

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of November 2 to November 8, 2019

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Articles are listed in alphabetical order by state within each category, so you can easily scan through the articles for those within your state or other states in which you have an interest. *International* articles are near the end. The categories are: *Abuse and Neglect*, *Guardianship*, *Laws & Legislation*, *Studies & Statistics*, *Improved Supports*, *International*, and *Miscellaneous*.

Check the categories below for a guide to types of abuse. The categories are indicated by type, and the number of the article.

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

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

Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 2, 5, 6, 8, 12, 15, 20, 24, 27, 28

Physical Abuse: 3, 10, 25, 26, 29, 30

Emotional / Verbal Abuse: 23, 25, 45

Financial abuse: 7

Forced labor: 21

Murder: 13, 16, 19, 22

Neglected: 9, 11, 23, 50, 51

Related to special education: 10 (teacher), 29 (TA), 25 (driver), 29, 48

WINNER of most egregious award: 21: forced labor

WINNER of “good job” award: 43: Chicago State’s attorney’s office provides first comfort dog for sexual assault victims with I/DD

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number) (Note: Many articles do not identify relationship of victim to perpetrator)

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Caregiver: 5, 26, 50

Authorized Driver: 8

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Special education teacher: 29

Law Enforcement: 16

Home health aide: 15

LOCATION:

Nursing Home: 2, 9, 23, 50

Acute Care Hospital:

Group home: 11, 13, 30

School for the Deaf: 24

Men: 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Women: 7, 10, 11, 19, 22, 51

Teams: 11, 23

Good News: 40: Report urges PA to protect vulnerable juveniles; 44: Grant will increase number of special education teachers for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

Bad News: 1: Delays in investigation of complaints of abuse and neglect at nursing homes; 2: stranger assaulted patient at nursing home; 4: UBH denies child health services; 5: Employee fired worker for verbal abuse but not sexual abuse; 14: jail population increase found due to inadequate mental health treatment options; 17: Diocese threatens bankruptcy for abuse findings of liability; 39: rate of elder homeless expected to triple in ten years; 41: Special education in TX: when denied undergraduate education, young adults do not graduate or go to college.

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. "Legislators Decry Delays Investigating Nursing Home Complaints in Arizona" - Sens. Rebecca Rios, D-Phoenix, Victoria Steele, D-Tucson, and Tony Navarrete, D-Phoenix, all voted "no," explaining they first wanted to get satisfactory answers about why the [state is not following up on complaints and reports about violations at nursing homes](#) in a timely manner. "The reason I'm voting 'no' today isn't because I don't believe in the work the department is doing. It really is about making sure that we are holding the agency accountable and that we are being accountable to our constituents," Navarrete said. – AZ Central – November 8, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/dZRS7p>
2. "DNA Match Leads to Arrest in Sexual Assault at Nursing Home" - A DNA match led San Diego police to arrest a man accused of sexually assaulting an elderly resident of a nursing home in Hillcrest. Lusean Arline, 48, was arrested Monday by San Diego Police Department detectives after a DNA sample collected from the scene of the assault matched that of Arline. The alleged assault took place Oct. 27. Arline entered the nursing home illegally and went into the 88-year-old victim's room and sexually assaulted her while other patients were in the room, SDPD said. – 7 San Diego – November 5, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/O8O8eC>
3. "60-Year-Old Woman Attacked, Left for Dead Near Riverside Park Walking Trail" - Susan Wagner, 60, stepped outside her home Friday night, possibly to see the moon and the city lights sparkling from the top of the street her family has lived on for decades, when

she was attacked by an unknown person and left for dead near a walking trail at Doty Trust Park where a neighbor found her. My mom does have mental health issues," he said. "So, she could have been yelling at someone or something." But, Chase said, his mother, who is physically disabled, is harmless and would have been defenseless during the attack. – CBS Los Angeles – November 4, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/dEBrsa>

4. "Zuckerman Spaeder Files Suit Against United Behavioral Health for Wrongfully Denying Autistic Child Standard Behavioral Therapy" - Courts have already recognized that excluding coverage for ABA therapy is a Parity Act violation. One example is A.F. ex rel Legaard v. Providence Health Plan, where after the court certified a class of beneficiaries whose claims for ABA therapy were denied based on a plan exclusion, it granted plaintiff and the class summary judgment under the Parity Act. The court stated that, "By stating that it covers autism (a developmental disability), but excluding coverage for all services 'related to a developmental disability,' Providence is not covering treatment for mental health conditions in parity with treatment for medical conditions." –CISION – PR Newswire- November 7, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/OjGZ1T>
5. "North Haven Man Accused of Sexual Assault of Intellectually Disabled Person" - A North Haven man is accused of sexually assaulting an intellectually disabled person he had been hired to care for, according to Branford police. Leonard Campion, 71, was arrested on a warrant Nov. 4 and charged with first-degree sexual assault and second-degree sexual assault, Deputy Chief Jonathan Alves said in a release. "The related charges stem from a lengthy investigation into the alleged sexual contact Campion had with an individual suffering from an intellectual disability that Campion was employed to manage," Alves said in the release. – New Haven Register – November 8, 2019 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/qbOuRX>
6. "Lawsuit Contends IFB Solutions Covered Up Allegations of Sexual Abuse by an Employee" - Officials at IFB Solutions didn't fire a former employee over allegations of sexual abuse of a 17-year-old boy with Down Syndrome; they fired him because the employee said inappropriate things to the boy, an attorney for the Winston-Salem agency told a Forsyth County judge on Friday. – Winston Salem Journal – November 1, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/V8YvsA>

7. "C.A.V.E. Task Force Looking for Woman Accused of Elderly Abuse" - Martha Headley is wanted for exploitation of an elder and disabled adult. The incident also involves large cash transactions. Warrants are on file at the Richmond County Sheriff's Office, but Headley is believed to be in Waynesboro area. Authorities say if you see Headley, do not approach her, just contact police. – WJBF – November 1, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/l5cQna>
8. "Man Who Raped Disabled Teen Sentenced to Prison" - Michael Albert Carter, 30, will spend at least the next five years in prison, with a maximum sentence of up to 20 years for sexual battery of a child 16 to 17 years of age. A concurrent sentence was handed down for five to 10 years in prison for possession of sexually exploitative material. A second case against Carter for sexual abuse of another teenage girl was dismissed as part of a plea agreement. Carter was a driver for En Route Transportation, an Idaho Falls company that transports patients to nonemergency medical appointments. He was supposed to transport the victim to her physical therapy. According to the victim, however, Carter had sex with her in the van provided by the company four times in August 2018. – Post Register – November 6, 2019 – (Idaho) - <https://is.gd/ylO3jw>
9. "Family of Bolingbrook Man Who Died at Nursing Home Files Suit" - Jaime Hernandez, 66, was recovering from a kidney transplant at Aperion Care Forest Park nursing home in Forest Park. In the afternoon of Oct. 25, Hernandez was found dead in a bathroom after bleeding out, according to law firm Levin & Perconti. According to the family, staff at the nursing home failed to regularly check in on Hernandez, with staff knowing that the man was at risk of blood loss in his left forearm due to a "circulatory condition," the law firm said in a state. Police determined the employee who stole the phone was a man with warrants out of Iowa for theft and dependent adult abuse, among other charges, according to Battersby Black. – Patch – November 4, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/qKTU5w>
10. "Opelousas Teacher Accused of Cruelty to Special-Needs Students" - 54-year-old Janice Henry of Opelousas was arrested Friday after an investigation by the Opelousas Police Department. The arrest was a result of an investigation of an incident that occurred at Opelousas Middle school on November 5, 2019. Police say two special-needs children were in Henry's classroom playing with rubber bands. She allegedly put the rubber bands on the students arms and starting popping the children six or more times leaving marks and welts. – KATC – November 8, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/FzS0MZ>

11. “3 More Arrested, Accused of Abuse at East Las Vegas Group Home” - Three more people were arrested in connection with an [unlicensed group home](#) in the east valley that authorities first raided in September, police said Thursday. [Mary Jefferson](#), 56, Calvin Leslie, 55, and Devon Floyd, 38, were arrested on “multiple felonies involving elderly abuse,” police said. Leslie was arrested Oct. 22, and Jefferson and Floyd were arrested Wednesday. Leslie was released from custody after posting \$10,000 bail Oct. 25, court records show. He was placed on low-level electronic monitoring. The other two were being held at the Clark County Detention Center. Conditions described during the raid included a restroom without a working toilet, no air conditioning on the first floor, overcrowded rooms and what looked like urine spilled next to a bed where someone “seemed to have urinated in a plastic bottle,” the report said. – Las Vegas Review – Journal – November 7, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/1CZPZK>

12. “Man Charged with Rape after Hospital Finds Out 14-Year-Old Disabled Girl is Pregnant” - Medical staff at Community Memorial Hospital in Hamilton said the teen came in complaining of a sore throat and flu-like symptoms. After a physical exam and interview, the staff determined she was pregnant. Glynn W. Collins, 44, is charged with two counts of second-degree rape, two counts of second-degree criminal sex act, second-degree sex abuse and endangering the welfare of a child. Police have not yet identified the relationship between Collins and the girl. Collins was arraigned in the town of Stockbridge Court and remanded to the Madison County Correctional facility on \$5,000 dollars bail. – WKTV 2 – November 6, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/WIMEjZ>

13. “Group Home Worker Charged with Murder after Resident’s Death” - An Arc of Steuben worker has been charged with murder in the death of a group home resident. According to WETM, police were called to the home in Hornell just after 7:30 a.m. Monday. They found the victim, 60-year-old Jay Sprague, dead in an upstairs bedroom. Police say he had a “neck injury.” Investigators arrested 65-year-old Alan Schultheis, a caretaker at the home, following an interview. He is also charged with tampering with evidence.- Daily Messenger – November 5, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/Q7OAUy>

14. “I-Team: Lack of Public Mental Health Treatment Options Increasing Jail Populations” - With limited public treatment options for those living with a mental illness, some people are attempting to self-medicate, which can lead to criminal charges. News Center 7’s I-Team found hardly any public treatment options available, leading to crisis-level numbers in the Montgomery County Jail. “We have a lot of people in jail that don’t need to be there,” said Judge Roberts. “It’s mental health, drug abuse and crime. That

dual diagnosis just exacerbates the problem.” – WHIO 7 – November 5, 2019 – (Ohio)
<https://is.gd/adaqdk>

15. “Home Health Aide Pleads Not Guilty to Raping Client” - A former home health aide pleaded not guilty to four counts of rape and three counts of sexual battery in a Hamilton County courtroom Friday. Joseph Stanford is accused of sexually assaulting a developmentally disabled man. Stanford is accused of raping the 28-year-old man from August 2018 and July 2019. The man operates at the level of a 10 to 12-year-old, according to the assistant prosecutor. – Local 12 – November 8, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/SBnukE>

16. “Oklahoma Officer Who Shot an Unarmed, Suicidal Man Soaked in Lighter Fluid is Convicted of Murder” - Pigeon had struggled with substance abuse and mental illness for years, his family said. A Native American of Muscogee (Creek) descent, he had bipolar disorder, abused alcohol and had spent time in mental health facilities for anxiety and depression, Tesina Pigeon Halbert, his sister, told the Oklahoman. When Pigeon called 911 before 2:30 a.m., he told dispatchers he intended to kill himself without specifying how, said Oklahoma County District Attorney David Prater. Suddenly, a third officer, Sgt. Keith Sweeney, ran into the yard, his voice booming. "Drop it!" Sweeney screamed. "I will f-----g shoot you!" Seconds later, that's exactly what Sweeney did, firing five times and killing Pigeon. – Anchorage Daily News – November 5, 2019 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/oM733N>

17. “Pittsburgh Diocese lawyer hints at bankruptcy during court hearing over trust fund” - “This is for the benefit of children,” he said. “They’ve run that way for 41 years with no opposition until they had bills to pay.” Using such a fund to pay liabilities would be “self-dealing at its finest,” he argued. The hearing amounted to something of a legal rematch between two of the major entities involved in a 2018 grand jury report into sexual abuse by Catholic priests in Pittsburgh’s, Allentown’s and four other dioceses. – The Morning Call – November 2, 2019 – (Pennsylvania)- <https://is.gd/t9yd1G>

18. “Former Berks County Nursing Home Employee Charged with Abusing Corpses, Police Say” - A Reading woman is charged with taking and disseminating photos of residents who had died at the Berks County nursing home where she worked, saying one picture of a corpse with a bloody discharge “looked cool,” according to police. Stephanie Thomas, 28, is charged with abusing corpses. Thomas is awaiting arraignment and was

free as of Wednesday. Thomas photographed the corpses April 22, May 22 and July 29, police said. She sent the photos to three people, one of whom contacted the nursing home which in turn contacted police Sept. 25, police said. – The Morning Call – November 6, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/3nu2nJ>

19. “Greensburg Woman Convicted in Torture Death to Get Another Psych Evaluation” - ANGELA Marinucci, now 27, was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Twice, Pennsylvania appeals courts overturned that sentence, saying juveniles cannot be sentenced to life without parole unless a judge determines they are unable to be rehabilitated. Marinucci was 17 at the time of her arrest. -Tribune Live – November 8, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/3p9bFN>

20. “Expert Testifies on Ability to Consent in Rape Trial” - Bruce D. Stuart, 60, of 316 Ridge Top Road, in Eldred Township, is facing 32 felonies and 28 misdemeanor charges related to the alleged rape, sexual and indecent assault, and involuntary deviate sexual intercourse of a mentally disabled woman between January 2009 and July 2018. He was arrested in early February, but was released on Feb. 21 when his \$100,000 bail was allowed to remain unsecured. Though tests administered by Scotilla indicate an IQ of 40, “I disqualified the answers because she discontinued her engagement ... she stopped responding” and became frustrated with the test, he said. – Williamsport Sun Gazette – November 8, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/burOnL>

21. “SC Man Sentenced to 10 Years after He Abused and Forced Disabled Man to Work” - A South Carolina man was sentenced to 10 years in prison and ordered to pay \$272,952.96 in restitution after he forced a disabled man to work at a restaurant he managed. Bobby Paul Edwards, 54, of Conway, South Carolina, was sentenced to 10 years in prison and ordered to pay \$272,952.96 in restitution. The defendant pleaded guilty on June 4, 2018, to one count of forced labor for coercing an African-American man with an intellectual disability to work extensive hours at a restaurant for no pay. “It is almost inconceivable that instances of forced labor endure in this country to this day – a century and a half after the Emancipation Proclamation,” said Assistant Attorney General Eric Dreiband of the Civil Rights Division. “The Department of Justice will continue to investigate, prosecute, and convict human traffickers involved in forced labor, seeking justice on behalf of their victims.” – WLTX 19 – November 6, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/fzvkhf>

22. “Woman Charged with Murder after Father’s Remains Found in Savannah Home” - A Hardin County woman is in custody after court documents say her father’s remains were found inside a Savannah home in October. A neighbor says he called animal control in October after noticing that no one was taking care of the dogs at the home. “She was gone for three weeks and left the dogs here. I just couldn’t see the dogs going that long without eating. I had animal control come out here, and it escalated,” neighbor Brian Benson said. Court documents say investigators found a skull and femur in the home, believed to be the remains of Jack Peace. – WBBJ TV – November 5, 2019 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/8QsIfU>
23. “Allegations of Abuse and Neglect at 5 San Antonio Nursing Homes” - [The Express-News reports](#) the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services flagged River City Care Center, Retama Manor Nursing Center-San Antonio West, San Pedro Manor, Southeast Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, and Senior Care of Windcrest. The five nursing homes were cited for several problems, including neglect of medical needs; and physical, verbal, or sexual abuse. – Texas Public Radio – November 4, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/5UUSVm>
24. “Judge Put Ex-Teacher's Aide of Deaf Students on Supervised Release after Abuse Allegations” - An audio recording, obtained Wednesday by 2News, confirms a judge put 29-year-old Tyler Jex on supervised release despite prosecutors arguing he is a danger to the public. The former Massieu School of the Deaf teacher’s aide is in a separate case, he is accused of attempting to solicit sex from a teenage female. In the recording of the Oct. 24th initial appearance, prosecutors express specific concern for one victim's safety because they argue, he approached her twice this year. – KUTV 2 – November 1, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/AsAEx3>
25. “Disability Law Center Files Lawsuits Against Alpine School District on Behalf of Disabled Students Who Suffered Alleged Abuse” - The first suit, Turner v. Alpine Sch. Dist., Utah State Board of Education, et al., alleges a 16-year-old blind student with autism who attends Horizon School was “brutally assaulted” by a school bus driver multiple times over the course of several days. According to the lawsuit, the student endured blows to the head, slaps to the face and hands, painful twisting of her arms and fingers, and verbal taunts from the bus driver as he carried out the physical abuse. The lawsuit alleges multiple district aides witnessed these incidents and failed to intervene, and also failed to report what they saw to district administrators, law enforcement or the child’s parents. – Herald Extra – November 7, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/WuXqSg>

26. "Orleans County Man Allegedly Beat Disabled Adult in His Custody" - Raymond Gadreault, 71, was arrested Wednesday on charges of aggravated domestic assault, abuse of a vulnerable person and cruelty to a person in his custody. He appeared in court Thursday and was being held in Northern State Correctional Facility in Newport on \$75,000 bail. There, the man in Gadreault's custody, who is in his 40s, said Gadreault had burned his hands and feet with a cigarette, punched him in the groin and eye, thrown him into deep water and deprived him of sleep, according to police records. – VT Digger – November 8, 2019 – (Vermont) - <https://is.gd/eUjwKs>
27. "Ferndale Man Accused of Sex Crimes Against Vulnerable Adults Loses Health License" - A [Ferndale man accused of sexually assaulting more than a dozen elderly men and women](#) who were patients at a Skagit County rehabilitation center where he worked has had his health credentials revoked, according to a Washington State Department of Health press release. In October, the secretary of health revoked Willie Orlando Lawton III's certified nursing assistant credential because of allegations of sexually abusing vulnerable adults, the DOH release states. – The Bellingham Herald – November 1, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/znFKnl>
28. "Kearney Man Charged with Sexual Assault and Abuse of Disabled Woman" - Jeremy S. Mashak, 36, is charged in Buffalo County Court with first-degree sexual assault and abuse of a vulnerable adult, both felonies, on Jan. 27 in Kearney. The charge alleges penetration. – Kearney Hub – November 2, 2019 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/RhK9ps>
29. "Mom Says School District Brushed Off Her Warnings about a Teacher, then Another Student Got Hurt" - When Wauwatosa School District substitute teacher Glen Fink was [accused](#) of putting a student with a disability in a choke hold in June 2019, parents and students said they were shocked. Kim Storey was not one of them. "This is one of those times where I'm sorry I was right," Storey said. – Fox 6 Now – November 3, 2019 – (Wisconsin) - <https://fox6now.com/2019/11/03/1263036/>

30. “Group Home Worker Accused of Burning Patient” - Lawrence Pierce, a worker at Winning Ways in-home care facility, has been charged with abuse, accused of burning a patient with a cigarette lighter. Police said Pierce, 23, is the son of the owner, and there is a warrant out for his arrest. Winning Ways is a licensed adult group home in Milwaukee for people with physical and mental disabilities. – WISN 12 – November 8, 2019 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/lnx253>

GUARDIANSHIP

Two perspectives on same bill:

31. “Commentary: How Conservatorship Helps Vulnerable Homeless Individuals” - These parents, with so few good options available to them to help their adult son or daughter suffering from serious mental illness, make a compelling case for expanding conservatorship laws. To be sure, anytime we contemplate modifying or creating laws that have the potential to deprive an individual of liberty, great care must be taken to ensure due process and to protect the individual. The pilot program established in the Welfare and Institutions Code extending conservatorships to individuals who are unable to care for themselves due to a serious mental illness, and who are detained for evaluation and treatment several times over the course of a year, is a step in the right direction. – The San Diego Union – Tribune – November 1, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/QsuZLU>

32. “Commentary: Why Conservatorship Won’t Help with San Diego Homelessness Crisis” - Unfortunately, Senate Bill 40 is simply not viable. It’s estimated the bill will only “assist” 50-100 people, in three pilot counties: Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco. It doesn’t provide supportive housing, nor services, beyond the six-month conservatorship — it only states options for them shall be “identified,” so the few San Diegans potentially forced into conservatorships risk becoming homeless afterwards, due to our severe lack of supportive and affordable housing. – The San Diego Union – Tribune – November 1, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/HteFvw>

33. Guardianship Advocates Host Town Hall, Addressing Grievances, Steps Forward” - Now, a growing number of people are coming forward about the issues they’ve experienced with Florida’s guardianship programs. Many came together in Orlando Monday for a town hall conducted by [Americans Against Ab, Illlusive Probate Guardianship](https://is.gd/fajOh5). The town hall was an opportunity for those to share their stories about the guardianship program and try to come up with ways to improve it. – Spectrum News – November 5, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/fajOh5>
34. “Woman at Center of Macomb County Guardianship Case Passes Away” - The family of Barbara Delbridge report the 71-year-old passed away Sunday. Delbridge, and her husband Robert Mitchell, were placed under guardianship last November with the company Caring Hearts Michigan Inc., against the wishes of family members who had priority under the law. In May, family members said they were prevented from seeing Barb and Bob after Caring Hearts installed a six-foot tall privacy fence around their Utica home. The 7 Investigators exposed how Caring Hearts Michigan hired a company called Executive Care and brought in multiple caregivers to stay in Barb and Bob’s home 24 hours a day. Both companies were owned by Catherine Kirk, who as guardian and conservator, billed Barb and Bob’s estate that’s worth about \$2.7 million for all that care. – WXYZ Detroit – November 4, 2019 – (Michigan) – <https://is.gd/vEDW71>
35. “County Court System teams up with VA for First-in-Nation Guardianship Program” - The partnership between Lebanon VAMC and the Lebanon County Court Administrator creates a process to improve guardianship for certain veterans, and it’s the first of its kind in the country. Guardianship is a process used when an individual is determined to be unable to care for themselves or their property. Generally, a veteran’s family or friends will step forward to become the veteran’s guardian. However, according to Sarah Primak, a licensed clinical social worker at the VAMC, there are several cases each year when a veteran has no family options. When that happens, the VAMC must go through the court system to have a guardian appointed. – Leb Town – November 6, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/8FLhbm>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

36. “Comerford Files Bill to Study ‘Real Life Costs’ of Spec. Ed.” - The bill calls for a study by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the real-life costs of special education. Right now, the state does not fully fund special education in all school districts. The state assumes that 15 percent of a school district’s students are special education students, and that each of those students take about one-fourth of a teacher’s time to be educated. State money is allocated to school districts according to this assumption. – Greenfield Recorder – November 1, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/qS2w0X>
37. “Law to Benefit Vulnerable and Elderly Adults” - A change to Tennessee law, effective Jan. 1, will make it a crime for vulnerable and elderly adults to be exposed to sexual conduct and pornography. The change in the law will make it easier for Vulnerable Adult Protective Investigative Teams, or VAPITs, across the state to prosecute sexual exploitation cases, Sullivan County District Attorney General Barry Staubus said. The teams coordinate investigations of vulnerable adult abuse, neglect and exploitation cases. – Herald Courier – November 2, 2019 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/CRKwoX>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

38. “Tweaking Prescribing Rules Won't Fix Chemical Restraint in Aged Care” - The Royal Commission into Aged Care and Safety wasn't supposed to make any recommendations in its interim report. Yet it identified [three key areas](#) where immediate action should be taken. Responding to the over-reliance on chemical restraint was one. The second and third focused on providing more [home care](#) and reducing the number of younger people in [aged care](#) homes . – Medical Xpress – November 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/545RZL>

39. “Homelessness Among the Elderly Expected to Triple in 10 Years” - The number of [elderly individuals experiencing homelessness](#) is rising. In the Annual Homeless Assessment Report, released by HUD, the number of [elderly individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness nearly doubled](#) from 4.1 percent in 2007 to 8 percent in 2017. It’s not slowing down, either. This population is [expected to triple](#) over the next decade. A [new study out of UCSF](#) showed that almost half of all elderly homeless people became homeless after age 50. These statistics tells us that whatever the problem is, it’s related to age. The question we need to ask ourselves is, why are the elderly falling through the cracks? – Invisible People – November 2019 - (California) - <https://is.gd/msjdsK>
40. “Report Urges Pennsylvania to Protect Its 'Most Vulnerable' -- Young People” - Pennsylvania should make comprehensive changes to its juvenile justice programs and the agencies overseeing them to ensure the safety of children ordered to these state-licensed facilities, a council formed by Gov. Tom Wolf said Friday. The Council on Reform recommended that state officials improve training for everyone from juvenile judges to residential program staff; hold adults who fail to report abuse accountable in court; and improve the rigor of child-abuse investigations, among other suggestions in its 11-page report to the governor. – Post Gazette – November 2, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/tWbkqg>
41. “Texas Ended its Special Education Cap in 2017, But the Policy has had Long-Lasting Effects” - Even so, the cap is still having an effect. [A new study](#) from researchers at the University of California, Davis and Cornell University found that students denied access to special education were significantly less likely to graduate from high school and also less likely to enroll in college. [Briana Ballis](#) is a co-author of the study, and says the policy had long-lasting effects, especially on students with more mild impairments like attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, known as ADHD. – Texas Standard – November 5, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/w47sQP>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

42. “DeKalb Uses Job Sharing to Help Fix Special Education Teacher Shortage” - The district says the teacher shortage is part of the problem. DeKalb Superintendent Stephen Green says the district is working to solve the issue by trying something different. “We’re bringing back retired teachers who can only work half a day, but we put the two together and they do a job share, and they share the classroom,” Green said. “One likes to get up early in the morning, the other one likes to get up later. So, combined, we’re actually able to provide a certified teacher for our students, and that’s actually helped us reduce the [vacancies] quite a bit.” – WABE – November 5, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/jhQDak>
43. “Illinois State’s Attorney’s Office Hires 1st Comfort Dog for Children who are Sexually Assaulted” - Coming forward to report a sexual assault can be painful and emotionally exhausting. For children and people with developmental disabilities, retelling their stories can be especially confusing. That’s why the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office in Chicago hired its first comfort dog, a black Labrador retriever named Hatty. – Fox 6 Now – November 2, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/prhJFU>
44. “University of Nebraska Receives \$1M Grant to Fund Special Education – will Increase Amount of Special Ed. Teachers” - There is a critical shortage of services for the deaf and hard of hearing in the Midwest, according to professors at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A \$1 million grant from the US Department of Education aims to not only train professionals in special education for the deaf and hard of hearing, but also require them to stay and serve in the Midwest. The \$1 million will fund 30 students, 15 from the speech pathology program and 15 from the deaf education program. It will fully cover tuition for all 30. Right now there is slight overlap in classes between the two programs, but not much. – 10 11 Now – November 1, 2019 – (Nebraska) - <https://is.gd/TTDdIO>

INTERNATIONAL

45. “Female Amputee Targeted by Trolls who Commented about Rape, Sex with Her” - A Melbourne woman with one leg is tired of being targeted by "clowns" after she received

a barrage of offensive and sexual comments on a photo of herself posing with crutches. Cherie, 27, who lost her leg when she was six, was targeted after taking part in a light-hearted game on Twitter. – 7 News – November 6, 2019 – (Australia) -

<https://is.gd/uifXXA>

46. “Paul Bongiorno: Time to Commission Transformative Change” - Its [first public hearing](#) began on Monday in Townsville, Queensland, looking specifically at the right to inclusive education. Its chairman Ronald Sackville QC has high hopes his commission will have the impact of other recent inquiries like the one into institutional child sexual abuse and even the ongoing aged care royal commission, whose interim report [last week hit like a bombshell](#). Justice Sackville on ABC radio said “we’ve already seen that royal commissions have the capacity to be transformational.” – The New Daily – November 4, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/JnRYG6>

47. “Girl with Down Syndrome is Moved 'Out of The Way' During School Dance Recital and Forced to Perform on Her Own” - Girl with Down Syndrome forced to dance by herself for no reason. Her mother said she danced '10 feet' off to the side during the dance recital. Story was told during first public hearing of the disability royal commission. Commission was held to look into discrimination against people with disabilities – Daily Mail – November 5, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/GM2Nct>

48. “RTI Documents Reveal Allegations of Abuse by State Education Teaching Staff Against Students with Disability” - New documents reveal serious complaints of mistreatment by state education teaching staff against students with disability — from pulling a child by the hair while calling them an expletive, to grabbing a boy around the neck and shaking him. ABC.NET.AU – November 4, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/mSFwxh>

49. “Sick Teenager, 18, Tried to Physically Abuse a Woman in her 80s on her Nursing Home Bed” - Josh Howarth, 18, was covered all in back when he burst in through the ground

floor window at the New Thursby Nursing Home in Lancs. Josh Howarth, 18, was confined in the wake of conceding attempted assault at Preston Crown Court. – The Digital Weekly – November 5, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/lPUJf>

50. “Teen in Waterford Psychiatric Unit Saw Other Patients Covered in Urine and Feces” - Shauna Aylward told the Déise Today show on local radio station WLR that during the three months she spent in the unit earlier this year she observed patients covered in their own urine and faeces who were not cleaned until visitors alerted staff. “I had no idea of what I would expect, I had no idea it would be like that. I thought this would be somewhere I could get help, somewhere I would feel safe and could get better. Unfortunately, what I witnessed was a disgrace.”- The Irish Examiner – November 5, 2019 – (Ireland)- <https://is.gd/g0S5D6>
51. “Woman Sentenced for Neglecting Aunt who was Left with Ulcers and Lying in Her Own Waste” - A woman who left her [elderly aunt lying naked in her own waste](#) has been sentenced to community detention for the neglect. The niece, who cannot be named, was dealing with mental health issues at the time and was "overwhelmed" when she became the main caregiver for her 89-year-old aunt, who had severe dementia. She was tearful as she appeared at the High Court at Auckland on Tuesday, where she was sentenced to six months' community detention after she [she admitted](#) neglecting a vulnerable adult. – Stuff – November 5, 2019 – (New Zealand)- <https://is.gd/hH1EUI>

MISCELLANEOUS

52. “Bookends & Beginnings Holds a Conversation about Disability Accessibility” - With the aroma of old books floating toward rustic wood paneled ceilings at Bookends & Beginnings, authors Pia Justesen and Mary Rosenberg emphasized on Saturday the need for greater awareness about disabilities. Justesen wrote “From the Periphery,” a book that features 30 stories of daily experiences from people with various disabilities. In the book, Rosenberg shared her own story about living with a disability. Justesen discussed how some able-bodied people fail to engage in conversations about disabilities because

they don't prioritize disability awareness. She said abled people often want to "fix" the individual by "healing" their disability. – The Daily Northwestern- November 3, 2019 – (Denmark) - <https://is.gd/Rlsc36>