

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of March 16 to March 22, 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.

Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 2, 8, 13, 16, 20, 21, 23, 25, 29

Physical Abuse: 4, 6, 9, 11, 17, 18, 26, 27, 43

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 9, 10, 45

Financial: 5, 46

Restraint: 2, 30

Murder: 6, 7, 12, 14, 17

Neglected: 1, 11, 27

Related to special education: 4

WINNER of most egregious award: 2: Psych Hospital abuses patients; 3: male nurse accused of impregnating woman at skilled nursing facility fights order for HIV testing; 15: Fines reduced for health violations in nursing homes; 18: Teens assaulted boy with Asperger's.

WINNER of "good job" award: 50: HBO to air documentary Series 'On Tour with Asperger's Are Us'

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 14, 26

Carer: 1, 2, 8, 23, 11, 27, 45

Mental Health Clinic employee: 8

Special education: 4

Priest: 9

Stranger: 12, 43

Hospital: 1, 2.

Group Home: 23

Nursing Home: 11, 27, 45

Headstart: 10

Law Enforcement: 7, 13, 16

Friend of Family: 17

Men: 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 18(teens), 20, 21, 223, 25, 26, 29, 43, 46

Women: 5, 10, 11, 14 16, 17, 45

Good News: 40: Improvements proposed in special education; 41: sexual assault prevention for athletes; 44: Increased jail time for child rape proposed.

Bad News: 19: Schools to la off staff due to lack of funding; 22: Oregon sends foster children to former jails due to lack of foster families; 38;

negligence in nursing homes; 51: Autism charity board of directors benefit personally from funding for services to people with autism.

PLEASE NOTE: Visit our website at www.disabilityandabuse.org While on the homepage, we invite you to “like” us at the bottom of the page, making it easier to keep up with our activities! Prior weekly newsfeeds are archived at: <http://disabilityandabuse.org/newsfeed/contents.htm>

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “Senator Jones Requests Investigation Into Allegations Of Mistreatment At Huntsville Veterans Nursing Home” - On Monday, the office of Senator Doug Jones announced he has requested an investigation into recent allegations of neglect and mistreatment of veterans at the Floyd E. “Tut” Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville.- WAAY 31 – March 18, 2019 – (Alabama) - <https://is.gd/RdhKC5>
2. “State Ombudsman Finds Allegations Against API Justified”- A Monday report from the state ombudsman has substantiated various allegations of improper conduct at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute spanning a four-year period, offering state officials nearly a dozen recommendations for change. – KTVA – March 18, 2019 – (Alaska)- <https://is.gd/qp4kSc>
3. “Ariz. Nurse Accused of Impregnating Incapacitated Patient is Fighting Court Order for HIV Test” - The former Arizona nurse accused of sexually assaulting an [incapacitated woman who later gave birth](#) in her long-term care facility is fighting a court’s order that he be tested for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. – People – March 20, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/PqbZcr>

4. Northern California Special Education Teacher Faces Allegations of Allowing a Fight Club in His Classroom - Cloverdale High School administrators that Federico Vargas was using his classroom to secretly have students fight each other, said Sergeant Chris Parker in a statements released on March 10. – Sandhill Express – March 15, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/csMf9b>
5. “Public Safety: Woman Accused of Financially Exploiting Elderly Victims” - Angela Sparks, 53, is charged with misappropriation of more than \$15,000 from a man and \$5,000 from an elderly woman, both over 70 years old. The offenses occurred between August 2017 and September 2018, according to charges. Sparks was jailed in lieu of posting \$2,535. – Pantagraph – March 16, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/jCUQgb>
6. “Santa Ana Man Put Behind Bars for Beating 63-Year-Old Man in Wheelchair” - A 33-year-old Santa Ana man faces murder charges after assaulting a 63-year-old man in a wheelchair. The victim sustained life threatening injuries during the assault. The suspect, later identified by the witness as 33-year-old [Vittorio Roland Froncillo](#) from Santa Ana, reportedly fled the scene, leaving the victim bleeding profusely from the head. – Crime Voice – March 19, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/RKcNIE>
7. Jury Deadlocks On 3 Counts Against Cop Who Shot at Autistic Man, Acquits On Misdemeanor - Testifying in his own defense, North Miami Police Officer Jonathan Aledda insisted he honestly mistook an autistic man holding a silver toy truck for a gunman holding another man hostage. The soft-spoken officer said he had no choice but to fire three bullets, accidentally hitting Charles Kinsey, the supposed hostage. – Herald Mail Media – March 15, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/OeJR79>
8. “Florida Man Accused Of Sexually Assaulting Three Patients At A Mental Health Clinic For Over Four Months” - According to the [Tampa Bay Times](#),

34-year-old Nicholai Anthony Brief abused the victims while working at a non-profit organization Personal Enrichment Through Mental Health Services located on the 11200 block of 58th Street N in Pinellas Park. All three victims were described as “elderly or disabled” adult women. – Meaww – March 18, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/6MaelZ>

9. “GBI Wrapping Up Probe into Group Home Owned by Muscogee Co. Marshal” - An investigation into the Invictus Transformational Wellness Center was launched on Feb. 6 at the request of the Muscogee County District Attorney’s Office. The Child Advocacy Center in Atlanta initially requested the investigation, but required assistance from the DA’s office to formally make the request. – WTVM – March 18, 2019 – (Georgia)- <https://is.gd/K5Bzrh>

10. “Police: Preschoolers Forced to Stand Naked in A Closet as Punishment” - Two Head Start teachers are on paid administrative leave after preschoolers were allegedly forced to strip off all of their clothes and stand in a closet as part of punishment for misbehaving, police in East St. Louis, Illinois, said. – CBS Chicago – March 19, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/Zxwm9P>

11. “Madisonville Nurse Indicted On Abuse, Neglect Charges” - Attorney General Andy Beshear says Ashley Maypray was arraigned in Hopkins Circuit Court Thursday on one count of abusing or neglecting an adult. – Tristate Home Page – March 15, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/WANEU4>

12. “Man Pleads Guilty to Hate Crime Stabbing in Egleston Square” - District Attorney Rachel Rollins said the stabbing was a hate crime, motivated by transphobia. – Patch – March 18, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/8tswR3>

13. "Former Cop Sentenced 36 Years for Rape" - A former Michigan City Police officer convicted of repeatedly raping an intellectually disabled woman was sentenced to 36 years in prison Friday. Thomas K. Jackson appeared in La Porte Superior Court 1, where he cried as he apologized to the victim's family. – The News Dispatch – March 15, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/0RqB9m>

14. "Document: Disabled Teen Who Died In House Fire Was Trapped In Bed, Mother Charged"- Tracy Ellis, 42, was charged with second-degree murder and first-degree endangering the welfare of a child resulting in the death of her daughter, 14-year-old [Ashlyn Ellis](#). – WPDE 15 – March 20, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/UL9q3n>

15. "Trump Administration Cuts the Size of Fines for Health Violations in Nursing Homes" - The decrease in fines is one of the starkest examples of how, in response to industry prodding, the Trump administration is rolling back Obama's aggressive regulation of health care services. – NPR- March 15, 2019 – (National)- <https://is.gd/hHDNfr>

16. "N-Word Spewing Vegas Cop Arrested for Recording Man's Genitals, Making Mentally Ill Man Twerk" – A Las Vegas police officer will face felony police misconduct charges after authorities discovered she was running background checks for her civilian friends, making racist and homophobic jokes and sharing demeaning videos of suspects with friends, including footage of a man's genitals and forcing a mentally ill person to dance. – The Root – March 19. 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/9hvbdS>

17. "Woman 'tortured autistic boy, 4, leaving every inch of his broken body injured'" - A woman accused of torturing an autistic four-year-old leaving "every inch of his body with some type of injury" before he died could face the death penalty. Crystal Stephens, from Las Vegas, Nevada, has been

charged with 27 offences relating to the alleged torture and death of Brandon Steckler Jr last July. – Mirror – March 17, 2019 – (Nevada)- <https://is.gd/UnSJat>

18. “Three Teens Accused of Beating Autistic Teen, Burning Hair” - All three were indicted. Two are 18 and one is 19. One faces criminal mischief, criminal restraint, and witness tampering charges. The others face one charge each of criminal restraint. Police said the teen who made the accusations has low-level autism disorder. – Bristol Herald Courier – March 22, 2019 – (New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/D7MGhq>
19. “Lacey schools may lay off special education staff to close budget hole” - School employees who work with special needs children are facing layoffs and elimination of their benefits as the Lacey Board of Education plans to fill a budget hole created by declining state aid. School officials issued the district's paraprofessional staff, who assist students with various special needs, "reduction in force" notices earlier this month. – app.com – USA today – March 19, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/jZeGpv>
20. “Accused of Forcing Teen into Sexual Contact” - An Akron man accused of forcing a mentally impaired teen into sexual contact is in the Mahoning County jail. Gary Summerland, 79, of Delaware Avenue, faces felony counts of gross sexual imposition against that teen – who was between age 13 and 16 when the offenses allegedly took place – and a count of disseminating matter harmful to juveniles for showing obscene material to that teen. – The Vindicator – March 16, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/AR77ub>
21. “Child Rape Suspect Appears in Struthers Court” - A man charged with the rape of a disabled child was in Struthers court Friday for a preliminary hearing. 37-year old Kevin Neely has been held on half a million dollars bond since his arrest by U.S. Marshal's. He's accused of raping a 10-year old

girl who is legally blind. – WFMJ- March 22, 2019 – (Ohio)-
<https://is.gd/4wWBej>

22. “Oregon Sends Hundreds of Foster Kids to Former Jails, Institutions, Not Families” - “We don’t have ... foster families that can meet the high trauma that these children have,” Jones told The Oregonian/OregonLive in a Feb. 25 interview. “They can be suicidal and homicidal. They can have self-harm or have harmed others.” – Oregon Live – March 15, 2019 – (Oregon) -
<https://is.gd/kReLS0>

23. “Man Charged with Sexual Abuse of 6-Year-Old Boy at Portland Mall Lives in Home for Developmentally Disabled” - Dontai Howe, 30, was arrested March 21, five days after he allegedly abused the boy. Howe lives in a Northeast Portland foster home for adults with developmental disabilities, according to court records in the case. – The Oregonian – March 22, 2019 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/leqJhs>

24. “Firefighter with Disability Requesting Handicapped Parking Being Questioned by Borough” - 28-year-old Christopher Wilhelm says he put in an application to get a parking spot in front of his home on North Duke Street a month ago. In a council meeting on Tuesday, Wilhelm says the borough questioned his disability and duties at the firehouse and told him his application was put on hold. – 9 KXLH – March 15, 2019 – (Pennsylvania)- <https://is.gd/6aZMiU>

25. “Former Boy Scouts Chaplain Facing Additional Charges” – James Glawson, 74, of 101 Widow Sweets Road, Exeter, was originally arrested in February following an investigation by members of the Rhode Island State Police Detective Division into allegations that Glawson had allegedly sexually abused an 18-year-old disabled male on numerous occasions over a period

of several years. – The NK Standard Times – March 16, 2019 – (Rhode Island) - <https://is.gd/rc70sU>

26. “York County Ex-Con Son Punched ‘Vulnerable’ Mom, Beat Her with Bat, Police Say” - A York County son recently released from jail and out on bond for more charges punched his “vulnerable” mother in the face and beat her with a baseball bat, police said. Thomas Dean Boulter, 37, of Rock Hill is charged with knowing and willful neglect of a vulnerable adult, said York County Sheriff’s Office spokesperson Trent Faris. – The Herald – March 19, 2019 – (South Carolina)- <https://is.gd/xy9jLy>

27. “Walterboro Nursing Home Filed 29 Reports of Accidents and Incidents in February” - Veterans Victory House in Walterboro filed 29 reports of accidents and incidents happening at the facility in February, according to new data from the Department of Health and Environmental Control. – Live 5 News – March 19, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/HHFdCR>

28. San Antonio Millionaire Marriage Annulled After Abuse, Exploitation and ‘Abduction’ Claims - One day after that, Mary Werner, Thrash’s court-appointed permanent guardian, went to his upscale home in Shavano Park with at least four police officers and took him away. – San Antonio Express News – March 16, 2019 – (Texas)- <https://is.gd/5iSODP>

29. “Police: Cache County Man Admits to Abuse of Mentally Disabled Woman” - David Earl Sagoe, 34, has been booked on six counts of forcible sexual abuse, a second-degree felony. – Gephardt Daily – March 16, 2019 -Utah - <https://is.gd/DydaqDa>

30. “Vancouver Parents Sue, Settle Over Restraint and Isolation of Disabled Children” - In the 2016-17 school year — the last year there’s available data

— Vancouver Public Schools restrained students 1,110 times. That’s an average of once an hour, every day of school throughout that year and more than virtually any large district in Washington or Oregon. And it’s likely an undercount, judging by parents and paraeducators who say incidents are not always reported. – OPB.ORG – March 18, 2019 – (Washington)- <https://is.gd/pzJJdB>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

31. “California Governor Announces Moratorium On Death Penalty” - Newly elected California Governor Gavin Newsom on Wednesday signed an executive order imposing a moratorium on the state’s death penalty. While not abolishing the death penalty, the legal effect of Newsom’s order means that none of the 737 condemned inmates on California’s death row can be executed while he serves as governor. In the last two decades a divided US Supreme Court has ruled the execution of mentally retarded individuals (Atkins v. Virginia, 2002) and juveniles – World Socialist Web Site – March 16, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/WWZL3m>

32. “Connecticut Wrestles with End-Of-Life Bill” - Hines was one of dozens of people who came to the Legislative Office Building Monday to press for a law that would allow physicians to prescribe a lethal dose of medication to terminally ill patients with less than six months to live. House Bill 5898 was the subject of a polarizing and emotional public hearing before the legislature’s public health committee. – Press Herald – March 18, 2019 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/MUurmb>

33. “Bill Would Protect SSI Benefits for Couples Who Marry” - “People with intellectual and developmental disabilities should not have to choose between marriage and their disability benefits,” Katko said. – Disability Scoop – March 12, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/9auhz8>

34. "Disability Advocates Pressure FDA to Finalize Ban On Shock Devices" - Months after the Food and Drug Administration pledged to ban devices used to administer electric shocks on people with developmental disabilities, advocates are asking what the holdup is. – Disability Scoop – March 13, 2019 – (National)- <https://is.gd/zkYbSy>
35. "City Council Mulls Anti-Poverty Legislation; Advocates for Poor, Disabled Say It's Not Enough" - Affordable housing mandates. A lower wage tax. Tax credits for landlords who rent units to low-income tenants. These are some of the anti-poverty goals City Council has set with a legislative package put forward this month. But representatives of some local nonprofits said the legislation does not go far enough. – The Philadelphia Tribune – March 19, 2019 – (Pennsylvania)- <https://is.gd/wv6jD5>
36. "Dallas-Area Lawmakers Propose Legislation For New Power To Suspend Bad Caretakers" - Two Dallas area lawmakers have proposed legislation that would give state regulators new authority to suspend caretakers found to have abused, neglect or exploited their intellectually disabled clients. The bills filed by State Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano, and Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, came as a result of a WFAA investigation that revealed state regulators lacked the authority to suspend a caretaker found to have abused, neglected or exploited their intellectually disabled client while they appeal that finding. – WFAA 8 – March 15, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/bXutnC>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

37. "ACLU Issues Damning Report on 3 Orange County Homeless Shelters" - A [new report](#) from the American Civil Liberties Union describes alarming, often inhumane conditions in three of Orange County's emergency homeless shelters. The report found "a pattern of discrimination based on disability, gender and race; elder neglect; sexual, physical, and verbal abuse; deprivation of basic rights; and arbitrary abuses of power inside the shelters." – KQED – March 19, 2019 – (California)- <https://is.gd/axy18d>

38. “Negligence in Nursing Homes: Statistics & Mandates” - Child abuse is a topic that is part of the day-to-day conversation and news. Elder abuse is the opposite. Unreported mistreatment of senior citizens is a fact. Nursing homes, retirement communities, or at-home care veer away from making reports and the statistics reflect it. – The Frisky – March 19, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/anEHpN>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

39. “Sacramento Airport Lawsuit: Don’t Leave Disabled Behind in Emergency Evacuation”- In what disabled rights advocates call a “groundbreaking” deal, Sacramento International Airport officials have agreed to make changes to Terminal B to accommodate disabled people – including rewriting the airport’s emergency evacuations plan so that disabled people are not left behind if disaster strikes. – The Sacramento Bee – March 18, 2019 – (California)- <https://is.gd/tNfI3E>

40. “Improving Special Education: Denver Task Force Suggests More Screening, Less Segregation” - A recommendation from a Denver Public Schools task force of parents, educators, and advocates for people with disabilities aims to increase that number. It calls on Denver’s 213 schools to first offer educational programming to students with disabilities in the regular classroom, instead of placing them in separate programs segregated from the rest of the school. – Chalkbeat – March 18, 2019 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/b8INW8>

41. “Training to Prevent Sexual Abuse of Disabled Athletes” - Young spoke right after he had participated in a new training program called Adaptive Sports Abuse Prevention or ASAP. The training is specifically designed to protect athletes with disabilities, both physical or intellectual, from sexual abuse. – WGBH- March 21, 2019 – (Massachusetts)- <https://is.gd/cp64g4>

42. “In Cities Like Philly, Wheelchair Users Can Easily Hail an Uber or Lyft. Not in Pittsburgh” - In the Pittsburgh region, neither Uber nor Lyft, its competitor in the ride-share industry, accommodate passengers who use non-folding or motorized wheelchairs. Although Uber said its drivers are expected to accommodate riders with folding wheelchairs, walkers or canes, the company does not offer WAVs for passengers who remain in their wheelchairs for the ride. – Public Source – March 18, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/LtxfhS>

INTERNATIONAL

43. “Vancouver Police Seek Other Victims of Alleged Serial Spitter” - A 28-year-old man has been charged with assault following incident in downtown Vancouver. Daniel Bielewicz, a 28-year-old Vancouver resident, has been charged with assault after allegedly spitting in the face of a 19-year-old woman in a wheelchair. – CBC Canada – March 22, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/08aZ6n>

44. Parliament Passes Amended Penal Code to Give 20-Year Jail or Life Sentence for Child Rape - Despite public demand for death sentence for rape, the proposal, when submitted, only called for 1 20-year jail sentence or life sentence for raping a disabled woman or a girl under 12. – Eleven Myanmar – March 16, 2019 – (Myanmar) - <https://is.gd/Seulq0>

45. “Carer Spouted Cruel Abuse at Wheelchair-Bound Dementia Pensioner in Paisley Nursing Home” - Ruth Monaghan, 49, tormented 66-year-old Janet McCaffrey – who has since passed away – at Hillside View Care Home in Nethercraigs Road, Paisley. – Daily Record – March 16, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/4PdT5w>

46. “Ex-IFA Jailed for Stealing £50k from Octogenarian Disabled Woman” - A retired UK-based IFA, who stole around £50,000 from a disabled woman in her 80s, has been jailed for three years. Michael Price was sentenced at Bristol Crown Court after he had been convicted of fraud by abuse of position. – Portfolio Advisor – March 19, 2019 – United Kingdom - <https://is.gd/udIA7k>

MISCELLANEOUS

47. “While Rich Kids Fake It, Students Who Actually Have Learning Disabilities Often Don’t Get the Help They Need” - The greatest injustice is that students who actually need testing accommodations—things like extra time, distraction-free testing spaces, and scribes to fill in Scantron bubbles—are the least likely to get them because they lack the resources. – Los Angeles Magazine – March 19, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/1VA4AV>

48. “Disabled Residents In The D.C. Region Face Obstacles When Searching For Housing, Report Says” - Goraya served as a tester for [a nonprofit group’s report](#), released Wednesday, that outlined obstacles standing between the disabled and accessible housing. The study outlined what Goraya has long known: Not every website interacts well with such screen-readers — a hindrance for blind people searching for a place to call home. – The Washington Post – March 20, 2019 – (D.C.) - <https://is.gd/J1ugFl>

49. “‘A Gut Punch’: How The College Admissions Scandal Hurt Families With Disabled Students” - Whether students have an up-to-date plan or must get the documentation before taking the admissions tests, the process of approval for accommodations can be “very adversarial” for families to prove a disability to a testing company, said Matthew Cortland, a disability rights attorney based in Massachusetts. – USA Today – March 17, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/pPnm1M>

50. “HBO To Air Documentary Series ‘On Tour With Asperger’s Are Us’ April 30 – May 2” - [HBO](#) will air the [Alex Lehmann](#) directed documentary series, On Tour with Asperger’s Are Us April 30 to May 2. The documentary will be separated into six half hour episodes that follow the four man comedy troupe, Asperger’s Are Us.- MXDWN – March 18, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/7hk9qN>
51. “Jenny McCarthy's Autism Charity Has Helped Its Board Members Make Money Off Dangerous, Discredited Ideas” - First, mainstream (and widely trusted) medical bodies don’t recognize them as a reputable or effective treatment for autism. Second, they’re all recommended by—and in some cases sold outright through—Generation Rescue, a charity for autistic kids and their families whose board president and most famous face is actress Jenny McCarthy. – Jezebel – March 20, 2019 – (National)- <https://is.gd/iC2TkC>