

# Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of October 12 to October 18, 2019

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

## **Abuse and Neglect:**

Sexual Assault: 3, 7, 9, 13, 16, 19, 21, 27, 29, 33

Physical Abuse: 2, 8, 12, 20, 22, 24, 25, 30, 32, 55, 56

Emotional/verbal abuse: 2, 7, 20, 26

Financial abuse: 4, 5, 6, 14, 31

Forced labor: 10

Isolation/kept enclosed: 2, 18

Attempted murder: 5

Medical restraint: 24

Murder: 1, 23

Neglected: 5, 12, 17, 18, 51

Related to special education: 2 (TA), 8, 11, 13

Trafficking (forced labor): 20

**WINNER of “good job” award:** ILLINOIS STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 85: Connor-Backed Legislation Combatting Elder Abuse and Neglect Now Law” - Connor supported House Bill 3065, which requires state agencies investigating reports of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of senior citizens to interview family members, friends, neighbors and anyone else who may have direct knowledge of the situation. Face-to-face interviews will ensure thorough inquiries into every report and help eliminate lax examinations that leave elders in abusive situations. The legislation was passed with strong bipartisan support and is now law.

## **WHO DUN IT** (listed by article number):

Family: 12, 17, 30, 33, 55

Neighbor: 9

Caregiver: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 19, 31 51

Stranger: 15, 27, 32

Special education employee: 2, 8, 11, 13

Law Enforcement: 18, 22, 56

Headmaster @ School for the Deaf: 21

## **LOCATION:**

Nursing Home/Assisted Living: 3, 7, 20

In home care: 5

Group home: 6, 24

School for the Deaf: 21

Men: 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29

Women: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 17, 20, 30, 31, 32, 55

Teams: 2, 10, 12, 20, 24 (More than one person collude to abuse.)

**Good News:** 35: Book by author with disability explores supported decision making; 37: In-person investigations now required for abuse investigations; 40: Ohio bill blocks abortions when fetus has Down Syndrome; 47: Michigan DHHS awarded funds to increase reporting crimes of abuse and neglect; 58: Collection of essays highlights murder of people with disabilities by the Nazis.

**Bad News:** 28: Texas slow to suspend caregivers suspected of abusing their patients; 34: Guardianship expert abused Do Not Resuscitate orders and exploited 682 individuals; 42: Report shows increase in allegations of institutional abuse by 5 times; 43: Increase of 56% in special needs since water crisis began in Flint, MI.; 56: Court orders abortions for women with disabilities.

## **ABUSE & NEGLECT**

1. “Child Sex Abuse Investigation Leads to Discovery of 'Skeletonized' Corpse at Southwest Arkansas Residence, Police Say” - An investigation into child sex abuse led to the discovery of a "skeletonized" corpse in a southwest Arkansas residence earlier this month, police said. When Texarkana police went to arrest Tony Ken Hooker, 63, on a warrant for second-degree sexual assault of a child, they were asked by Adult Protective Services to assist in a welfare check on 40-year-old Christy Himes. The agency's staff told police that they had been unable for "some time" to conduct a face-to-face contact with Himes, who was intellectually disabled and had a history of seizures, Lt. Zachary White of the police department said Thursday. – Arkansas Democrat Gazette – October 11, 2019 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/ulpwqK>
2. “Parents of Child with Special Needs Sue TVUSD for Alleged Physical Abuse” - The parents of a child at a Temecula-area elementary school are suing the school district over what they said amounts to child abuse on the part of a teacher’s aide. Shannon and

Scott Peterson's son, Hudson, who was 7 years old when he attended Tony Tobin Elementary School in Temecula last year, has Down syndrome, but he was progressing healthily and had some verbal communication skills before the alleged abuse. An investigation determined the cause, Hudson's mother said: a teacher's aide was kicking and hitting Hudson, as well as psychologically abusing him by isolating him from the other students and putting him behind cardboard barriers at his desk. – My Valley News – October 16, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/dLxPgx>

3. "Clearwater, Florida – Certified Nursing Assistant Falo Kane Accused of Sexually Abusing Elderly & Disabled Patients at 4 Nursing Homes" - 32-year-old certified nursing assistant Falo Kane has been accused of [sexually assaulting several elderly and disabled patients](#) at four different nursing homes in the Clearwater area. Kane was arrested on September 16 and charged with four counts of sexual battery of the physically helpless. On September 18, police added three additional counts. These charges go back as far as 2016. These charges involve six victims and police believe there could be others out there. – Legal Herald – October 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/ZwF3S1>
4. "Caregiver Charged with Exploitation of Elderly, Disabled Woman" - A woman who was hired to assist a blind elderly woman allegedly exploited her instead. Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputies arrested 68-year-old Sandi Granat on charges of exploitation of a disabled adult on Friday. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office opened an investigation in August 2018 regarding a complaint from a woman who alleged her aunt's longtime bookkeeper/caregiver was stealing money from her aunt's accounts, according to an arrest report. – CBS 12 – October 12, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/21haMX>
5. "Man with Disabilities Starved Nearly to Death; In-Home Caretaker Accused of Abuse, Stealing Paychecks" - he Jacksonville Sheriff's Office says an in-home caretaker neglected the health of a man with disabilities to the point where the victim nearly died. The accused was collecting the victim's paychecks and social security checks, according to a report from the sheriff's office. It said, by the time Heinrich Peter Tesch Von Cultz II, 57, was arrested Oct. 10, the victim, identified only as 43-year-old "Howard," appeared skeletal and was riddled with pressure sores from not being moved in his bed. – First Coast News – October 16, 2019 – (Florida)- <https://is.gd/T9ydBD>
6. Former Employee Accused of Using Group Home Resident's Debit Card to Pay Bills" - A woman who worked at an area group home has been charged with fraud for allegedly

using the debit card of a resident with cognitive disabilities, according to court records. Chiquita Prince has been charged with three counts of fraud. On June 19, the person who holds the Power of Attorney for the victim contacted Mishawaka Police after noticing unauthorized charges on his debit card. The victim resides at a Logan Center group home and has cognitive disabilities, according to reports. – ABC 57 – October 14, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/JPXj25>

7. “Third Lawsuit Filed Against Friendship Health and Rehab Alleges Abuse to a Senior Citizen” - “It started when Richard Coleman yelled down the hall that he was going to kill her, and then it proceeded as physical, could be construed as sexual abuse,” said attorney John Phillips, who represents the family of the woman allegedly abused. The resident has since passed away, unrelated to the claims, but her son, the Executor of the Estate, is suing the nursing home. The lawsuit said employees who witnessed the abuse reported the incident, but the files disappeared and are considering actions by Friendship Health to be negligent. Coleman has been at the center of controversy before. In the last year, nine coworkers have come forward accusing him of sexual groping and assault. – WHAS 11 ABC – October 16, 2019 – (Kansas) - <https://is.gd/Okx1k2>
  
8. “Teacher Arrested, Accused of Abusing Autistic Students” - A Monroe special education teacher has been arrested and accused of using corporal punishment on two autistic students. Melissa Lacombe is facing two counts of felony cruelty to juveniles. Court documents state Lacombe was involved in two separate incidents at Madison James Foster Elementary School on October 3rd. First, an employee told the school's principal she saw Lacombe hit a four-year-old autistic student with a ruler on the right thigh. During the second, the same employee told the principal Lacombe placed a different four-year-old autistic student in a bathroom, closed the door and left the child there for about 30 minutes. The report says the child could be heard screaming and crying during that time period. – KSLA – October 18, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/1z67dE>
  
9. “Covington Man Arrested for Allegedly Raping Handicapped Neighbor” - A man from Covington allegedly raped his medically-handicapped neighbor, authorities say. Joshua Brown, 24, was booked into the St. Tammany Parish Jail on one count of first-degree rape. Sheriff's officials said they were contacted Wednesday night by the victim's family members, who said the mentally-handicapped woman was lured to Brown's home and repeatedly raped. – WWLTV 4 – October 17, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/2v43ve>

10. “Amite Mother, Daughter Sentenced for Imprisoning Disabled Family Member” - Raylaine Knope was sentenced to 28 years for her involvement in the forced labor of a disabled family member. She is also convicted of conspiracy related to the crimes. Knope's daughter, Bridget Lambert, was sentenced to four years in prison for conspiring with other family members to force the disabled family member to perform labor. "Knope and Lambert conspired to brutally coerce a vulnerable victim with disabilities to work long hours in despicable conditions and with no monetary compensation," said Assistant Attorney General Eric Dreiband. – WDSU News – October 17, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/VbSLhw>
  
11. “Special Education Battle Continues in Prince George’s County” - It's something many parents struggle with making sure their special needs student is getting a proper education. A Prince George's County mother felt her daughter's school was failing her, she complained to the state and the Maryland State Department of Education found violations in the classroom. – Fox 5 DC – October 14, 2019 – (Maryland) - <https://www.fox5dc.com/video/614684>
  
12. “‘Every Single Day Was a Punishment’: APG Cop, Wife Guilty in 'Box Bed' Child Neglect Case” - A husband and wife are each facing 16 years in sentences after a Cecil County Circuit Court jury found the couple guilty of misdemeanor charges relating to them making their adopted, autistic 12-year-old son sleep on a bed inside a wooden box and forcing him to drink smoothie meals in the bathtub for hours – even though he vomited numerous times during those feedings. In addition, the guilty verdicts relate to the defendants, Elkton-area residents Mark Jessee and Michele Jessee, both 52, locking the boy and his 10-year-old sister, who also is their adopted child, inside the bathroom for hours at a time for disciplinary reasons and confining the girl inside her makeshift bedroom – a walk-in closet in her parents’ master bedroom. – Cecily Daily – October 15, 2019 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/j3WLH9>
  
13. “Staff Member Accused of Raping Disabled Student at School” - A 28-year-old male employee who worked at a private school for young people with disabilities has been arrested for allegedly raping a 19-year-old female student at the school, [according to police](#). He will face several charges for the alleged sexual assault. According to police, the accused perpetrator Phillip Houtman worked as an overnight staff member at Chamberlain International School in Middleborough, Massachusetts. Chamberlain International is a private boarding school for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities between the ages 11 and 22. Houtman allegedly raped a

female student with disabilities in her dorm on Sept. 29. – The Mighty – October 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/P6RmN2>

\*A different story stated it was a male student that was attacked.

14. “AG: Former Leader of Nonprofit for Special Needs Kids, Adults Stole Thousands” - The former president of a nonprofit was indicted in connection with an embezzlement scheme in which she stole thousands of dollars from the organization for personal use, Attorney General Maura Healey said. Michelle DeMauro, 48, of Revere, was indicted Monday by a Suffolk County grand jury on two counts of larceny over \$1,200 by single scheme, tax evasion, failure to collect or pay tax, keep records or supply information and two counts of obtaining a signature under false pretenses. – WCVB -October 16, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/tKeeeB>
  
15. “Skater Boys Beat Handicapped Man with His Own Cane at Mass. Ave. T Stop, Police Say” - Transit Police [report](#) they are looking for four men for an attack at the Massachusetts Avenue Orange Line station around 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 4. Police say the four got into some sort of disagreement with a man who walks with the aid of a cane and that one of them took the cane and beat the man with him. When he tried to take their pictures, they smashed his phone, police say. – Universal Hub – October 17, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/TrAWNz>
  
16. “Madelia Man Sentenced to 15 Years of Supervised Probation in Criminal Sex Conduct Case” - Claudio Sebastian Ayala Jr., 18, of Madelia was in court on Tuesday afternoon for felony third-degree criminal sex conduct where the victim was mentally impaired or helpless. He was sentenced to 15 years of supervised probation, a \$1,000 fine and 180 days in county jail with 80 days credit served. The sentence was noted on the record as a downward dispositional departure of stay of execution. Ayala would be allowed not to commit 48 months to Commissioner of Corrections as long as he follows the set conditions. – Montevideo American News – October 11, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/uOilXy>
  
17. “Vulnerable Adult Hospitalized, Bemidji Mother Charged with Neglect” - According to court records, Karen Gannetta, 47, of Bemidji, was arrested Monday and charged with criminal neglect. A Beltrami County judge set Gannetta’s bail at \$25,000. Investigators responded to Gannetta’s Bemidji home on October 2, where according to court documents, they found animal feces, empty beer cans, vomit on the floor, and an unresponsive vulnerable adult. Court documents show the vulnerable adult had lost

about 90 pounds in two months and had bruises all over their body. When first responders arrived, they said they weren't sure the vulnerable adult was still alive until they detected breathing. – KBJR 6 – October 17, 2019 – (Minnesota) -

<https://is.gd/G5LY5M>

18. “Lawsuit: Inmate Kept in Missouri Restraint Chair 5 Days” - A federal lawsuit claims that a Missouri man who suffered a manic attack was held shackled in a rural jail’s restraint chair in lieu of medical treatment for five days, subjected to racial slurs, force-fed and allowed to defecate all over himself. The lawsuit filed last month on behalf of Albert Okal names Wayne County, its sheriff, deputies and jailers and seeks unspecified damages. The lawsuit, first reported by the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) , is the latest of several involving use of an inmate restraint chair, a device used to immobilize inmates at risk of hurting themselves or others. – AP News – October 14, 2019 – Missouri -

<https://is.gd/3UvrEM>

19. “Nursing Assistant Accused of Sexually Assaulting Disabled Patient in Rochelle Park” - Rodney Mills, 53, of Irvington was charged with aggravated criminal sexual contact and neglect to care for a disabled person for his alleged assault of the unidentified man, Sgt. James DePreta said in a statement. – North Jersey – October 15, 2019 – (New Jersey) -

<https://is.gd/nxdOc8>

20. “3 Women Accused of Encouraging, Filming Fights at North Carolina Assisted Living Facility” - Court documents reveal that Marilyn Latish McKey, 32, is accused of pushing a 73-year old woman into her room. Authorities say that at the time, Tonacia Yvonne Tyson, 20, and Taneshia Deshawn Jordan, 26, who were also employees, filmed the encounter and did not help. During a separate incident, court documents say that the 73-year old woman began to fight with a 70-year-old woman. All three women are accused of watching the fight, filming it and even encouraging it. – Fox 61 – October 12, 2019 – (North Carolina) -

<https://is.gd/unnBis>

21. “She was 4 and Deaf. That’s When the Sexual Abuse Began, She Said.” - Twelve women who attended a celebrated school for the deaf claim a housemaster abused them for years, and the school did nothing to prevent it. On Wednesday morning, 12 women, all of them students at the New York School for the Deaf during the 1960s and '70s, filed a suit against it in New York State Supreme Court in Westchester County. Making use of the Child Victims Act passed by the state Legislature this year, one of more than 700

cases to do so, they claim that they were sexually abused by the dormitory housemaster, a man long since dead, who molested multiple girls on a daily basis, leaving them to struggle with the attendant agonies for decades. – New York Times – October 16, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/GB0jxV>

22. “2 Cuyahoga County Corrections Officers Plead Guilty in Assault of Restrained Inmate” - Officer Nicholas Evans admitted to felonious assault and tampering with evidence, while Officer Timothy Dugan admitted to attempted abduction and misdemeanor assault. Both were accused of punching Terrance Debose while the inmate was restrained. - WKYC – October 15, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/xf5wli>
  
23. “Marionville Man Arrested, Charged in Strangulation Death of Woman” - A Marionville man accused of murdering a woman is currently being held without bond in the Lawrence County Jail. Bobby Dale Ficklin, 42, is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Korrina Fisher, of Marionville. Ficklin is also facing charges of financial exploitation, another case in which he allegedly victimized Fisher. In the probable cause statement of that case, on March 21 of this year, Fisher, who was receiving disability for depression and anxiety, told the investigator that she noticed \$322.66 was missing from her account, and also said there were some transactions she didn’t recognize. – Lawrence County Record – October 12, 2019 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/OWNkM6>
  
24. “State Highlights: Foster Children Return to Oregon Following Charges of Abuse from Caretakers; Missouri’s Planned Parenthood Lawyers Seek Answers about License Denial” - Foster children in Oregon who were sent to privately run group homes out of state are now being brought back following numerous allegations of abuse. Oregon is one of several states that in recent years began relying on faraway residential treatment centers to house children with severe behavioral and psychiatric issues for whom adequate care couldn’t be found nearby. But the state’s child welfare agency didn’t regularly monitor their treatment and now two of the largest companies in the field have closed down facilities in Utah and Montana after staff members were accused of physical abuse and frequent use of drug injections to control the children, according to state regulators. – KHN Morning Briefing – October 14, 2019 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/VUSZt5>
  
25. “Report: Claiborne County Caretaker Brutally Beat Woman and Killed, Severely Mutilated Dogs and Cats” - A Claiborne County caretaker faces a slew of charges after

investigators believe he brutally beat an elderly woman and killed and severely mutilated dogs and cats. On Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019, Claiborne County Sheriff's Office deputies and detectives said they responded to a call at a home on Snodgrass Road in New Tazewell and found a 66-year-old woman had been brutally beaten. Detectives determined the woman had been assaulted by her caregiver, Craig Douglas Chapman Jr., 43, who had been arrested the night before for public intoxication and unlawful carrying of a weapon. According to the sheriff's office, he was found swinging a sword in the roadway. – WBIR -10 News – October 15, 2019 – (Tennessee)- <https://is.gd/yW3mcc>

26. “Woman in Wheelchair Threatened with Death” - McLennan County Sheriff's deputies report making an arrest of a man who they say threatened the life of a woman who was confined to a wheelchair following a stroke. John Wayne Lebkowsky was booked into the McLennan County Jail Wednesday on a charge of terroristic threat in connection with the incident that was reported August 29. An arrest affidavit states the victim called the Sheriff's Office on that date to report that a man was walking around her home threatening to kill her. – Fox 44 News – October 17, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/DkaKmg>
27. “Elderly Woman Dies after Her Rapist Sentenced to Prison” - An elderly rape victim died just hours after her attacker was sentenced to 30 years in prison. "The brutality he inflicted on her, it wasn't human," Jaling Bonnem, the victim's daughter, said of her mother's attacker. Bryan Arellano Monasterio, 29, pleaded guilty to aggravated sexual assault of an elder and aggravated robbery. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison on Wednesday. – ABC 13 – October 16, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/3RK7fy>
28. “Texas Slow to Suspend Abusive Caretakers” - People with intellectual disabilities in Texas could have to remain under the supervision of a caretaker found to be abusive, negligent, or exploitative. There is currently no system in place to temporarily suspend caretakers under investigation for abusive conduct, even if there's an initial detection of malpractice. Caretakers who choose to appeal guilty findings of wrongdoing can still care for the disabled until the appeals process is concluded—which can take years. – Reform Austin – October 16, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/dsloMw>
29. “Man Sentenced to 50 Years after Being Convicted of Sexually Assaulting Disabled Person” - A man has been convicted of sexually assaulting a disabled person in November of 2018 after a four-day trial. According to court records, 39-year-old Thomas Henry Boyd was

convicted of one count of aggravated sexual assault of elderly/disabled person, a first-degree felony, and sentenced to 50 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice on Thursday. – ABC 7 News – October 11, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/IE7Tfr>

30. “Texas Mom Gets 6 Years in Prison for Faking Son's Illnesses” - A Texas woman has been sentenced to six years in prison for exposing her son to unneeded medical tests and surgeries. Kaylene Bowen-Wright could have received up to 20 years in prison when she was sentenced Friday. She pleaded guilty in mid-August to recklessly causing injury to a child. – The Morning Call – October 15, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/ah4eJU>
  
31. “Police: Charges Filed Against Local Caretaker Who Allegedly Took \$200,000 From 82-Year-Old Disabled Man” - A local woman was charged Friday after investigators found that she had allegedly taken more than \$200,000 from an 82-year-old disabled man she was reportedly paid \$12,000 a month to care for. Tara Hamilton, 44, of St. George, was arrested Thursday and charged the following day with one second-degree felony count of exploitation of a vulnerable adult, according to the probable cause statement filed with 5th District Court. – St. George News – October 13, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/cQLmZM>
  
32. “Video Captures Woman in Wheelchair Attacked at Belltown Bus Stop” - Cellphone video shows an attack on a woman in a wheelchair in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood. It happened late Tuesday night at the corner of Third Avenue and Bell Street. Seattle police didn't comment on the incident, but they confirmed that officers arrested a woman on suspicion of assault. – KOMO News – October 16, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/6qR2mN>
  
33. “Supreme Court Upholds Casper Man’s Sexual Assault Conviction” - The Wyoming Supreme Court unanimously upheld the conviction and sentence of a Casper man who was convicted and sentenced last year for sexual assault and abuse of a vulnerable adult, according to an opinion it handed down last week. Raymond Martin Brown was convicted in June 2018 for third-degree (no intrusion) sexual assault of a 30-year-old woman with [Down syndrome](#) in the parking lot of a bar in east Casper in July 2017. – K2Radio – (No Date Given) – (Wyoming) <https://is.gd/dTZmkz>

## **GUARDIANSHIP**

34. “Guardian Rebecca Fierle’s \$4 Million Relationship with Adventhealth Unheard of, Experts Say” - Stryker’s death months later at a Tampa hospital lead to allegations that Fierle routinely abused “[do not resuscitate](#)” orders, sparking a scandal that has embroiled the state’s guardianship system. But he was just one of hundreds of patients at Central Florida hospitals and assisted living facilities who came under the former Orlando guardian’s care. AdventHealth has since acknowledged paying Fierle [nearly \\$4 million](#) over a decade to provide services for 682 of its patients. – Orlando Sentinel – October 16, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/m6V5il>
  
35. “Her Case Opened the Way for People with Disabilities to Reclaim Their Freedom. Now, Her Words Open a Book that Could Help Countless More” - Six years ago, her Virginia court case opened the way for others with disabilities to fight for their independence. Hatch challenged a guardianship request by her parents that would have allowed them to keep her in a group home, and away from the friends she wanted to live with and the job she wanted to hold. Her attorneys argued at the time that she didn’t need someone to make every decision for her. She simply needed support making decisions. – The Washington Post – October 12, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/b4r9Oj>
  
36. “Medical Guardianship Versus Power of Attorney” - A guardianship also is different because there is a different record-keeping requirement. Although a power of attorney agent is required to keep careful records of his or her activities on your behalf, those records usually are not reported to anyone other than to the grantor of the power, and only upon their request. A guardian, on the other hand, as a court-appointed representative, is responsible for reporting to the court for action taken as guardian. - The News – Enterprise – October 13, 2019 - Kentucky - <https://is.gd/QLDwU3>

## **LAWS & LEGISLATION**

37. “ILLINOIS STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 85: Connor-Backed Legislation Combatting Elder Abuse and Neglect Now Law” - Connor supported House Bill 3065, which requires state agencies investigating reports of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of senior citizens to interview family members, friends, neighbors and anyone else who may have direct knowledge of the situation. Face-to-face interviews will ensure thorough inquiries into every report and help eliminate lax examinations that leave elders in abusive situations. The legislation was passed with strong bipartisan support and is now law. – Will County Gazette – October 12, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/EMOVkS>

38. “Massachusetts Senate Passes Bill to Create Registry of Caregivers Who Abuse People with Disabilities” - On Thursday, the Massachusetts Senate unanimously passed a bill, [S.2367](#), that would create a registry of care providers who have had an allegation of abuse of a person with an intellectual or developmental disability substantiated against them. Abuse is defined as an act that results in serious emotional or physical injury. – Mass Live – October 17, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/JWF0xt>
39. “New Bill Would Require NYC to Report Number of Special Education Students Who Need Translated Documents” - A Brooklyn city council member has introduced a new bill that would require the city Department of Education to report the number of families who ask for special education documents to be translated into their native language — and how many actually receive them, the Daily News has learned. – Daily News – October 17, 2019- (New York) - <https://is.gd/z5sbCt>
40. “‘Abuse’: Ohio Appeals Court Blocks Bill Preventing Abortion of Down Syndrome Babies” - The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati upheld a preliminary injunction on the matter, noting that the legislation was invalid under Supreme Court precedents because of its express purpose to prevent women from obtaining pre-viability abortions. – Faith Wire – October 15, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/EFlf5k>

## **STUDIES & STATISTICS**

41. “Report Reveals Abuse Cases Within NDIS” - The independent body set up to ensure the quality of the National Disability Insurance Scheme revealed it had received almost four complaints a day in its first year of operations - a total of 1422 complaints over the year. Nine per cent of the complaints related to abuse or alleged assault while the bulk related to service provider advice or policy and procedures. – 9 News – October 17, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/PXL3Rr>
42. “Report Shows Allegations of Institutional Abuse of Vulnerable Adults Up” - There was a five-fold increase last year in the number of allegations to the Health Service Executive of institutional abuse of vulnerable adults, according to the service's National Safeguarding Office. The office also says that in 2018 it received almost 12,000 safeguarding concerns relating to vulnerable adults in institutions, the community and services, representing a 14% increase year-on-year. Today's annual report from the HSE's Safeguarding Office is the third since the implementation of the service's "No

Tolerance" Adult Safeguarding Policy. – RTE- October 16, 2019 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/0D8Zsl>

43. “The Number of Flint's Students with Special Needs has Increased by 56% Since the Water Crisis, According to Report” - As the new school year starts, Flint's public schools face a daunting challenge. According to [a new report](#) published by Education Week on Monday, this year at least 1 in 5 students in Flint's public schools are eligible for special education. That's a 56 percent increase from the year before the Flint water crisis started, which poisoned thousands of people with lead. The increase saw a rise from 13.1 percent in 2012-13 to 20.5 percent last school year, and the rise is putting a strain on Flint's school system resources. – Metro Times – August 28, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/E0lrpG>

## **IMPROVED SUPPORTS**

44. “Denver Looks to Take Cops Out of Mental Health-Related 911 Rescues” - Denver is one of at least eight cities considering an Oregon program called Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets to decriminalize and improve the treatment of people with severe mental illness — while saving the city money. The 30-year-old CAHOOTS program diverts nonviolent, often mental health-related 911 calls to a medic and a mental health professional instead of law enforcement. – MSN – October 11, 2019 – (Colorado)- <https://is.gd/tRGwbM>
45. “New Asperger/Autism Network Program Provides Training Therapists Need to Work with Neurodiverse Couples” - For neurodiverse couples—couples in which one or both partners have an Asperger profile—it is critical, and often difficult to locate therapists who understand their complex issues. In 2017, the Asperger/Autism Network (AANE) conducted an online survey of 500 neurodiverse couples and found: "Working with traditional therapists was harmful for us because they treated our situation like we just needed to work a little harder, when there was this giant problem to deal with that no one had any idea about, that we are in a neurodiverse relationship. They treated my husband like he would actually do the things they said. And when he nodded in agreement they assumed he understood. The Asperger specialist knew better to ask confirming questions about his understanding." — A Spouse in a Neurodiverse Relationship – Cision – October 15, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/vJ2J8G>

46. “Harvard Receives \$20 Million Gift to Fund Autism Research Center” - Harvard Medical School received a \$20 million donation from philanthropists Hock E. Tan and K. Lisa Yang to create a Center for Autism Research, which will study the biological factors behind autism, the University announced Thursday. Michael E. Greenberg — chair of the neurobiology department at the Medical School — will be the faculty leader of the new center, which is named after Tan and Yang. The Center will be a part of the Harvard Brain Science Initiative, which seeks to “unite and inspire” brain scientists across the University, according to its website. – The Harvard Crimson – October 15, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/EizhxD>
47. “MDHHS Aiding Local Efforts to Prevent Elder, Vulnerable Adult Abuse with Nearly \$1M in Grants” - The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Aging & Adult Services Agency has awarded nearly \$1 million in state dollars to 12 organizations to address elder abuse and increase reporting of the crime in communities across the state. Funding was available to applicants through the agency’s Prevent Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse, Exploitation, Neglect Today (PREVNT) initiative, which seeks to implement local tools and programs to prevent, detect, and address abuse, neglect and exploitation against vulnerable and older adults. – Upper Michigan’s Source – TV 6 – October 15, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/i93DCs>
48. “What Started with One Interpreter has Grown into a Church for the Deaf and Hearing” - Deaf congregants at Chosen Generation Ministries in Newark use sign language during worship. The church has the largest number of deaf congregants in the city. Except for the pastor, hardly anyone at [Chosen Generation Ministries](#) in Newark knew about Tyson Halley’s gift. Halley, who is hard of hearing, has been signing since he was two years old, a skill he’s mastered after recovering from a devastating diagnosis. Doctors told his family that spinal meningitis would not allow their toddler to walk, talk or hear. – NJ.COM – October 13, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/uvoiyK>
49. “University of Texas Health Leads Effort to Investigate Financial Exploitation of Seniors” - An elder abuse team at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston is partnering with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, district attorneys, law enforcement agencies, and forensic accounting professionals to make it easier to identify and prosecute individuals who prey on senior citizens to exploit them financially. The UTHealth Texas Elder Abuse and Mistreatment Institute is the academic coordinator leading the effort to enhance Texas Adult Protective Services’ (APS)

financial exploitation investigations and client services. – High Plain Journal – October 15, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/dvNd4z>

## **INTERNATIONAL**

50. “Calls to Ban Aged Care Chemical Restraints” - Human Rights Watch is calling on the federal government to ban the use of chemical restraints on older Australians with dementia. In HRW's report released on Wednesday, families of aged care residents describe the horrible side effects suffered by their loved ones with dementia placed on chemical restraints. These symptoms include sleeping excessively, not communicating and showing signs of significant weight loss and dehydration from being unable to swallow. – 7 News – October 15, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/0hmpwD>
  
51. “Neglect Concerns After Woman, 70, Died Unexpectedly at Home” - A review into the care given to a 70-year-old who died unexpectedly at home was launched after both police and paramedics expressed concerns that she may have been neglected, an inquest heard Elsie May Pearson, of Barnes Street, Church, Accrington, died on Monday, July 30, 2018, shortly after a visit by a carer. He said: “I had concerns when examining her as there was a large pressure sore on her lower back which did not seem to have been dressed.” The inquest heard from Detective Inspector Rachel Higson, who led a police investigation into the death. She said: “I had concerns because the room had been left with the ground floor window open. “I examined the wound on her lower back, it was significant. “I looked at the latest entry from the carer who had visited, it was illegible, I couldn’t read it.” – LancsLive – October 13, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/SypYoJ>
  
52. “Article 15 of Indian Constitution Needs Amendment: UN Committee Experts” - The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has published its findings on India which it adopted during the 22nd Session of the Working Group of the Committee in September 2019. The recommendations of the Committee include that all laws must be amended to align them with UN-CRPD (Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities) – this includes amending Article 15 of the Indian Constitution to specifically mention disability as a ground of discrimination. – The Policy Times – October 15, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/2m3GMs>

53. “Muckamore Abbey: First Arrest Made in Connection with Hospital Abuse” - A 30-year-old man was arrested by officers in Antrim on Monday morning. He is the first person to be arrested since the allegations about the hospital emerged. In recent months the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has been investigating thousands of incidents after [allegations were made about the physical and mental abuse of patients](#). – BBC News – October 14, 2019 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/knIV1j>
54. “Police seize disabled activists’ wheelchairs’ ahead of Extinction Rebellion protests” - Many disabled people have been stopped from taking part in the Extinction Rebellion protests after Met Police allegedly impounded ‘crucial’ equipment including wheelchairs and ramps. The Extinction Rebellion Disabled Rebels group claim items including wheelchairs, ramps, accessible compost toilets, heated gilets, weighted blankets and noise cancelling headphones were confiscated last Saturday. One member said the alleged actions of the police could have ‘huge implications’ for disabled protesters’ well-being and dignity. – Metro – October 12, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/XKNUxh>
55. “Sandown Woman Who Attacked Wheelchair-Bound Husband Given Suspended Sentenced” - A woman who [beat her disabled husband](#) in a sustained attack after tipping him out of his wheelchair has been sentenced. Judge Joanna Martin said she accepted Claire Browne's actions were drunken and spontaneous attack and she accepted her remorse. Browne, 36, was given a 12-month custodial sentence, suspended for 18 months, at the Isle of Wight Crown Court on Friday. – County Press – October 14, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/H4ITIN>
56. “UK Court Authorizes Forced Abortion for Disabled Woman in New Case” - A court in the United Kingdom ruled last week that it is in the best interest of a pregnant woman with severe learning disabilities that she undergo an abortion. A British court made the same decision in a similar case earlier this year, though that decision was overturned after it was issued. – Catholic News Agency – October 14, 2019 –(United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/6HDVjt>

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

57. “Eugenics: The Scientific Scandal That Helped Hitler Murder 300,000 Disabled People” - Eugenics is a concept often associated with the horrors of Nazi Germany. But, as

disability rights activist Adam Pearson explores in a new documentary series, the ideology had its roots in 19th century Britain—and still affects people alive today. Known as the "[father of eugenics](#)," British Victorian scientist and statistician Sir Francis Galton developed the since debunked theory that individuals deemed "superior" according to factors such as their race or class could be socially engineered. Those regarded as biologically inferior and "feeble-minded" should, meanwhile, be prevented from having children, he argued. – Newsweek – October 15, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/ycfu64>

58. "The Way We Talk About Disabilities is Evolving. Is it Evolving Fast Enough?" - One of the standout essays in [About Us](#), a collection of essays about disabilities, first published in the New York Times, is starkly titled "[The Nazis' First Victims Were the Disabled.](#)" Many of the killing methods used in the Holocaust were first tested on about 300,000 people with disabilities as part of Nazi Germany's "Aktion T4" project. People with disabilities were depicted as "[useless eaters](#)" whose lives were "unworthy of living" in propaganda like the 1941 film *Ich Klage An* (I Accuse), about a doctor who kills ("redeems") his wife after she's diagnosed with a debilitating disease. – Mother Jones – October 18, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/dVH1HW>