

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of July 20 to 26, 2019

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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

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 34, 37, 57, 60, 62

Physical Abuse: 5, 6, 30, 32, 33, 38, 55, 57, 63

Financial abuse: 10, 13, 16, 27, 56

Murder: 19, 22, 26, 31, 36, 54, 58

Neglected: 6, 10, 31

Kept Enclosed: 14

Related to special education: 17, 25, 57, 62

Access/ADA: 43: Governor vetoes bill to protect elders; 31:

WINNER of most egregious award: 1: Update: Hacienda (AZ) to close Children's Hospital, nurse to go to trial; 29: Texas is forcing people with intellectual/developmental disabilities to live in institutions; 31: Emergency room loses track of patient who dies.

WINNER of "good job/good news" award: 64: Celebrate ADA's birthday!

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 13, 30(bfrd.), 33, 56

Carer: 1,2,6, 7, 8, 10, 21, 22, 38, 54 (carer service), 58

Stranger: 5, 63

Special education employee: 17 (principal), 25 (teacher), 57, 62

Community Center: 34, 38

Group home staff: 4, 19, 21, 22, 60

Skilled Nursing Facility: 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10

Co-resident: 15

Hospital: 26, 31

Convention Director: 12

Behavior Specialist: 34

Financial Advisor: 16

Bus Driver: 9

Men: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 26, 33, 32, 34, 36, 37, 54, 58, 60, 61

Women: 22, 27, 33, 38, 56

Good News: 40: Florida Governor seeks new Director of Department of Elder Affairs after scandal; 41: New laws to be proposed after increase in abuse revealed under probate system; 42: Funding to create housing for people with disabilities due to failure to ensure accessible housing plans; 44: UK Police Commissioner backs law which makes disability related abuse a hate crime; 45: New ideas regarding autism promote new ideas regarding "being vs Appearing"

socially uninterested; 48: Tiny homes made available to people with disabilities; 49: Sensors on wristband/shoes to increase alerts to and decrease dangers of wandering; 52: Disability Pride Parade “rocks!” NYC; 62: Increased reported cases of sexual assault of special education students leads to an educational program for students on sexual violence, to increase reporting and peer education; 65: Letters sent to DeVos requesting increase of accurate data on seclusion and restraint.

Bad News: 4: Results of investigation not available to the public; 13: judge orders perpetrator of elder financial abuse to volunteer 100 hours at a nursing home. (fox in the henhouse??); 14: Montana state prison puts individuals with mental illness in solitary confinement; 20: Congressman says state agency fails to protect vulnerable individuals; 24: Report from APS in NC: Neglect is up 50% (self-care), then financial abuse; 33: mother injects her hospitalized son with her own blood which led to his infection; 35: brother and grandmother are raising the baby of his autistic sister who was a victim of rape; 39: Director of FL Guardianship program resigns after accusations of issuing DNR orders without the permission of the victims; 46: GAO Report on Nursing Home abuse lacks key information; 47: Audit reveals mental health facilities fail to inform families/guardians of abuse which increased patient vulnerability; 59: Executing mentally ill man violates Illinois law and human rights; 61: gag order for patients NOT to reveal/report sexual abuse at care center.

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “Hacienda to Close Mesa Children's Hospital Due to Problems at Phoenix Facility” - Hacienda Healthcare has been under scrutiny since [a woman with severe intellectual disabilities was raped and gave birth to a baby](#) at a Phoenix intermediate care facility in December. A former nurse at the facility [will soon go to trial](#) on charges of sexual abuse and abuse of a vulnerable adult. – 12 News – July 19, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/i3Crue>
2. “Man Pleads Not Guilty to Assaulting Elderly Woman” - A 33-year-old man pleaded not guilty Friday to sexually assaulting a disabled 87-year-old Garden Grove woman in her bed. Julio Ignacio Centenomiranda is charged with assault with the intent to commit a sex offense, first-degree burglary, and forcible oral copulation, all felonies. He also faces a sentencing enhancement for inflicting great bodily injury in the commission of a sex offense. – My LA News – July 19, 2019 – (California)- <https://is.gd/zk4Jcg>

3. "Man Accused of Drugging, Sexually Battering Autistic Boy" - Authorities say a 58-year-old man is accused of drugging and sexually assaulting an autistic boy found mortally injured two years ago. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement said Alain Forget was arrested Tuesday on charges of lewd and lascivious battery on a child and delivery of a controlled substance to a child. – ABC 10 – July 24, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/nBAmHb>
4. "Columbus NAACP Calls for Findings of GBI Investigation into Group Home Owned by Muscogee Co. Marshal" - An investigation into a group home owned Muscogee County Marshal Greg Countryman by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation concluded several months ago, but the public has yet to see the results of that investigation. The results of that investigation into the Invictus Transformational Wellness Center were handed over to the office of Muscogee County District Attorney Julia Slater once it was closed on March 25. – WTVM – July 24, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/3kKLXd>
5. "Shopper Accused of Attacking Special-Needs Bagger" - A man allegedly punched and kicked a special needs grocery store bagger Monday in northwest suburban Bartlett, according to prosecutors. Bruce Mirabella, 50, is charged with one felony count of aggravated battery following the 9:45 p.m. incident in a Jewel grocery store at 125 E. Sterns Rd., the DuPage County state's attorney's office said in a statement. – WBBM News Radio – July 23, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/aJKANR>
6. "Fined: Rockford's Presence Saint Anne Center, Freeport's Stephenson Nursing Home Face Nursing Care Violations"- Presence Saint Anne Center was fined \$50,000 for failure to send a resident for evaluation after changes in vital signs and consciousness. IDPH says it contributed to a delay in treatment and unnecessary pain. The facility was also fined \$25,000 for failure to notify a resident's physician for a change in condition. Stephenson Nursing Center was fined \$25,000 for failure to ensure a resident was not physically abused and to intervene to keep a resident safe from abuse. IPDH says the facility did not ensure abuse policies and procedures were implemented by the administrator after the physical abuse. – WIFR-23 News – July 26, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/DoYRVw>
7. "Jacksonville Nursing Home Fined for Sexual Assault Incident" - Aperion Care Jacksonville, a 113-bed skilled care facility, was fined \$25,000. It's located at 1021 North

Church Street in Jacksonville. – FOX Illinois – July 26, 2019- (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/VzORX0>

8. Public health documents say the facility also failed to implement/monitor interventions. Documents say the violations resulted in a sexual assault incident.
9. “Rape Victim Files Civil Suit” - Attorneys for an intellectually disabled Stonington woman who was raped by her bus driver have brought a civil action against those they say were responsible for the woman’s care while she was being transported. The complaint names Down East Community Partners Inc., Logisticare Solutions, LLC, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and former bus driver Van Stevens as defendants in claims of assault and battery and negligence. – The Ellsworth American – July 24, 2019 – (Maine) - <https://is.gd/0EoIVf>
10. “Baltimore-Area Unlicensed Assisted Living Facility Operators Charged with Abusing Vulnerable Adults” - Officials say multiple charges have been filed against Troy Brown, Sharon Isaac and Barbara Parker, all of Baltimore. The charges include abuse and neglect of a vulnerable adult and financial exploitation. The attorney general's office says it began investigating Neiswanger Management Services in 2015. The company operated five nursing homes throughout Maryland. – The Baltimore Sun – July 24, 2019 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/aMdnet>
11. “Teen Accused of Raping Child with Disabilities” - Sierra Lyn Spaulding, 17, of Whitehall has been charged with third-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a child between the ages of 13 and 16. It’s alleged that the female victim of the sexual penetration has multiple disabilities, said Matt Roberts, chief trial attorney for the Muskegon County Prosecutor’s Office. – mLive- July 24, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/MR2AMK>
12. “Anime Detour's Convention Communication Head Arrested for Sexual Assault” - The Order of Detention states that Stephen Gifford Jr. is charged with third degree criminal sex conduct and is believed to have "engaged in sexual penetration with Victim knowing or having reason to know that the victim was mentally impaired, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless." – Anime News Network - July 20, 2019 – (Minneapolis) - <https://is.gd/qsnHOC>

13. “St. Paul Man Sentenced to Pay Restitution, Empty 401(K) after Taking Hundreds of Thousands from Ailing Mother” - A Ramsey County Judge sentenced Timothy James Mathews to three years in prison during his hearing, but stayed the sentence provided he abides by terms of his probation, court records say. Among those terms, Mathews has to volunteer for 100 hours in a nursing home that serves elderly patients suffering from dementia, a condition his mother suffered from when the St. Paul man was appointed to serve as her power-of-attorney back in 2011. – Twin Cities – July 24, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/3Za0eb>

14. “Montana Prisoner Rights Lawsuit is Back in Play” - The complaint alleges the Montana State Prison fails to provide adequate mental health care and puts prisoners in conditions, like solitary confinement, that exacerbate mental health problems. The Montana Department of Corrections violated the constitutional rights of nine inmates, the plaintiffs allege, through imposing cruel and unusual punishment. – Independent Record – July 19, 2019 – (Montana) - <https://is.gd/YEB3nK>

15. “Milford, New Hampshire – Robert Champigny Charged with Sexually Assaulting Fellow Resident at Crestwood Nursing Home” - Police in Milford, New Hampshire have arrested a 74-year-old man for allegedly [sexually assaulting a woman](#) who was also a resident at the same nursing home. Robert Champigny was arrested on July 15 and is accused of sexually assaulting an 83-year-old woman at the Crestwood Center nursing home in June. – The Legal Herald – July 24, 2019 – (New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/J22wJ2>

16. “Former Investment Advisor Pleads Guilty to Financially Exploiting Elderly Adult” - Attorney General Gordon J. MacDonald announced today that James E. Knee (age 66), of Bow, New Hampshire, pleaded guilty to one count of Financial Exploitation of an Elderly Adult, one count of Perjury, and one count of Witness Tampering. – InDepthNH.org – July 24, 2019 – (New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/6VHyje>

17. “NJ Principal Accused of Raping Autistic 9-Year-Old Sued Again for Child Sexual Abuse” - Frank Vanalesti, 63, [was first sued](#) earlier this month in federal court in a 29-count, 87-page complaint for allegedly abusing a 9-year-old who was in second grade at his school. That lawsuit claims that between 2011 and 2015, Vanalesti—who was dating and living with the girl’s mother—routinely barged in on the girl while she was in the bathroom, watched her shower, molested her and then vaginally raped her. – The Daily Beast – July 20, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/LwwThT>

18. “New Windsor Man Charged with Subjecting Mentally Disabled Teen to Sexual Conduct” - State police charged a New Windsor man on Friday with subjecting a mentally disabled teenager to sexual conduct. State police charged Charles Sandike, 64, with second-degree criminal sexual act, a felony; and second-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child, misdemeanors. – Record Online – July 19, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/2JtA9n>

19. “Lockport Parents Want Full Report on Disabled Son's Death in Group Home” - Nearly four years after their 16-year-old son Trevor died in a group home, Peter and Karen D'Angelo want a state agency to reveal all it knows about the tragedy. The Justice Center for the Protection of Special Needs dismissed as "unsubstantiated" the allegations of negligence against an employee at the People Inc. group home in North Tonawanda. – The Buffalo News – July 23, 2019 – (New York)- <https://is.gd/15d602>

20. “Congressman Says State Agency Fails to Protect People with Special Needs” - A United States congressman says a New York state agency that’s supposed to protect people with special needs is failing in that mission. “Neglect, failure to provide nutrition...” Christopher Shisko, the Berrios family’s attorney, said. “There are terrible, terrible allegations of sexual abuse.” This story is not unique. – CBS 2 – July 23, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/KEyPZ3>

21. “Caregiver Charged with Sexual Abuse of Group-Home Resident” - Franklin Carvajal, 30, of Monticello, faces felony charges of first-degree sexual abuse and second-degree endangering the welfare of an incompetent or physically disabled person, as well as two misdemeanor counts of second-degree sexual abuse, according to a news release from Farrell. Carvajal is accused of subjecting a physically helpless resident of a facility operated by the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities to sexual contact in July of 2018, the news release said. – Record Online – July 25, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/aVsm1C>

22. “Woman Who Pleaded Guilty in Webster Group Home Death Denied Parole” - News10NBC learned Wednesday that Sarah DiLallo was denied parole. In August of 2018, DiLallo [pleaded guilty](#) to second-degree manslaughter and endangering the welfare of an incompetent person. Sarah DiLallo admitted that she was one of the aides that physically put [Heather Roselli](#) down on the floor inside the group home and

restrained her on her stomach "for a prolonged period of time." - WHEC – July 24, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/ymyeBD>

23. "Roger Herne Sentenced to 4 Years Incarceration" - Roger Herne was sentenced in Oneida County Court to 4 years incarceration after pleading guilty to raping and impregnating an underage disabled girl. – WKTV – July 26, 2019 – (New York)- <https://is.gd/OAhgbK>

24. "Wilson Elder Abuse, Neglect Cases Rise" - The Wilson County Department of Social Services' Adult Protective Services accepted 217 cases for investigation for those three criteria during the 2018-19 fiscal year. Caretaker neglect and self-neglect account for more than half of those cases. Financial exploitation came in as third most reported, according to the agency. – The Wilson Times – August 5, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/9rBxOB>

25. "Oologah-Talala Special Education Teacher Wanted for Sexual Abuse Arrested in North Dakota" - Officials told FOX23 that authorities arrested the teacher -- Daniel Bodine -- in North Dakota. Officials say they have been investigating this incident for the last month. Officials say they have found evidence leading investigators to believe that the sexual activity between Bodine and one of his students happened on school property of a six month period. – Fox 23 News – July 23, 2019 – (North Dakota) - <https://is.gd/Y8ebeJ>

26. "Nurse's Aide Pleads Guilty to Murdering 37 Victims with Cyanide, Arsenic, Rat Poison and Other Chemicals" - People liked Donald Harvey. He was considered an expert at his job, working at several hospitals in Kentucky and Ohio as an orderly and nurse's aide. There was one funny thing about him, though: A lot of people died on his watch. It got to the point where his co-workers would tease him about it, calling him the "Kiss of Death" and "Angel of Death." – Oxygen – July 21, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/1Pmk8V>

27. "DA: Lancaster Co. Woman Allegedly Defrauded Elderly Woman, Took Over \$150,000" - The York County District Attorney's Office has charged a Lancaster County woman after she allegedly defrauded an 86-year-old woman for more than \$150,000. On July 18, 2019, the York County DA filed charges against 54-year-old Donna Guiles of Columbia, PA following investigations. – Local 21 News – July 23, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/NDzUh2>

28. “Attorney for Man Accused of Assaulting 85-Year-Old Asks Judge to Issue Warrant When She Didn’t Show for Court” - Chris Pentz, who is representing Chance Talen Myers, 27, of Morrisdale, told Judge Paul Cherry that he had subpoenaed the victim to attend a competency hearing that was scheduled for motions court. Assistant District Attorney Jendi Schwab responded by saying the victim isn’t “physically able to be here.” Several members of her family said they were present in court on her behalf. Pentz then asked that if she is not able to come to court for a hearing, how could she come to court for a trial? Schwab responded that the victim could not get here on her own, but someone else could bring her. – Gant News – July 23, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/KWjafK>
29. “Why is Texas All but Forcing the Developmentally Disabled into Bad State Institutions?” - The state of Texas prioritizes funding for state-supported institutions over community-based services for developmentally disabled citizens. But these institutions are fraught with problems, and few choose them. In order to serve its citizens and use public funds more responsibly, the state needs to reconsider its priorities. – Dallas News – July 12, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/Mog4CO>
30. “Man Accused of Punching Disabled Girlfriend in Face, Hitting Her with Metal Flashlight” - Christian Rivas, 37, is accused of punching his disabled girlfriend in the face with a closed first July 14 and striking her with a large metal flashlight according to an arrest affidavit. – WGXA 16 – July24, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/G6U6En>
31. “Ben Taub Dead Patient was Unmonitored, Found Passed Out in Bathroom” - The Ben Taub Hospital death that resulted in the government last month assuming greater oversight of the Houston safety-net hospital involved a patient left unmonitored and ultimately found passed out in a bathroom, according to a federal report. The report, released Tuesday by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, revealed the hospital had lost track of the ER patient, a 66-year-old Hispanic man, hours after lab results showed his condition was critical. He died April 12 of cardiac arrest after staff unsuccessfully tried to perform CPR. “The facility failed to provide staff in the emergency center retraining on timely monitoring of patients and reporting of critical laboratory values,” says the CMS report. “This finding puts all patients in the facility’s emergency center, health and safety at risk. – Chron – July 24, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/40Lezi>

32. "Man Charged for Assaulting 90-Year-Old Man, Breaking His Leg, Fracturing His Hip" - According to charging documents, James Edwind Hausknecht was booked into the Salt Lake County Jail on Saturday for second-degree felony aggravated abuse of a disabled person. – ABC 4 – July 22, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/aq1y2w>

33. "Mother Gets 3 Years for Injecting Her Ill Son with Her Blood" - Elizabeth Malone, 28, was sentenced Friday to three years in prison. A judge called her crime "a betrayal of her maternal role." Hidden camera video helped doctors figure out what was happening to Malone's gravely ill 5-year-old son. His mother was putting her blood in hospital syringes and injecting it into her son's tubes, leading to infections. – NBC Washington- July 19, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/a8GelA>

34. "Va. Behavior Specialist Pleads Guilty to Raping, Impregnating 2 Mentally Disabled Women" - A Springfield behavior specialist, who worked for a Virginia community center, has [pleaded guilty to raping and impregnating](#) two mentally incapacitated women. Bernard Betts-King, 60, was charged with raping two women "through use of their mental capacity." – WJLA – July 23, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/a2EI32>

35. "Family Members Raising Baby after Her Autistic Mother was Raped, Impregnated by Caretaker" - The brother and grandmother of a woman with autism, who was raped by a behavior specialist at a Fairfax community center, remain shocked and devastated about what happened to their family member. – WJLA – July 24, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/KMI7DV>

36. "Virginia Man Sentenced for Beating, killing 80-Year-Old in Wheelchair" - A judge sentenced a Chesterfield, Virginia man to serve 28 years in prison on a second-degree murder charge for brutally beating and killing an elderly man in Richmond in April of 2018. The judge sentenced him to 40 years in prison with 12 years suspended. Michael McReynolds killed 80-year-old Johnny Battle at Battle's Decatur Street home and also attacked another man who was not seriously injured. – WHSV – July 24, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/ZVjK0t>

37. "Brief Continuance Granted in Sexual Assault Case" - A brief continuance was granted Monday in a sexual assault case where a Martinsburg man is alleged to have assaulted a disabled 13-year-old girl. Norris Blaine Domer, 43, is facing three counts of third-degree

sexual assault, three sexual assault-related charges and three sexual abuse-related charges. – The Journal – July 23, 2019 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/cvpJ1z>

38. “Casper Woman Pleads Guilty to Abusing Vulnerable Adult” - Assistant Natrona County District Attorney Michael Schaefer will not ask for prison time in the case of Jayme L. Bauer. Bauer pleaded guilty to abuse of a vulnerable adult in Natrona County District Court Tuesday for events that occurred in January. A care provider gave officers several incident reports detailing events in which Bauer allegedly grabbed the victim by his hair in order to make him stand up straight. – K2 Radio – July 23, 2019 – (Wyoming) - <https://is.gd/sxtLEZ>

GUARDIANSHIP

39. “Director of Florida Guardianship Program Steps Down” - The director of the Florida guardianship program has stepped down amid fallout after a state guardian was accused of filing "do not resuscitate" orders on behalf of clients without their permission. Carol Berkowitz, the statewide public guardianship program director, submitted her resignation to the Department of Elder Affairs July 12, according to her resignation letter. – Click Orlando – July 23, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/axRUVZ>
40. “Gov. Desantis Vows ‘Vigorous’ Scrutiny of Guardianship Program” - The governor directed the Department of Elder Affairs, which oversees the guardianship program, to pursue the matter “vigorously.” Meanwhile, the agency is looking for a new director for its Office of Public and Private Guardians, which has direct oversight of the more than 550 guardians, public and private, who control the lives of thousands of wards deemed incapable of running their day-to-day affairs. – ABC Action New – July 24, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/T6tRoE>
41. “Officials Look to Reduce 'Perfect Crime of 21st Century'” - Nessel is conducting the statewide tour to suggest new laws to address the increasing financial, physical and emotional abuse on older people from family members, duplicitous friends or the Probate Court system. The new laws would emanate from the Michigan Elder Abuse Task Force Nessel created in March, less than three months after taking office. – The Voice – July 23, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/ZqW0om>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

42. “U.S. Housing Officials Withhold \$80 Million from Los Angeles, Alleging Discrimination” - In an unwelcome turn for a city suffering from a [homelessness crisis](#), federal housing officials said they have denied Los Angeles \$80 million in funds, citing long-standing failures by local leaders to ensure that properties built with government money are accessible to those who use wheelchairs or have other disabilities. – Los Angeles Times – July 20, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/plA25b>

43. “Bill Aimed at Protecting Vulnerable Adults Vetoed” - The governor vetoed a Seacoast lawmaker’s bill establishing protective orders against elderly abuse, arguing it lacked adequate protections for victims and could pose a threat to gun rights. The bill, filed by state Rep. Renny Cushing, D-Hampton, would have afforded vulnerable adults like the elderly immediate relief from crimes like financial exploitation. Victims would have been able to acquire a protective order through the courts modeled after an existing order for domestic violence victims. – Fosters – July 22, 2019 – (New Hampshire)- <https://is.gd/8jodr7>

44. “New Police and Crime Commissioner Backs 'Lee's Law' to Make Disability Hate Crime an Offence” - Speaking on her first day on the job, newly-elected Kim McGuinness signalled her backing for regulations dubbed 'Lee's Law', which would make abuse motivated by someone's disability a specific hate crime. – Chronicle Live – July 23, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/LMq4tZ>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

45. “Scholars Weigh in on New Ideas About Autism” - Coauthors Nameera Akhtar, professor of psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and Vikram Jaswal, associate professor of psychology at the University of Virginia, put forth the provocative ideas in their paper, "Being vs. Appearing Socially Uninterested: Challenging Assumptions about Social Motivation in Autism." - Medical Xpress – July 23, 2019 – (National)- <https://is.gd/LLhumK>

46. “Carper, Senators Release GAO Report on Nursing Home Abuse” - The report shows that CMS — the agency responsible for ensuring nursing homes meet federal quality standards, including that residents are free from abuse — cannot readily access information on abuse or perpetrator type in its data and, therefore, lacks key

information critical to taking appropriate actions. The senators will discuss the findings of the GAO study at a July 23 Finance hearing with Department of Health and Human Services and GAO officials. – Smyrna – Clayton Sun Times – July 23, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/C1Y0hw>

47. “Audit: Mental Health Facilities Need to Strengthen Abuse Reporting” - Mental health facilities have failed to ensure parents and guardians are properly notified of abuse and neglect; an audit released Friday by Comptroller Tom DiNapoli’s office found. Vulnerable patients are at greater risk when their parents and family members are kept in the dark,” said DiNapoli. “Jonathan’s Law can only help prevent tragedies if abuse and mistreatment in mental health facilities is properly reported and actions are taken. State officials must do more to ensure facilities are meeting requirements.” – Spectrum – July 21, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/NBVbxv>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

48. “Homeless, Disabled in Macon Could Find Help Through Subsidized Tiny Homes” - A project between Macon-Bibb County, River Edge Behavioral Health, and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Continuum of Care has established five tiny homes at 945 Maynard St., off of Emery Hwy., in east Macon. County spokeswoman Rachel Gambill said the disabilities that potential tenants deal with could include substance abuse, but any disability the person has must be diagnosed by a physician. – WGXA – July 26, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/7s7zOS>
49. “‘Big Red Safety Box’ Helping Local Autism Families with Wandering” - But the Big Red Safety Box helps. From an alert wristband and shoe ID tag to wireless door and window alarms, it helps with not only prevention but response efforts, and even education. “Neighbors, law enforcement, your community, I think it helps them become aware that maybe there is a child with autism in your community,” Leslie Rogers, ChildServe’s Autism Clinical Manager said. “It also gives them tips and strategies to help that child in case they would wander away from a family member or parent.” – WHOTV- 13 – July 24, 2019 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/9G7HMB>
50. “A Group of Moms with Autistic Kids are Training First Responders” - A group of moms in the area with autistic children are trying to raise awareness. Their group is called

'Badge Buddies', and their goal is to train first responders, so they understand how to interact with autistic children in emergencies. – KNOE 8 – July 23, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/3ARFKW>

51. “Dutch Supermarket Introduces a Unique "Chat Checkout" to Help Fight Loneliness” - In the Netherlands (and in many other countries) loneliness amongst elderly people is very common. According to [research](#), about 50% of people 55 years and older, experience loneliness. This inspired the Dutch local Jumbo Supermarket in Vlijmen to launch two great initiatives, namely an "All Together Coffee Corner" and a "Chat Checkout".- Bright Vibes – July 15, 2019 – (Netherlands) - <https://is.gd/uKHACZ>

52. “Led by Disability Rights Pioneer Nadina Laspina, Disability Pride Parade Rocks NYC for Fifth Consecutive Year” - Many thousands of people with disabilities and our allies endured oppressive heat July 14 to march, roll, ride and scoot in the streets of New York City for the fifth annual parade to commemorate the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 29 years ago. Italian-American immigrant and wheelchair user Nadina LaSpina, a Grand Marshall of the parade, pointed out that it was being held on Bastille Day — the day the French workers tore down the jail walls. The veteran disability rights activist and writer’s remarks caught the spirit of the parade: - Workers World – July 25, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/EhucJR>

53. “Virginia Beach Schools Making Special Education Changes after State Investigation” - Last summer, [the state launched an investigation](#) after a complaint alleged system-wide problems. In a letter issued Oct. 31, Virginia Beach was found non-compliant in only one area: It was falling short of helping special education students transition into life after high school. The report also urged the school division to increase training to fix other issues. – The Virginian -Pilot – July 26, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/AGSnAW>

INTERNATIONAL

54. “Caregiver Arrested Over Fatal Abuse of Disabled Man in Sapporo” - According to police, the suspect, Koji Ota, works for a nursing care service company that sends caregivers to disabled people’s homes to live in for short periods of time and look after them, Hokkaido media reported Tuesday. Ota was dispatched to the home of Shigeki Yamashita in Higashi Ward. Police said that between 5:50 p.m. on July 19 and 7:30 a.m. the next day, Ota hit and punched Yamashita in the face and chest several times and

kicked him. Another caregiver visited the home at around 8:45 a.m. on July 20 to take over from Ota and found Yamashita unconscious. He was taken to hospital where he died due to a cerebral hernia. – Japan Today- July 24, 2019 – (Japan) -

<https://is.gd/jRT9Lo>

55. “Care Worker Jailed for Assault on Patient” - Care worker Scott Geeson has been jailed for 21 months for kicking a mentally ill patient at a Colchester hospital. – East Anglian Daily Times – July 29, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/CN2o7K>

56. “Nurse Sold Mentally Ill Mum's House Behind Her Back” - Joanne Chiswell, 41, was granted power of attorney to safeguard her mother's assets, but instead splashed out on "luxury items" as well as restaurants and general shopping - dishonestly treating the bank account as her own. – Leicester Live – July 24, 2019 – (England) -

<https://is.gd/JHeOZY>

57. “Special School Accused of Covering Up Sexual Assault Against Pupils” - A special school in Nyakach, Kisumu County has been accused of covering up physical and sexual assault cases against disabled pupils. – HIVISASA – July 19, 2019 – (Kenya) -

<https://is.gd/VdZmdJ>

58. “Disabled Man Dies after Allegedly Being Beaten by Caregiver” - Police arrest 19-year-old employee suspected of murder after Efraim Ben Baruch succumbs to severe injuries suffered two weeks ago. The caregiver, Mohammad Khateeb, 19, from the city of Tamra, was arrested on Wednesday on suspicion of abusing a helpless individual. – The Times of Israel – August 10, 2019 – (Israel) - <https://is.gd/njRvSh>

59. “Executing Mentally Impaired M’sian Death Row Prisoner Contravenes International Law and Even S’pore’s Laws: Lawyers for Liberty” - Singapore’s decision to execute a mentally impaired Malaysian death row prisoner breaches the standards of international law and even the Republic’s own laws, said Malaysian lawyer N. Surendran in a joint press conference with Singaporean international human rights lawyer M Ravi at the Lawyers For Liberty office in Petaling Jaya on Tuesday. The Online Citizen – July 23, 2019 – (Malaysia) - <https://is.gd/RQtIoL>

60. "Police Investigate Sexual Abuse at Limburg Home for Disabled Teens, Young Adults: Report" - The police launched an investigation into possible sexual abuse at care foundation Dichterbij. There are suspicions that two groups of disabled children and young adults were seriously abused, neglected and sexually molested for months, the Telegraaf reports. The parents of the victims reported the abuse to the police. The police confirmed to the newspaper that multiple declarations were filed and that an investigation was launched. The foundation also confirmed the investigation. According to the newspaper, boys and girls, most of whom cannot speak or communicate in a different way, were abused by hired staff last year. – Netherland Times – July 22, 2019 – (Netherlands) - <https://is.gd/qoeyg8>
61. "Care Organization Forced Abused, Disabled Patients to Sign A Gag Order: Report" - In 2014 healthcare organization Cordaan made a group of mentally disabled clients sign a gag order promising not to talk about the financial, mental and physical abuse they suffered under the organization's care, Cordaan director Ronald Schmidt admitted to the Volkskrant. Schmidt did not call it a gag order or confidentiality agreement but acknowledged that clients signed a "settlement agreement", according to the newspaper. – Netherland Times – July 26, 2019 – (Netherlands) - <https://is.gd/kGCxxL>
62. "DRAC Condemns Spate of Sexual Abuse of Children with Disabilities"- The recent case of sexual abuse in a school in Abuja continues to generate reactions - Two teachers in the school were recently accused of molesting female students of the school. To this end, we recently trained learners with disabilities in special/inclusive schools in the FCT as peer educators on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in order for them to enlighten and educate their peers on SGBV and how to report such. – Legit- July 25, 2019 – (Nigeria) - <https://is.gd/kBUvBJ>
63. "Double Amputee in Wheelchair Targeted in 'Distressing Assault' in Bridlington" - Detective Chief Inspector, Alison Sweeting, said: "This is a particularly distressing incident as the woman, a wheelchair-bound double amputee, was approached by four men who are alleged to have punched her and attempted to tamper with her medical equipment. – Yorkshire Evening Post – July 23, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/6bXswp>

MISCELLANEOUS

64. “Why Disabled Americans Remain Second-Class Citizens” - This month we celebrate the anniversary of the second-most important civil rights law in American history behind only the 1964 Civil Rights Act: the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), which Congress passed in 1990. But while you might hear this law lauded, you likely won’t hear about the wide-ranging efforts in recent years — mainly by congressional Republicans and the Trump administration — to undermine disability rights. – The Washington Post – July 23, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/7QigbC>

65. “Democrats to Devos: Parents Must Know When Seclusion and Restraint Occurs” -In a letter to Secretary DeVos, the members warned of the inaccuracies with current data and urged that the Department implement recommendations to make the data they report in the upcoming 2017-2018 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) as accurate as possible. – Augusta Free Press – July 23, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/4miaYG>