

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of July 13– July 19, 2019

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Posted to Newsfeed Archive on our Website by Thomas F. Coleman

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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Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 1,4, 10, 13, 17, 2, 31, 33

Physical Abuse: 2, 10, 11, 12, 14, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 51, 57

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 10, 23

Financial abuse: 3, 16, 34, 35

Murder: 5, 6, 14, 21, 24, 32, 53

Neglected: 9, 11, 30

Related to special education: 19, 27 (TA)

WINNER of most egregious award: 39: Drug thieves steal pain medications from assisted living programs; 59: Woman demands refund after learning cup she had purchased was designed by an artist with autism.

WINNER of “good job” award: 41: Importance and impact of ACES highlighted.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Relationship:

Family: 2, 5, 6, 9,10,15, 30, 31, 32

Carer: 1,3,10,12,14,21, 22, 23, 28, 33, 51, 57

Stranger: 4,13, 20, 29

Special education employee: 19, 27 (TA)

Service:

Skilled Nursing Facility: 14, 17, 26

Group Home: 21, 25

Hospital: 53

Physician: 1

Chaplain: 17

Men: 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 25, 26, 30, 31, 33, 34

Women: 11, 12, 21, 23, 27, 28, 332, 59

Couple; 5, 10, 22, 29, 31

Good News:

Bad News: 7: Woman with cerebral palsy refused nail salon service.; 16: Goodwill pulls paychecks from workers with disabilities; 18: waitlist for housing for people with I/DD up to 15 years; 19: “Dickensian conditions” at treatment/educational center; 24: Patient “rationed” medication due to costs, had died; 38: In 44 states, clergy are exempted from reporting child sexual abuse revealed by perpetrators; 40: study shows teacher and teacher aids are unprepared to provide special education services; 43: Under-reporting of seclusion and restraint in TX unified school district(s) due to “technical glitch.”; 61: Nursing homes demand non-disclosure agreements for patients not to report/reveal abuse.

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “30 Plaintiffs Now Part of Sexual Misconduct Lawsuit Against Decatur Dr. Michael Dick” - Doctor Michael Dick is facing criminal charges amid allegations by former patients that he engaged in harassment and sexual misconduct. He is also facing a lawsuit [alleging similar behavior](#) and the number of plaintiffs is now up to 30, according to a Tuesday court filing. – WHNT – 19 – July 17, 2019 – (Alabama)- <https://is.gd/D1yFlf>
2. “Judge Gives 17 Years to Emmonak Man Who Strangled Disabled Girlfriend” - A Bethel judge says an Emmonak man must serve 17 years in prison for beating and strangling his disabled girlfriend last year, according to a statement from the Department of Law. A jury convicted Michael Redfox of multiple assault charges earlier this year and Judge Nathaniel Peters sentenced him Wednesday. – KTVA – July 18, 2019 – (Alaska) - <https://is.gd/ZDpbmh>

3. "5 Accused of Defrauding Mentally Disabled 73-Year-Old Cancer Patient Out Of \$24K" - Carolyn Shields, 61, of Pasadena; Billy Burton, 63, of Los Angeles; Griselda "Gracie" Patterson, 38, of Los Angeles: Patterson's daughter Adriana Patterson, 22, of Los Angeles; and Adriana Patterson's boyfriend, Antwan Havard, 25, whose hometown was unclear; face charges including elder financial abuse, grand theft, attempted elder financial abuse and attempted grand theft, the Pasadena Police Department said in a written statement. – KTLA 5 – July 12, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/2aEn2z>

4. "Man Accused of Raping Developmentally Disabled Woman Skips Bail. Now There's an Arrest Warrant" - Gabriel Ortiz, 25, is accused of sexually assaulting a 20-year-old woman, identified only as Jane Doe in court documents, in early 2018. Investigators said the woman "functions at the competency of a 12-year-old girl" and suffers from seizures, cerebral palsy and ADHD, according to an arrest warrant declaration dating to the time of Ortiz's arrest in October. – Desert Sun – July 16, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/OkYL6P>

5. "This Death Happened on My Watch.' Child Welfare Chief Takes Heat Over Abused Palmdale Boy" - Foul play is suspected, given the years of documented abuse reports involving his parents. At the time of his death, Noah had been under active supervision by the DCFS after more than a dozen calls to the child-abuse hotline and police from people who said they suspected that the children in the home were being abused.- Los Angeles Times – July 16, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/AOU1bm>

6. "California Man Charged with Murder in Drowning Deaths of His 2 Autistic Sons, Prosecutors Say" - [li Elmezayen](#), 44, of Hawthorne, faces two counts of murder and one count of attempted murder, allegedly committed in the name of financial gain, the Los Angeles County district attorney's office said. Prosecutors said further investigation led to the new murder charges against the accused, who was already in federal custody for alleged insurance fraud.

[Elmezayen](#) is accused of intentionally driving his two sons, ages 8 and 13, off the edge of a commercial fishing dock in San Pedro on April 9, 2015, While Elmezayen swam to safety, and his partner, who couldn't swim, was rescued by a fisherman, his children, who couldn't swim and were strapped into child seats, drowned. – FOX News – July 17, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/NdRV1o>

7. Mom Says Nail Salon Refuses Service to Daughter with Cerebral Palsy: 'This Cannot Be Tolerated' - They were told Bri would not be allowed to sit in their spa chairs and they couldn't do her nails," McElyea wrote. "Anna explained she would hold Bri's hands open and that she gets her nails done all the time. Didn't matter. They were turned away." – Yahoo.com – July 11, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/3BBQRp>

8. "Mom Says 9-Year-Old with Special Needs is Forced into Medication Withdrawals by Health Insurer" - Lisa said the company questioned the prescription and dosage, forcing her to fill out paperwork and spend hours on the phone every single month just to get Luran's prescribed refills. – ABC Action News – July 18, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/x5krkO>

9. "Florida Man Goes to Strip Club, Leaves 'Severely Autistic' Child, Young Girl Home Alone" - Calvin Dywane Guice, 38, was supposed to be taking care of the kids while their mother attended her mother's funeral in Georgia. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office said one of the victims, who is severely autistic, physically disabled and non-verbal, was found in his room wearing a urine-filled diaper. Law enforcement said the disabled child wasn't capable of taking care of himself and needed constant supervision, and the other victim, a young girl, was unable to care for him and herself. – CBS Miami – July 15, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/OrvSk9>

10. “Documents: 'Doomsday Prepper' Couple in Wakulla County Tried to Find Victims before Their Arrest” - Mirko Ceska, 58, and Regina Ceska, 55, were arrested by the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office last week after accusations that they physically and sexually abused two women in their home. On July 1, the Wakulla County Sheriff's office initiated a sexual battery investigation. The victims, who were adopted by the Ceskas when they were 11 years old, told deputies that the couple physically and emotionally abused them for several years. – WTXL Tallahassee – July 16, 2019- (Florida)-

<https://is.gd/Vw9MIS>

11. “Former Special Education Teacher Convicted of Child Abuse to Appear in Court” - Last October, [Marlynn Stillions](#) was sentenced to seven years after she was convicted on three felony counts of child abuse. The concerning acts committed by Stillions during the 2015-2016 school year at Kenwood Elementary in Fort Walton Beach. Stillions taught a pre-kindergarten class for [children with disabilities](#). – 3 WEAR TV – July 18, 2019 – (Florida) -

<https://is.gd/2vxQPs>

12. “Bond Granted in Richmond County Elder Abuse Case” - Toni Washington, 24, has pleaded not guilty in Richmond County Superior Court to charges of aggravated assault, exploitation of an elderly or disabled adult, and terroristic threats. The morning of March 12 at Lizzy’s Adult Day Care, Washington went to her supervisor complaining that a patient had bitten her, said Assistant District Attorney Stetson Cromer. A review of the security video revealed Washington choked a wheelchair-bound patient and dragged him across the room and threatened to kill him, Cromer said. – The Augusta Chronicle – July 15, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/zwlbxS>

13. “Update: Rome Teen Charged with Rape, Threats and Extortion” - Austin Gage Barton, an 18-year-old Rome man who arrested earlier this week for committing a sex crime against a mentally ill woman is now facing rape and other charges. Reports said that Barton “penetrated the woman’s vagina by

force” as she was “trying to fight him off”. The victim also told police that Barton threatened to kill her when she refused to send him nude photographs of her. – Coosa Valley News – July 18, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/ty32ln>

14. “Nursing-Home Caregiver Guilty of Elder Neglect” - About 7:30 a.m. on Aug. 15, 2017, Adam Bennett was found in his room at Sunrise Assisted Living Center, on Johnson Ferry Road, with a bruised lip. Bennett told a day-shift caregiver: "He punched me," while motioning to his face, chest, and groin. Evidence collected by police showed that Landon Terrel, now 35, was the only male working the overnight shift at Sunrise that night. – Patch- July 18, 2019 – (Georgia)- <https://is.gd/yn4xWt>

15. “Man Who Admitted to Killing His Grandmother and Burying Her in the Backyard Ordered to Undergo Mental Evaluation” - Harley L. Howell, 24, was charged June 13 with felony abuse and neglect of a vulnerable adult along with felony failure to report a death. The charges come almost five years after investigators believe Howell killed 78-year-old Naoma Ware, left her in a closet and buried her in her backyard months later. The case only came to light when authorities tried to contact Ware about her daughter, Danielle L. Howell, being killed in a car crash in 2018. – East Idaho News – July 18, 2019 – (Idaho)- <https://is.gd/sSakPC>

16. “Goodwill Pulls Paychecks from Disabled Workers” - An iconic nonprofit thrift store is crying poor in the face of looming payroll increases, and it is announcing plans to lay off disabled employees in order to take on the extra cost. However, the 501(c)(3) organization pays no taxes, collects state funding, was awarded state contracts, and has special permission from the federal government to pay disabled workers well below the minimum wage floor. – WCIA 3 – July 16, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/6EhG8H>

17. "Former Nursing Home Chaplain Indicted on Sex Abuse Charges" - Court records show James E. Riley was indicted Thursday on one count of predatory criminal sexual assault and five counts of criminal sexual assault. Riley, 58, is accused of having sexual contact by use of force with two Good Samaritan Home residents -- one 88 and the other 78. The incidents were alleged to have occurred in May at Good Samaritan Home. Riley also is alleged to have had sexual contact with a child under 13 years old and another under 18 years old in incidents that occurred between July 1, 2001, and Dec. 6, 2003. – Herald Whig – July 24, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/teAlg0>
18. "Waitlist Swells as Disabled Adults Seek Group Homes" - The waiting list for housing for adults with intellectual disabilities in a certain part of the Medicaid program – Section 21 – has more than 1,500 people on it, and it can take years to get off the list. – Maine Central – July 14, 2019 – (Maine) - <https://is.gd/cj9fgn>
19. "Service Provider Sued Over Alleged 'Dickensian' Conditions" - AdvoServ Inc. ran a program for people and students with disabilities in Delaware. Dozens of Maryland children with cognitive disabilities and mental illnesses were sent to their facilities for treatment and education after the state determined their needs couldn't be met at home or in their local schools. But even though the state paid AdvoServ more than \$230,000 a year to care for each child, the lawsuit alleges their facilities failed to "provide even minimally adequate care to the children under their protection. – Disability Scoop – July 16, 2019 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/Uitp6j>
20. "Disabled Man Assaulted with Own Wheelchair" - Jose Defranceso, 44, was charged with assault and battery on a disabled person, assault and battery on a police officer, disorderly conduct and defacing property, stemming from the incident last Wednesday. He was arraigned the following day in Haverhill District Court, where Judge Patricia Dowling ordered him held

without bail. The disabled man, who police say is homeless, said Defrancesco came over to him and was yelling, then pushed him out of his wheelchair and threw it at him. – The Eagle Tribune – July 15, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/8eepmG>

21. “Caretakers Take Plea on Charges of Hiding Death of Vulnerable Adult in Group Home” - Annie Swanson-Walls, 59, and Jesse Swanson, 46, both pleaded no contest July 12, for their roles in concealing the death of Everett J. Thompson, 64, who Swanson-Walls was taking care of in her unlicensed Ypsilanti independent living facility. – Michigan Live – July 15, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/h9TNq3>

22. “Two Martha T. Berry Employees Get Deferred Sentence for Abuse of Patient” - Latrice Smith, 24, and Arnold Hudson, 22, both Eastpointe residents, earlier this month pleaded guilty and were immediately given a deferred sentence by Judge Sebastian Lucido of 41B District Court in Clinton Township, according to court records.- Macomb Daily – July 18, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/rycw2j>

23. “Owner of Owosso Adult Foster Facility Admits to Abuse Charges” - Diane Lott operated an adult foster facility in Shiawassee County. Police said Lott also admitted to snorting methamphetamine at different locations around the city. But they said she did not face drug charges because she did not have meth on her when she was arrested. Lott's five counts of vulnerable adult abuse were each punishable by a year in jail or a fine. – ABC 12 – July 19, 2019 – (Michigan)- <https://is.gd/wMqa7l>

24. “Family Says 21-Year-Old Son Died Rationing Insulin” - Advocates say it is a sign of the growing problem of rising prescription costs in America. Friday, friends and family said 21-year-old Jesimya David Scherer-Radcliff died as a

result of rationing his insulin. – KARE 11 – July 13, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/xWBWe8>

25. “Helena Group Home Worker Accused of Raping Elderly Resident” - Authorities say a 56-year-old man who was working at a Helena group home is accused of raping an elderly resident who is deaf, blind and unable to speak. [The Independent Record reports](#) that Zane Richard Frisbie has been charged with sexual intercourse without consent. – Flathead Beacon – July 16, 2019 – (Montana)- <https://is.gd/JOiyyF>

26. “Nursing Home Employee Charged for Allegedly Assaulting Resident” - Jamie Winchester, 21, of Missouri Valley, Iowa, is charged with third-degree assault, a Class 1 misdemeanor. According to the arrest affidavit, Blair police were called to Good Shepherd Lutheran Community, 2242 Wright St., about a possible abuse case. The daughter of the victim had provided video from a camera placed in her mother's room to the nursing home's director. The video of the July 1 incident showed the employee, identified as Winchester, placing a sheet over the woman's head, yelling at her, hitting her on the face several times and being rough with her as she moved her. – Pilot – Tribune Enterprise – July 19, 2019 – (Nebraska) - <https://is.gd/u2c6bQ>

27. “Former Elementary School Teacher Assistant Found Guilty of Assaulting Handicapped Student” - Anjanette Rebekah Myers, of Marion, was [charged in February 2019 after school officials learned of the incident](#) and notified the sheriff’s office. "She is charged with striking a 9-year-old on the side of the head." – News ABC 13 – July 16, 2019 – North Carolina - <https://is.gd/KfTR9y>

28. “Caregiver Accused of Scalding Patient with Down Syndrome” - An affidavit says the patient, who is unable to talk, suffered severe scald burns to the

rear and thighs Jan. 26 by her caregiver, 26-year-old Miquela Alexander.-
WMC 5 – July 15, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/PqoFJj>

29. “Pittsburgh Police Looking for 2 People Who Attacked Man with Autism” -
Police are looking for a male and female who attacked a 25-year-old man
with autism this week in Sheraden. According to investigators, the victim
was hit in the head, then knocked to the ground. Nothing was taken from
him. – WPXI – 11 – July 12, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/0ab88B>

30. “Man Charged after Denying He Made 72-Year-Old Mother Live in Shed” -
James Strickland is facing one count of abuse of a vulnerable adult in
connection with the alleged care of his mother. He was arrested Saturday
and had his bond set at \$40,000. The nurse also said the 72-year old’s skin
was damaged so badly, it was peeling. The family member claimed
Strickland wanted to sell his mom’s house to “support his drug habit.”
According to the report. the family member also told deputies it’s possible
Strickland sexually abused his mom. – Live 5 News – July 15, 2019 – (South
Carolina) - <https://is.gd/2jECyr>

31. “Mother Accused of Letting Husband Abuse Adopted Twins Released with
GPS Monitor” - Regina Ceska, accused of doing nothing while her husband
allegedly abused their adoptive twin daughters both physically and sexually
over a six-year period, was released on her own recognizance pending her
trial. She is charged with second-degree misdemeanors for failing to report
abuse of a cognitively disabled or otherwise impaired adult and neglect of
an adult she had care for. – Tallahassee Democrat – July 15, 2019 –
(Tallahassee) - <https://is.gd/hLb3sZ>

32. “Virginia Mother Convicted Over Starvation Death of 13-Year-Old Son” -
Amy FaJohn, 37, was originally charged with the first-degree murder and
felony child neglect after police found her 13-year-old son, Jalen

Goldsborough, dead at their Hopewell home on 2 September, 2018, weighing just 24 pounds. She was arrested along with her live-in boyfriend, Anthony Saunders. FaJohn pleaded no contest in Hopewell Circuit Court, and the first-degree murder and neglect charges were dropped. – Newsweek – July 18, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/p4BG1y>

33. “Nursing Assistant Caught on Video Raping Disabled Care-Home Resident: Prosecutors” - Nshimiyana O. Hamzat, 29, was charged with first-degree rape, second-degree rape and indecent liberties after he was caught by a hidden camera placed in the room by the victim’s family, Seattle's KIRO-TV reported. “The camera captured the defendant sexually assaulting her twice a day, on two different days. – Fox News – July 13, 2019 – (Washington)- <https://is.gd/a0spmW>

34. “Fayetteville Man Accused of Financially Exploiting an Elderly Person” - According to Fayette County Sheriff Mike Fridley, Chad Surface of Fayetteville is accused of cleaning out the victim's bank account and selling their personal property to afford his alleged drug habit. Surface was charged with a total of 38 felonies, including one count of financial exploitation of an elderly person; 10 counts of identity theft; one count of grand larceny; 11 counts of attempt of fraudulent use of access device; two counts of forgery; 11 counts of fraudulent use of an access device; and two counts of forgery with no authority to charge. – The Register – Herald – July 12, 2019 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/pPOHEu>

GUARDIANSHIP

35. “Judge Orders Court-Appointed Guardian to be Stripped of Almost 100 Cases” - She was entrusted by the state to take care of the elderly and disabled - and to handle everything from their finances to their medical care. But now, a Central Florida judge has ruled Rebecca Fierle, a court appointed guardian based in Orlando, abused her power, executing do not

resuscitate orders on many of the wards under her supervision without family or court permission. The notice for removal states Fierle also failed to disclose related interests and employees. It also claims she received payments from hospitals, all of which created a conflict of interest. – Click Orlando – July 15, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/4zaylv>

36. “Ethics Questions Raised about Sterling Heights Mayor's Role in Guardianship Case” - It’s a controversial guardianship case that’s caught the attention of the Attorney General and the Michigan Supreme Court. When the 7 Investigators started investigating this guardianship case, we interviewed the family involved and we asked to interview the owner of the guardianship company so we could tell both sides of the story. – WXYZ – ABC Detroit – July 18, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/DqMyzM>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

37. “State Needs to Prepare for Privatization of Child Welfare Services” - He said while the Kentucky General Assembly passed adoption and foster care reform legislation in 2018, Congress was also enacting sweeping changes to the system known as the Family First Prevention Services Act. – Richmond Register- July 14, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/MYuqeD>

38. “In 44 States, Clergy Don't Have to Tell Police When Someone Confesses to Child Sex Abuse” - "Too often cases of sexual abuse involving ecclesiastic leaders have been covered up and the victims are denied justice," she wrote. "We already have laws that mandate reporting whenever anyone learns about abuse of a child or a vulnerable person. Ecclesiastic leaders need to be held to the same standard." – Newsweek – July 18, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/Kge23p>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

39. "Drug Thieves Getting Creative: Assisted Living Facilities Struggle to Protect Seniors" - Swapping OxyContin for Tylenol, forging paperwork, stashing bubble packs inside a waistband — these are some of the ways at least 5,917 pills were stolen from residents of assisted living facilities in Minnesota. - The majority of the drugs taken were narcotics, like opioids, used to treat pain, said Eilon Caspi, a University of Minnesota School of Nursing research associate, who studied five years of state reports of confirmed drug thefts between March 2013 and September 2018. – Brainerd Dispatch – July 14, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/symZFR>
40. "Survey Finds Teachers, Paraeducators Largely Unprepared for Students with IEP's" - In a survey of nearly 1,500 special education teachers across the country, just 8 percent rated the general education teachers they work alongside as well-prepared to serve students with exceptionalities. And, only 12 percent had confidence in the paraeducators who are frequently tasked with supporting kids with disabilities at school. – Disability Scoop – July 9, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/oWmjzk>
41. "The Groundbreaking Public Health Study that should change U.S. Society – But Won't" - What variable is associated with a 12 times greater likelihood of a suicide attempt—and also doubles the likelihood of cancer, heart disease, or stroke? In the late 1990s, the [Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACE\) Study](#) revealed a stunningly powerful relationship between childhood trauma and later adult emotional difficulties and physical health problems. – The Counter Punch – July 19, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/yCMtvb>
42. "Lessons from Testing Decades of Forgotten Rape Kits: Serial Rapists Are Common, They Don't Follow a Pattern, They're Not Very Bright, and They're Often the Same Men Who Commit Acquaintance Rape" - They're also not discriminating as to the kind of crimes they commit: as the old rape kits are subjected to DNA tests, we're learning that many men who've been committed for petty property crimes or non-sexual assaults have also

committed strings of rapes. Frequently, these men start with vulnerable women (poor women, sex workers, women with disabilities, women who are addicted) and then rape women with more privilege, which sometimes leads to the police taking action. – Boing Boing – July 16, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/uufqXA>

43. “NISD Responds to Federal Watchdog Office Findings on Under-Reporting Restraints” - The group found Texas schools are underreporting how often students are restrained or placed in seclusion. Northside ISD is now explaining a technical glitch created problems with reporting for the district. – FOX San Antonio – July 16, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/BBE5NQ>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

44. “SMMUSD Considering Updated Abuse Protections for Students”- On Thursday, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) board of education will discuss changing its employee conduct policy to better protect students from sexual abuse. The proposed policy sets new behavioral boundaries, mandates that every employee report misconduct that they observe or hear about, and outlines disciplinary consequences for employees, who would be defined as any adult that interacts with children, including volunteers and coaches.-Santa Monica Daily Press – July 16, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/EokZDp>
45. “Illinois Goodwill CEO's Remarks Highlight a Bigger Issue Surrounding Employment and Disability” - In a statement aired by Illinois TV network WCIA, Durbin justified her initial decision to stop paying most of Goodwill’s disabled workers by saying, “It really was not a job. It was a work component and through it we gave them through grace out of our budget to pay them so they had a paycheck to go home with.” – The Mighty – July 18, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/dsm9p7>

46. “Deaf Sign Language Interpreter Named Honorary Sheriff after Going Viral During Storm Coverage” - Ari Latino, 20, the interpreter, is worthy of his newfound fame. Latino is deaf and is signing through his own interpreter in the audience. As a “native signer,” Latino is able to speak more directly to a deaf audience and can sign the messages more conversationally – perhaps even easier to understand – for deaf viewers. – WBRZ 2 – July 17, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/JAjB0J>
47. “Kohl’s Rolls Out Clothing for Kids with Special Needs” - The department store said this month that it’s rolling out a range of adaptive clothing options as part of its three largest house brands for children, Jumping Beans, SO and Urban Pipeline. In doing so, Kohl’s joins a handful of retailers including [Target](#) and [Zappos](#) that have launched clothing lines aimed at kids with special needs in recent years. – Disability Scoop – June 17, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/59BiHM>
48. “Introducing Hiki: The First-Ever Dating and Friendship App for the Autistic Community” - Hiki (pronounced "hee-KEY"), the first-ever dating and friendship app for the Autistic community, launches publicly today. The mobile app provides a safe space for people with Autism to embrace their uniqueness and celebrate their commonality. It is a place where being different is destigmatized, and where friendships, love, and a sense of community can flourish. -Cision – July 16, 2019 – (New York)- <https://is.gd/L8aftY>
49. “Marching for Disability Rights in New York City” - Disability Pride Parade a Chance to Model Inclusivity, Accessibility - On Sunday, Human Rights Watch marched in the 5th annual [Disability Pride Parade](#) in New York City, alongside thousands of [people with disabilities](#), disabled persons organizations, companies, local politicians, and others. The participants marched for inclusion, awareness, visibility, and a dignified perception of disability, and to encourage New Yorkers to view people with disabilities

through a lens of pride rather than charity. – Human Rights March – July 126, 2019 – (New York)- <https://is.gd/8iFWTH>

50. “State Agrees to Penitentiary Improvements for Inmates with Mental Health Needs” - Washington will spend some \$5 million to improve the conditions of inmates with mental health needs housed at the state penitentiary at Walla Walla to settle a federal lawsuit, attorneys for the inmates said. The U.S. Supreme Court previously has ruled that unnecessarily segregating people with disabilities violates their civil rights, the organization said in a press release announcing the settlement. The Spokesman Review – July 14, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/MsY6z3>

INTERNATIONAL

51. “Family Wants Answers about How Son with Disability was Injured in Care Home” - Last October, 25-year-old Eden Camac broke both hips and his left leg while at the supported accommodation facility where he lives in Bundaberg, Queensland, which is run by Community Lifestyle Support. On the night of October 9, a support worker claimed he forgot to put the bedrails up and Mr. Camac fell out of bed, which caused his injuries. The support worker did not record or report the incident and then put Mr. Camac back to bed and left him to suffer with his injuries for approximately 10 hours, until another worker called an ambulance. – ABC News – July 17, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/FOsSNp>

52. “Blind Man with Guide Dog Denied Service, arrested at Kamloops Gas Station” - "I was very shocked and appalled," said Ben Fulton. "I was just really surprised at how quickly it spiraled out of control." "I was very calmly standing at the counter when they came in. I wasn't yelling, I wasn't saying anything," he said. "The female officer asked me, 'Why don't we go outside and talk about this?' So, I answered her question and I said, 'I don't want to go outside because I'm standing at the counter trying to get service.' Soon

after, the other officer stepped in and put him in handcuffs, and he was told he was being arrested for mischief. – CTV News Vancouver – July 18, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/dYKNzw>

53. “Vincent Lambert, France’s Terri Schiavo, Dies after 9 Days Without Food and Water” - Vincent Lambert, the disabled man a court ordered to be starved to death in a French hospital, died this morning. After nine days without food and fluids, showing a remarkable will to live despite the cruel death of thirst that doctors had prepared for him, France’s Terri Schiavo departed from this earthly life at 8:24 a.m. on Thursday, July 11. He died of heart failure induced by the malfunction of his kidneys in Reims University Hospital in the room where he had been kept under lock and key for the last six years. – Life Site – July 11, 2019 – (France) - <https://is.gd/O8OdSb>

54. “Such Can Be Suffering that Man Seeks Euthanasia as He Cannot Afford Treatment of his Paralyzed Sons” - Devmuni Singh Yadav, a resident of Chhulkar village, has written a letter to Prime Minister Modi pleading for euthanasia, says a Hindustan Times report. The treatment for this rare congenital muscular disease is possible only at specialized hospital in the metros, and Yadav, a poor landless farmer, cannot afford it. – One India – July 13, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/PYAQs7>

55. “Pride of a Different Sort: Disabled Italians Parade in Rome” - “An inclusive world is a better world,” Carmelo Comisi, the founder of the event, said. “Italian culture has to be changed.” According to a 2017 report by Istat, the national statistics agency, there are about 3.2 million disabled people in Italy, most over age 65. Of those under 65, about half do not receive public assistance, and rely entirely on family members, the report said. – The New York Times – July 14, 2019 – (Italy) - <https://is.gd/iWHpBt>

56. “Sen. Cayetano Files Inclusive Education Bill for Special-Needs Kids” - The senator crafted Senate Bill No. 69 or the Inclusive Education for Children and Youth with Special Needs Act with the help of special education stakeholders. “They deserve to learn in an environment with compassion and understanding, and where they can grow as productive members of the community,” Cayetano argued. – GMA News Online – July 14, 2019 – (Philippines) - <https://is.gd/Q7wd6b>

57. “Nurse Who DRAGGED Dementia Patient by Her Ankles Along Hospital Corridor is Struck Off” - Jessie Colquhoun, 88, died seven months after the assault by Steven Campbell. – Daily Record – July 19, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/h99Hpc>

MISCELLANEOUS

58. “UN Climate Resolution Emphasizes Protection of Disability Rights” - For example, people with disabilities may feel the health impacts of climate change more severely, as some are more susceptible to [invasive disease](#) due to [pre-existing health conditions](#). Additionally, many are at particular risk of neglect, abandonment, and even death during instances of migration or [natural disasters](#), which are increasing in frequency and ferocity, due to physical, communication, and other barriers, as well as disrupted support networks. - Human Rights Watch – July 15, 2019 – (Global) - <https://is.gd/wPhkGT>

59. “Ableist Woman Demands Refund on a Mug after Discovering the Artist has Autism” - The conversation appeared on the subreddit [r/EntitledB***h](#) and is possibly one of the most unpleasant and ignorant things that you'll read all day. “You’re all the same level of retard. Cancel the damn order!” – Indy 100 – July 13, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/h1kaor>

60. “When Autistic People Commit Sexual Crimes” - Many of these autistic people may have engaged in sexual behaviors without understanding the implications of their actions or the law. People on the spectrum often have problems with social communication, awareness and experience. That, coupled with other hallmark traits associated with autism — including intense interests and [repetitive behaviors](#), as well as sensory differences — can unwittingly cause problems when they start dating or exploring their sexuality. – Spectrum – July 17, 2019 – (Global) - <https://is.gd/PbWz5e>

61. “Outrage: Taking Away Rights from Vulnerable Nursing Home Residents” - For decades, nursing homes were allowed to handle claims against them for allegations of wrongdoing in complete secrecy from the public. They did so by forcing every person who needed to go into a nursing home to sign an agreement upon admission that any dispute as to anything that happened in the home had to be decided in a private arbitration, not disclosed to the public. – Forbes – July 17, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/RiW9dL>