

# Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of November 17 to November 23, 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 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: 5, 8, 21, 41, 45

Physical Abuse: 1, 3, 9, 19

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 18

Financial Abuse: 7, 11, 16, 17

Murder: 2, 20, 33, 34, 42, 47

Attempted murder: 22

Neglected: 4, 6, 15

Kept Enclosed: 15

Related to social media: 40

Related to special education: 1, 5, 10, 12

**WINNER of most egregious award:** 46: kids with autism “locked up like criminals” in NHS funded hospital.

**WINNER of “good job” award:** 49: Temple Grandin says, “do what you are good at,” to kids with autism; 50: DOE reverses course on proposed changes in handling complaints.

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

Family: 2, 4, 6, 15, 22, 33, 45, 47

Carer: 3, 7, 8, 17, 21

Hospital: 42

Stranger: 19

Special education: 11, 5, 10

Attorney: 16

Men: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 33, 45, 47

Women: 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 34

**Good News:** 25: New bill intends to decrease school restraint/seclusion practices; 48: special education student studies and excels in college

**Bad News:** 13: abuse in nursing homes “grossly underreported; 14: VA hospitals experience “blatant disregard for patient safety; 36: Finance minister cuts child advocate program, putting children at higher risk; 38: children with autism tricked into changing gender by teacher; 44: Stigma against people with disabilities leads to placement in dangerous orphanages.

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making it easier to keep up with our activities! Prior weekly newsfeeds are archived at: <http://disabilityandabuse.org/newsfeed/contents.htm>

## **ABUSE & NEGLECT**

1. “Special Ed Teacher Arrested for Slapping Autistic Student” - According to the affidavit, 38-year-old Nioka Braggs was trying to calm down the four-year-old boy at The Allen School when another teacher saw her slap him. – Fox 16 – November 21, 2018 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/hPChzq>
2. “‘Extreme Psychological Abuse’ Led Father, 92, to Fatally Shoot Son, 51, as he Slept, Defense Argues” - A 92-year-old former lawyer in Southern California is accused of killing his son with a shotgun while he slept, but a defense attorney said in court Friday that the incident was provoked by "extreme psychological abuse," according to reports. – Fox News – November 17, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/xJHIQF>
3. “Judge Denies Special Probation to Woman Accused of Launching Elderly Woman Out of Wheelchair” – A [South Windsor](#) woman accused of intentionally dumping an 83-year-old woman out of a wheelchair asked a judge for a special form of probation that would have allowed her to avoid jail and a criminal record. - Hartford Courant – November 21, 2018 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/UFMVUb>
4. “Woman Arrested After Autistic Four-Year-Old Girl Found Wandering Alone” - A woman was arrested after an autistic four-year-old girl was found wandering down a street in Clermont alone. – Fox 53 – November 19, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/37xF41>
5. “Former Special-Ed Teacher Gets 15 Years in Prison for Raping Mentally Disabled Man” - The former special education teacher was [convicted of](#)

[raping a mentally disabled man](#). The victim, who has the mental capacity of a first grader, told the jury last August he was lured to Beaver's apartment after being locked out of his home. – Fox 13 – November 19, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/Bg3NdA>

6. "Man Imprisoned for Neglect of Wife's Disabled Daughter" - A Davenport man whose wife's intellectually disabled daughter was always locked in a bedroom has been given 10 years in prison. – KTVO – November 19, 2018 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/yo5eBW>
  
7. "Iowa Woman Charged with Financial Exploitation" - Ashley Marie Evenson, 26, has been charged with two felony counts of financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult, two felony counts of theft, a gross misdemeanor charge of financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult and a gross misdemeanor theft charge. – Post Bulletin – November 21, 2018 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/94OXDs>
  
8. "State Officials Ask Lawrence Group Home Owner Charged with Rape to Have No Contact With His Clients - Erick W. Ogwangi, 33, of Lawrence, [was arrested and charged last week](#) with a rape that allegedly occurred nearly two years ago and involved an adult female victim who was unconscious or physically powerless.- Lawrence Journal World – November 16, 2018 – (Kansas) - <https://is.gd/WCj106>
  
9. "Police Say Woman Assaulted Autistic Man" - According to police, the victim had several "4-6' straight line welts to his front and back torso." Police say the victim stated the injuries came from being hit by Gonsman with a stereo cord. – WDRB – November 18, 2018 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/JgaZrX>

10. "Aides Charged with Abusing Children with Autism" - Three former aides at the ProMedica Bixby Autism Center are being charged with child abuse and assault and battery for allegedly slapping children in their care during therapy sessions. Adrian Michigan police says Sarah Phillips, Erinn Tiede and Ashleigh Sancrant have been arrested and charged in the case which has taken months to investigate. – ABC 13 – November 16, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/hfQGOR>
  
11. "Two in Granite Falls Sentenced for Financial Exploitation of Elderly Man" - Mark Alan Syring, 50, and Jerilyn Marie Holmes, 70, were sentenced this month in Yellow Medicine County District Court on charges related to cleaning out the bank accounts of a 93-year-old man. – West Central Tribune – November 20, 2018 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/grvYlc>
  
12. "Bus Driver Accused in Special Needs Bus Assault Hasn't Gone to Trial Yet. Here's Why" - No one knows when former St. Martin Middle School bus driver Antoinette Jane Raymond will face criminal prosecution for the alleged [assault on a disabled student](#), but it's not happening this year, special prosecutor Mark Watts said. – Sun Herald – November 21, 2018 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/1sw8yQ>
  
13. "Sexual Assault 'Grossly Underreported' in Senior Nursing Homes, News 4 Investigation Finds" - Cases of sexual abuse often go unreported inside nursing homes, and local families are being exposed to the unthinkable actions committed against some of society's most vulnerable members. – KMOV 4 – November 19, 2018 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/IT1rma>
  
14. "Nothing Short of Horrifying:' Veterans' Groups Demand Fixes at VA Nursing Homes" - Six veterans' groups are calling on the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve the quality of care at its nursing homes following a story by USA TODAY and The Boston Globe detailing "[blatant](#)

[disregard for veteran safety'](#) at a VA nursing home in Massachusetts. – CBS 8 – November 19, 2018 – (National) - <https://is.gd/yRqrhl>

15. “3 Pahrump Residents Arrested After 2 Mentally Handicapped Adults Kept Captive for Months” - According to the Nye County Sheriff's Office, a 52-year-old woman and her 34-year-old son, both mentally handicapped, were found dehydrated and malnourished on Friday. Deputies learned that the two had been left restrained in a bedroom by the woman’s younger son, Thatcher. – KTNV – November 19, 2018 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/9YVx0S>
  
16. Former Exeter Lawyer Heads to Prison, Apologizes for 'Reckless Enterprise’” - Former Exeter lawyer Thomas Gage was sent to state prison for at least two years Thursday after financially exploiting an elderly woman who was once a family friend and client, and leaving her saddled with more than \$81,000 in credit card bills. – Union Leader – November 15, 2018 – (New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/mqxOC5>
  
17. “Elder Care Worker Arrested for Exploiting 90-Year-Old Tenants” - An elder care worker in the city of Buffalo has been indicted on financial exploitation charges. 47-year-old Rhonda Henderson went before a judge Friday to be arraigned on the seven count indictment. – WKBW – November 16, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/eVUv9i>
  
18. “Mom Angry About Autistic Son’s Treatment” - he wrote that though Joe and an aide were “having a fun time learning something new, they were yelled at and insulted by the owner who stated ‘I don’t work with people as disadvantaged as he is!’ – Observer – November 18, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/Hcy8SV>

19. "Man Sics Dog on Handicapped Person" - Jason Earl Gomiller, 39, of Marigold Street last week allegedly told his pit bull to "get him," referring to a handicapped individual, which prompted the dog to bite the person on the forehead. Gomiller also is accused of hitting the handicapped person in the face and back with a dog collar. – Daily Journal – November 21, 2018 – (North Carolina)- <https://is.gd/7WNh00>
  
20. "Death Cocktail -Sex Killer Who Made Disabled Woman Drink Human Poo Before Raping and Stabbing Her to Death Begs to be Spared Execution" - Melvin Knight was branded "one of the worst" criminals in Pennsylvania history following the sadistic slaughter of Jennifer Daugherty, who had learning difficulties. – The Sun – November 16, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/75FYIG>
  
21. "Convicted Sex Offender Charged With Assaulting Disabled Woman" - A Riverdale man who is on the Utah Sex Offender Registry was charged Tuesday with sexually assaulting a disabled woman in a house where he was supposed to be doing work for the woman's mother. – Deseret News Utah – November 20, 2018 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/nFeqyC>
  
22. "Charges: Overwhelmed Utah man Tried to Kill Disabled Daughter" - A Millcreek man who allegedly felt he could no longer care for his disabled adult daughter now faces criminal charges following an apparent failed murder-suicide attempt. Michael Vetere, 73, was charged Wednesday in 3rd District Court with attempted murder, a first-degree felony, and aggravated abuse of a vulnerable adult, a second-degree felony. – KSL.COM – November 21, 2018 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/KtJdqE>

## **GUARDIANSHIP**

23. "Joint Judiciary Drops Guardianship Termination Bill" - More specific guidelines of guardianship terminations and orders were sought in a drafted bill by the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Judiciary Committee

Thursday, but the bill did not carry a majority and will not be sponsored by the committee in the upcoming legislative session starting Jan. 8. -The Sheridan Press – November 16, 2018 – (Wyoming) - <https://is.gd/rSoKZE>

## **LAWS & LEGISLATION**

24. “Group Home Limits up for Review” - Plan Commission Chair Colby Lewis said he wasn't even sure whether group homes are a problem. – Evanston Now – November 15, 2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/oBFNvl>

25. “Keeping All Students Safe Act Aims to Prevent and Reduce the Use of Restraint, Seclusion in Schools” - A new bill, the Keeping All Students Safe Act, was introduced to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Wednesday that aims to reduce and prevent seclusion and restraint in schools. – The Mighty – November 12, 2018 – (National) - <https://is.gd/fx0a2y>

26. “Congress to Consider Beyer's School Seclusion Bill” – Members of Congress are about to consider a piece of school legislation that has its origins in the Virginia General Assembly. - - WVTF – November 21, 2018 – (Virginia) -

## **STUDIES & STATISTICS**

27. “Those at the Top Can’t be Bothered With the Care Needs of the Most Vulnerable” - I am struck by a common theme in the Nov. 15 front-page report on the neglect of patients in the Brockton Veterans Affairs Medical Center nursing home care unit and the same-day editorial about the abuse of the disabled ([“Brockton VA nursing home called a danger”](#) and [“Ending abuse of the disabled”](#)).- Boston Globe – November 16, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/pifOpm>

28. “Michigan Missing the Mark on Special Education” - That score reflects high dropout and low graduation rates for students with disabilities. According to that report, 29 percent of kids with special needs in Michigan dropped out of high school in the 2015/2016 school year. – Fox 17 – November 19, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/vDLphi>
29. “Obesity Risk Tracks with Severity of Autism Traits, Study Suggests” - Autistic children are about 1.6 times as likely as their typical peers to be overweight or obese, the study shows. And autistic children with severe traits have 1.7 times the risk of those with mild traits. – Spectrum – November 22, 2018 – (Philadelphia) - <https://is.gd/45t990>

## **IMPROVED SUPPORTS**

30. “2 Youth Jails to Close as Arkansas Reworks Juvenile-Justice System” - The overall goal is to cut youth incarceration, Hutchinson said. Over time, funds that would cover the cost of locking up children can go to therapeutic group homes, psychiatric and substance-abuse programs, community-based services, and diversion efforts that direct children away from formal processing in juvenile courts while still holding them accountable, he said – Democrat Gazette – November 17, 2018 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/4izuEH>
31. “What This Settlement in a 25-Year-Old Case Means for Ohio Students with Disabilities” - Students in large urban districts may see improved academic outcomes. – Think Progress – November 15, 2018 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/NK3Djh>
32. “Bowling Green Marches for Peace” - Signs that read “ Peace” “BG Stand Together” “Disability rights are Human rights” and many other messages of solidarity and peace were spotted Wednesday on East Wooster Street. – Sentinel Tribune – November 15, 2018 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/rEN8Dt>

## INTERNATIONAL

33. “Man Who Stabbed Father to Death Over Excessive Computer Use Jailed for Six Years” - A Supreme Court judge has told a Sydney court a man who fatally stabbed his father after an argument over computer use is having a harder time in jail than other inmates due to his Asperger's syndrome. – ABC News – November 16, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/Jw3SgT>
  
34. “Aus Mum Facing Death Penalty Denies Murder” - The child, who was afflicted by schizophrenia and other behavioural disorders, died four hours after she was taken to hospital in February 2017. Prosecutors allege the Cunninghams restrained Sanaa with plastic ties, a makeshift straitjacket and shackles, forced her to wear nappies and locked her in a laundry room or outside. – 9 News – November 18, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/t006QU>
  
35. “School Bullying Video Shows How People with Disabilities are Devalued: Advocates” - Advocates say a disturbing video showing a Cape Breton teen's classmate walking over him in a stream demonstrates how the lives of people with disabilities are often devalued. – CTV News – November 15, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/4llcMV>
  
36. “Axing Ontario’s Child Advocate Puts Our Most Vulnerable Kids at Even Greater Risk” - In it, Finance Minister Vic Fedeli announced the end of Ontario’s child advocate, a development that will put children at risk. It is the worst kind of politics – cuts for the sake of cuts with no regard for children – sacrificing them on the altar of financial efficiency. – The Globe and Mail – November 16, 2018 - (Canada) - <https://is.gd/uyeZyh>
  
37. “Moves to Improve the Lives of Deaf People in Glasgow Revealed” - City chiefs have agreed plans to improve the lives of British Sign Language (BSL) users by making education, leisure, health and democratic services more

accessible. – Glasgow Live – November 16,2018 – (England) - <https://is.gd/DdQ3tu>

38. “School Has Seventeen Children Changing Gender as Teacher Says Vulnerable Pupils Are Being 'Tricked' Into Believing They Are the Wrong Sex” - Most of the youngsters undergoing the transformation are autistic, according to a teacher there, who said vulnerable children with mental health problems were being ‘tricked’ into believing they are the wrong sex. – Daily Mail – November 19, 2018 – (England) - <https://is.gd/R9gotv>
  
39. “Drug Addiction, Domestic Abuse, Rough Sleepers Mental Illness and Plenty of Diversity - This is the Real Grimsby” - Addicts, rough sleepers, the LGBT community and adults with disabilities have been put under the spotlight. – Grimsby Live – November 16, 2018 – (England) <https://is.gd/szylWN>
  
40. “Stevenage With Cerebral Palsy and Her Carer to Fight Back Against Facebook Abuse” - The carer of a 16-year-old girl from Stevenage who has cerebral palsy is fighting back after a torrent of online abuse. – The Comet – November 19 ,2018 – (England) - <https://is.gd/QVwyH2>
  
41. “Mumbai Crime: Mentally Disabled 18-Year-Old Raped for A Fourth Time” - Speaking to mid-day, the girl's elder sister said, "She might be 18 years old, but her brain development is less than that of a child. This is the fourth time she was raped; the previous three times were gang rapes. As she is intellectually disabled, people take advantage of her condition and abuse her mentally and sexually." – Mid-Day – November 23, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/pMW8Nr>
  
42. “NZ Woman Asks Japan PM to End Psychiatric Restraints” - A New Zealand woman whose son died in a Japanese psychiatric hospital after being strapped to a bed for more than a week has presented an open letter to

Prime Minister Shinzō Abe asking for an end to the practice. – RNZ – November 17, 2018 – (Japan) - <https://is.gd/53Cbs7>

43. “Restraints Used on Nearly Half of Dementia Patients Admitted to Hospitals in Japan, Study Finds” - Study concludes Japanese hospitals are going overboard in restraining dementia patients and the practice ‘may be becoming habitual’ – South China Morning Post – November 18, 2018 – (Japan) <https://is.gd/CH8qai>

44. “Stigma Pushes Disabled Children into 'Dangerous' Kenyan Orphanages” - Report reveals widespread neglect in institutions across the country, yet fierce discrimination means such children may be at risk of being killed if they remain in their communities – The Guardian – November 20, 2018 – (Kenya) - <https://is.gd/vp0cM8>

45. “Relative Arrested for Rape of ‘Mentally Disabled Woman’ in Welbekend” - According to the information available at this stage, it is alleged that a 21-year-old mentally disabled woman was raped on Saturday afternoon by her cousin at the victim’s house,” he said. Lamola said the victim was at home with her helper and the cousin when the incident happened. – Rekord – November 23, 2018 – (South Africa) - <https://is.gd/jhTgyN>

46. “Labour Grandee Harriet Harman Blasts the Sectioning of Autistic Patients in NHS-Funded Psychiatric Units” - Harriet Harman is leading a chorus of alarm from MPs over the scandal of youngsters with autism who are locked up like criminals in [NHS](#)-funded psychiatric units. – Daily Mail – November 17, 2018 – (United Kingdom)- <https://is.gd/Jgxc5>

47. “MERCY KILLING Devoted husband, 84, who battered wife, 86, to death with an iron bar rather than see her go into care home weeps as judge frees

him” - AN "utterly devoted" husband who battered his dementia-stricken wife to death with an iron bar to avoid seeing her move to a care home was spared jailed today. – The Sun – November 22, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/yEUEWM>

## MISCELLANEOUS

48. “Siblings Talk About Growing up in Ventura County with Special Needs” - As a student at Ventura College majoring in bilingual cross-cultural studies, Frances Nye has come a long way from the days when she was living in a group home for children with special needs. – VC Star – November 15, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/yGM1ui>
  
49. “In Coeur d’Alene, Temple Grandin has Message for Autistic Kids: Do What You’re Good at” - Temple Grandin sees the autism spectrum in some of the world’s most successful people. – The Spokesman Review – November 16, 2018 – (Idaho) - <https://is.gd/O67F5I>
  
50. “Victory for Disability Rights Activists as Ed Department Reverses Course on Civil Rights Investigation Rules” - The Education Department announced Tuesday it has reversed course on controversial changes to its handling of civil rights complaints, including a rule from earlier this year that allowed the agency to dismiss cases it deemed an “unreasonable burden” on resources. – The 74 – November 20, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/12t5SM>
  
51. “This Mom Stopped at Nothing to Rescue Special Needs Son on Bus Ride from Hell” - A special-needs Bronx boy spent 12 hellish hours on a city school bus during Thursday’s frozen fiasco — until his desperate mother finally reached him after a nine-hour trek by car and foot, she told The Post. – New York Post – November 16, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/oC00cm>