

# Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of February 23 to March 1, 2019

Articles Compiled by Debra J. Stemmler

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

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.

**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>

Please send comments or questions to: [nora@disability-abuse.com](mailto:nora@disability-abuse.com) or [baladerian@gmail.com](mailto:baladerian@gmail.com)

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*.

## **Type:**

### **Abuse and Neglect:**

Sexual Assault: 1, 3, 6, 8, 14, 21, 22, 24, 27, 29, 33, 35, 58, 65, 66

Human Trafficking: 7

Physical Abuse: 4, 12, 18, 20, 31, 34

Financial abuse: 13, 18, 39

Murder: 9, 17, 67

Neglected: 2, 4, 10, 16

Related to social media: 33

Related to special education: 10, 11, 20, 21, 29, 33, 36

***WINNER of most egregious award:*** 58: Priests sexually assaulted Deaf students, said to be “one of the worst cases.”

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

Family: 4, 9, 14, 16, 66, 67

Couple: 4, 16

Carer: 1, , 9, 10, 12, 18, 22, 24, 31, 34

Priest: 27, 58

Boy Scout Leader: 27

Group home: 1 (owner), 3, 8(wife owned), 12, 13

Residential school: 10, 11

Behavior Health Specialist: 35

Men: 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 17, 21, 22, 24, 27, 29, 34, 35, 39, 58, 65, 66

Women: 7, 13, 18, 31, 33, 36

**Good News:** 12: Man who physically assaulted person with autism gets 7 years in prison; 17: Man jailed in De Brodie murder case in MO; 39: Owner

of Guardianship firm sentenced to 12 years in prison for thefts; 41: New domestic violence law to receive OVS help if they've lost up to \$30k due to crime.

**Bad News:** 46: People with Autism Spectrum Disorder are dying at twice the rate of others, per Australian study; 50: Hundreds of Southern Baptist church leaders accused of sexually assaulting parishioners for 20 years; 62: Manitoba institution denies abuse of those with disabilities; 64: Catholic church does not deny sexual abuse of children with disabilities; 70: Study shows crimes against those with disabilities are viewed as "less serious."

## **ABUSE & NEGLECT**

1. "Owner of Assisted Living Facility in Bentonville Sued for Sexually Assaulting Residents" - Floro, his wife Terisita Floro and the assisted living facility are being sued by the guardian of one of the women who was sexually assaulted. The lawsuit is seeking a jury trial and unspecified monetary damages. – 5 News on Line – February 20, 2019 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/sQnmYZ>
2. "A 13-Year-Old Died After Being Told Not to Take Insulin. Now the Herbalist Is Headed to Jail." - When Edgar Lopez died in August 2014, the 13-year-old weighed [just 68 pounds](#). For two days, his condition had been rapidly deteriorating, and he had gone from being unable to keep food down to struggling to breathe. Timothy Morrow, a herbalist based in Torrance, Calif., had instead told them to rub [lavender oil](#) on the boy's spine and prescribed herbal medicine that he claimed would cure Lopez for life. – The Washington Post – February 26, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/l8GKmf>
3. "Former Youth Counselor Gets Eight Years Prison" - Francis Caceres, 30, was arrested in January of 2017 after investigators determined he had sexual relations with a 14-year-old girl he met the prior summer while working at

Your House South, a group home for troubled teens run by the nonprofit StarVista. – The Daily Journal – February 23, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/vc2V8s>

4. “Parents Of 13 Plead Guilty To Torture, Abuse In Case Dubbed ‘House Of Horrors’; David & Louise Turpin Shackled, Starved Kids, Kept Some In Cages” - David and Louise Turpin will spend at least 25 years in prison after entering the pleas in Riverside County Superior Court to 14 counts that included cruelty toward all but their toddler daughter, and imprisoning them in a house that appeared neatly kept outside, but festered with filth and reeked of human waste. – The Ledger – February 22, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/gGFu89>
  
5. “Video Shows Florida Officers Arresting Man, Witnesses Shouting 'He's Handicapped'” - The video was captured by a witness over the weekend and shows a woman trying to get the attention of at least four officers by yelling that the man they were trying to arrest, Govinda Howell, was handicapped. – ABC Action News – February 20, 2019 – (Florida)- <https://is.gd/xWgiAo>
  
6. “He impregnated a mentally disabled woman, cops say. He had a one-way ticket to Haiti” - A man about to face prosecution on charges of raping a mentally disabled person got handcuffed by U.S. Marshals at Orlando International Airport Monday. Orlando resident Pascal Estime had a one-way ticket to Haiti. – Miami Herald – February 19, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/Rq6akC>
  
7. “Woman Accused of Sex-Trafficking Child in Tallahassee” - A woman has been arrested after police say she sex trafficked a mentally handicapped child throughout Tallahassee. Alesha Marie McBride, 33, was taken into custody Tuesday by the Tallahassee Police Department for her role in the child

performing sexual acts with men for money. – WTXL – February 20, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/p5FW2B>

8. “Man Sentenced for Abuse of a Vulnerable Adult”- Clark, 57, was charged with carrying on a sexual relationship with the alleged victim during a nine-month period in 2017. The alleged victim was 38 at the time, although she had the capabilities of a 7-year-old child due to a developmental delay. The sexual misconduct occurred at a Kelso Lake cabin and in Kootenai County, charging papers allege. – Bonner County Daily Bee – February 19, 2019 – (Idaho) - <https://is.gd/7kvyGt>
9. “Grisly details revealed in Olathe mistreatment case where son is accused of murder in mom’s death” - Officers who found a woman dead in an Olathe home late in January reported she was emaciated, had open bedsores and an autopsy found she weighed 58 pounds. Under a new Kansas statute on elder abuse, prosecutors charged victim Sharon McManness' son, Raymond T. McManness, with first-degree murder and mistreatment of a dependent adult. – Fox 4 – February 20, 2019 – (Kansas) - <https://is.gd/mH1liq>
10. “Not A Safe Environment for Any Child.’ Bed Bugs, Safety Concerns At School For The Deaf” - Some parents of students at the [Kentucky School for the Deaf](#) are asking Kentucky Board of Education members to act on alleged problems at the residential school in Danville, ranging from student safety to bad food to bed bugs in a dorm. – Lexington Herald Leader – February 22, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/XIk90a>
11. “Allegations Against Louisiana Special Education Center Sparks State Police Probe” - State Police are investigating allegations of wrongdoing at the Louisiana Special Education Center in Alexandria, officials said Friday. Several

top officials of the center are on paid suspension pending results of the probe.  
– The Advocate – February 22, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/AJvVHm>

12. “Maryland Caregiver Gets 7 Years for Abusing Autistic Patient” - A Montgomery County, Maryland, man was sentenced Thursday to seven years in prison for abusing an autistic patient in his care. Fabrice Yantou, 22, was an employee of Community Support Services, which runs halfway houses for adults with developmental disabilities. – NBC Washington – February 21, 2019 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/5eZQSc>

13. “Police: Billerica Group Home Manager Stole from Disabled Residents, Went on Shopping Spree” - Brianna Higgins, 32, of Derry, was arrested on larceny and credit card fraud charges after an investigation into an alleged yearlong spending spree that totaled more than \$11,000, according to the Billerica Police Department. – WHDH- February 20, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/iR1eLj>

14. “Jerry Curry Sentenced To 30 Years for Abusing Disabled Daughters” - A Minneapolis man was sentenced Wednesday for crimes he committed against his two mentally disabled daughters. The Hennepin County Attorney’s Office says Jerry Curry, 52, was sentenced to 30 years in prison after pleading guilty Feb. 13 to two felony charges and one gross misdemeanor — just two days before his criminal trial was set to begin. The charges include first-degree assault, first-degree criminal sexual contact and child endangerment. – WCCO – 4 – February 20, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/4jXGct>

15. “New Corrections Chief Questions Placement of Mentally Ill in Prison” - Minnesota Department of Corrections commissioner Paul Schnell said the department needs more officers to be trained to handle mental health issues.

Schnell also said he also questions whether many of the inmates with mental illness should be in prison at all, [Minnesota Public Radio News](#) reported. – KARE 11 – February 20, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/QSgz4n>

16. “Lowndes Couple Jailed for Neglect of Vulnerable Adult” - Deputies arrested Haynes and Spencer at the scene. Both were charged with neglect of a vulnerable adult, and Spencer was also charged with domestic violence. The victim is a family member of Haynes and Spencer, who were not providing the extensive care he needs, the press release said. – The Dispatch – February 21, 2019 –(Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/tO8MO9>
17. “Man Pleads Guilty to Misdemeanor in Debrodie Case” -Anthony R.K. Flores was charged after Carl DeBrodie's body was found in a Fulton storage shed in April 2017 after being reported missing about a week earlier. Flores was originally charged with two counts of misdemeanor making a false report about a missing person. A judge sentenced him to eight months in the county jail. – KMIZ 17 – February 25, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/ArjhtJ>
18. “Hamilton Group Home Worker Charged with Stealing Painkillers” - Crystal Lea Brightman, 39, of Conner, appeared before Ravalli County Justice Jim Bailey on a felony count of possession of dangerous drugs and a misdemeanor charge of theft. – Ravalli Republic – February 19, 2019 – (Montana) - <https://is.gd/hkHRI7>
19. “Doctor-Assisted Suicide Invites Discrimination Against Poor, Disabled | Hammon” - Unfortunately, Sen. David Parks is [bringing back the suicide bill](#) the Legislature [failed to pass last session](#) and many sessions before since 2005. And the disability community is frightened, intimidated and nearly despondent that we must again face days of testimony, suddenly changed hearing

times and listening to supporters tell us we'd be better off dead.- Reno Gazette Journal – February 19, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/mJlEtg>

20. “I-Team: Mom Claims School Put Special Needs Boy Outside in Heat to Calm Him Down” - Myers claims staff placed her son in an enclosed area with a door leading to the classroom, after he became frustrated with the classroom exercise. "My attorney calls it a hot box," she said. "It's just hard material. There's nothing soft out there." – Las Vegas Now – February 20, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/KXtsUT>

21. “Teacher Who Molested Physically Disabled Student Sentenced to Four Years” - A former Evergreen Public Schools substitute teacher who molested a physically disabled female student at a school in March 2018 was sentenced to four years in prison on Friday. Mark Anthony Lugliani, 60, of Battle Ground, pleaded guilty last month in Clark County Superior Court to third-degree child molestation. – The Columbian – February 22, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/lSKcXe>

22. “Caregiver Rapist Sentenced To 10 Years in State Prison”- A live-in caregiver of a disabled person will spend at least 10 years in prison after he pleaded guilty Thursday to raping the young man he was hired to care for. A judge issued the sentence to Sterling Jordan, 40, of Manchester, who has been jailed since the November 2017 sexual assault. – New Hampshire Union Leader – February 21, 2019 – (New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/B1XSUW>

23. “NJ Bus Driver Revived with Narcan After Crashing Bus Full of Special Needs Children” - Lisa Byrd of East Orange was revived after police found her unconscious following the crash at 14th Avenue and Jones Street just after 1 p.m., Newark Public Safety Director Anthony Ambrose said. The bus was

coming from the 14th Avenue School in Newark. – USA Today – February 21, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/zfSrit>

24. “Family Sues Over Sexual Assault in Cuyahoga Falls Nursing Home” - Ronald Whisman Jr., 30, of Tallmadge was working at Continuing Healthcare of Cuyahoga Falls in June when he had “sexual conduct” with a 68-year-old female patient, according to a Cuyahoga Falls police report. – Akron Beacon Journal – February 22, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/pZAYQI>

25. “Mentally Ill Languish in Oregon Jails, In Breach of Federal Court Order” - Oregon routinely violates a federal court order that requires mentally ill people who get charged with crimes to be admitted promptly to the state mental hospital, an analysis by The Oregonian/OregonLive has found. The frequent delays, some of them lasting more than a month, trample the rights of mentally ill people accused of minor or serious crimes, as judges have ruled they cannot be left to languish in county jails. -The Oregonian/OregonLive - February 24, 2019 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/JBYOgr>

26. “Customers Angry That Disabled Walmart Greeter Could Lose Job” - Under federal law, employers must provide reasonable accommodations to workers with disabilities. The law requires an “interactive process” between employer and employee to evaluate requests to be accommodated. Catlin’s family said a Walmart store manager, a human relations manager and an official at corporate headquarters called Wednesday afternoon to discuss the situation. – WFLA News 8 – February 20, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/pcuSRR>

27. “Former Boy Scout Chaplain Charged with Multiple Counts of Sexual Assault” - On Friday, James Glawson, 74, of 101 Widow Sweets Rd., Exeter, was charged with three counts of first-degree sexual assault and one count of second-

degree sexual assault. Lieutenant Colonel Kevin M. Barry, Acting Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police and Acting Director of the Department of Public Safety, said the arrest was made for allegedly sexually assaulting a disabled 18-year-old male. – The NK Standard – Times -February 23, 2019 – (Rhode Island) - <https://is.gd/7EJqcJ>

28. “Exeter Man Accused of Sexual Assault Denied Public Defender” -James Glawson, a former Boy Scout chaplain, appeared for a hearing in Washington County District Court to determine his status for an attorney. A judge said his financial status deemed him ineligible for a public defender. –Turn to 10 – February 20, 2019 – (Rhode Island) - <https://is.gd/TFrx7l>
  
29. “Former SC Special Education Teacher Faces 25 Child Pornography Charges” - Tracy Lee Smith, of Aiken, was arrested this week on 25 charges, according to the S.C. Attorney General’s Office. They include 11 counts of second-degree sexual exploitation of a minor and 14 counts of third-degree sexual exploitation of a minor. – The News & Observer – February 21, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/mTCqsh>
  
30. “Hearing Rescheduled for Autistic Teen Accused of Murder” - A hearing has been rescheduled for a teen with autism charged with murder. Jared Trevino, 18, is accused of stealing several vehicles. Prosecutors said Trevino broke into and stole a neighbor's pickup truck on Feb. 3, ran a red light and crashed into another vehicle, killing Lorenzo Gomez. – Click 2 Houston – February 19, 2019 –(Texas) <https://is.gd/DGQ4T2>
  
31. “Woman Accused of Beating Elderly Man, Throws Him from Wheelchair” - Tangela Farica Davenport, 36, was charged with injury to an elderly individual – intentional bodily injury. According to the arrest affidavit, Kofficers responded to a violent domestic disturbance call Monday. When they arrived,

the 65-year-old victim told them the suspect had hit him in the head with her fists, threw him out of his wheelchair to the ground and then stomped on his foot, according to the affidavit. – KDHN News – February 20, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/pq2adq>

32. “Supreme Court Blocks Texas From Executing Mentally Disabled Man” - This is the second time the Supreme Court has weighed in on the case, which stems from a 1980 robbery in which Bobby J. Moore shot and killed a store clerk. The issue before the court has been whether Moore [lacked the intellectual capacity](#) to be put to death for his crime. – NPR- February 20, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/RKINk0>

33. “Teacher at Utah school for autistic children charged with sending nude photos to student” - Brooke Armijo, 38, of Draper, is charged with four counts of dealing in harmful material to a minor by an adult, a third-degree felony, according to documents filed in 4th District Court. Armijo, a teacher at Spectrum Academy, 867 S. 800 West, sent nude pictures of herself and an explicit video to a 17-year-old student, which he received and viewed between Jan. 4 and Jan. 6, according to the charges. – Deseret News Utah – February 23, 2019- (Utah) - <https://is.gd/l2Nx3s>

34. “Man arrested for child abuse in Salt Lake City” - Brandon Wade Barney, 22, was arrested for child abuse inflicting serious physical injury intentionally and abuse or neglect of a disabled child. – 2 KUTV – February 23, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/pp5z3F>

35. “Springfield Man Who Raped Mentally Disabled Woman, Charged With 2nd Rape” - Last week we reported that behavioral health specialist, Bernard Betts-King, was charged for raping a mentally disabled woman at the MVLE Community Center in 2018. Police say DNA has confirmed that the woman had

a child as a result of the assault. Betts-King is also charged with a second rape of another mentally disabled women. Police believe that incident happened in early 2017. Detectives are searching for additional victims. – Local DVM – February 18, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/vXez9X>

36. “Morrisey Files Civil Complaint to Protect 'Vulnerable' Students” - At a press conference on Tuesday, West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced that he had filed a civil complaint in the Circuit Court of Berkeley County alleging that three adults — a teacher and two teacher’s aides — at Berkeley Heights Elementary School verbally assaulted two nonverbal autistic children in November. – The Journal – February 20, 2019 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/hwxlaM>

## **GUARDIANSHIP**

37. “State Watchdog Does Little to Hold Court-Appointed Guardians Accountable” - The Office of Public and Professional Guardians – set up by lawmakers in 2016 – has handed out only 19 warning letters since it was established, state records show. – ABC Action News – February 22, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/7o47Fa>

38. “Kerala HC Issues Rules on Guardianship of People in Coma” - The Kerala high court on Wednesday issued guidelines enabling close relatives of people lying in coma to manage their assets and bank accounts. – Times of India – February 21, 2019 – (India) - [http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/68086953.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/68086953.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

\*URL not able to be shortened

39. “Operator of Guardianship Firm Gets 12-Year Prison Sentence” - The operator of a [New Mexico](#) guardianship firm has been sentenced to 12 years in prison for looting millions of dollars from trust accounts of dozens of people needing help with their financial affairs. Paul Donisthorpe of Bloomfield, New Mexico, apologized for his actions as he was sentenced Friday in U.S. District Court in Albuquerque, and U.S. Attorney John C. Anderson later said in a statement that Donisthorpe's conduct was "particularly odious" because he enriched himself at the expense of vulnerable people he was entrusted with protecting and serving. – US News – February 23, 2019 – (New Mexico) - <https://is.gd/Rp1Ax0>

## **LAWS & LEGISLATION**

40. “Senator Proposes Taking School Lunch Away for Low Test Scores” - Unless you’re from Arkansas, that is, because Senator Alan Clark of Garland County, AR, has recently proposed a bill that dangles the “incentive” of a reduced lunch like a worm on a fish hook before hungry students. – That’s Inappropriate – February 25, 2019 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/im02Bk>

41. “New Domestic Violence Legislation Takes Effect” - Vulnerable elderly or disabled individuals incapable of caring for themselves who have lost up to \$30,000 in savings because of a crime are eligible to seek OVS assistance. The change recognizes that many vulnerable elderly or disabled individuals fall victim to financial exploitation, as well as abuse, often by someone they know. Previously, the agency could only reimburse victims to this extent for loss of support or earnings. The age requirement established for vulnerable elderly under state law is at least 60 years old. – Livingston County News – February 19, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/pv6A6V>

42. “Requiring Human Traffickers to Register under Megan’s Law” - Senator Ward introduced [SB136](#) that expands mandatory registration under Megan’s Law to

all human trafficking-related offenses. Time served on the registry will be in line with the grading of the offense – the more serious the offense, the longer the time on the registry. – Senator Kim Ward’s E-Newsletter – February 28, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://www.senatorward.com/enews/022819-2/>

43. “Law Would Protect Elderly Against Financial Crimes in Virginia” - Both the House and Senate have passed versions of SB 1490, but the two chambers must resolve their differences over the measure. “This bill addresses the issue of financial exploitation of older Virginians, which has been on the rise in recent years,” said the sponsor, Sen. Mark Obenshain, R-Rockingham. – Fairfax Station Connection – February 19, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/hliSbF>

44. “W.Va. Lawmakers Advance Bill Requiring Cameras in Special Education Classrooms” - Legislation that would require monitoring cameras in special education classrooms is advancing in the West Virginia Legislature. – Herald Mail Media – February 22, 2019 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/SMGgdV>

45. “Disability Rights Advocates Praise Bill To Remove Offensive Word From Administrative Code” - The phrases "mentally retarded" and "mental retardation" were removed from Wisconsin state statutes under [a law in 2011](#), but state Rep. John Jagler realized the phrases still appeared in Wisconsin administrative rules and [the Wisconsin Administrative Code](#). He is hoping to change that with [a proposal](#) he authored with [state Sen. Scott Fitzgerald](#). – Channel 3000 – February 19, 2019 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/kaAYpp>

## **STUDIES & STATISTICS**

46. “People With Autism Dying At Twice Rate Of General Population: New Study” - People with autism spectrum disorder are dying at twice the rate of the general population, a [landmark Australian study](#) published on Tuesday has found. The biggest cause of death is injury or poisoning from suicide, self-harm

or accident, the University of NSW analysis involving the records of almost 36,000 people with the disorder in NSW showed. – The Sydney Morning Herald – February 25, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/mGAdk8>

47. “Why No One Talks About The High Unemployment Rate Among Women With Disabilities” - According to the [Bureau of Statistics](#) report, the unemployment rate among women with disabilities is 9.4%, whereas it is 4% for those without disabilities. That means women with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be unemployed than are their non-disabled counterparts. – Forbes – February 20, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/w5YtnC>

48. “Historical Autism Study Enters Fourth Year, Giving Families Answers, Hope” - Some kids with autism and their families are finally getting some answers about their diagnosis. The largest autism study in history -- called "spark" -- is entering its fourth year, and researchers at OHSU are helping to uncover some of the mystery. – KATU – February 18, 2019 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/OXUCgX>

49. “Directors: Area Agencies on Aging Ready to Improve After Report” - Northumberland County Area Agency on Aging Administrator Karen Leonovich, Union-Snyder Agency on Aging administrator Holly Kyle and Columbia-Montour Area Agency on Aging administrator Kathi Lynn said the local agencies are committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of older Pennsylvanians are protected at all times. – The Daily Item – February 22, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/pCx9zF>

50. “Report: Hundreds Abused By Southern Baptist Leaders, Workers” - [Hundreds of Southern Baptist church leaders and workers](#) have been accused of sexual misconduct over the past 20 years, including dozens who returned to church

duties, according to a joint investigation by two newspapers. – News Channel 9 – February 12, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/PyczrA>

## IMPROVED SUPPORTS

51. “Education Strategies to Support Special Education Students” - That first year, Thrive had two students with IEPs, making up 4 percent of our student body. Now that number is 20 percent: 1 in 5 of our students has an IEP or 504 Plan. Even among these students, there's great diversity of needs across a broad band of unique neurological profiles: - Education Week – February 19, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/vdclUh>

52. “Proposed Rules Limit School Seclusion Plan Also Envisions More Parental Involvement” - “The proposed rules make it crystal clear that schools should never use seclusion as a punishment or disciplinary measure — whether it is called a ‘timeout’ or ‘seclusion,’” said Dina Bishara, an Iowa City parent and member of the Iowa City Autism Community organization. “Seclusion and restraint are to be emergency procedures when all else fails.” – The Gazette – February 19, 2019 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/AKgcVA>

53. “Union: Adult caseworkers face increased reports” - Alec Maybarduk, the executive director of the Maine State Employees Association, says in the aftermath of the deaths of two young girls, Maine made "late" changes to improve conditions within Child Protective Services. – Ledger- Enquirer – February 19, 2019 – (Maine) - <https://is.gd/WKNDJz>

54. “Police Being Trained on How to Deal with People’s Disabilities, By People with Disabilities”- This program is funded by a grant from the Maryland

Department of Disabilities. It's up for renewal in June – WJZ CBS Baltimore – February 12, 2019 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/1afdPg>

55. “Gov. Tim Walz Proposes Tougher Oversight of Minnesota Facilities for Vulnerable Adults” - Proposal for more fines, more frequent inspections respond to flood of complaints. [The multipronged proposal](#), outlined Tuesday in Walz’s two-year budget plan, would subject care facilities to more frequent inspections and immediate fines in cases of health and safety violations. – Star Tribune – February 21, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/BjgrAQ>

56. “Southern Baptist President Says Database Of Abusers Possible” - More than a decade after the Southern Baptist Convention rejected the idea of creating a [database of ministers credibly accused of sexual abuse](#), leaders said on Monday night the possibility is on the table. – Fox 11 News – February 19, 2019 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/NPbHlb>

57. “Program Available to Those with Mental Illness in Financial Need” - However, in Tennessee, there is a system in place to help the uninsured and indigent who suffer from mental illness. – Daily Post Athenian – February 20, 2019 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/iVt7vk>

## **INTERNATIONAL**

58. “‘The Pope Ignored Them’: Alleged Abuse of Deaf Children On 2 Continents Points to Vatican Failings” - When investigators swept in and raided the religious Antonio Provolo Institute for the Deaf, they uncovered one of the worst cases yet among the global abuse scandals plaguing the Catholic Church: a place of silent torment where prosecutors say pedophiles preyed on the most isolated and submissive children. – NOLA – February 19, 2019 – (Argentina) - <https://is.gd/ZqHwIH>

59. Australia's Parliament Speaks Out On Disability - In a positive move, yesterday, the Australian parliament [voted for](#) a Royal Commission into violence, abuse, and neglect experienced by people with disabilities in Australia. Disappointingly, the government's response gave no timeline to set up the commission, obfuscating behind jurisdictional issues between federal and state governments. – Human Rights Watch – February 18, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/qtAGFU>
60. "Doctors Face Jail After Diagnosing Woman with Autism So She Could Get Lethal Injection" - Three doctors who certified a woman as autistic so that she could die by euthanasia are set to go on trial in Belgium. The sisters of Tine Nys told investigators that her suffering was caused instead by a broken heart after a failed relationship, and that she had falsely claimed to be autistic to two doctors and a psychiatrist. – Hawthorn Caller – February 19, 2019 – (Belgium) - <https://is.gd/oLgDyS>
61. "Documents Suggest Ontario Autism Wait List Frozen Last Fall, Parents Not Told" - This newspaper has obtained copies of several documents that indicate a directive went out from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to stop calling parents on the list to advise them of available spaces. The documents include a series of questions and answers from the ministry, directing employees on talking points. – Ottawa Citizen – February 25, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/74XZq7>
62. "Manitoba Denies Widespread Abuse at Institution for People with Disabilities" - In his sworn affidavit filed in December, Weremy details a gamut of abuses, including resident-on-resident rapes, being forced to strip naked as punishment, solitary confinement and a lack of food. – CBC- February 19, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/DrOLt9>

63. “Alberta Government Moves to Ban Seclusion Rooms for Students with Special Needs” - Alberta’s Education Minister David Eggen is moving to ban school seclusion rooms following reports from parents who say their children with special needs suffered emotional and physical trauma from being restrained or confined. – The Globe And Mail – February 22, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/MwNdGg>
64. “Protection of Minors: Bishop Gebremedhin Speaks About Ethiopian Situation” - The Church in Ethiopia does not deny there is no sexual abuse of minors within society, such as by immediate family members or neighbours on neglected children or children with disabilities such as those with Down syndrome or autism. Nobody speaks about it but children could be exposed to sexual abuse. – Vatican News – February 23, 2019 – (Ethiopia) - <https://is.gd/DeEK7>
65. “Man gets 32-month jail term for rape, sexual abuse of disabled woman” - The man was also ordered to pay a fine of 34,000 euros. The rape crimes were committed in Tampere at the end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018. The victim was a special needs young woman. – UUTISET- February 19, 2019 – (Finland) - <https://is.gd/ocKsCG>
66. “Man Pleads Guilty to Sexually Assaulting His Disabled Cousin” - The now 24-year-old man appeared at the Dublin Children’s Court today after delaying his case by almost seven years which Judge Brendan Toale said could have a “re-traumatizing effect” on his victim. – Breaking News – February 19, 2019 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/oy1Tsg>

67. “Sister Turns Out to Be Killer of Mentally Challenged Woman in Khanpur” - Police official told Express News that on September 17, 2018, the body of a woman was recovered from Shireen Canal in Moza Moosa Kanju area. He added that the victim was identified as Bushra Bibi, a resident of Rahim Yar Khan. He pointed out that the investigating team took a suspect named Rashid into custody for interrogation. The official mentioned the suspect was the driver of the victim’s sister Ambreen Bibi. – The Express Tribune – February 28, 2019 – (Pakistan) - <https://is.gd/UCDZQG>

68. “Cardinal Cupich: Vast Majority of Clergy Abuse Is Homosexual, But Homosexuality ‘Not A Cause’” - Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago, one of only two cardinals on the organizing committee for the upcoming Vatican abuse summit, was repeatedly pressed by journalists at today’s press conference in Vatican City on the role of homosexuality and of a homosexual subculture in the clerical abuse crisis. – Life Site News – February 18, 2019 – (Rome) - <https://is.gd/KWN5UA> (\*Didn’t specifically mention PWD but...)

69. “Mom called ‘disturbing’ for breastfeeding 4-year-old autistic son, defends it as ‘one thing that comforts him’ “ - A mom who breastfeeds her four-year-old son has revealed people call her a pedophile. Yakaly Di Roma, 31, from Wales, has released pictures of her breastfeeding son Hans in various poses, including at her laptop and in the middle of a bull ring. – Fox News – February 19, 2019 – (Wales) - <https://is.gd/mZr3MG>

## MISCELLANEOUS

70. “People with Disability Are More Likely to Be Victims of Crime – Here’s Why” - Explanations of offending against people with disabilities must include the social context. As Australian Disability Discrimination Commissioner Alastair McEwin argues, as a society we often view [crimes against people with disabilities as less serious](#). – The Conversation – (No date identified) – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/vDCMjM>