

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of May 25 to May 31, 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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Please send comments or questions to: nora@disability-abuse.com or baladerian@gmail.com

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Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 3, 4, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15, 30, 32, 33, 37, 40, 59, 66, 68, 69, 70

Physical Abuse: 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 19, 20, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 59, 62, 71

Emotional Abuse: 36

Financial abuse: 8, 65

Human Trafficking: 17

Kept Enclosed: 17

Murder: 1, 14, 16, 61, 66

Neglected: 6, 16, 25, 37, 67, 71

Related to special education: 9, 10, 20, 30, 60

Restraint & Seclusion: 41, 60

WINNER of most egregious award: 3: Arizona woman who became pregnant after sexual assault (Arizona case had world-wide publicity), upon examination was found to have had prior pregnancies.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 1, 5, 14, 16, 61, 69

Carer: 2, 33, 34, 35, 36, 65

Stranger: 19, 31, 66

Special education employee: 9, 10, 20, 30, 60

Group home counselor: 2, 35, 36, 59

Friend of the Family: 7, 15

Group Home: 2, 35, 36, 59

Skilled Nursing Facility: 3, 6, 11, 12, 13, 34, 40, 62, 67, 71

Day Program: 4

State Social Worker: 8

Teacher: 9, 30

Bus aide: 10

Mental Health Facility: 37

State Hospital: 37

Law Enforcement Officer: 60

Prison Officer: 70

Men: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 40, 59, 61, 66, 69, 70

Women: 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 36, 62, 65

Couples: 14, 17, 35

Good News: 41: Restraint/seclusion tracks incidence; 42: Legislation signed by Governor which increases protections for children/adults who are vulnerable; 44: OH proposed amendment to budget to prevent custody relinquishment in order to obtain services; 45: OH: Death Penalty review would ban the process for people with a mental illness; 47: Bill introduced to support grandparents' care for their grandchildren; 51: Police to use Virtual Reality to train for interaction with people with disabilities; 56: Funds allocated to reduce restraint and seclusion

Bad News: 21: Financial abuse increases as population ages; 23: Insurance companies find ways to deny mental health services coverage; 27: Poor special education students are undeserved; 43: Sub-minimum wages preserved for people with disabilities; 48: Abuse at Assessment and Treatment Center for people with disabilities and autism; 55: Texas – people with disabilities cannot find in-home attendants whose wages increase by a mere 11cents this legislative session; 73: Online groups promote ingesting bleach, urine, and other toxins to “cure autism.”

ABUSE & NEGLECT ARTICLES

1. “Garfield Man Gets 35 Years For Killing Mother” - Court documents show Benton County deputies found 44-year-old Christel Malone dead last summer after Danny Malone called 911 [saying his mentally ill son](#) fatally shot his wife. Deputies arrested Patrick Malone and found a gun in a holster. – 5 News Online – May 29, 2019 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/WXtJqK>

2. “Parents Appalled by Autistic Son's Alleged Abuse at Group Home” - Nick’s parents heard what happened from the staff at the home. In an incident report to the state, the staff said: "staff member Anthony Adusei began to punch Nicholas in the face three times then kicked him." – AZ Family – May 22, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/T8VnnW>

3. “Disabled Woman Who Gave Birth at Care Facility May Have Been Impregnated Before” - In documents filed Wednesday, the 29-year-old woman's attorneys cite a medical exam in alleging that she suffered multiple sexual assaults. The exam found that the birth of a baby boy last December was "a non-nulliparous event," the documents say, meaning she may have been pregnant before. – NPR- May 23, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/EPZF4W>

4. “Manteca Man Who Was Attacked Last Summer Accused of Sexually Assaulting Disabled Woman” - An elderly Manteca man who was the victim of a violent beating caught on video last summer is accused of sexually assaulting a developmentally disabled woman. Manteca police Lt. Stephen Schluer confirmed that investigators are looking into Sahib Singh Natt allegedly groping a 54-year-old woman at an adult day care center last month. – Recordnet.com -May 22, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/ey3Tib>

5. “South Lake Tahoe police arrest woman for allegedly hurting a special needs child” - Amber Nicole Maxwell, 38, was arrested Tuesday on a felony charge of willful cruelty to a child causing great bodily injury. – Reno Gazette Journal – May 24, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/bMXF1n>

6. “Former Longmont Nursing Home Staffer Set for Trial in Abuse Case” - Michelle Lanora Chambers, 39, pleaded not guilty to assault on an at-risk person, negligence causing bodily injury on an at-risk person, neglect of an at-risk victim, menacing and harassment at a hearing on Tuesday. She was set for a four-day trial beginning Nov. 18, as well as a motions hearing on

Sept. 30. She is currently out of custody on a personal recognizance bond. – Daily Camera – May 22, 2019 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/strPf6>

7. “Denver Man Sentenced 30 Years to Life for Sex Assault of an At-Risk Victim” - A 24-year-old man has been sentenced to 30 years to life in prison for raping a developmentally-disabled woman in the victim’s home. Charles Bisonette was sentenced Friday in Denver District Court, according to the district attorney’s office. – The Denver Post – May 6, 2019 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/7qaesS>

8. “State Social Worker Gets Prison for Elaborate Medicaid Fraud” - Before she embarked on the fraud, payroll records presented in federal court show that Toshirea Jackson, who had a high school equivalency certificate, was making as much as \$140,000 a year with overtime as an unlicensed mental health assistant with the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. – Hartford Courant – May 30, 2019 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/7Jkylp>

9. “Sides Battle Over Superintendent's Ouster” - DeSantis cited "scathing" grand-jury reports that alleged "dereliction of duty" when he issued an executive order stripping Jackson of her post. The reports focused on alleged abuse of developmentally disabled students --- including pre-kindergartners --- by former teacher Marlynn Stillions during the 2015-2016 school year. – My Panhandle – May 29, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/IYFO7d>

10. “Bail Set at \$20,000 For Polk School Bus Attendant” - Juanita Tappin, a school bus attendant arrested May 9 on allegations of abusing disabled children and adults, remained in the Polk County Jail on Thursday after Polk County Judge Stacie Kaylor set her bond on two new charges at \$20,000. – The Ledger – May 30, 2019 – (Florida)- <https://is.gd/2AYEIW>

11. “Seminole County, Florida – Brightstar Care Manager Gregory Lee Porras Charged With Raping Blind Client” - A manager for BrightStar Care Seminole County has been arrested for [allegedly raping a client](#) during a home visit. 42-year-old Gregory Lee Porras is charged with sexually assaulting the client, who is blind. – The Legal Herald – May 29, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/PJLFIJ>

12. “Indictment: Man Repeatedly Exposed Himself to Woman with Dementia at Savannah Nursing Home” - James McGovern, aka Sean McGovern, faces indictments of abuse of disabled adult and elder person and public indecency stemming from an alleged incident in February at the Azalea Nursing Home, 2040 Colonial Drive. McGovern was 51 at the time of the incident. – WJCL- May 30, 2019 – (Georgia)- <https://is.gd/WBFX2Q>

13. “Augusta Man Sought for Rape and Exploitation Charges Arrested” - A man wanted for rape and exploitation of a disabled adult is now in custody. Officials say [Elbert Butler, 62](#), was involved in a crime against a disabled person on May 21st. According to a police report, a witness caught Butler in the act of raping the victim. – WRDW – May 24, 2019 – (Georgia)- <https://is.gd/EKDW5n>

14. “Manatee County Sheriff’s Office Releases Child Abuse Investigation Involving 12-Year-Old Boy Who Later Died of “Extreme Abuse” - Documents from the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office show at least one allegation of child abuse was made against the parents of 12-year-old Eduardo Posso, who died in Indiana in what investigators called a case of “extreme abuse.” – My Sun Coast – May 30, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/rdV2G2>

15. “Worst of The Worst’: Rape Verdict Upheld” - The Indiana Court of Appeals has upheld the conviction and 40-year prison sentence of a Fort Wayne man who raped a disabled woman last year. The nature of Haynes's

offense is gut-wrenching,”– The Journal Gazette – May 25, 2019 – (Indiana)- <https://is.gd/5h76zd>

16. “Laurel County Man Sentenced 10 Years for Killing His Mother” - Larry Hensley pleaded guilty earlier in May to the charges of knowingly abusing or neglecting a vulnerable adult and an amended charge of reckless homicide. His mother, Lue Faye Hensley, died one month after a welfare check in February.- WKYT- May 28, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/stg8od>

17. “Louisiana Couple Pleads Guilty in Caging, Beating, Abuse of Woman with Autism” - Terry Knope II, 46, and Raylaine Knope, 43, both pleaded guilty in New Orleans to charges involving forced labor. Terry Knope II also pleaded guilty to a hate crime charge. Court documents say he shot the victim with a BB gun because of her “actual and perceived disability.” – Fox 8 – May 25, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/XFH01x>

18. “TV5 Investigates: Keeping Nursing Home Residents Safe from Abuse” - What would you do if your sick loved one was being hit, scolded, and humiliated while in the care of someone who is supposed to be watching over them. [TV5 Investigates: Cameras in nursing homes](#). WNEM- May 23, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/w7BswS>

19. “Charges Filed After Springfield Man in Wheelchair Attacked with Brick, Knife” - A Springfield man has been accused of attacking another man with a brick and then stabbing him multiple times. Randal Mathis, 34, was charged Sunday with first-degree assault after police say Mathis came to the victim's home to attack him. – Ozarks First – May 29, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/Cs3Y36>

20. “Class 1 Nursing Home Violations For April 2019” – Listing of Complaints against Nursing Homes in Missouri – 1stribune – May 31, 2019 – (Missouri)- <https://is.gd/iyeqQN>
21. “Reports of Financial Exploitation Increasing as Missouri’s Population Ages” - The Bristows are among a growing number of older Missourians who have become victims of financial exploitation, either fraud by an outsider or misappropriation of funds by a family member. As a larger segment of Missouri's population continues to age, the problem is expected to worsen — especially since older people tend to have more assets. Banks are adding more safeguards to address this issue but recent attempts to make a legislative change have failed. – KBIA – May 29, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/a9fwY>
22. “An Ignored and Unseen Crisis in American Prisons and Jails” - Every day there’s another story. In Alabama, the Justice Department recently concluded that the level of violence, sexual abuse, and weapons in that state’s prisons has created conditions that violate the Constitution. – Washington Examiner – May 30, 2019 – (National)- <https://is.gd/I5AFPY>
23. “As Suicides Rise, Insurers Find Ways To Deny Mental Health Coverage” - The [Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act](#), a landmark law passed more than a decade ago, requires insurers to provide comparable coverage for mental health and medical treatments. Even so, insurers are denying claims, limiting coverage, and finding other ways to avoid complying with the law. – Bloomberg Businessweek – May 16, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/R2rW1t>
24. “Healthcare, Civil Rights Groups Join States In Suing Federal Government Over ‘Conscience Rule’” - The final rule makes several references to abortion but also refers to advanced directives, “assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing,” “compulsory healthcare or services generally, and under specific programs for hearing screening, occupational illness testing;

vaccination and mental health treatment” as well as “certain requirements under Medicare and Medicaid that may burden their exercise of their religious beliefs regarding medical treatment.” – McKnight’s Senior Living – May 30, 2019 – (National)- <https://is.gd/WSAOfD>

25. “NJ Medicaid Decision Forcing Disabled Student to Drop Out of Georgetown” - In a nutshell: Landre’s insurance company is reducing her access to a personal care aide, despite no changes in her medical condition, by nearly 40 percent (from 16 hours per day to 10). Without an aide she can’t get in and out of bed, can’t use the bathroom, can’t receive the necessary respiratory protocol for her ailing lungs. – app.com – May 31, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/4HA7ZL>
26. “Second Chance: Mentally Disabled Brooklyn Man’s 2012 Rape Conviction Dismissed Following Review by DA’s Office” - Assistant District Attorney Mark Hale, who heads Gonzalez’s conviction review unit, moved to vacate the second-degree rape conviction against Livingston Broomes, 70, in Kings County Supreme Court on May 23, saying the defendant’s attorney failed to bring to light his client’s mental illness, dooming him to be prosecuted as an able-minded man. – Brooklyn Paper – May 23, 2019 – (New York)- <https://is.gd/LUzQ4v>
27. “Poor Special-Needs Students Are Underserved” - The disparity between affluent and poorer areas in the number of students receiving “504” accommodations is an important issue for all children with special needs – Wall Street Journal – May 30, 2019 – (New York)- <https://is.gd/sWEWvj>
28. “Funding for Behavioral Health Care Would Drop by Tens of Millions of Dollars Under N.C. Senate’s Proposed State Budget” - The fractured relationship between state legislative leaders and the seven behavioral health managed care organizations (MCOs) surfaced again Tuesday with the release of the state Senate budget plan. The MCOs would lose \$51.4 million in single-stream funding in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 fiscal years in the

Senate proposal, while the House budget cuts would total \$36.4 million each fiscal year. – Winston Salem Journal – May 29, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/ysLLVG>

29. “North Carolina Parent Claims Lack of Supervision Left Daughter with Special Needs with Serious Injuries”- "She had a blood ring from like the back of her neck all the way to the front of her neck," said Golden Darden, Diana's mom. "What else could happen? I have to wonder at what point would this have went to if the necklace didn't break." – ABC 7 News – May 25, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/7QcUFx>

30. “Tennessee school suspends employee after classroom video surfaces” - A parent of the student in the video says the teacher was consoling her through a family death. The school system identified the teacher in the video as Travis Holland. He teaches history and coaches baseball. – WWMT – May 24, 2019 – (Tennessee)- <https://is.gd/8rB2Lf>

31. “Texas Police Hunt Man Seen Punching 88-Year-Old Woman in Unprovoked Attack: 'He's Ruined the Rest of My Life'” - Houston Police released footage of the attack outside a H-E-B supermarket at 5225 Buffalo Speedway on March 8, in an attempt to capture the assailant. During the footage, the suspect is seen standing near a flower display in front of the store while 88-year-old Mary Rutkowsky walks by. For no apparent reason, the suspect then punches Rutkowsky in the face, knocking her to the ground, before calmly grabbing a wheelchair and walking away. – Newsweek – May 24, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/A9l4dy>

32. “Bryan Man Arrested for Sexually Assaulting Mentally Disabled Girl” - A Bryan man is in jail for reportedly sexually assaulting a mentally disabled girl. College Station police say Erik Garza, 30, assaulted the 14-year-old he knows. According to her family, the girl has a cognitive age of 6. Garza was arrested Thursday and charged with aggravated sexual assault of a disabled person. – KBTX – TV – May 24, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/8rZl16>

33. “Cache County Man Sentenced After Pleading Guilty to Sexual Abuse of Mentally Disabled Woman”- A North Logan man has avoided state prison, but been sentenced to 210 days in jail after admitting he sexually abused a mentally handicapped woman. David Earl Sagoe, 34, will get credit for the 69 days he has already served in the Cache County Jail. – Gephardt Daily – May 22, 2019 (Utah) - <https://is.gd/d0Wwtg>
34. “Man Charged with Assault, Battery at Nursing Home” - According to the complaint filed in Warren County General District Court, a witness told police officers the patient was heard yelling “stop” and “help” from her room. When the witness went to check on the patient, he said he saw William Brandt trying to force the patient into a gown. The witness also told police he saw Brandt put his arm around the patient’s neck “in what he described as a choke hold,” according to the complaint. – The Northern Virginia Daily – May 23, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/klNrhL>
35. “Henrico Caretaker Charged with Abusing Elderly Man” - Wakeisha Denay Culler, 53, of Chesterfield, was accused of striking the elderly man whom she was taking care of at the Beth Sholom Home of Central Virginia. After the incident, Culler was suspended from her position as a caretaker while police investigated, officials said. – WTVR 6- May 24, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/BeWpAc>
36. “Group Home Worker Charged with Abuse After Video Surfaces” - Yolanda S. Williams, 48, is charged with a felony count of intentional abuse of a resident that is likely to cause harm, two counts of misdemeanor disorderly conduct and bail jumping. – The Journal Times – May 24, 2019 – (Wisconsin)- <https://is.gd/KN21Jm>
37. “Problems Persist at Wyoming's Largest Mental Health Facility” - They include a suicide, attempted suicides, the sexual assault of a patient by an employee, patient-on-patient and patient-on-staff assaults, incorrect medicine dosing and excessive patient restraint, said representatives of

Wyoming Protection and Advocacy and Wyoming Guardianship Corp., which act as legal guardians for dozens of patients at Wyoming State Hospital. – ABC Fox Montana – May 25, 2019 – (Wyoming) - <https://is.gd/Jfr01n>

GUARDIANSHIP

38. “Opposing A Guardianship Deemed Unnecessary” - In any case in which guardianship of a person and/or their estate is sought, the court is required to appoint attorney ad litem, who is charged with representing the person over whom the guardianship is sought. Laura and Karen can work with this ad litem to make certain the ad litem gets the evidence necessary to show that Louise is competent and that Carl, should, in no case, be appointed their mother’s guardian. – Brownwood Bulletin – May 30, 2019 - (Texas) - <https://is.gd/AbBPtH>

39. “Judge Sanctions Lawyer and Clients \$220K for Alleged Misconduct in Guardianship Case” - A Texas judge has ordered a lawyer and his clients to pay more than \$220,000 in sanctions for an alleged “vexatious litigation campaign” against a mentally incapacitated millionaire and his guardians. Judge Oscar Kazen imposed the sanctions against lawyer Phil Ross and his clients in [a May 24 decision](#), the [San Antonio Express-News](#) reports. – ABA Journal – May 29, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/YhcZd1>

40. “Casper Man Pleads Not Guilty to Sexual Assault, Abusing Vulnerable Adults” - Two of the first-degree sexual assault counts are of victims who are mentally deficient or developmentally disabled, according to the criminal investigation. Trae Derik Smith, 26, accompanied by his public defender Joseph Cole, quietly entered the pleas before Judge Catherine Wilking. – K 2 Radio – May 23, 2019 – (Wyoming) - <https://is.gd/yo6dLL>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

41. “Lawmakers Seek to Track, Reduce Schools’ Use of Restraint and Seclusion” - A recent report by the nonprofit Disability Rights Maine found that use of physical restraint or seclusion jumped 60% in 4 years in Maine schools. A legislative committee endorsed a bill Thursday that aims to improve tracking of how often Maine schools physically restrain or place students in seclusion. – Press Herald – May 23, 2019 – (Maine) - <https://is.gd/To7zoX>

42. “Governor Phil Bryant Signs GAP Act to Protect Children and Vulnerable Adults” - Among the bills signed by Governor Phil Bryant Wednesday was the GAP Act, which stands for “guard and protect.” It will provide stronger protections for children and vulnerable adults. According to supporters the new law will prevent the misuse of resources, and keep family members from wasting and squandering those resources. – WLBT 3 – May 29, 2019 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/uN912Q>

43. “Assembly Preserves Sub-Minimum Wage for New Yorkers with Disabilities” - Legislation closing loophole held up in committee process. Controversial legislation requiring that New Yorkers with developmental disabilities be paid a minimum wage for any type of work was held up in the state Assembly's committee process earlier this week. – Times Union – May 20, 2019 – (New York)- <https://is.gd/4i91ic>

44. “Ohio Proposal Would Help Families Keep Custody of Severely Mentally Ill, Autistic Children”- Hottinger introduced an amendment to the biennial budget bill last week that would provide \$6 million in the first year and \$12 million in the second specifically to “prevent the use of custody relinquishment as the only means for parents to get care and treatment for multisystem youth.” The money would be separate from Gov. Mike DeWine’s proposed increase for children and family services, much of

which would go to child welfare agencies overwhelmed by the state's opioid crisis. – Herald Mail Media – May 29, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/oqB2mw>

45. “Rethinking Death Penalty in Ohio”- Ohio legislators are considering a bill that would amend capital punishment statutes. It would ban the death penalty for people who were suffering from “serious mental illness” when they committed murder.- Morning Journal – May 23, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/l1owXD>

46. “Genocide Education, New College Degrees, Student Restraint: 3 Oregon School Bills Pass” - And Senate Bill 963, which modifies how and when educators are allowed to physically restrain students, passed with nearly unanimous support, with only one vote against it. All three bills are expected to be signed into law by Gov. Kate Brown. – Stateman Journal – May 29, 2019 – (Oregon)- <https://is.gd/7NQ3Wp>

47. “Bob Casey Introduces Bill to Help Grandfamilies Access More Federal Resources” - The federal government is not doing enough to help grandparents who make these sacrifices, he said, and has to pick up more of the slack. His new bill, the Grandfamilies Act, intends to help grandparents access more resources to pay for care. – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – May 24, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/Xr86Rd>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

48. “The Failings In Learning Disability Services In Six Charts” - In 2011 a [BBC Panorama investigation revealed](#) horrific abuse at the Winterbourne View Assessment and Treatment Unit (ATU) for people with learning disabilities and autism. – BBC News – May 23, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/PAS4Fr>

49. “UN: Focus On Civilians With Disabilities In Wartime” - The inclusion of the need to protect [civilians with disabilities](#) in wartime in the [United Nations secretary-general’s new report](#) should help spur action by UN agencies and member states, Human Rights Watch said today. – Human Rights Watch – May 28, 2019 – (Global) - <https://is.gd/4kzAlv>
50. “Drug May Deliver ‘Ecstasy’ Of Social Interactions To Autistic People” - “This circuit that we are now beginning to really define as being important for autism-relevant social behaviors might be the one that we want to look at,” says lead investigator [Gül Dölen](#), assistant professor of neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. – Spectrum – May 23, 2019 – (Baltimore)- <https://is.gd/Tv94D9>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

51. “Virtual Reality Helps Police in Dealing with Autistic People” - This week, the company announced a partnership with Chicago police to train officers by using virtual reality headsets. It will be making the program, developed with the help of mental health and autism experts, available to police departments across the U.S. – ABC News – May 24, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/8myK5z>
52. “These 9 Providers Will Take Over Bellwether Group Homes for Disabled Adults in NJ” - New Jersey will shut down the state’s largest for profit provider of residential and day programs for individuals with developmental disabilities for operational violations. Lindy Washburn and Paul Wood Jr., North Jersey Record. Nine providers have been selected by the state Department of Human Services to take over [management of Bellwether’s 62 group homes in New Jersey](#): - NorthJersey.com – May 25, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/gg4oMO>

53. “Seeking Changes for Workers in NC with Disabilities” - For those living with disabilities in North Carolina, finding fulfilling employment with competitive wages can be challenging. About 70 percent of working-age people living with disabilities are unemployed, according to a recent report from Disability Rights NC. – Carolina Public Press – May 30, 2019 – (North Carolina)- <https://is.gd/nD75wD>
54. “Cumberland County DA Starting Elder Abuse Task Force” - The Cumberland County District Attorney’s Office is starting an elder abuse task force to protect that growing population of seniors. The DA says, in Cumberland County, there have been 10 cases of elder abuse since the beginning of the year. He is hoping the new program prevents abuse and theft from seniors. – 21 News- May 28, 2019 – (Pennsylvania)- <https://is.gd/VuqkKq>
55. “Texans with Disabilities Are Struggling to Find Health Care Attendants. Lawmakers Didn’t Do Much to Help.” - Community attendants had their \$8-per-hour base wage boosted by only 11 cents this session — significantly less than what the governor and state health department requested. – Observer – May 28, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/dkZRK6>
56. “Fairfax County Allocates Over \$1 Million to Address Seclusion and Restraint Practices” - The adopted budget is a 4.1% increase from the previous year, and includes over \$1 million to remedy isolation and restraint practices in the district. – WAMU – May 24, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/nJmjEo>

INTERNATIONAL

57. “Australia: Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability” - For the purposes of the Royal Commission, "people with disability" is defined to mean people with any

kind of impairment, whether existing at birth or acquired through illness, accident or the ageing process, including cognitive impairment and physical, sensory, intellectual and psycho-social disability. – Mondaq – May 23, 2019 – (Australia)- <https://is.gd/BuF38N>

58. “Paralympian Kathleen O’Kelly Kennedy’s push to change WA’s sex assault law” - A Paralympian who was grabbed on the bottom by a police officer has launched a petition to change WA’s indecent assault laws after the sergeant accused of the assault was found not guilty. The incident was caught on video as well as in a photo. – The West Australian – May 26, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/nlD4tM>

59. “Drugs, Theft, Alcohol and Inappropriate Relationships Alleged at Children’s Aid Group Home” - Several people who knew a boy who lived at this group home claim a former Children's Aid employee was encouraging the boys who lived there to steal, take drugs and drink alcohol. That same employee was recently charged with the sexual assault of two underage boys. – Global News – May 30, 2019 – (Canada)- <https://is.gd/FXCad0>

60. “Peel Cops Had ‘No Alternative’ But to Handcuff 6-Year-Old Black Girl at School, Police Lawyer Argues in Human Rights Case” - Peel Regional Police officers who handcuffed a 6-year-old Black girl inside a Mississauga school decided to restrain her based, at least in part, on her race, a lawyer for the child’s mother argued at the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal Wednesday. – Mississauga.com – May 29, 2019 – (Canada)- <https://is.gd/6eJBiy>

61. “Montreal Man Sentenced to Two Years for Killing of Alzheimer's-Stricken Wife” - A Quebec judge said she hopes the voices of caregivers struggling to care for loved ones are heard as she sentenced a Montreal man who suffocated his Alzheimer's-stricken wife with a pillow to two years less a day in jail. Michel Cadotte's killing of Jocelyne Lizotte, 60, in her long-term care bed warranted a strong message, Superior Court Justice Helene Di

Salvo said in a decision rendered late Tuesday. – CTV News – May 28, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/U4EJrp>

62. “Nursing Home Employee Charged with Assaulting Elderly Patient in Clarence-Rockland” - A 63-year-old employee is facing a charge of assault causing bodily harm after Russell County OPP investigated an “altercation” involving a patient at an unidentified Clarence-Rockland long-term care facility May 20. Suze Marie Colin of Rockland appears in court in L’Orignal June 19. – Ottawa Citizen – May 27, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/nBX0SD>

63. “Special Needs: Petition Demands Action On 'National Crisis'” - Disabled children and their families have taken to the streets today to demand action on "the national crisis" in special needs funding. – BBC – May 30, 2019 – (England)- <https://is.gd/lKh3Vm>

64. “The Guardian View On The Abuse Of Learning-Disabled People: Duties Of Care” - The publication in quick succession of three reports, combined with last week’s [BBC Panorama programme showing patients at Whorlton Hall](#) hospital being abused by staff, have shed much-needed light on the mistreatment of learning-disabled people. – The Guardian – May 30, 2019 – (England)- <https://is.gd/kM7uPx>

65. “Carer Who Stole £10,000 From A Dementia Patient and Spent the Money On a Car, Clothes and Flights Is Jailed” - A carer who stole £10,000 from a woman with dementia and spent the money on a car, clothes and funeral expenses has been jailed and recommended for deportation. Iolanda Fernandes Gomes (48) took advantage of the elderly woman’s condition to secretly write cheques and pay them into her own account. – Jersey Evening Post – May 29, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/RukEi3>

66. “Gang 'Tried To Rape Disabled Mum Then Killed Her Daughter, 8, For Crying” - Four men tried to gang [rape](#) a disabled woman before choking her eight-year-old daughter to death for crying when she heard her mother's screams, it is alleged. The group then allegedly threatened to burn the woman's family members in a brick plant where she worked in Bharatpur, India, if she tried to tell police. – Mirror – May 30, 2019 – (India)- <https://is.gd/S9WmrJ>
67. “34-Year-Old Deaf Woman Sues HSE Over Placement in Facility for The Elderly” - A 34-year-old profoundly deaf woman with physical disabilities who has been in a nursing home for the last two years has brought her case to the High Court. The health and well being of Jennifer Walsh, placed by the HSE in a nursing home in 2017, is deteriorating, the High Court heard today. – Irish Examiner – May 30, 2019 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/aITT2m>
68. “Sex with Impaired Teen Led to Pregnancy That Went Undiscovered for Months” - The jury has begun hearing the case of Terence Owen McGhie who had pleaded not guilty to having exploitative sexual contact with a person with a significant impairment. – Stuff – May 27, 2019 – (New Zealand) - <https://is.gd/Ywc6UV>
69. “Stepdad Found Guilty of Repeatedly Raping Mentally-Challenged Stepdaughter” - Johannesburg - The 59-year-old Gauteng “monster” who forced his mentally-challenged stepdaughter, 23, to endure eight years as his sex slave, spent his first night in jail last night for his heinous crimes. On Tuesday, Jacobus* was found guilty on all five shocking sexual crimes - including the repeated rape of his stepdaughter Danielle*, and forcing her to watch him masturbate - at the South Gauteng High Court, sitting in the Palmridge Magistrate’s Court. – IOL.COM – May 29, 2019 – (South Africa) - <https://is.gd/879SER>
70. “Ex Prison Officer ‘Collapses’ After Being Found Guilty of Rape” - Mark Scott, 34, was a former prison officer at HMP Hull who was accused of

raping five women and trying to rape another, who is disabled. But a jury took just over one day of deliberation to deliver their verdicts to the court, in which they found Scott guilty of nine counts of rape and one of attempted rape. – Metro – May 29, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/xPXeDL>

71. “NHS and Care Regulator Missed Care Home Abuse of Vulnerable Patients On Multiple Occasions” - Health watchdogs had no concerns on multiple visits to a private hospital at the centre of a police investigation into the abuse of patients in the months after it had been inspected, The Independent has learnt. – Independent – May 23, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/Q45fV9>

MISCELLANEOUS

72. “After A Social Media Uproar, Sen. Chris Kapenga Says 'Full Inclusion' Of Special Education Students Is Not Working” - Posts circulated by a variety of people on Facebook claimed he had said, "They don't deserve to be in the classroom. They take away from the learning of other students. It might make them feel good to be in the classroom, but it shouldn't happen. They belong in separate schools." It is uncertain where the posts originated. – Journal Sentinel – May 23, 2019- (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/KLxMpQ>

73. “Online Groups Falsely Promote Bleach as Autism ‘Cure’” - Many of these so-called cures are recommended in private online groups and prey upon parents’ desires to “heal” their kids of the developmental disorder. In the groups, families encourage each other to give their children things like industrial bleach, turpentine and urine to reverse autism, [NBC reports](#). The bleach option is often marketed online as “Miracle Mineral Solution,” or MMS. Videos promoting it can be found on YouTube and have been watched millions of times.- WKYT – May 22, 2019 (National) - <https://is.gd/KklM02>