

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of November 9 to November 15, 2019

Articles Compiled by Debra J. Stemmler

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

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

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

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

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

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 2, 6, 7, 13, 14, 17, 19, 21, 29, 31

Physical Abuse: 2, 8, 9, 12, 19, 22, 26, 28, 30 33, 34, 35, 57, 59, 66, 70

Emotional Abuse: 1 (with suicide as a result), 8, 20, 26, 34, 36

Seclusion (kept enclosed): 8, 12, 16, 67, 69

Restrained: 34, 64

Financial abuse: 23, 24, 32

Murder: 3, 5, 10, 12, 37, 62

Neglected: 2, 16, 18, 34

Related to special education: 3 (restrained to death), 8 (locked in a closet & tortured), 9 (physical abuse by teacher); 15, 28, 33, 34, 36, 64, 69

Slavery: 25, 65

Social Media Abuse: 20

WINNER of most egregious award: 1: Bullies' behavior led to the suicide of female target; 3: autistic boy murdered due to restraint; 8, 14 (by teaching assistant); 70: Priests put chili on autistic children's genitals and in their eyes in UK due to their disability being perceived as a sign of the devil in U.K.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 5, 24, 37

Stranger: 4, 6

Caregiver: 2, 7, 10, 16, 21, 26, 37

Neighbor/Friend of Family: 12, 13, 17, 62

Special education employee: 3, 9, 2, 36

School bus drivers: 15, 33, 66

Law Enforcement: 22

Co-resident (nursing home): 19, 29

Priests: 70

Airport Transporter (to/from gate): 32

LOCATION:

Nursing Home: 29, 31

Psychiatric Hospital: 2

Vocational Center: 7

Home Health Care: 10, 30

Adult Day Program: 18

Convalescent Hospital: 21

Residential Center: 19, 30, 35, 57, 59, 67

Men: 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 29, 31, 33, 35, 62

Women: 3, 8, 15, 16, 20, 23, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 27, 59, 66

Teams: 2, 3, 8, 18, 22, 23, 69

Good News: 40: Conservatee right to remain at home affirmed; 41: Hospitals must provide ASL interpreters to patients in compliance with the ADA; 42: Connection of autism and blindness found in research study; 43: chronic pain found common in those with autism; 44: Connection between childhood trauma and adult illness reaffirms ACES study in the '90's; 52: Texting 911 helps Deaf and those who are Hard of Hearing; 55: Police officer starts a camp for girls with disabilities; 72: young woman speaks up and inspires others.

Bad News: 27: TX continues to operate its public school programs in violation of federal law (IDEA); 34: State fails to protect special education students; 45: Sexual abuse of patients in nursing homes corroborated by study of over one thousand sites; 46: Increase in disability-related crimes found by FBI; 63: Nigeria no longer approves chaining of people with mental illness; 71: No medical help for those without a support system; 75: War between people with disabilities, unions, State Hospital and efforts to move residents to community living.

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “Disabled Girl, 18, Hanged Herself to Death after Bullies Threatened Her to Roll Her Off a Mountain” - A paraplegic teen killed herself after bullies disgraced her as a ‘vegetable’ and said that ‘We should throw her off a mountain and kill her.’ The horrific posts made 18-year-old wheelchair user Maya Corral hang herself to death at her residence in Tucson, Arizona, on August 24. Writing online, the bullies stated that after rolling her off a mountain, they would ‘kick her while she is dead. And then we would party.’ – The Digital Weekly – November 9, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/4DZ8vt>
2. “Monitors Report Neglect, Sex, Dirt at Kids Facility in Northwest Arkansas” - State regulators are investigating 14 allegations of abuse and neglect against a Fayetteville mental-health treatment center for children, including poor supervision that led to sexual contact — both “forced” and “consensual” — among the young residents. – Arkansas Online – November 10, 2019 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/UJK7ul>
3. “After Autistic Boy Dies During School Restraint, 3 Educators Charged with Manslaughter” - Cindy Keller, the school’s former executive director, former principal Staranne Meyers and special education teacher Kimberly Wohlwend have each been charged with a felony count of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the boy’s death. Guiding Hands School, a Northern California private school that served students with disabilities for more than 20 years [before it closed in January](#), made headlines when Max Benson [died after being placed in a facedown restraint](#) by school staff in November 2018. The California Department of Education said the boy was held down for an hour and 45 minutes, according to Sacramento Superior Court records. – Los Angeles Times – November 13, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/Kslw6M>
4. “DA Elect Joins Breed to Denounce Attacks Against Chinatown Seniors” - The violent robbery at Portsmouth Square on Saturday night struck fear into Chinatown and reinvigorated racial tensions in San Francisco. Widely shared video on social media showed the suspects pummeling one of the victims and knocking another senior unconscious. The attack has drawn attention in light of a string of violent incidents against senior and elderly Chinese residents, including an 88-year-old grandmother who was brutally assaulted and robbed across from her home in Visitacion Valley in January. – San Francisco Examiner – November 12, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/LG4AVy>

5. "Lakewood man who claims wife asked him to shoot her after cancer diagnosis sentenced to life. Victim's sister: "He laughed about it" - A Lakewood man who claims he shot and killed his wife after she asked him to do so was sentenced to life in prison on Wednesday. Bruce Bagwell, 60, told Jefferson County District Court Judge Lily Oeffler the same thing he told police last February, "My wife did ask me to do that." Family members say 58-year-old Theresa Bagwell had been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, but there is no way she would have asked her husband to kill her. – The Denver Channel – November 14, 2019 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/6uPwHu>

6. "Hartford Man Sentenced to 50 Years in Prison for Gunpoint Rape of Two Homeless Sisters on Thanksgiving Day 2017" - Jason Johnson has spent the bulk of his adult life in prison, and on Tuesday a judge in Superior Court in Hartford assured that the 29-year-old rapist will remain behind bars until he is an old man. Johnson was convicted of first-degree sexual assault and first-degree robbery and sentenced in February 2013 to six years in prison and nine years of special parole for raping a disabled man in downtown Hartford. Johnson was on parole for that crime, with a GPS device affixed to his ankle, when he raped the sisters. – Hartford Courant – November 12, 2019 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/gFZbET>

7. "Worker at Vernon Vocational Agency Charged with Sexually Assaulting Intellectually Disabled Client" - The state Department of Developmental Services is conducting an internal review of the events leading to the arrest. The relationship between James Wiley Dumas, a client manager at Opportunity Works Connecticut, and the woman began in 2016 with sexually graphic text messages, Det. Charles Hicking wrote in arrest documents. Dumas, 61, of Ellington, was charged Tuesday with second-degree sexual assault, a felony, and four counts of fourth-degree sexual assault, a misdemeanor. – Hartford Courant – November 14, 2019 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/Sj9rkF>

8. "Teachers Arrested for Locking Autistic Kids in a Dark Closet and Torturing Them" - Margaret Wolthers is a teacher from Florida. Together with two teaching aides, Diana LaCroix and Carolyn Madison, they have been arrested for abusing autistic children who are under their care. They are working for the Silver Sands School in Fort Walton Beach and are now facing first-degree felony charges of aggravated child abuse. According to reports, these three employees would 'punish' the autistic children in a very cruel and inhumane manner. They would

lock the students in a dark bathroom inside the school building and blow whistles continuously in their ears! – Jumble Joy – November 8, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/dPhjd5>

9. “Florida School Investigating Special Needs Teacher Accused of Physically Abusing Student” - A [school in Florida is investigating a special needs teacher](#) who is accused of physically abusing a student who was sent home with marks on his face in September. Maya Collins says her 9-year-old son Omari has special needs. In early September, she received a phone call from his teacher at Lavoy Exceptional Center in Tampa, who told her Omari had acted out and had been restrained. "She did say that he was acting out to where he required restraint, and in the process, she wanted me to know that he was going to come home with marks on his face due to being restrained," Collins said. – WPTV – November 12, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/c7oOWb>

10. “Death of Disabled Boise Man put in Scalding Bath was ‘Horrible Accident,’ Defense Says” – Omar Hamadi is accused of putting Benjamin Reed, 38, into a bathtub of “scalding hot water” on May 16, under circumstances likely to produce “great bodily harm or death,” according to a copy of his criminal complaint. Hamadi was reportedly working as a home health aide for A Caring Hand in Boise, a home health care agency. – Magic Valley – November 8, 2019 – (Idaho) - <https://is.gd/oNAe46>

11. “71 Nursing Homes Cited for Poor Care in Illinois” - The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has released its [Third Quarter Report of Nursing Home Violators](#) for 2019. IDPH is responsible for ensuring nursing homes comply fully with mandatory state regulations. This report dates July 2019 thru September 2019. It highlights 71 Illinois facilities cited for various violations of the Nursing Home Care Act, a statute that provides nursing home residents and their families with the assurance that proper and safe care will be received. – Levin & Perconti – November 12, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/3Yo1jn>

12. “DNA Leads to Arrest of Man who Tortured Wheelchair-Bound Victim to Death in 2014” - On July 8, 2019, Anthony King pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter. He's scheduled to be sentenced on Aug. 2. New details are now coming out about what led police to [solve the three-year-old case](#). The victim was found padlocked inside his garage on Tibbs Avenue in November 2014. Garry Borer, 52, died after being stabbed 38 times while strapped into his

wheelchair. The victim's family immediately suspected Anthony King, who lived just a block away. According to court records, Borer owed King money and "made arrangements to pay him in pills." Fox 59 – November 16, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/xOpWum>

13. "Man Accused of Raping Disabled Woman Found Not Guilty" - A man accused of raping a woman confined to a wheelchair was found not guilty by a jury on Thursday. In January 2019, the victim told police she, her daughter and Kevin Lozano-Espinosa were drinking together, and she went to sleep around 2 a.m., reports said. She told investigators Lozano-Espinosa woke her up and began to sexually assault her, reports said. The victim fought back and scratched Lozano-Espinosa, according to the probable cause affidavit. – ABC 57 – November 14, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/EvsOsD>

14. "Elementary School Special Education Aide Charged in Child Molesting Case" - A 40-year-old woman who worked as a special education aide at a West Lafayette elementary school faces child molestation charges. According to a probable cause affidavit from the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor, a 14-year-old boy told investigators he had sex with Jennifer Holmgren "multiple times" between the ages of nine and 13. Holmgren, when questioned by investigators, admitted to sexual activity with the boy. – RTV6 Indianapolis – November 14, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/Jx7rLk>

15. "Former School Bus Driver Convicted for Abuse of Disabled Child" - A Jackson County jury found 58-year-old Antoinette Jane Raymond, of Vancleave, guilty for contributing to neglect, delinquency or abuse of a child and simple assault. Attorney General Jim Hood said on the second day of trial, the jury reached a verdict in 30 minutes. Testifying in her own behalf, Raymond said she wasn't in the right frame of mind at the time of the crime. She was tried for her treatment of a disabled child who was a passenger on her school bus in 2014 and 2015. Jackson County Circuit Court Judge Robert Krebs delayed sentencing until he receives a pre-sentence report on Raymond that will include her background and medical conditions. Raymond faces a total sentence of 18 months on the misdemeanor charges. – WTOK – November 14, 2019 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/6tiPfa>

16. "11-Year-Old Recovering After Being Malnourished, Abused, and Isolated from the World" - An 11-year-old girl is recovering after years of being malnourished,

abused, and isolated from others. Brown County officials say the girl weighed 47-pounds, wore a diaper, and was forced to live in a backyard trailer. Her caretaker, 47-year-old Margaret Breeze, was arrested and charged with two counts of kidnapping, two counts of endangering children, and one count of felonious assault. According to reports, she receives a small portion of rice a day and hadn't seen a doctor in years. – KULR 8 – November 14, 2019 –(Montana) - <https://is.gd/F9W887>

17. “City Man Charged with Alleged Sexual Assault of a Disabled Woman” - Roberto Carlos Raymundo, 24, was arrested early Tuesday, charged with felonious sexual assault of a woman, 21, with whom he was acquainted, according to police. The victim, a 21-year-old woman, had called police and told them she had been assaulted and was in a bathroom but didn't know exactly where she was. She told police she couldn't leave the bathroom because she was handicapped and her two prosthetic legs were in another room. Through their investigation police learned the two parties were known to each other. – Manchester Ink Link – November 12, 2019 – (New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/9u3scJ>

18. “5 Employees Charged with Abuse of Disabled Victims at Adult Daycare Center” - Five employees of an East Brunswick adult daycare provider — and the facility itself — have been accused of abandonment, endangerment and neglect of several disabled individuals, prosecutors said Wednesday. In an indictment returned by a Middlesex County grand jury, [Broadway Respite and Home Care](#), located on Edgeboro Road in East Brunswick, was charged with two counts of abandonment and neglect of a disabled person, and two counts of endangering another person for conduct involving two different victims, according to the [Middlesex County Prosecutor's office](#). – NJ.COM – November 13, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/K3eSaC>

19. “Second Accuser Comes Forward with Abuse Allegations at Timothy Hill Children's Ranch” - John Joseph Barci, 50, was a resident at the Riverhead facility in the early 1980s, when he was placed there as a 12-year-old and, according to the complaint, was beaten and sexually abused by older boys residing in the same group home at the ranch. Barci says his multiple complaints — to two different sets of house parents and other employees — went unheeded and the abuse was allowed to continue. – Riverhead Local – November 8, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/wy17b5>

20. "LI Woman Accused of Threatening Child with Special Needs" - A [Long Island](#) woman is facing charges after allegedly threatening and harassing a child with special needs. New York State Police say 26-year-old Krista M. Sewell, of [Melville](#), was arrested Thursday. Sewell is accused of harassing a child who suffers from harlequin ichthyosis, a severe genetic disorder that affects the skin. Police did not release the victim's age. State Police say for nearly a year, Sewell sent threatening messages to the victim and the victim's family on Facebook, Instagram and GoFundMe. She also allegedly sent threatening letters in the mail to the victim's home. – CBS Local – November 9, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/Vsb65c>
21. "Sex Abuse in Hospitals, Nursing Homes Affects Patients of all Ages" - Mary Dean, 61, had been in a [Poughkeepsie-area](#) hospital for a month recovering from two heart surgeries when she grabbed her daughter's arm on Sunday, Jan. 6, to stop her from leaving the hospital room. The family told PIX11 Mary was able to communicate that a man in a burgundy uniform had abused her. The patient's daughter and sister notified nursing supervisors and the Poughkeepsie Police. The incident illustrates a troubling concern for patients and families involved with medical facilities: Staff who may take advantage sexually of the weak and most vulnerable, regardless of age. – WTKR – November 11, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/Qgwe0S>
22. "Ex-NYPD Cop Gets 9 Months for Assaulting Mentally Ill, Cuffed Teen" - Disgraced former Officer Elijah Saladeen, 49, had faced as much as four years behind bars in the case. Manhattan Justice Robert Mandelbaum [convicted Saladeen in October](#) of misdemeanor assault, attempted assault and three counts of offering a false instrument for filing. The former housing cop and his partner, Natalie Roman, found Santiago, then 19, sleeping in the 25th-floor stairwell of the Fulton Houses. After they roused him, Santiago repeatedly banged his head against the wall. He suffers from bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. – The New York Post – November 12, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/0pGZBo>
23. "Woman Sentenced to 18 Months in Prison for Fleecing Elderly" - A woman who stole more than half a million dollars from the elderly and disabled has been sentenced to 18 months in prison. Lisa Dotson, 40, pleaded guilty to aggravated theft with forfeiture specifications and money laundering. Dotson will face up to three years of parole when she is released. – News 5 Cleveland – November 12, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/A0oSFC>

24. Lincoln-Lemington woman charged with stealing \$100K from father with dementia - A Lincoln-Lemington woman raided her incapacitated father's checking account, stealing more than \$100,000 from his Social Security payments, pension and annuities, authorities said. Tonya Reid, 51, was charged Wednesday with two felony counts of theft, receiving stolen property, access device fraud and misapplication of entrusted property. – Post Gazette – November 14 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/vaKxnH>
25. “Manager Who Enslaved Man with Intellectual Disability Gets 10 years in Prison” - A Conway, S.C. man, who previously pleaded guilty to coercing an African-American man with an intellectual disability to work extensive hours at a restaurant for no pay, was sentenced to 10 years in prison earlier this month and forced to pay more than \$270,000 in restitution. Bobby Paul Edwards, 54, pleaded guilty to one count of forced labor in June 2018 after [authorities claimed](#) he had forced a man to work for free between 2009 and 2014 as a cook at J&J Cafeteria. – Disability Scoop – November 11, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/vMEGPh>
26. “Myrtle Beach Woman Charged with Abuse of Vulnerable Adult” - A Myrtle Beach woman remains behind bars Thursday morning after being charged with abuse of a vulnerable adult. On Nov. 2, officers responded to a Myrtle Beach area home after receiving a possible abuse call, according to a Horry County police report. A man said his father recently suffered a stroke and was assigned in-home care. Police say while the man was reviewing audio and video recordings from his father's home, he discovered “concerning behavior” by his father's caretaker, identified as 61-year-old Debra Ann Basel. – WBTV – November 14, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/Ot7ua1>
27. “Texas in Violation of Federal Education Law for Second Time, Likely a Third” - Steven Aleman, Attorney and Policy Specialist with Disability Rights Texas, expressed concern that the state has not been investing in the education of students with disabilities as it should. “Once again, we are in the situation of another violation of the mandates of federal special education law – the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA),” Aleman said. “The three-judge panel singled out Texas's antiquated special education grant system as the root of the inadequate financing problem.” Aleman went on to say that this ruling is the first to analyze the state's special education funding mechanism which was

found by the Court to be lacking. - Disability Rights Texas – November 8, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/1Alh1u>

28. “Family of Student in Hays CISD Assault Video Speaks out about Incident”- Tiffani Shadell Lankford, 32, was arrested on-site after the incident and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, a second-degree felony. Video of the fight emerged on social media on Friday, and showed a teacher punching a student multiple times, pulling her from her desk and stomping on her head. Another video also showed the student striking the teacher as she was grasping her in her seat. – KVUE – November 9, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/Ab1INn>

29. “Man Convicted of Rape Living in Nursing Home Accused of Sexual Assault, Texas Cops Say” - A man convicted of rape and living in a Texas nursing home is charged with the same crime against a fellow resident, media outlets report. The woman told police she was stuck in his room for hours after the attack. Olander Grant, 59, is accused of motioning the woman — who is disabled — into his room at Brentwood Place in Pleasant Grove early Sunday morning, then [pinning her to the bed and sexually assaulting her](#), The Dallas Morning News reported. She escaped Grant but couldn’t leave the room because the door was locked, the newspaper reported. – Sacramento Bee – November 13, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/doD78f>

30. “Home Health Care Worker Arrested for Abusing 10-Year-Old Disabled Child: Pct. 3” - A special education teacher reached out to Child Protective Services to report suspected child abuse. Pct. 3 detectives started an investigation and found that Jessica Renee Kelley physically abused the child, causing injuries while she was employed to care for the child. Pct. 3 says the injuries included bruising from the child's wrists being tied together. The abuse occurred inside a residential home health care facility located in The Woodlands. – Fox 10 Phoenix – November 12, 2019 (Texas) - <https://is.gd/ALooy8>

31. “Man Sexually Assaulted Intellectually Disabled Woman at Pleasant Grove Nursing Home, Dallas Police Say” - A registered sex offender sexually assaulted a woman who has an intellectual disability Sunday at a Pleasant Grove nursing home, Dallas police say. Olander Grant, 59, was booked into the Dallas County jail on one count of aggravated sexual assault. He remained in custody Tuesday, with bail set at \$100,000. – The Dallas Morning News – November 12, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/9lcbPi>

32. "Bush Airport Wheelchair Attendant Accused of Stealing Elderly Woman's Cash, Credit Cards" - A wheelchair attendant at George Bush Intercontinental Airport is accused of stealing cash and credit cards from the purse of an elderly woman she was supposed to be helping. Dameka Humphries-Williams, 31, is being sought on charges of not only credit card abuse but also elderly abuse. The second charge would greatly enhance the sentence if she is convicted of the crimes. Investigators said Humphries-Williams was assigned to escort 88-year-old Sidney McKenzie, who requested to stop at a restroom. McKenzie left her purse hanging on the wheelchair while she used the restroom, and Humphries-Williams rifled through her purse, investigators said. – Click 2 Houston – November 12, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/jppCzD>
33. "Former Alpine School District Bus Driver Appears to be Physical, Violent Towards Autistic Teen" - Gary Bertagnole is the former Alpine School District bus driver shown in the video, Kinikini said. He was fired shortly after the incidents were brought to the attention of school officials, Kinikini said. The teen attends Horizon School in Saratoga Springs. The Saratoga Springs City Police Department did investigate the claims against Bertagnole in 2018. No criminal charges were filed. "When this case was brought to our police department's attention, the parents of the child requested that no charges be filed. They informed our officers that they felt the Alpine School District's actions were sufficient," Saratoga Springs City spokesman David Johnson said. – Fox 13 Now – November 8, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/wVsP7H>
34. "Lawsuits Allege 'Systemwide Failure' Protecting Disabled Children in Utah Schools" - Two lawsuits filed by the Disability Law Center this week claim the state of Utah failed to protect two disabled children from abuse at the hands of Alpine School District employees. One of the lawsuits filed Thursday was on behalf of a blind student with autism who the center says was physically and verbally abused by a bus driver; the other is on behalf of a child who was allegedly subjected to various forms of "behavior intervention," including being deprived of food and water and strapped to a chair for hours at a time, while attending a school for children with disabilities. – KSL.COM – November 8, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/5JlyHv>
35. "Mental Health Court Off the Table for Group Home Worker in Elder Abuse Case" - A former group home worker accused of violently abusing a patient has been deemed ineligible for mental health court and the criminal prosecution against him will proceed. Spencer Keith Mendenhall, 19, faces charges of second-degree

felony aggravated abuse of a vulnerable adult and class A misdemeanor abuse of a vulnerable adult for incidents at Chrysalis Home in Riverdale from April to August this year. – Standard Examiner – November 12, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/OTL5VQ>

36. “Bellingham Family to Sue After School Puts Desk of Student with Autism Over Toilet” - The mother of a child with special needs filed her official intention to sue the Bellingham School District for putting her son's desk in the bathroom. The [legal forms](#) were sent to the district on October 2, two weeks after [Whatcom Middle School](#) in Bellingham tried to move Lucas Goodwin, a sixth grader with autism, into a bathroom to serve as his place to learn. Soon after the school year began, Lucas’ mother, Danielle Goodwin, requested her son be provided with a quiet space to work for a portion of his school day to cut down on distractions. When she showed up to Whatcom on September 16 with snacks and drinks for Lucas, Danielle said she was aghast at the new accommodation. The school placed a desk over a toilet and squeezed a chair by the sink. A rolled-up mat was placed in the bathroom for napping on the bathroom floor. Lucas has an autoimmune disorder that can lead to exhaustion, which sometimes requires a nap. – King 5 News – November 14, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/th7Evi>
37. “A Nurse Took in a Mentally Disabled Teen as a ‘Nanny.’ 20 Years Later, She’s Charged with Torturing and Killing Her.” - On Friday, Racine County Sheriff Christopher Schmaling identified Jane Doe as Peggy Lee Johnson, a mentally impaired teenager who spent the last five years of her life allegedly being “horribly abused” by a nurse named Linda LaRoche — who was charged with murder in Johnson’s death last week. Johnson became homeless as a teenager in the 1990s after her mother died, Schmaling said, and she met LaRoche while seeking help at an Illinois clinic. LaRoche took her in, the sheriff said — and is now accused of torturing her for years before leaving her to die in the Wisconsin cornfield. There were new broken ribs and old broken ribs, swelling in her knees and her feet from infected wounds, and burn marks covering 25 percent of her body, possibly from chemicals. Her left ear was deformed and cut; her nose was broken; her lower lip split open; and her left cheek discolored. Just before she died, she had endured blunt force trauma to the head that penetrated her scalp but not her skull, and fresh road rash skidded across her torso. She was malnourished. Johnson was just 23 when she died. – The Washington Post – November 12, 2019 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/9XvLvN>

GUARDIANSHIP

38. “Detroit Grandma Just Wanted a Wheelchair Ramp, but Ended up Being put Under Guardianship” - After a fall in her home, 78-year-old Bessie Owens said she just needed some help getting a wheelchair ramp installed. Instead, the long-time Detroit resident ended up being put under guardianship in the probate courts – where she was declared legally incapacitated. When you’re put under guardianship and conservatorship, you can no longer make any legal, medical or financial decisions. – WXYZ – November 12, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/IIDT9G>
39. “Financial Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Moves to Limit Brokers' Ability to Serve as Executors, Beneficiaries for Clients” - Finra wants to limit the ability of registered representatives to become beneficiaries of their clients or to assume control over their finances. Under a [rule proposal released on Monday](#) by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Inc., brokerages would have to review and approve requests by reps to become a client's beneficiary, executor or trustee or to assume power of attorney. Investment News – November 12, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/aujP1I>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

40. “There’s No Place Like Home – Heightened Evidentiary Standard for Moving Conservatees From Their Personal Residence” - In recognition of the need to affirmatively preserve the right of conservatees to remain in their own personal residence, the California Legislature passed an amendment to existing law which applies a higher evidentiary standard before a conservator may move a conservatee from his or her personal residence. – JDSupra – November 13, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/VjIFUK>
41. “U.S. Attorney: Beaumont Must Provide Interpreters for Deaf Patients” - A settlement was reached Wednesday between William Beaumont Hospital and the [U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan](#) over allegations the hospital violated the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#). A civil rights investigation of Beaumont found that it failed to provide American Sign Language interpreters for complex medical appointments and procedures for patients who were hard of hearing or deaf, even after those patients repeatedly requested interpreters. – Detroit Free Press – November 13, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/6Kofrp>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

42. “Seeing Connections Between Autism and Blindness” - In 2012, I decided to investigate the relationship between autism and blindness in an unbiased population. Although the study was small, it indicated that autism is more than 30 times as common in blind people as in sighted people². Other work from my team suggests this relationship is specific to vision: Hearing impairment is not strongly connected to autism³. The association is also independent of intellectual ability, showing that problems with cognition alone cannot explain the connection. – Spectrum – November 12, 2019 – (Argentina) - <https://is.gd/anrP4G>

43. “Autistic Children Disproportionately Affected by Chronic Pain” - The new study reveals that pain is “a really common experience for kids with autism,” says study investigator [Danielle Shapiro](#), assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. “They’re experiencing physical pain, even though it’s not typically thought of as a core feature of [autism].” – Spectrum – November 13, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/eooFcU>

44. “Childhood Trauma May Lead to Adult Illness” - Can abuse, violence and neglect during childhood affect a person’s physical and mental health later in life? United States health officials say the answer to that question is “yes.” Researchers with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that childhood trauma can lead to many conditions and illnesses in adulthood. Traumatic experiences can also lead to a lower quality of life. Researchers found that such events can lead to fewer educational and employment opportunities in the future. – VOA News – November 11, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/Q5ZuhK>

45. “Sex Abuse in Hospitals, Nursing Homes Affects Patients of all Ages” - There were several cases in 2018 of medical staff accused of patient abuse in nursing homes and hospitals, and a 2017 CNN report found the federal government had cited more than 1,000 nursing homes for failing to prevent sex abuse at their facilities or mishandling the reports. – WTKR – November 11, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/Qgwe0S>

46. “Disability-Related Hate Crimes Up Sharply, FBI Data Shows” - Newly-released data indicates that hate crime incidents targeting people with disabilities are on the rise. There were 177 reported hate crime offenses stemming from disability bias in 2018, according to figures out this week from the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program. By comparison, there were 128 similar offenses the year

prior. The Uniform Crime Reporting Program is based on data submitted by law enforcement agencies across the country on incidents motivated by disability as well as race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity. – Disability Scoop – November 14, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/0Yiqao>

47. “New Autism Study: Gluten-free Diet Does not Help Autistic Children” - Parents of autistic children are constantly seeking new treatments. Autism spectrum disorder, or ASD, is a developmental disorder that causes problems in social interaction and communication, ranging from mild to severe. It's an extremely challenging condition for parents, and as of today there is no cure. One of the more common claims is that [autistic children will benefit from a gluten-free, casein-free diet](#). There has been some weakly supportive evidence for this idea, such as [this 2012 report from Penn State](#), but that study was based entirely on interviews with parents. Interviews are notoriously unreliable for scientific data collection. – Forbes – November 11, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/Fdt8lp>

48. “Report Proposes Simple Fix for Flawed Special-Ed Funding” - The proportion of state funding for special education has been falling for more than ten years, but a new report suggests a simple fix could begin to restore equity to the system. In 2008, the state paid one-third of the cost of special ed, but that has since fallen to only 22%, leaving school districts to pay a much higher share. According to Reynelle Brown Staley, policy director at the Education Law Center, a big improvement would be to update the special-education funding formula, adopted in 2014, so that it uses the same metrics for determining each school district's wealth as is used in the basic education funding formula adopted in 2016. – BCTV – November 11, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/GhLZgp>

49. “Deaf Veterans Face Barriers to Success on U.S. College Campuses”- A new report from the [National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes](#) at [The University of Texas at Austin](#) finds that deaf veterans are not succeeding in college at the same rate as hearing veterans and are in need of more accommodations and support. This is happening at a time when more veterans than ever are experiencing hearing difficulties, which are the most prevalent disability they experience. – UT News – November 11, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/l9R7Pb>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

50. "Grants Awarded to Help Elderly and Disabled Abuse Victims" - \$2.1 million have been awarded to the State Department of Human Resources to assist elderly and disabled victims of abuse. The funds will allow the department's Adult Protective Services Division to implement in-home care and supervision for victims, as well as relocation of victims to nursing homes or assisted living facilities if necessary. Both of these measures are temporary until more permanent solutions are found. – NBC 15 – November 14, 2019 – (Alabama) - <https://is.gd/y9HA8A>
51. "Puppet Troupe Debuts Program Highlighting Both Low, High-Functioning Autism" - Local puppet troupe chapter, South Central Kentucky Kids on the Block, presents material and important life lessons to children in a way they can understand. The nonprofit is now introducing a revamped program to share all the dimensions of autism. – WBKO – November 13, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/8WxCU8>
52. "Texting 911 Service to Help the Deaf may Start in NYC Next Summer after Years of Delays" - New Yorkers could start texting 911 by next summer — more than two years after the city originally expected to launch the new emergency system. Advocates for the deaf and other New Yorkers unable to make emergency voice calls say the new text-to-911 service, which was supposed to be available in early 2018, can't come soon enough. Current 911 services aren't accessible for the estimated 208,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing people who live and work in the five boroughs. Texting 911 would also help people with communications or speech disabilities, as well as victims of domestic violence who may feel unsafe calling 911. – NY Daily News – November 12, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/bon0tP>
53. "Family Pushes for Autism Symbol to be Added to New York Driver's Licenses" - For Pete and Denise Gagliardo of Putnam Lake, the epiphany for placing the autism symbol on the New York State Driver's License came during the season-opening episode of ABC's hit show "The Good Doctor." "It popped into my mind about kids that are on the spectrum. What happens to my son now that he is driving if he gets pulled over in this instance," Pete said. "What is he going to do if something happens out of the norm." So, Pete, thinking of his 18-year-old autistic son Ryan, put his idea on paper. He sent a letter to 20 New York legislators, including Governor Andrew Cuomo who responded and said he would look into the proposal. – ABC 11 – November 14, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/cZ8tXb>

54. “Drexel Prof: Want to be Part of a Long-Overdue Adventure? Hire People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities” - Contribution. Purpose. Financial security. Enjoyment. Learning and growing. Fellowship and camaraderie. A sense of belonging. Pride in a job well done. These are common motivations for wanting to work and build a career. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) have dreams to pursue and contributions to make to the world. And they are motivated to work for all the reasons that neurotypical people are motivated to work. Fostering employment and career opportunities for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities is not about charity — it’s about unleashing human potential. It’s about creating dynamic workplaces where neurodiversity is an asset that is recognized, fostered, and put to use for the good of the firm, for the good of all employees, and for the good of customers and society. – The Philadelphia Inquirer – November 13, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/HIXbTY>
55. “Police Officer Starts Camp for Girls with Special Needs on Her Own Dime, on Her Own Time” - School resources Officer Angela Booker saw a need for a summer camp for girls with special needs. So, she started one. With her own money. On her own time. The first year, Booker organized it, planned the activities, drafted volunteers, got buy-in from Haynes Middle School, even picked up some of the girls herself – and spent about \$1,000 of her own money for food and materials. The campers start each day with a hygiene lesson, prayer and hot breakfast. Activities include arts and crafts, sports and even some science and math exercises because, Booker noticed, the schools sometimes don’t teach those subjects to girls with special needs. – Tennessean – November 12, 2019 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/sReoAX>
56. “Adult Protective Services Announces New Centralized Phone Number “- The Department of Social and Health Services’ Adult Protective Services has a new centralized intake phone number to receive all reports of suspected abuse, neglect, self-neglect, abandonment and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults. The new phone number is 877-734-6277 and will direct all callers to staff located in Lacey. “Previously, we’ve had three separate phone numbers that related to our different regions of the state,” said Kathy Morgan, APS Director. “Centralizing intake streamlines the process for callers. Additionally, having all intake staff in the same office helps us provide consistent training and a uniform customer service experience.” – Waitsburg Times – November 14, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/lhBL1n>

INTERNATIONAL

57. “Aged Care Home Audit Identifies Residents Being Given Medication Without Consent” - A nursing home near Newcastle has been accused of drugging residents without their knowledge, in breach of privacy and dignity accreditation guidelines. The Federal Department of Health has issued the Bayside Aged Care facility at Bonnell’s Bay with a non-compliance notice, after it failed one in five industry benchmarks. They included not meeting protocols for health and personal care, regulatory compliance, education and staff development, clinical care, behavioural management and infection control. – ABC.NET – November 10, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/O9tYU5>
58. “One in Five British People are Disabled. So Why Does Politics Continue to Ignore us?” - Brexit could be catastrophic for disabled people. Everything must be done to ensure we are included at the coming election. The issue of disability rights has risen socially and culturally in recent years. Politically, however, disabled people remain in the shadows. Austerity has been brutal for disabled people. In 2017 the UN [accused the government](#) of violating disabled people’s rights and causing a “human catastrophe”. Disabled people in Britain remain some of the most marginalised and forgotten people in British society. – The Guardian – November 13, 2019 – (Britain) - <https://is.gd/YMviYP>
59. “Drunken nurse who battered sleeping woman with Down Syndrome has nursing registration cancelled” Anne Moffatt from Ballymote in Co [Sligo](#) downed a half of litre of vodka before striking the severely intellectually disabled woman. She hit her with the back of her right hand five or six times and smacked her on the forehead with one of her flipflops. High Court President Mr. Justice Peter Kelly said today he had “no hesitation” in confirming the Nursing and Midwifery Board’s decision to cancel her registration. He agreed with the Board the assault at a residential services centre on the night of August 10, 2018, was the “ultimate violation” levelled at a vulnerable person while in their bed asleep. The court heard it was of such an “egregious” nature as to render brute Moffatt unfit to practise as a nurse. – The Irish Sun – November 11, 2019 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/VN8Aui>
60. “Kenyan Lobby Urges Greater Access to Contraceptives Among Disabled Women” - he Kenyan government and bilateral partners should earmark additional resources towards programs that promote access to birth control

services among women living with disabilities, campaigners said on Thursday. Mildred Omino, advocacy officer at Women and Realities of Disability in Kenya lobby group said that access to contraceptives is key to promote health of women and girls living with physical impairments. "Reproductive health rights for women with disabilities are key to enable them participate fully in the socio-economic development of the country," Omino said at a side event held during the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) underway in Nairobi. -Xinhua – November 14, 2019 – (Kenya) - <https://is.gd/IB9RFu>

61. "Police Launch Investigation into Treatment of Residents at Sanctuary Care Home" - The police have launched an investigation into the treatment of residents at a nursing home in central London managed by the care arm of housing association Sanctuary. Westminster Council confirmed that "several members of staff at the home have been suspended", and that it has brought in council staff to manage and oversee the care being provided at the home during the investigation. Garside House Nursing Home accommodates up to 40 residents and provides dementia care, palliative care, residential care and respite care for older residents. It is run as part of a joint outsourcing agreement with the local NHS and Westminster Council. – Inside Housing – November 11, 2019 – (London) - <https://is.gd/pUrTGw>

62. "Agencies 'Failed to Work Together' to Save Disabled Man Murdered by Friend" - In the months leading up to his death in February 2018, Mark Smith (pictured) repeatedly asked the housing association that owned the block of flats where he lived in Chingford, north-east London, to change the locks on his front door. People he referred to as "friends" had taken over his flat and changed the locks, a process known as "cuckooing", which has been linked to many cases of exploitation of people with mental health conditions or learning difficulties. – Disability News Service – November 14, 2019 – (London) - <https://is.gd/X0oxhe>

63. "Nigeria Urged to Ban Chaining People with Mental Health Issues" - Human Rights Watch calls on government to probe mental health centers as it documents abuse in various facilities. Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a [report](#) published on Monday that detention, chaining and violent treatment of mental health patients was pervasive in the country "in many settings, including state hospitals, rehabilitation centers, traditional healing centers, and both Christian and Islamic faith-based facilities". – Aljazeera – November 11, 2019 – (Nigeria) - <https://is.gd/5G4Mge>

64. “Monifieth Mum Whose Son Was Injured While Being Restrained at School Hits out at Scottish Government Over Issue” - Beth Morrison, from Monifieth, started her campaign after her son Calum was injured while being restrained by staff at Kingspark School in Dundee. Mrs. Morrison has since spoken to hundreds of families across Scotland whose children have been subjected to the practice and attended the Scottish Parliament last week nearly five years after first launching a petition. The Courier [previously reported](#) how the campaigner fears the number of children being restrained or secluded in Scottish schools could be far greater than those recorded by local authorities. – The Courier – November 11, 2019 – (Scotland) - <https://is.gd/9JbXp2>
65. “Abusive South Korean Facility Exported Children” - A notorious South Korean facility that kidnapped, abused and enslaved children and the disabled for a generation was also shipping children overseas for adoption, part of a massive profit-seeking enterprise that thrived by exploiting those trapped within its walls, the Associated Press has found. The AP, which previously exposed a government cover-up at Brothers Home and a far greater level of abuse than earlier known, has now found that the facility was part of an orphanage pipeline feeding the demand of private adoption agencies. – The Spokesman – Review – November 9, 2019 – (South Korea) - <https://is.gd/7L3xag>
66. “Coast Principal Calls Video of Disabled Girl’s Assault Child Abuse at Ex-Bus Driver’s Trial” - Former St. Martin school bus driver Antioinette Jane Raymond has been charged with misdemeanor of contributing to neglect, delinquency or abuse of a child and simple assault for her treatment of a student riding her bus in 2014 and 2015. – Sun Herald – November 13, 2019 – (St. Martin) - <https://is.gd/y0MVJA>
67. “Health Secretary Matt Hancock Apologizes to Autistic Girl Who is Locked Up for 24 Hours a Day for 'Persistent Failures' in Her Care” - Health Secretary Matt Hancock has apologised for persistent care failures to Beth, the teenage girl with autism whose detention in a locked hospital cell has sparked national outrage. Asked by Sky News presenter Sophy Ridge if he would say sorry to Bethany's father Jeremy, Mr. Hancock yesterday replied: 'Of course I apologise to Jeremy, and frankly to Bethany, for the things that have gone wrong in her care.' – Daily Mail – November 9, 2019 – (United Kingdom) – <https://is.gd/TtTCM6>

68. “Twitter Responsible for Half of Child Abuse Material UK Investigators Found on Web Platforms” - Twitter is responsible for almost half of the child abuse material found by UK investigators being hosted openly on popular tech sites, according to figures seen by the Telegraph. Statistics from the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) show that 49 percent of the images, videos and url links it found on social media, search engines and cloud services in the last three years were on the social network, making up 1,396 of the total 2,835 incidents found. – The Telegraph – November 10, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/7d10op>
69. “Staff Forced Autistic Pupils into Tiny Cupboard After ‘Meltdowns’, School Admits” - Parents of three of the pupils are now calling on the school’s head teacher to resign, after an independent panel upheld their complaints. The room was just five feet square in size, and the word “Hell” was at one point written in red ink on the inside of the door by autistic pupils who referred to it as the “cupboard of Hell”, although staff called it “the quiet room”. The parents say they told the head teacher, Jonathan Smith, how the cupboard was being used when they copied him into emails complaining about their children’s treatment, but he took no action. There were shoe marks on the walls and door of the cupboard because pupils would scream and kick out in panic after they were forced inside. The practice is believed to have continued for at least a year at Ardley Hill Academy in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, whose pupils are between five and 11 years old. – Disability News Service – November 14, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/T3PGyi>
70. Priests Puts Chili Powder in Children’s Genitals to “Rid Them of the Devil” - Parents of autistic children are paying religious pastors to exorcise their children under the belief their disability is a sign of the devil, a child safety expert has warned. Debbie Ariyo, the CEO of UK based charity AFRUCA, said disabled children are vulnerable to horrific forms of witchcraft abuse in certain communities in the UK. She said common forms of torment include being starved or having chili powder put in the eyes or genitals to rid the body of the perceived spirit. She spoke to Metro.co.uk in light of new figures which show witchcraft and black magic are increasing factors in the abuse of children in the UK. – Metro – November 14, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/tDfIJQ>

MISCELLANEOUS

71. “Nurse Takes in Man with Autism so He can get a New Heart” - Jonathan has autism. He was raised by his grandma, but she died a few years ago and there was no one else. Then, to add illness to injury, doctors at Piedmont Newnan

Hospital in Georgia told Jonathan he had heart failure at the age of 26. It was so bad he actually needed a heart transplant, or else he was told he had six months to live. Part of the problem is you can't get a new heart — can't even get on the transplant list — if you don't have a home, or some kind of support system to help you post-surgery. Since Jonathan has no family to speak of, his fate was sealed – basically death by loneliness. – CBS News – November 8, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/DxfTyP>

72. “Is Greta Thunberg ‘Disabled’ or a Superhero? Two Sides to Neurodiversity” - Greta Thunberg has not referred to herself as disabled. She wants the world to know that Asperger’s is her superpower and that in times of crisis we need people who can think outside of the box. She describes how being neurodiverse [helps her stay focused and brush off criticism](#). She appears as our fearless leader, speaking up where for too long we have been silent, and inspiring a generation. – Forbes – November 10, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/4o7NnU>

73. “It’s Okay to Say Retarded” Thought Police Harm Far Outweighs Any Intended Good - As a parent of a retarded child it is frustrating to no end when people engage in thought policing saying it’s not appropriate to say “retarded.” While they may intend good from their thought policing; there is nothing more damaging that they can do to a child in such a situation. – Big Jolly Times – November 11, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/EpSgQC>

74. “Julián Castro’s Latest Plan Tackles Disability Rights: ‘There are No Second-Class Citizens’” - Former Housing Secretary [Julián Castro](#) unveiled a set of ambitious presidential campaign proposals that are centered on protecting and expanding the rights of people with disabilities, who make up a quarter of the U.S. population and are becoming increasingly more visible on the political stage. The plan focuses on fighting homelessness, institutionalization and inherent flaws in the criminal justice, education and immigration systems that disproportionately affect the disability community but especially poor, disabled people of color. – Huff Post – November 16, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/mj1Gu3>

75. “The Secret War on the Left Between Unions and People with Disabilities” - Earlier this year, Pennsylvania’s Department of Human Services [announced it would](#) close the Polk State Center, one of its largest institutions for people with developmental disabilities, within three years. People with Down syndrome,

autism, cerebral palsy and other conditions are often housed at places like the Polk Center, and often involuntarily. The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh, which advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, hailed the news, because research shows that people with disabilities are better served living in communities, with [support services delivered at home](#). But after news of the announced closure of the Polk Center, [which employs 700 people](#) who receive state employee wages and benefits, AFSCME Council 13 posted a [picture](#) on Twitter of employees holding signs reading “Disabled Lives Matter” and “They don’t want to leave. Ask them!” - The Washington Post – November 14, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/1jvKCa>