, two areas of his eye socket, and his nose, a search warrant affidavit filed last week in Lane County Circuit Court states. The victim described his injuries to police as "the worst pain he had ever felt," according to the affidavit. – The Register Guard – September 24, 2019 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/uaaUnR>
32. "Caretaker Pleads Guilty" - William Harry Hontz II, 39, of 196 Carroll St., Pittston, pleaded guilty Thursday to a misdemeanor count of indecent assault under threat of forcible compulsion. Prosecutors alleged Hontz, a

direct support professional at a Pennsylvania Mentor residential group home at 251 Church St., Kingston, fondled a 24-year-old client's genitals and used the victim's cellphone to take pictures of him. – The Citizens' Voice – September 21, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/k4hlsi>

33. "Two Lawsuits Filed Against Intermountain Healthcare by Members of Deaf Community" - The documents allege that when requested by deaf patients to provide ASL interpreters, the hospital failed to do so. Instead video remote interpreters were provided. – KJZZ – September 24, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/lhpf4b>

34. "An Autistic Student Needed a Quiet Place to Work. His Desk was put in a Bathroom Stall" - Danielle Goodwin told [CNN affiliate KOMO](#) that she had discussed her 11-year-old son's special needs with his teacher. But when they showed up at Whatcom Middle School in Bellingham, Washington, this week, they found his desk in a bathroom stall, Goodwin said. "I was stunned," Goodwin told the station Thursday. "I was so shocked I just took the picture because I didn't believe what I was seeing." "My son was humiliated, embarrassed, and disgusted at this inhumane suggestion that he work in a bathroom," she said. Goodwin asked if her son could work in the library and was told no, Goodwin said in the Facebook post. She was also told that "it was fine for him to be in there" because the school didn't use the space as a bathroom." – CNN – September 22, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/stoaeJ>

35. "Parents Charged After Tacoma Man with Autism Found Emaciated and Severely Ill" - A Tacoma couple has been accused of neglecting to care for their 21-year-old autistic son, who was found severely ill and weighing only 75 pounds. Pierce County prosecutors on Wednesday charged the 44-year-old father and 42-year-old stepmother with first-degree criminal mistreatment. They are scheduled to be arraigned Oct. 9. The victim functions at the level of a first or second grader and is dependent on others

for his care. At 5-feet-8, doctors said the victim should weigh at least 155 pounds and expressed concern that he weighed 75 pounds. The man was also suffering from pneumonia and a blood infection, among other infections. – The News Tribune – September 26, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/4Z6nxP>

36. “Deaf Alliance Brings Hope to Region's Hearing Impaired” - Stunned by the lack of government-provided social services for the deaf and hard of hearing, a group of deaf people in the Eastern Panhandle decided to take it upon themselves to create a community organization to help those with hearing disabilities navigate the modern world. – The Journal – September 22, 2019 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/XM8d5O>

37. “Martinsburg Man Charged with Abuse of Incapacitated Adult” - A now-former employee of EastRidge Health Systems is accused of abusing two incapacitated male adults this summer. Hetzel Edwin Kerns, 29, of Arch Street in Martinsburg was charged with two counts of abuse or neglect of an incapacitated adult, according to Berkeley County Magistrate Court records. - Herald Mail Media – September 23, 2019 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/Ak2blg>

GUARDIANSHIP

38. “Tynan Misused \$317K in Mother's Bank Account: Petition” - The 59-year-old Joliet man arrested by police several hours after last week's robbery at the First Midwest Bank on West Jefferson Street was previously suspected of financially exploiting his 80-year-old mother in the amount of \$316,876, according to an order of protection signed by a Will County judge. In May, Joliet's First Midwest Bank and Lifecare Guardianship were appointed temporary guardians of the estate of Tom Tynan's mother because she is a disabled adult, court records show. – Patch – September 24, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/TizaYF>

39. “NCW Wants ‘Illegitimate’ Word in Guardianship Act to Go” - The National Commission for Women (NCW) will recommend amendments to the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act 1956, seeking to do away with the word “illegitimate” for children, making the mother an equal guardian as the father and expanding the definition of natural guardian to include adoptive parents and grandparents. Times of India – September 23, 2019 – (India) - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/ncw-wants-illegitimate-word-in-guardianship-act-to-go/articleshow/71264923.cms>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

40. “Abuser Registry Bill Expected to Advance” - The registry would include the names of care providers against whom the Disabled Persons Protection Commission substantiates a claim of abuse or financial extortion. The bill got a favorable report from the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, and it is now is under review by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, often the last stop before a full Senate vote. Under the bill, the Department of Developmental Services and employers would be required to check the registry before hiring a caregiver and would be prohibited from hiring anyone named on the registry. – The Patriot Ledger – September 23, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/Qn1q7E>

41. “Bill Limiting Forced Arbitration is Critical to Real Justice” - Thanks to new legislation spearheaded by Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Johnson, there’s a chance the right to seek justice in courtrooms will be restored. H.R. 1423 and its Senate companion bill, S. 610, would end the abusive practice of forced arbitration for consumers, employees, patients and those whose civil rights have been violated. – Law 360 – September 22, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/xfL1cP>

42. “Bill Aims to Boost Direct Support Workforce” - Legislation introduced this month is designed to help make the field of direct care work more attractive and lead to less turnover. Those behind the bill known as the Direct CARE Opportunity Act, or H.R. 4397, point to estimates from the government’s Bureau of Labor Statistics suggesting that a million more direct care workers are needed by 2024 to join a field that has long been plagued by low wages and the demanding nature of the work. – Disability Scoop – September 27, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/eMklk6>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

43. “The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities” - Welcome to the website for the State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Project, administered by the University of Colorado. The Project is funded by the [Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and by the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. – University of Colorado – September 2019 – (Colorado) - <http://www.stateofthestates.org/>

44. “Addressing Social Determinants of Health: WellCare Study Examines Top Social Service Needs in First Half of 2019” - Studies show "social determinants of health" – the conditions in which people live, learn, work and play – affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. New data released today by WellCare Health Plans, Inc. ([WCG](#)) ("WellCare") adds to the growing body of research by examining the social service needs in highest demand across the U.S. in the first half of 2019.- Yahoo.com – September 23, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/JRvlut>

45. “Webcams in Nursing Home Rooms May Deter Elder Abuse – But are They Ethical?” - Nursing home surveillance has significant legal and ethical implications, according to two multidisciplinary studies we published in

2019. Chief among them is privacy. The most intimate care activities are conducted in view of the camera: washing, using a bedpan, changing underwear. Sensitive conversations with visitors, from clergy to romantic partners, may also be recorded. “Is this really what the resident would want to have recorded about themselves?” asked one respondent to our [survey on webcams in nursing homes](#). – Yahoo News- September 21, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/qwgqoz>

46. “How Banks Can Help Protect Seniors’ Homes” - In the housing sector, elder abuse takes many forms, as do its perpetrators. Sometimes it involves a rogue loan officer or real estate agent who creates false loan documents, persuades an unwitting senior to sign them and then keeps the proceeds for themselves. More often than not, though, the culprit is a family member. According to the MetLife Mature Market Institute, some 60 percent of substantiated financial abuse cases involve an elder’s adult child. Sons are most likely to rip off their parents or grandparents – even more so than a paramour, bogus contractor, fly-by-night handyman or shady lender or agent. – Banker & Tradesman – September 22, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/eSVjHY>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

47. Why the Focus of Autism Research is Shifting Away from Searching for a 'Cure' - “I think that given the complexity and the variability of the causes and the manifestations of autism, trying to come up with a cure is probably not the right approach,” said autism researcher and psychologist Len Abbeduto, director of the University of California, Davis, MIND Institute in Sacramento. – NBCDFW 5 – September 22, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/W75kVI>

48. “New Safe Space for Families Affected by Autism” - Blue Cross of Idaho is donating one million dollars to Treasure Valley YMCA to help families reach inclusiveness. "It's a gathering place for everyone whose dealing with the hard

times that come with having a disorder and this is a place for families to kind of gather and talk about what that means,” said Aaron Elton. – KIVI TV – September 23, 2019 – (Idaho)- <https://is.gd/L5nI2A>

49. “NMSU Professor Receives Grant to Increase Mental Health, Substance and Opioid Abuse Services” - Eve Adams, New Mexico State University Regents professor and co-interim head of the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology in the College of Education, has received a \$906,000 grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to help increase and improve behavioral health services along the U.S.-Mexico border, including services focused on substance and opioid-use disorders. – News Center – New Mexico State University – September 26, 2019 – (New Mexico) - <https://is.gd/7N4L3g>

INTERNATIONAL

50. “Doctor Accused of Raping Patient at The Espy” -"We had evidence we could act on in July 2019. Immediate action then resulted in the practitioner’s registration as a medical practitioner being suspended on July 29, 2019. This took effect from July 30, 2019," the AHPRA spokeswoman said. The rape allegations are the subject of an ongoing investigation by AHPRA. The case is the latest in a series of scandals to embroil the regulator of Australia's health sector, which has repeatedly been accused of failing to protect patients from medical misconduct and sexual assault. – The Sydney Morning Herald – September 23, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/F72cBd>

51. “Son Who Threw his Terminally Ill 79-Year-Old Mother to Her Death Spared Jail” - A “devoted, loving son” who killed his dying mom to finish her struggling by dropping her from a primary flooring hearth escape at a care dwelling has been given a suspended jail time period. Robert Knight, 53, pleaded responsible to the manslaughter of his 79-year-old mom June at an earlier listening to at Basildon

Crown Courtroom. – Herald Publicist – September 20, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/rMVbyN>

52. “Charity Worker Jailed After Swindling £550,000 from Disabled Londoners” - Graham Broomfield, 54, handled direct payments for [Chingford](#)-based charity Reaching Out East, which helped disabled and socially isolated Waltham Forest residents by organizing their finances as well as providing advice on health, social care and welfare. But Broomfield, who was hired as an IT contractor before taking charge of its payments service, defrauded at least 95 vulnerable people between 2016 and last year by making transfers into his own bank account to steal a total of £550,744. – Evening Standard – September 25, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/bpVeze>

53. “Does India Care for its Mentally Ill?” - Udavum Karangal is also one of the very few organizations in the nation to care for homeless, mentally ill people. In a country where mental health has been largely overlooked for ages, the progress the organization has made in treating and rehabilitating its rescued patients is highly inspiring, in the least. – DECCAN Chronicle – September 24, 2019 –(India) - <https://is.gd/jfB7IZ>

54. “Two Kenyan Men in US Charged with Sexually Assaulting Mentally Unfit Woman” - Two Kenyan men residing in the United States were last week charged sexually assaulting a woman with mental and physical impairments. The duo; Francis Ndegwa Kamau and Kenneth Wagacha Kibe are said to have taken advantage of the woman at Mystic Lake Casino in March. Kamau, 39, was arrested in Minneapolis. On August 8, he was booked at Scott County Jail in connection with third-degree felony criminal sexual conduct. According to local media, the victim has been diagnosed with mild intellectual disabilities, unspecified congenital anomaly of musculoskeletal system (right hand), seizure disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and depression. – Kahawa Tungu – September 21, 2019 – (Kenya) - <https://is.gd/oqiAuX>

55. “Alarm Over Sexual Violence Against Intellectually Challenged Women and Girls” - A non-governmental organization has raised alarm over the rising cases of sexual abuse against women and girls with intellectual disability. Coalition on Violence Against women (COVAW) – an organization dealing with violence against women and girls in Kenya – has decried the continued culture silence in the country concerning violence and sexual abuse against this group of people. – Nairobi News – September 24, 2019 – (Kenya) - <https://is.gd/RFM3JZ>

56. “Man Gets Life Jail Term Over Village Rape” - A man convicted of having repeatedly raped and assaulted a disabled woman in a village in northern Namibia is now facing a stint of at least 25 years behind bars, after he was sentenced to life imprisonment near the end of last week. Simon Nambuli (50) committed “wicked offences” when he raped a 50-year-old woman in her home at a village in the Eenhana district in July 2010, judge Johanna Salionga commented when she sentenced Nambuli in the Oshakati High Court on Thursday last week. – The Namibian -September 25, 2019 – (Namibian) - <https://is.gd/vlsyvy>

57. “Dutch Prosecutors Seek Supreme Court Ruling on Euthanasia for Incapacitated Patients” - Dutch prosecutors on Thursday asked the Supreme Court to rule on the case of a nursing home doctor who was cleared of wrongdoing for the euthanasia of an elderly dementia sufferer, to gain clarity on how doctors should deal with incapacitated patients. In a ruling earlier this month, trial judges at The Hague District Court found that the female patient had expressly requested euthanasia at an earlier stage in her disease and the doctor had acted lawfully. – Physicians Weekly – September 26, 2019 – (Netherlands) - <https://is.gd/ziBRN1>

58. “Mentally Ill Man Died of Malnutrition after Discharge 'Failures' by Waitematā DHB” - The 55-year-old, who suffered a major depressive episode with psychotic symptoms, post-traumatic stress disorder and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, was being supported by two DHB-funded organizations to live at home. The organizations raised concerns about the man's reluctance to receive

support, but no further action was taken by the DHB, the report said. He ended up in a "compromised" physical state, losing 11kg in six months, and died in hospital. – Stuff – September 23, 2019 – (New Zealand) - <https://is.gd/dm5nq8>

59. “Missing Mentally Retarded Youth Found Murdered” - Police removed the body to morgue. Victim Amir, who was mentally retarded, went missing. His family informed the police that one Saqib Mughal allegedly had taken him into illegal custody on the pretext that the victim had stolen his bike. They alleged that Mughal along with his accomplices subjected him to torture which resulted into his death. Police had registered a case of kidnapping. Murder charges have also been added to the FIR. Further investigation is under way. – The News – September 25, 2019 – (Pakistan) - <https://is.gd/Ni2pxh>

60. “Court: Sandown Woman Admits Sustained Attack on Wheelchair-Bound Husband” - Claire Browne, 36, admitted assault occasioning actual bodily harm on James Browne, 70, when she appeared at the Isle of Wight Magistrates' Court on Tuesday. Browne cried as she was remanded into custody to await sentencing at the Isle of Wight Crown Court on October 11. "Browne started slapping her husband on the head before tipping him out of his wheelchair. "She then proceeded to kick him in the chest and testicles as well as standing on his spine.” – County Press – September 26, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/UZTTgT>

MISCELLANEOUS

61. “Care vs Consent: For Persons with Disability, the Line is Often Thin and a Tad More Complicated” - The first kind of violation often comes from home or caregivers," Goyal, who is also India's first visually impaired stand-up comedienne, says. Caregivers, in some cases, have the agency to both physically and mentally violate a PWD's consent in the garb of support or help. It can also get difficult for PWDs to voice their lack of consent out of a sense of obligation towards the caregiver or even fear of them leaving. Especially when a person needs the

caregiver's help to carry out day-to-day and even intimate activities. – News 18 –
September 23, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/o2YuUC>