

# Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of October 27 to November 2, 2018

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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 sometimes, *Miscellaneous*.

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

## **Type:**

### **Abuse and Neglect:**

Sexual Assault: 3, 4, 7, 13, 17, 18, 22, 25, 40, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49

Physical Abuse: 6, 9, 10, 12, 16, 23, 27, 28 41, 42

Financial abuse: 1, 8, 21

Murder: 2, (6 – attempted), 26 (by neglect)

Neglect: 9, 10, 14, 20, 23

Neglected to death: 26

Kept enclosed (seclusion): 19

Social media abuse: 17

Related to special education: 18, 19

**WINNER of most egregious award:** 5: Ten year old boy with ASD arrested during meltdown with trained special education staff present; 15: Teacher who mocked special education students picked by NJ Governor to lead NJ Department of Education.

**WINNER of “good job” award:** 35: Human Services Council in CT improves response to abuse cases; 53: Teen with Asperger’s creates video game to demonstrate the experience of people with ASD.

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

Family: 6, 20, 23, 26, 28, 47

Carer: 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 27, 42

Stranger: 1, 16, 22, 46, 48, 49

Special education employee: 12

Transportation provider: 3, 4, 43

Group home counselor:

Men: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 16, 18, 22, 40, 43, 47, 48, 49

Women: 20, 23, 26, 27, 41

**Good News:** 25: Brother of sexual assault victim with a disability speaks out at trial of perpetrator; 31: New law proposed regarding sexual assault of people with disabilities; 36: HULU makes services available in audio format

**Bad News:** 5: Ten year old arrested at school during meltdown; 17: group home workers used FaceBook while abusing residents

**PLEASE NOTE:** Visit our website at [www.disabilityandabuse.org](http://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>

## ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. "Suspect Caught on Camera Stealing Disabled Child's Wheelchair" - Investigators believe Tony Whitehead, 42, is the man who was captured on surveillance video taking the \$500 wheelchair and a custom-built walker from a mobile home in the Wood Village park on Rice Mine Road. – Tuscaloosa News – October 16, 2018 – (Alabama) - <https://is.gd/7oWes1>
2. "Mobile Man Accused of Murder in Death of Mentally ill Person in Group Home"- On Saturday, October 27, 2018 at approximately 11:43 p.m. police responded to Springhill Medical Center in reference to a 21-year-old male victim transported there from a group home for the mentally ill. – NBC 15 – October 29, 2018 – (Alabama) - <https://is.gd/TOendq>
3. "Springdale Man Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison" - Timothy Joseph Worrall, 63, of Springdale was sentenced today to 29 years in the Arkansas Department of Correction for sexually assaulting three women. – Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette – October 26, 2018 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/XWXjGe>
4. "DA Drops Rape Charges Against Special-Needs Bus Driver" - But prosecutors dismissed the case, which hadn't held a preliminary hearing, for insufficient cause Oct. 12, Monterey County Superior Court records show. – The Californian – October 25, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/Bt8XyG>
5. "10-Year-Old on Autism Spectrum Arrested" - "Because he wasn't being properly restrained, he was able to strike people," Danielle Costa told the Problem Solvers. "That's true. And I want to say, he was also biting people." – Fox 31 – October 25, 2018 – Colorado - <https://is.gd/TafvE6>

6. “Man Who Attacked Elderly Mother, Man in Wheelchair, Pleads Guilty to Attempted Murder” - A man who attacked his elderly mother before going after a man in a wheelchair in February pleaded guilty to the crimes last week. – The Denver Channel – October 29, 2018 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/Kp6JHE>
7. “Parole Denied for Former Danielson Group Home Molester” - A state parole board this month denied early release to former Danielson state group home worker sentenced to 16 years in prison for repeatedly abusing two severely handicapped women under his care for years. – The Bulletin – October 29, 2018 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/h7NAmR>
8. “Wichita Woman Sentenced in Elderly Financial Abuse Case” - After a plea deal, Amy Gerdes has been sentenced to pay nearly \$100,000 in restitution after stealing money from an elderly man while working as his housekeeper. – KNST- October 27, 2018 – (Kansas) - <https://is.gd/nl45X8>
9. “Beshear: Jefferson County Couple Charged with Alleged Neglect/Abuse, Medicaid Fraud” - A Jefferson County couple is facing six felony counts of alleged abuse and neglect of a vulnerable Kentuckian, and theft and fraud of the Kentucky Medicaid Program, according to Attorney General Andy Beshear. – WTVQ 36- October 30, 2018 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/WMCRmt>
10. “DisAbility Rights Idaho Investigation Calls SWITC 'No Safe Place to Call Home'” - A DisAbility Rights Idaho investigation claims there’s an unsafe environment for disabled residents at the state’s behavioral health residential treatment center in Nampa. – Idaho Press – October 29, 2018 – (Idaho) - <https://is.gd/1G6Ko7>
11. “Bond Modified for Former Bloomington Pastor Accused of Abuse” - A judge modified bond conditions Tuesday to allow a Bloomington father accused of harming his daughter to have contact with his cousins, who are

minors. – Pantagraph – October 31, 2018 – (Indianapolis) - <https://is.gd/qpfBJT>

12. “Rotenberg Center: ‘Culture of Abuse’ or Miracle Worker”? -The Rotenberg Center has been frequently cited by state agencies for allegedly abusing and neglecting some of its 270 adult and juvenile wards diagnosed with major mental illnesses, autism and other developmental disabilities, state records show. – “The Patriot Ledger” – October 29, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/ekKPSP>

13. “Shoreview Group Home Caregiver Sexually Abused Vulnerable Resident, Charges Say” - Shoreview group home caregiver sexually assaulted a client who is developmentally delayed, according to charges filed Wednesday. – Star Tribune – October 31, 2018 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/uCUT71>

14. Central Minnesota Senior Facility Cited for Neglect of Unattended Man - The Minnesota Department of Health found a central Minnesota senior facility responsible for neglect in the case of a memory care resident who suffered sunburn and heat exposure when left outside unattended for hours. – Park Rapids Enterprise – November 1, 2018 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/6taP2c>

15. “Teacher Who Mocked Special Needs Kids Got a \$70K Job in Murphy's Dept. of Ed. - A former teacher once suspended 120 days for mocking special education students and making sexual comments in what she called a "beautifully filthy" was hired this summer for a leadership position in the state Department of Education under Gov. Phil Murphy's administration, NJ Advance Media has learned. – NJ True Jersey – October 26, 2018 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/P7jcWt>

16. “Seagrove Man Accused of Assaulting Handicapped Person” - According to the Moore County Sheriff's Office, Comer has been charged with one count of felony second-degree kidnapping, one count of felony assault by

strangulation and one count of felony assault on a handicapped person. – WRAL – November 1, 2018 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/ysuo23>

17. “Facebook Messages Led to Group-Home Worker’s Arrest for Sex with Boy, 16, Police Say” - Sexually incriminating Facebook messages between Iliana Marie Morales and a 16-year-old boy in the group-care home she works in led to her arrest Wednesday for sexual assault on a person in custody, a detective testified Friday in Columbus Recorder’s Court. – Ledger Enquirer – November 2, 2018 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/ToCbPf>
  
18. “Police: Spring Grove-Area Man Molested Disabled Student” - A Jackson Township man who worked as a personal-care assistant to a physically disabled Adams County boy is free on bail, accused of repeatedly sexually assaulting the child at school. – York Dispatch – October 24, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/0xcrHk>
  
19. “District Sued Over Alleged Special Education Student Mistreatment at Socastee High School - Later that month, the lawsuit states, Norman said that he had to place Miss Doe in a “seclusion room” due to her being too loud. – My Horry News – October 26, 2018 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/VVyaMk>
  
20. “Fugitive York Co. Mom Charged in Granny’s Death had 5 Kids Living in Filth, Cops Say” - A fugitive mother who fled South Carolina with her five children during a multi-state manhunt for her in the death of her grandmother is back in York County facing charges her children were living in filth among maggots and farm animal waste. – The Herald – October 26, 2018 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/lK0sm5>
  
21. “Police: More Seniors Ripped off by Their Own Caregivers” - Police are seeing more and more cases where caregivers and even family members

are stealing from the elderly. – WSOC TV- October 30, 2018 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/ZvEYDE>

22. “Leander Man Charged with Sexual Assault of Disabled Person” - A Leander man was arrested Saturday after he allegedly sexually assaulted an autistic McDonald’s employee in the restroom of a Killeen restaurant. – TDT News – October 29, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/DwZJcm>

23. “Mother Arrested on Child Abuse Charges After ‘Good Samaritan’ Takes Young Boy from Home” - Jennifer Rose, the mother of 3-year-old Brandon Stratton, was arrested on charges of child neglect and abuse and multiple counts of child endangerment. – ABC 4 – October 26, 2018 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/Awj7CL>

24. “Tacoma Bus Drivers for Special Needs Students Call in Sick for Third Day” - Almost two-dozen Tacoma school bus drivers who serve students with special needs called in sick for the third time in as many days on Wednesday, in protest of low pay and long hours.- My Northwest – November 1, 2018 – (Washington)- <https://is.gd/OZFVOR>

25. “Brother of Sexual Abuse Victim Lashes out at Sister's Attacker During Sentencing” - The brother of an autistic woman sexually abused by a supervisor at the Rainier school in Buckley lashed out at him, as he was sentenced to nearly 25 years behind bars. “Our world has been shattered by this piece of human garbage,” said Peter Stallone. – KIRO 7- October 26, 2018 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/KpG8Ty>

26. “Woman Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison in Neglect Case in Which Her Mother Died” - A woman accused in what was described as one of the worst cases of elder abuse cases in Charleston’s history was sentenced Thursday to 10 years in prison. – Fox 11 – November 1, 2018- (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/bCOXbv>

27. "Muskego Health Care Center Owner Defends Employee Facing Abuse Charge" - Alfreda Simmons, 56, Milwaukee, is accused of turning a fragile patient over so quickly it injured her leg when it hit the wall next to her bed, the criminal complaint filed in Waukesha County Circuit Court said. Simmons was changing the patient's diaper at the time, the complaint said. – Journal Sentinel – October 31, 2018 – (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/ypKnO2>
28. "Wyoming Supreme Court Affirms Child, Vulnerable Adult Abuse Convictions" - The convictions of two parents convicted of physically and mentally abusing children and one vulnerable adult in their care will stand, despite a finding of prosecutorial misconduct during their trial. – Wyoming Tribune Eagle – October 27, 2018 – (Wyoming) - <https://is.gd/nKQN2w>

## GUARDIANSHIP

29. "Too Disabled to Vote: How a Constitutional Right is Stripped Away" - How far would you go to keep your loved one from being exploited? For some it means taking away their right to vote. – Rocket City Now – November 1, 2018 – (Alabama) - <https://is.gd/qSpB1l>
30. "Bill Closes Loophole in Private Guardianships for Alberta Kids in Care" - Changes intended to ensure every potential guardian gets home study – CBC News – October 31, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/w4hplF>

## LAWS & LEGISLATION

31. "Advocates Seek to Protect the Disabled" - Buckley compares allegations of sexual abuse against the disabled to the scandals involving sex abuse by clergy. He urged lawmakers to pass legislation, known as Nicky's Law, creating a registry of allegations involving individuals who work with the disabled. – The Salem News – October 30, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/o5zqAi>

## STUDIES & STATISTICS

32. “Annual Report on Federal Disability Policy Highlights Gaps in Enforcement”  
- The National Council on Disability—an independent federal agency—  
today released its annual progress report on national disability policy,  
titled, “Has the Promise Been Kept? Federal Enforcement of Disability  
Rights Laws.” – Cision – October 31, 2018 – (D.C.) -<https://is.gd/Zwr3kN>
  
33. SPECIAL REPORT: As Costs Skyrocket, Pennsylvania's Share of Special  
Education Funding Has Fallen” - According to a new report by the Education  
Law Center and the statewide coalition PA Schools Work, spending on  
special education has risen among the state’s 500 school districts. But the  
study says state funding has failed to keep up with rising costs, creating an  
ever-widening funding gap. – The Morning Call – October 30 ,2018 –  
(Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/QQ9uxe>
  
34. “No Excuse for Exclusion: Segregation and Subminimum Wage at Rainier” -  
The report shows people are excluded from working jobs that are  
integrated in the community, are paid subminimum wage, and are assigned  
tasks in isolated locations that are not individualized to their abilities. –  
Disability Rights Washington – October 30, 2018 – (Washington) -  
<https://is.gd/wggkqU>

## IMPROVED SUPPORTS

35. “Human Services Council Connects Kids with Help After Sexual and Physical  
Assaults”- “The most important thing here is that women are empowered  
as soon as an incident occurs so that we have the proof to make sure the  
perpetrator doesn’t abuse anybody else and that the person gets treatment  
quickly,” said Executive Director Anthony DiLauro. – The Hour – October 27,  
2018 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/oPxIXZ>

36. "Hulu Agrees to Provide Audio Service for Blind Customers" - Hulu will make its subscription streaming service more accessible to blind and visually impaired customers. That's according to a settlement agreement between Hulu and advocacy groups, who sued Los Angeles-based Hulu last year. – The Washington Post – October 26, 2016 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/ok3oDF>
37. "Advocates Detail 'Epidemic' of Sexual Abuse of Disabled Adults" - The Legislature's Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities holds a hearing on sexual abuse of people with disabilities on Oct. 29, 2018. – Mass Live – November 1, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/ryJtEv>
38. "Virginia Rolls Out New Program to Help Special Education Teachers" - Special education is consistently the No. 1 critical shortage area for teachers, according to James Lane, superintendent of Public Instruction. This program is designed to provide resources and professional development opportunities for first-year special education teachers, with the hopes of ensuring their success. – WSLN 10 News- October 30, 2018 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/iVWxb7>

## INTERNATIONAL

39. "Acquittal for Esperance Rape Charges" - A 41-year-old man living in Esperance has been acquitted of two counts of sexually penetrating another person without consent in circumstances of aggravation. – The Esperance Express – October 26, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/7oWes1>
40. "Lismore Man Pleads Guilty to Having Sex with Minor" - Disposition remains pending of an additional case accusing Vandekieft of having sexual contact with a victim that is considered mentally impaired or helpless – The Globe – October 27, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/V4Tdu5>

41. "Report Reveals Atrocious Abuse of Disabled" - Cable ties, a dog leash and sheets were among the tools the mother of a young woman with an intellectual disability allegedly used to tie her to her wheelchair and bed. The harrowing incident is one of more than 200 reported to the NSW ombudsman during an inquiry into the abuse and neglect of adults living with physical and intellectual disabilities across the state. – News.com.au – November 2, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/ZExGlZ>
42. "Caregiver Assaults Female Dementia Patient" - Police checked CCTV footage from the patient's room, which showed King Bean remove the woman from her bed before she hit her and pulled clothing from her – The Royal Gazette – October 26, 2018 – (Bermuda) - <https://is.gd/gO678J>
43. "Gatineau Taxi Driver Accused of Sex Assault on Disabled Teen" - A taxi driver who provided paratransit services is accused of sexually assaulting an adolescent passenger with severe physical and intellectual disabilities. Ottawa Citizen – October 26, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/pWe7rF>
44. "Province Discriminated Against People with Disabilities, Rights Hearing Told" - Lawyers for people with disabilities argued Tuesday that keeping people with intellectual disabilities in a Nova Scotia hospital ward for more than a decade — rather than in a community home — breached basic human rights most citizens enjoy. – CBC – October 30, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/9n0WcT>
45. "Disability Rights Advocates Occupy Quebec Ombudsman's Office, Demand Meeting with Health Minister" - A group of about a dozen disability rights advocates spent Wednesday morning standing their ground and demanding help from the Quebec government. – Global News – October 31, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/VnOIWC>
46. "Convicted Sex Offender to be Sentenced for 'Acts of Gross Indecency' with Mentally Impaired Man" - A convicted Dublin sex offender who was jailed

for groping two teenage concert-goers on a Luas will be sentenced next year for acts of gross indecency with a mentally impaired male. – The Independent – October 30, 2018 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/qL5Y3F>

47. “Man Rapes Disabled Aunt, Tries to Kill Self” - A middle aged man from Sironga area in Nyamira County is currently being held by the police after allegedly raping his disabled aunt and then trying to kill himself afterwards. – HIVISASA – November 1, 2018 – (Kenya) - <https://is.gd/FgPTro>

48. “60-Year-Old Man Arrested for Allegedly Raping 4-Year-Old Girl” - He added that the suspect was earlier set free many times because he pretended to be a mentally retarded man.- Daily Times – October 28, 2018 – (Pakistan) - <https://is.gd/q33xwY>

49. “Mentally Retarded Girl Allegedly Raped Near Nankana Bypass” - According to report, a 15-year old girl (H) was playing outside her house when she went missing. Her parents begun searching her here and there. When they reached near Nankana Bypass, they heard voices from a vehicle of Rescue 1122 parked there. They saw that accused Ahsan and Shamim were raping the girl. The accused escaped after throwing her on road. – The News – October 29, 18 – (Pakistan) - <https://is.gd/Y76bGU>

50. “Formulary Restrictions Devalue and Endanger the Lives of Disabled People” - The growing fight between health care purchasers and drug manufacturers offers yet another instance where people with disabilities and chronic conditions may find themselves caught in the cross-fire. – Health Affairs – October 29, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/N6VmNc>

51. “Oxford Parents’ Group Unsatisfied with Special Education Programs” - A growing number of parents have come forward to challenge the special education services offered in this small residential community of about

1,850 students in western New Haven County. – ctpost – October 29, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/urdBjv>

52. “My Autistic Son Deserves a Life but He's Locked Up” - Some of the most vulnerable in society are being kept in hospitals miles from home and some say they are unable to leave even when they are no longer ill. – Sky News- October 31, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/OGTfdu>

## MISCELLANEOUS

53. “The Autistic Teenager Making Video Games to Show Players What Asperger's is Really Like”- Inspired by his experiences living with autism, Bradley Hennessey's experimental game, An Aspie Life allows players to experience life with Asperger's. – ABC News – October 27, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/kF0qhv>

54. “People With Disabilities Want Paychecks Not Pity: Here's How Businesses Are Helping” - Despite reports that U.S. unemployment continues to drop, most people with disabilities are still unemployed. And, despite the recent focus on hiring a diverse workforce, developing disability inclusion practices has lagged far behind. – Forbes – November 2, 2018 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/BH8GOM>