

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of April 6 to April 12, 2019

Articles Compiled by Debra J. Stemmler

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

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

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

Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 4, 9, 10, 13, 14, 18, 52, 54, 57, 59, 60, 62, 64

Physical Abuse: 1, 2, 16, 17, 19, 55

Financial abuse: 2, 11, 63

Murder: 7, 12, 21

Suicide: 5

Neglected: 6, 7, 17

Related to special education: 9, 10, 17, 19

WINNER of most egregious award: 22: Texas illegally reduced funding for special education; 64: Girls with disabilities are sexually assaulted due to a belief that doing so cures chronic illnesses.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 6, 21

Carer: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 63

Stranger: 12, 60, 62, 64

Special education employee: Bus driver: 17; Teacher Aide: 9, 10

Priest: 59

Attorney: 11

State Hospital: 8, 55

Skilled Nursing Home: 3, 4, 7, 56

Men: 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 21, 52, 54, 57, 60, 62

Women: 3, 4, 17

Good News: 22: Texas found in violation of special education (funding) laws – must make correction; 28: LA proposes cameras in special education classrooms; 29: MO to limit restraint/seclusion practices; 38: UN issues report on how several countries ensure rights of people with disabilities with recommendations for improvement/implementation; 45: It's "Autism Month" Teen with autism writes on how to treat people with disabilities; 47: It's

“Sexual Assault Awareness Month,” University of Memphis promotes safety for students; 48: Australia to study abuse of people with disabilities.

Bad News: 15: PA school closes due to abuse and intimidation; 35: Depression found to be common in individuals with autism but frequently undetected; 39: Study: Violence against older adults is rising; 42.: Riders in MD are frequently stranded for hours by transportation company; 44.: Instagram permits comments urging mother to kill her child who has a disability; 51: Mother has to repeatedly prove to authorities that her son “still has Down syndrome” to continue to receive benefits; 66: Report finds that less than 20% of polling places are accessible; 67: Sheltered workshops still are allowed to pay less than minimum wage to workers with disabilities.

ABUSE & NEGLECT ARTICLES

1. “Man in Wheelchair Severely Beat Up, Suspect Arrested in Santa Ana” – Vittorio Roland Froncillo, 33, was taken into custody after a foot pursuit not far from the crime scene on the day of the incident. The assault occurred on March 10, 2019, in the area of the 3700 block of South Bristol Street. A witness reported the attack to police and officers were dispatched to the area at about 7:02 a.m. – Fox 11 – April 12, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/gtxoAv>
2. “After Autistic Teen Was Beaten for His iPhone, Community Helps Him Get a New One” - After a 15-year-old teen with autism was horribly beaten by suspected gang members who took his iPhone, good Samaritans banded together to donate money so he could get a new one, police said. Anthony was robbed and beaten in front of his 8-year-old twin sisters in Canoga Park March 11, the Los Angeles Police Department said. – NBC Bay Area- April 10, 2019 – (California)- <https://is.gd/N7tlZ2>
3. “Records: Pinellas County Woman Arrested for Abusing Disabled Teen Told Police She Was 'Stressed Out'” - A Palm Harbor woman is facing charges after holding a pillow over the face of a "totally disabled" 17-year-old boy in March, according to arrest records. – ABC Action News – April 6, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/IBcuHP>
4. “Melbourne Woman Charged with Molesting Nursing Home Patient” - The man told officers Belizaire "sexually battered" him and a subsequent sexual assault kit and DNA test confirmed his claims, police said. Police said Guettie Belizaire, 39, was found naked in a patient's room at the Brookshire Assisted Living Facility on Bulldog Boulevard when the incident was reported in December. – Florida Today – April 9, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/ZTlzfR>

5. “Two Veterans Kill Themselves at Separate VA Medical Centers in Georgia” - In 2013, the VA disclosed that two of its officials had retired, three had been reprimanded and others were facing unspecified “actions” after reports of rampant mismanagement and patient deaths at the VA hospital in Decatur. Federal inspectors issued scathing audits that linked mismanagement to the deaths of three veterans there. – Atlanta Journal Constitution – April 8, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/2Stkb8>

6. “Dixmoor Siblings Charged After 6 Children, Elderly Mother Found Living in 'Deplorable' Conditions, Police Say” - Two Dixmoor siblings were accused of neglect and child endangerment after their six young children were found Monday living in “deplorable” conditions, without food and adult supervision, police said. The elderly mother of one of the women, who also lived at the home in the 14200 block of Lincoln Avenue, was found inside the residence sitting on a soiled mattress without sheets, Dixmoor Police Chief Ron Burge said. – Chicago Tribune – April 10, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/2kG1a3>

7. “Trial Begins for South Bend Man Accused of Neglect in Oaklawn Resident's Death” - Kennedy Kafatia, 32, was charged in August 2017 with felony neglect of a dependent resulting in death following the death of 48-year-old Roy Martinez. At the start of the trial, the one thing the state and defense agreed on was that a tragedy occurred. – South Bend Tribune – April 9, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/Z9F6aA>

8. “Severely Disabled Iowans Are Dying at A State-Run Institution. Staff Say Care Has Declined, While The State Defends Its Care” - Employees at the state institution here have repeatedly warned officials that medical care for 200 of Iowa’s most disabled residents has eroded to a deadly point. Fourteen Glenwood Resource Center residents have died since last June — more than twice the usual rate — according to public records, obituaries and interviews with former and current staff members. – Des Moines Register – April 6, 2019 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/YxkMY0>

9. “Robinswood School Under Investigation” - Facility found to be not in compliance with federal and state requirements. One of the most serious issues concerned a female resident who was allegedly sexually assaulted by an employee of the facility, a direct care aide — who has since been fired and was later arrested on a charge of first-degree rape. – American Press – April 8, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/iLkFxF>

10. “Facility Probed Over Handling of Mentally Disabled Residents” - In October, a direct care aid at the school was accused of sexually assaulting a student in 2017. He was fired months later and charged with first-degree rape. Three other school workers were later charged accessory-after-the-fact to first-degree rape. – Star Tribune – April 9, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/VgdOOx>
11. “Attorney Charged with Embezzlement from A Vulnerable Adult” - An attorney appointed to represent a woman who suffered a closed-head injury and still requires 24/7 care has been charged for embezzlement. According to Genesee County Sheriff Robert Pickell, attorney Joseph Baessler was arrested after billing the woman, his client, for services not rendered. – NBC 25- April 9, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/dzfgmO>
12. “‘Worst Fears’ Realized as Second Group Home Resident Found Dead in New Jersey” - A prosecutor says “our worst fears have now been realized” with the discovery in a New Jersey park of the body of the second of two men who disappeared from a group home for people with mental disabilities. – The Morning Call – April 6, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/PpuZwG>
13. “Suit Over Alleged Rape At Troy Group Home Heads To Trial” - A federal lawsuit alleging that four state employees failed to prevent a 27-year-old woman with severe developmental disabilities [from being raped in a Troy group home](#) is headed to trial on May 6, according to court documents filed last week. – Times Union – April 12, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/3ramUy>
14. “Man to Serve 10 Years for Molesting Disabled Teen” - Robert Lee Myers received a sentence from Comanche County District Judge Gerald Neuwirth of 15-year sentence with the Department of Corrections with 10 years to serve and 5 years suspended, according to court records. He pleaded guilty to felony counts of lewd or indecent acts to a child under 16 and to rape by instrumentation. – The Lawton Constitution – April 11, 2019 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/gMOwGR>
15. “Pennsylvania Closes the Glen Mills Schools Amid Child-Abuse Investigation” - “Institutions charged with caring for children have a responsibility to keep them safe. The Glen Mills Schools failed in this duty,” DHS Secretary Teresa Miller said in a statement. “We now know that children living at Glen Mills were subjected to abuse and intimidation. My department is taking this action so no more children will be subjected to the culture of abuse, coercion,

and silence that ran deep at the school, and so staff responsible may be held accountable.” – The Inquirer – April 8, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/eMSooY>

16. “Teen in Wheelchair Slapped, choked by Man in York County, Police Say” - Police say a Lower Windsor Township man hit a 17-year-old wheelchair-bound teen in his face several times and grabbed him by the throat on Monday, according to charging documents. James Paul Jackson II, 39, of the 100 block of Boyd Road, faces charges of abuse of a care-dependent person, simple assault and recklessly endangering another person, according to documents. York Daily Record – April 10, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/N2wwlw>

17. “School Bus Driver Guilty of Forgetting Special-Needs Boy for Hours” - Marilyn M. Tarlton, 67, of Priority Road in York City, appeared in York County Court on Wednesday, April 10, where she pleaded guilty to the first-degree misdemeanor of child endangerment, according to court records. – York Dispatch – April 10, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/Dz92Ws>

18. “Deputies Arrest Former BJU Police Officer Accused of Sexually Assaulting a Vulnerable Adult Over A 3-Year Period”- Greenville County deputies said a former Bob Jones University police department officer has been charged with multiple offenses related to sex assaults on a vulnerable adult who was entrusted to his care. Deputies said they began investigating on March 14 after receiving a report of the abuse, which reportedly took place over a three-year period. – FOX Carolina – April 10, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/qdHOqe>

19. “Lawsuit: Upstate Teacher Dragged, Pushed Autistic Child” - The lawsuit says the child became overstimulated at a school play area when he was dragged and shoved. It says he was bruised and mentally injured. The parent's attorney, David Standeffer, says there is video of the child being dragged and pushed. – WSPA 7 News – April 11, 2019 – (South Carolina)- <https://is.gd/DrkW8n>

20. “Millington Police Look Into Possible Case Of Elder Abuse At Facility” - Millington police are investigating another possible case of elder abuse at a health care facility, after WREG reported on [another allegation there in February](#). – News Channel 3 – April 5, 2019 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/x4oE02>

21. “Tennessee Man Arrested at Georgia Airport in Mother’s Death” - The 52-year-old Ralph was on the run and arrested by U.S. Marshals Service at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. He is charged with one count of First-Degree Murder and currently being held in the Clayton County (GA) Jail on a \$1,000,000 bond while awaiting extradition to Tennessee. – NTD – April 7, 2019 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/1CPkQ2>
22. “Texas Estimates It May Owe Feds \$223 Million After Illegally Decreasing Special Education Funding” - A major flaw in the way Texas spends money on kids with disabilities might lose the state almost a quarter of its annual special education grant. – KVUE – April 5, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/o90UPO>
23. “State Eyes New Medical Ride Provider As Patients Complain Of Late, Missed Pickups” - The state Department of Health Services said it has taken steps to improve the service, such as creating an advisory council, hiring a contract manager and [posting performance reports online](#). Its new five-year contract proposal last year called for electronic tracking of rides and stiffer penalties for noncompliance, among other changes. – Wisconsin State Journal – April 8, 2019 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/2Pmqj5>

GUARDIANSHIP

24. “Homeless, Disability Rights Advocates Disrupt Town Hall To Protest State Conservatorship Bill” - Some two dozen protesters — including representatives of the Coalition on Homelessness, disability rights groups and medical professionals who organized as the Voluntary Services First Coalition — rallied outside of UC Hastings College of the Law, where the hearing was scheduled to denounce what they called “an erosion of conservatorship protections” won previously from SB 1045. – San Francisco Examiner – April 6, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/Km7UyW>
25. “New Guardianship Law Offers More Protections” - As New Mexico enacted adult guardianship reforms aimed at transparency and accountability last summer, the owner of an Albuquerque fiduciary company allegedly began skimming money from the very people the new law was supposed to protect. – Albuquerque Journal – April 5, 2019 – (New Mexico)- <https://is.gd/ektQ05>
26. “New Law Creates Volunteer Guardians for Incapacitated Veterans” - Senate Bill 931, which creates the Veterans Volunteer Guardianship Act, was signed by Gov. Kevin Stitt. The bill was

authored by state Sen. Paul Rosino, R-Oklahoma City, a retired Navy master chief petty officer with 25 years of service, according to his Senate webpage. -Enid News & Eagle – April 8, 2019 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/CDrLGD>

27. “Federal Judge Sends Suit Against Probate Judge And Guardian To State Court” - Johnston sued Judge Butts and Dixel in 2016, alleging that her elderly mother Willie Jo Mills suffered broken bones and a rapid, preventable decline, which contributed to malnutrition and her death when she was a ward of the state residing in a care center under guardianship, according to a press release. – SE Texas Record – April 10, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/N7YHO9>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

28. “House Bill 283 Would Require Cameras in Classrooms of Special Needs Students” - There's a bill currently moving through the house that proposes putting cameras in classrooms of children with special needs. House Bill 283 comes after a special needs elementary school student was handcuffed to a chair following an episode. – KLFY – April 10, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/8vMd1c>
29. “Bill Would Limit Use Of Restraints, Seclusion Rooms In Missouri Schools” - Hearing stories like Bono’s prompted Rep. Ian Mackey, D-St. Louis, to sponsor [House Bill 1023](#). “Students with disabilities are 10 times more likely than their peers to experience restraint and 27 times more likely to experience seclusion,” Hanson said. Black students, too, also experience highly disproportionate rates of discipline, according to a recent [report](#) by the Columbia Missourian. – Missourian – April 10, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/AjcT15>
30. “Bills Targeting Elder Abuse Advance In Montana Legislature” - Rep. Barbara Bessette (D-Great Falls) is sponsoring [House Bill 566](#), which passed out of the Senate Business, Labor and Economic Affairs Committee 9-1 Friday. The proposed legislation would require all assisted living facilities to provide background checks for new employees. It now will move to the full Senate after passing the House 63-35 in March. – KPAX 8 – April 5, 2019 – (Montana) - <https://is.gd/jalvBA>
31. “Proposed Legislation Takes Aim at Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking” - Policymakers at the state’s Legislature are considering a number of bills this session that attempt to close gaps that allow abusers and traffickers to walk free. Proposals include adding stricter regulations

for massage parlors (which can sometimes be fronts for brothels), harsher penalties for sex traffickers and eliminating the statutes of limitations for prosecuting perpetrators of child sexual abuse. – The Sun Times – April 7, 2019 – (Montana)- <https://is.gd/bO2NYS>

32. “Legal Battle Over Captioning Continues” - A legal dispute over video captions continues after court rejects requests by MIT and Harvard University to dismiss lawsuits accusing them of discriminating against deaf people. – Inside Higher Ed – April 8, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/0kgayR>
33. “Nevada Senate Passes Bill for Hearing Impaired and Deaf Children” -Senate Bill 203 has several parts to it that could impact on the lives of hearing impaired and deaf children in Nevada both now and the near future. The last minute amendments would provide discount hearing aids to children and offer free hearing aids to those from low income families. “The whole idea was to get those people who were at poverty level but weren't included in Medicaid.” – KTVN 2- April 6, 2019 – (Nevada)- <https://is.gd/5v00eb>
34. “Opinion: Why Congress Should Pass The FAIR Act of 2019” - Forced arbitration is a travesty that strips people of a Constitutional right to a trial by a jury that is fundamental in our country. Fortunately, Congressional representatives have recently introduced the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal (FAIR) Act of 2019, seeking to end this unfair practice of mandatory arbitration in “consumer, civil rights, employment, and antitrust' actions.” Greenville News – April 6, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/qfq1LD>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

35. “In Autism, Depression Takes On Unusual Forms” - Estimates of the prevalence of [depression in autism](#) range from 10 to 72 percent^{2,3}. Still, a 2015 study found that only about half of autistic individuals who took their own lives had been [diagnosed with depression](#), suggesting that their depression had gone undetected. – Spectrum – April 8, 2019 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/hlqGxl>
36. “Family Checkbook | Let's Help Each Other Avoid Financial Exploitation” - Recently, the Office of Financial Protection for Older Americans released a report, "Suspicious Activity Reports on Elder Financial Exploitation: Issues and Trends." Financial institutions such as banks and money service businesses must file Suspicious Activity Reports whenever something suggests activities such as money laundering, tax evasion or other criminal

activity — including elder financial exploitation. Several of the report's findings are quite disturbing. – The News Gazette – April 10, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/ikehsS>

37. “Back Story: A Look at The Growing Costs of Special Education” - Throughout California, and San Diego, the percentage of special education students at public schools is rising. The biggest increase comes from students with autism, and many of them need intensive therapy, specialized instruction, and sometimes one-to-one aides. Federal and state laws guarantee those services but don’t provide enough money to pay for them. – The San Diego Union Tribune – April 7, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/gKMKsB>

38. “UN Disability Rights Experts Issue Findings On Cuba, Niger, Norway, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Turkey, And Vanuatu” - The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has published its findings on the following countries which it examined during its latest session from 11 March to 5 April: Cuba, Niger, Norway, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Turkey, and Vanuatu. The findings cover how the respective State is doing with regard to the rights of persons with disabilities, detailing positive developments, main areas of concern, and recommendations for action. The findings, officially known as concluding observations, can now be found [online](#). – Africa News – April 9, 2019 – (Global) - <https://is.gd/v5tq09>

39. “CDC Study: Violence Against Older Adults Is Rising And An 'Underreported Public Health Problem'” - A recent study from the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) reports that from 2002-2016, violence targeting adults older than age 60 rose by more than 50%. The authors of this report say this could provoke a new public health problem should the trend continue, with older men being the primary targets of both non-fatal assaults as well as homicides. – Townhall – April 7, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/loJ9Ch>

40. “Who Are the Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and What Are the Signs?” - Children with disabilities are four to 10 times more vulnerable to sexual abuse than their non-disabled peers. More than 90% of individuals with a developmental delay or a disability will be sexually assaulted at least once in their lifetime, and 49% will experience 10 or more abuse incidents. – Campus Safety Magazine – April 8, 2019 – (National)- <https://is.gd/KIXnJc>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

41. “Photographer, Mother Showcases Autistic Individuals in Wintergreen Exhibit” - Swanson of Presque Isle is also a photographer, and this month at Wintergreen Arts Center she is displaying a series of photographs of 17 autistic children and adults as well as artwork from those individuals. – The County – April 6, 2019 – (Maine) - <https://is.gd/OFtYJE>

42. “Disabled Riders Are Stranded For Hours And On-Time Rate Plummets Amid Contract Changes At MTA Mobility” - The Maryland Transit Administration’s [transportation service for people with disabilities](#) has seen a dramatic increase in the number of times it was late picking up riders as the agency implements a new three-year, \$299 million contract that revamps its dispatch system. In March, drivers were late for 22 percent of 160,000 trips, up from 11 percent in December. – The Baltimore Sun – April 5, 2019 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/yUXJHY>

43. “Mindset Matters: Autism as A Driving Force in The Digital Age” - We are at a pivotal moment where companies are embracing the realities of the changing attitudes toward the potential of autistic workers. However, it is vital for the growth and success of companies across the digital landscape to have a fully articulated vision where process and execution are the next frontiers to seeing the true value-add of people on the spectrum. – Forbes – April 5, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/gPBclc>

44. “Natalie Weaver Asks Instagram to Change Its Reporting Policies After Commenters Tell Her to Kill Her Disabled Child” - “Instagram’s hate speech does not include anything to protect the disability community,” Weaver told The Mighty. “I want the social media giant to take some responsibility to protect their users from being told to kill themselves or their children.” – The Mighty – April 1, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/QLuqKK>

45. “Millstone Teen with Autism Writes Guide On How to Treat People with Disabilities” - To help the cause, Tim published a pamphlet in November. Its title: “How to be a Good Influence to People with Disabilities.” This concise, heartfelt document should be required reading in schools each April, which is Autism Awareness Month. – App. Part of the USA Today Network – April 8, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/3CwarB>

46. “Disability Rights Ohio Expands Medicaid Pro Bono Program Thanks to Partnership with McDonald Hopkins” - Disability Rights Ohio is pleased to announce a new partnership with law firm McDonald Hopkins LLC to expand its existing Medicaid Pro Bono Program, which

provides legal services to Ohio families and children with disabilities. – Insurance News Net – April 6, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/V1JV1N>

47. “Sexual Assault Awareness Month Sheds Light On Disabled Victims” - Sexual Assault Awareness Month is in full swing at the University of Memphis, and disabled sexual assault victims were one of the things discussed this week. Abby Kindervarter, a Title IX prevention specialist at the Uof M, said there are ways we can help the disabled feel safe from abuse. – The Daily Helmsman – April 11, 2019 – (Tennessee)- <https://is.gd/W0Szqx>

INTERNATIONAL

48. “Scott Morrison Formally Calls Royal Fee into Incapacity Care” - Prime Minister Scott Morrison has officially called a royal commission into abuse in the disability care sector. – Infosurhoy – April 6, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/YVDAMQ>
49. “Disability, Sexuality and People’s Rights” - Associate Professor Patsie Frawley asks the question: Why should sexuality be different for people with disability? Patsie Frawley, Course Director of the Masters of Disability and Inclusion at Deakin University, wants to change the perception of sexuality and people with disability. – RACGP News GP – April 9, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/TlmoOz>
50. “Family Fears Deportation Because Their 11year old Son Deemed A 'Burden' To Taxpayers” - A family of six is fighting deportation from a small southern Queensland town because their son's autism means they do not meet Australia's immigration health requirements. – ABC News – April 11, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/4hUaXW>
51. “A Punch In The Gut': Carers, People With Disabilities Share Centrelink Experiences” - Carers and people with disabilities have shared their experiences working with Centrelink to receive their support payments after a Geraldton mother spoke out about having to continuously provide proof her son “still had” Down Syndrome. – WA Today – April 11, 2019 – (Australia)- <https://is.gd/Wk3uBr>
52. “Family Launches Legal Action Over Bupa Nursing Home Sex Attack” - The sons of an elderly woman who was sexually assaulted in her nursing home are suing the aged care provider,

claiming it failed to protect her from a suspected predator. – ABC News – April 10, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/sNGwY2>

53. “Ontario Funding for Special Education Students Is Discriminatory” - Currently, education funding for students with special education needs is based on the type of school they attend rather than students' needs. It is indefensible in the 21st century to offer special education funding support only for students who attend certain types of schools and not other types. – The Hamilton Spectator – April 12, 2019 – (Canada)- <https://is.gd/slCcEG>

54. “Sunderland Child Rapist Who Faked Disability Jailed” - George Stephenson and his wife Wendy convinced two experts he was unfit to plead to the historical offences. But she later revealed he was faking it and police surveillance caught him walking, driving and eating a service station burger. The 60-year-old was found guilty of 14 rape charges and admitted perverting the course of justice. BBC News – April 10, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/OsOSqs>

55. “Widespread Abuse of Disabled Residents at Hungarian Institution” - A public institution for the disabled in the southwestern Hungarian village of Mozsgó (population 1,000) is under scrutiny after a complaint detailed widespread abuse of the intellectually disabled residents by staff. Hungary’s Népszava daily [reported](#) on a detailed complaint and video evidence documenting the physical abuse and the overall inhumane treatment of residents. In one of the videos, produced with a cellphone, a male patient lying in bed is seen being beaten by staff. – Hungarian Free Press – April 8, 2019 – (Hungary) - <https://is.gd/Fcq9EG>

56. “District Courts to Get Vulnerable Witness Centre” - To ensure the safety of witnesses in heinous crimes, including victims of child sex abuse, a vulnerable witness deposition centre will soon start functioning at the District Courts here. – The Tribune – April 6, 2019 – (India)- <https://is.gd/5TM5xi>

57. “10 Years in Jail for Man Who Defiled Mentally Ill Boy” - A Malindi court has sentenced a middle-aged man to ten years in jail for sexually assaulting a mentally ill boy in Magarini Sub County. Furaha Charo Kazungu (pictured) was accused that on October 10, 2015, at Mambrui village, he unlawfully used his finger to penetrate the anus of the boy— an offence of Sexual assault contrary to section 5(1)(a)(i)(2) of the sexual offences act number 3 of 2006. – SDE – April 6, 2019 – (Kenya) - <https://is.gd/ruQtbw>

58. "Critic Slams Euthanasia Bill as 'Greenlight to Granny Abuse', While David Seymour Decries 'Campaign of Fear'" - A New Zealand lawyer has spoken out in opposition to the pending End of Life Bill, saying it could victimise vulnerable Kiwis. But ACT Leader David Seymour, who authored the legislation, has dismissed the criticism as "misinformation" that could cause people to needlessly suffer. – TVNZ – 1 News – April 9, 2019 – (New Zealand) - <https://is.gd/K4nrZ3>
59. "27yr-Old Acclaimed Cleric Allegedly Rapes 15yr-Old Disabled Girl in The Mosque" - Lagos State Command has declared a 27-year-old acclaimed Islamic cleric, who allegedly raped a 15-year-old girl with disability inside a mosque at Ilesa. However, Elkana also confirmed the arrest of 45-year-old Marainerume Alfred, a resident of Oke Itunu Church Close in Ejigbo for alleged rape of a girl, aged 14. – Royal News – April 8, 2019 – (Nigeria) - <https://is.gd/EOMSmS>
60. "4 Teens Arrested in Disabled Girl Rape" -Italian police on Wednesday arrested four teenagers on suspicion of raping a 17-year-old girl who was incapacitated after drinking too much in an underground car park in Palermo in December. – ANSA – April 10, 2019 – (Sicily) - <https://is.gd/YpiXKB>
61. "Social Media Firms To Be Penalized For Not Removing Child Abuse" - UK police and charities praise plan to hold firms liable for not taking down harmful content – The Guardian – April 8, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/2pQu9J>
62. "Charming and Attractive' Mark Scott, 34, Accused of Raping Five Women" - Mark Scott, 34, who also worked at Hull's Siemens factory, is accused of raping five women, and trying to rape another, who is disabled. – Hull Live – April 9, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/jHPsLB>
63. "Carer Who Stole from 94-Year-Old Sentenced in Court" - Kelly Harris, from Diss, was called a "greedy, uncaring thief" by victim Raymond Barker's son Martin in an emotional statement read out at Norwich Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, April 9. Harris, 39, was given a one-year prison sentence suspended for two years, 200 hours of unpaid community work and was ordered to pay £420 in compensation to the victim, along with a £115 surcharge. – Eastern Daily Press – April 9, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/HODRrc>

64. “Horror as Girls with Disabilities Are Hunted Down for Sex Rituals” - Villagers in Chiwundura area, Midlands, have expressed concern over the increase in sexual abuse against girls with disabilities following popular superstition that sleeping with a disabled person cures chronic ailments such as HIV. – Harare – April 11, 2019 – (Zimbabwe) - <https://is.gd/KaEhx9>

MISCELLANEOUS

65. “Engaging Talks About Disease Outbreaks, Drug Resistance, Disabilities and Global Health Challenges” -How can people tackle the world’s thorniest health challenges? From journalism to activism to philanthropy, there are plenty of ways to change the course of human health. A new podcast, “[Contagious Conversations](#),” shows how. – The Washington Post – April 6, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/vFCRSa>
66. “New Voting Security Measures Could Disenfranchise Voters With Disabilities | Opinion” - During the 2016 election, [less than 20 percent of polling places](#) were accessible to people with disabilities. [Some voting systems](#) rarely had instructions included, others lacked tactile buttons for people with low vision, and for some systems, the voters could not verify that the ballot reflected their choices. For these reasons, voter turnout for people with disabilities remains under 50 percent. – The Inquirer – April 7, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/QCQS0e>
67. “Sheltered Workshops for People with Disabilities: A Reliable Opportunity or an Outdated System?” - Individuals with disabilities are subject to different labor laws than able-bodied people. According to the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act, sheltered workshop employees can be paid less than minimum wage with what’s known as a subminimum wage work certificate. – NPR Utah – April 8, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/4YuUDA>