

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of August 3 to August 9, 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.

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

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

Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 2, 13, 20, 23, 24, 29, 31, 32, 335, 53, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60

Physical Abuse: 4, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, 33

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 9, 22, 60

Financial abuse: 5, 6, 41

Human Trafficking: 6

Murder: 13, 25, 27; Murder/Suicide: 36

Neglected: 1, 6, 12, 14, 15, 18

Related to special education: 2, 8, 21, 22, 30, 55, 60

Seclusion/Restraint: 8, 11, 18, 54

Social Media Abuse: 28

***WINNER of most egregious award:* HARD TO CHOOSE THIS WEEK:**

2: Teacher who inserted eraser end of a pencil “into boy’s butt crack” of preteen special education student referred to the act as “an error in judgement.” Let’s see what the judge says! 62: Group home company loses license, gets \$4 million to open a “baby jail.”; 63: PA court denies funding to stop a law from taking essential funds/living expenses for people with disabilities.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 1, 12, 13, 27, 57; Boyfriend: 29

Friend of the family: 23, 33, 59

Carer: 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 28, 34, 58

Stranger: 54

Special education employee: 2 (teacher)

Group home staff: 10, 19

In Home Carer: 26, 34, 58

Nursing Home: 4, 9, 15, 20, 28, 35

Child Treatment Program: 18

Bus Monitor: 22

Priests: 17, 55

Guardianship lawyer: 41

Men: 3, 10, 14, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 29, 31, 32, 33, 35, 41, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59

Women: 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 12, 13, 14, 18, 22, 22,26, 27, 28, 34, 54

“Teams”: 1, 4, 6, 9, 14, 28, 54

Good News: 2: County Attorney program allows option for defendants to complete a treatment program to get their cases dismissed (Pros/Cons); 42: Lawmakers push to include Disability Rights/LGBT information rights movement; 43: New law in NH to increase protection from financial abuse; 44: Congressman joins effort to reform abuse issues in group homes.

Bad News: 16: Boston “clean up” effort destroys wheelchairs; 36: elderly couple chooses to die due to lack of medical care; 45: GAO: abuse in nursing homes more than doubled from 2013 to 2017 in most states...spokesperson says “still, abuse is rare.”; 46: DHS in OK notes an increase in elder abuse and exploitation...APS supervisor says “cases are becoming more common.”; 47: Woman with autism are twice as likely as men with autism to commit suicide.

Personal note: I have noticed while preparing the news analysis above, that women seem to tend to commit certain types of crime and men other types. This week I detailed which crimes were committed by women. Below is the information, also by article number:

Emotional/Verbal abuse: 9

Financial abuse: 5, 6

Murder: 13, 27

Neglect: 1, 6, 12, 18, 26, 34

Physical abuse: 4, 22

Seclusion & Restraint: 54

Sexual abuse: 2

Social Media: 28

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. "Justice System Fails Abused Man Confined to Wheelchair" - It appears two women suspected of abusing a family member are off the hook because the justice system failed. In 2013, Daleville police found Tim Jeter living like a prisoner in his home, surrounded by rotting garbage and feces. Indications are, on many days, he had been fed only a single can of soup or a Chef Boyardee product. Confined to a wheelchair because of a stroke, he claims not to have had a bath for six months. "I told those officers they should not touch me and (urged them to) wear gloves," he said. Police, almost immediately, took Tim's wife, Stephanie, and his daughter, Lauren Jeter, into custody. They filled out arrest reports for neglect and abuse. After that is when things get murky. Because nobody apparently followed through and obtained arrest warrants, the Dale County Jail had to release them. – WTVY – August 7, 2019 – (Alabama) - <https://is.gd/aZizrS>
2. "MCAO: Case Against a Phoenix Special Needs Teacher Accused of Assaulting a Student is Suspended" Court paperwork obtained by ABC15 shows that the prosecution of the Victoria Martin case has been suspended to allow her to participate in the [Maricopa County Attorney's Felony Pretrial Intervention Program](#). The FPIP allows selected defendants the chance to undergo a treatment program before their trial begins. If they complete the program, the case against them is dismissed. If they do not complete the program, the case against them continues. – ABC 15 – August 8, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/Psogf4>
3. "Freed Rapist Didn't Immediately Register as a Sex Offender" - Mike Crow was shocked and appalled when Jared Bates, who had sexually assaulted his disabled daughter, Maria Crow, walked out of a Denver courtroom a free man after figuratively having his wrist slapped for the crime. Now, almost three weeks later, his frustration has been compounded by Bates's failure to register as a sex offender — though he acknowledges

that what he's going through is nothing compared to the emotions that Maria is currently experiencing. – Westword – August 1, 2019 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/hPVRvV>

4. “Nursing Home Workers Accused of Abusing 85-Year-Old Patient” - According to the Sheriff's Office, the surveillance video shows Rikki Davis, 21, and Trestany Wilkerson, 20, forcefully push the woman onto a bed. Investigators said the woman was pulled up by a shirt that was wrapped around her neck. The Sheriff's Office said the woman was then thrown into a wheelchair. When the woman tapped Davis' arm, police said, Davis slapped the woman and yelled, "Quit hitting!" – News 4 Jax – August 8, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/nT0X3K>
5. “Florida Caretaker Accused of Stealing 93-Year-Old Holocaust Survivor's Life Savings: 'They Have Been Stripped of Everything'” A Florida caretaker was arrested last week after allegedly stealing over \$100,000 from an elderly Holocaust survivor and her husband over the span of eight years. Odalis Lopez, 56, was taken into custody on Aug. 2 and charged with theft from an elderly person and financial exploitation, [WTVJ](#) reports. The caretaker had been employed by Rella Herman, a 93-year-old who lost her mother at Auschwitz, and her 91-year-old husband, Leonard, according to a [GoFundMe](#) page started to help the couple recover their savings. – Yahoo.com – August 9, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/FKUKeO>
6. “Carr, Boston to Jointly Prosecute Seven for Abusing Disabled Adults in Dekalb” - Attorney General Chris Carr in conjunction with the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office, announced that the case would be jointly prosecuted. Valerie West, Eric West, Erica West, Akeem Dancy, Jadon Dancy, Cynthia Riley and Ceretha Stephens are facing felony charges in the case. “These individuals demonstrated a complete disregard for human life, developing a cruel scheme that deprived disabled Georgians of basic necessities to survive and stripped them of their rightful financial benefits,” said Carr. – On Common Ground News – August 9, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/KTr1Bk>
7. “7 Indicted, Accused of Neglecting, Trafficking Disabled and Elderly Adults in Georgia” - According to authorities, the West family — Valerie, Erica and Eric — operated homes for elderly and disabled adults. Those homes were unsafe, bug-infested and at times lacked electricity and hot water, the news release said. Authorities said the family also

operated several health care corporations which they enrolled as Medicare providers. According to the release, the Wests trafficked victims between their homes and businesses and billed the government. – Atlanta Journal Constitution – August 8, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/pPT7Aq> (This and Previous Story related, one more comprehensive)

8. “Advocates Blast ‘Alarming’ Suspension Practices at Public Schools” - Civil rights and disabled rights advocates Monday called on the state Education Department to change its suspension practices, saying students with disabilities and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students are being disproportionately punished. Last week, the Hawaii Disabilities Rights Center filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights, calling for an investigation. The ACLU of Hawaii followed that up on Monday with letters to principals and area superintendents, asking them to seek alternatives to suspensions. – Hawaii News Now – August 6, 2019 – (Hawaii) - <https://is.gd/VsMzM1>
9. “Outrage after Video Shows Staffers Taunting, Terrorizing Woman, 91, at Glenview Nursing Home” - Margaret Collins is 91, suffers from dementia, and does not like hospital gowns. The staff at her nursing home knew that – and allegedly used it as fuel to taunt and terrorize her. The Snapchat video from the December 2018 incident ultimately ends with certified nursing assistants Brayan Cortez and Jamie Montesa arrested on misdemeanor charges. – CBS Chicago – August 8, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/gZm9yL>
10. “Indianapolis, Indiana – Widespread Reports of Abuse & Neglect in ResCare Disabled Group Homes Throughout the U.S.” - Former ResCare Employee Michael Anderson Pleads Guilty to Vicious Beating of Resident Anthony Harris. In one of the most brutal cases of physical violence found at ResCare facilities, a former employee of a ResCare group home in Fishers admitted to viciously beating resident Anthony Harris in 2017. – Legal Herald – August 1, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/qly4Hj>
11. “Iowa Board Rejects New School Seclusion Rules” - The State Board of Education unanimously rejected new rules for student seclusion and restraint after school administrators complained Thursday the proposed rules were too strict and not practical in the classroom. [Iowa Department of Education](#) officials pledged to get more

public input, revise the rules again and bring a new version back to the board as soon as November. – The Gazette – August 1, 2019 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/rYNKCK>

12. “Davenport Woman Gets Probation for Neglecting Intellectually Disabled Adult Daughter” - A Davenport woman was sentenced this week to a suspended two-year prison sentence and one year of probation for neglecting her intellectually disabled adult daughter. [Kimberly Williams](#), 48, pleaded guilty in June to recklessly committing dependent adult abuse resulting in physical injury, an aggravated misdemeanor, in Scott County District Court. – Quad City Times – August 1, 2019 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/YynFOA>

13. “Kansas Woman Sentenced for Neglect, Murder of Dependent Husband” - A New Stran woman was sentenced to 10 years in prison on Thursday after she was found guilty of second-degree murder in connection with her husband’s death from neglect. Carol Sue Burris, 69, was found guilty in April of one count of reckless second-degree murder and one count of mistreatment of a dependent adult. – KSNT – August 1, 2019 – (Kansas) - <https://is.gd/PhzaMR>

14. “Indictments in Alleged Abuse Case at Care Facility” - In a press release, Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan said a grand jury had indicted Daniel Maina, 41, of Tyngsborough, and Jennifer, Nganga, 60, of Lowell, on charges of assault and battery on a person with an intellectual disability and caretaker neglect. Maiana and Nganga had been named in a Feb. 6 press release from Chelmsford police following their arrests. Prosecutors said a third person, Isaiah Musoke, 63, of Leominster, was directly indicted on June 18 in connection with the alleged assault on Feb. 5 at the facility. – Wicked Local – August 6, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/5NnaOH>

15. “Abuse Inside Harbor Oaks Mounts, Health Director 'Deeply Concerned' by New Report” - A developmentally disabled woman was repeatedly punched by another patient in June, according to police records. The alleged assault marks at least the fourth case of abuse inside Harbor Oaks Hospital to trigger charges since last year. – WXYZ Detroit – August 13, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/C5YOF5>

16. “‘Operation Clean Sweep’ Causes Concern in Boston” - Dinah Applewhite is a doctor who specializes in addiction medicine and was able to take a photo that appears to

show clean-up crews trashing wheelchairs. “I watched a trash compactor slowly kind of crunch the wheelchairs,” Applewhite said. “I mean, it was so incredibly shocking.” Applewhite recalled the scene saying, “there was somebody there just in tears, crying, saying, ‘That is all that I have what are you doing? Those are wheelchairs.’” – WHDH 7- August 7, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/YkilZa>

17. “Missouri Abbey Says Abuse Reports Against 8 Priests Credible” - “And we hope Abbey officials will give more helpful information, such as the last known whereabouts of these potentially dangerous men, along with their photos and full work histories,” he said. “Finally, Catholics should ask all church officials, ‘How on earth do you justify keeping these predators’ names hidden for years and needlessly putting innocent kids and vulnerable adults in harm’s way?’” – Crux – August 6, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/Gr7tFt>

18. “Ex-Ranch for Kids Student Speaks out, Executive Director Responds to Abuse Allegations” - Imagine being locked in a closet for two days with no food or water, and only a bucket — that’s what some people say were the conditions at the Ranch for Kids in Rexford. More than 20 children were [recently removed from the ranch](#) , and now several former students are coming forward with their stories. [Allegations of severe abuse](#) had escalated in both frequency and severity in recent months, according to several accounts. – KPAX 8 – August 1, 2019 – (Montana) - <https://is.gd/vFvgOV>

19. Middlesex Group Home Worker Charged with Assaulting Patient - A caretaker who works there, Sembu Bangura, 24, of North Brunswick was arrested on the morning of July 1 at the home and charged with aggravated assault. Police had been called to the home on suspicion that a patient there may have suffered abuse at the hands of a caretaker. – Patch – August 6, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/wRS9KF>

20. “Wanaque Police Investigating Alleged Assault at Care Facility Where 11 Children Died in Virus Outbreak” - Jesus Herrera, 73, of Wayne is accused of putting his mouth on the breast of a non-verbal, non-mobile patient at the North Jersey Pediatric and Adult Nursing and Wellness Center — formerly the Wanaque Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, where 11 children died of an adenovirus outbreak, according to Detective Capt. Angelo Calabro and a criminal complaint. – northjersey.com – August 9, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/oJkoLZ>

21. “Unhappy With DOE, City Rep Proposes Moving Special Ed to Health Department” - The suit, brought forth by [then-Public Advocate Letitia James](#), alleged that \$356 million in Medicaid dollars had been lost over the years due to “inadequacies and glitches” of SESIS — a system (now being [phased out](#)) that was intended to facilitate Individualized Education Programs for special education students and to ensure their needs were met, but instead, at times malfunctioned [more than 800,000 times a day](#). – Brooklyn Daily Eagle – August 6, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/MZ1fQA>

22. “Lawsuit: Birnie Bus Monitor Abused, Assaulted Child” - The lawsuit, filed in state Supreme Court in Albany County, states that former bus monitor Kathy Retos abused the girl on three different dates in 2018. The child is a student in the Lansingburgh Central School District, which also was named in the lawsuit filed by Rensselaer County woman Yolanda Richardson. Retos, of Rensselaer, was charged in January by state police with two counts of endangering the welfare of an incompetent or physically disabled person. Court papers alleged Retos used racist language. Retos is white; the girl is black. – Observer Dispatch – August 9, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/uY4MNn>

23. “Wooster Man Sentenced to Four Years for Sexual Assault of Developmentally Disabled Girl” -Wayne County Common Pleas Judge Mark K. Wiest sentenced Nathan Hoyle to four years on two merged counts of sexual battery, both third-degree felonies, and an additional 18 months on a single count of gross sexual imposition, a fourth-degree felony. The sentences will be served concurrently. Hoyle also will have to register as a Tier 3 sex offender and will remain on the offender registry for the rest of his life. He also was ordered to make restitution of \$3,691 to the victim, which will cover medical expenses. – Akron Beacon Journal – August 8, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/JePQPA>

24. “Beaver County DA Files More Criminal Charges Against Former Special Needs Caretaker” - More charges were filed Thursday against a former caretaker accused of taking photos and videos of nude patients, including minors, at a Beaver County facility for residents with special needs. Investigators with the Beaver County district attorney’s office levied 47 counts on eight new charges against Zachary Dinell, 25, of Freedom, a former employee at McGuire Memorial in Daugherty Township. The new charges apply to 12 of 17 victims who Mr. Dinell is accused of assaulting and filming without their consent in 2017 and 2018. – Post Gazette – August 1, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/pBPNSP>

25. “Philly Man Convicted for Beating Woman in Wheelchair to Death, Hiding Her Body” - Eric Mackey remained quiet as the jury read out that he was guilty of first-degree murder in the beating death of 61-year-old Elba Monroig, who was sick, going blind and in a wheelchair. Mackey had been living with Monroig and helping her to get around. Monroig’s badly decomposed body was found wrapped in blankets in her own basement in October 2017. Her family says she let her guard down for Mackey, giving him a place to stay after he got out of jail. "The defendant preyed on an elderly woman with significant medical issues, she was wheelchair-bound," said prosecutor Courtney Malloy. – KYW News Radio – August 6, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/MPWccS>
26. Florence caretaker accused of neglecting elderly woman - Kimberly Krabe Schoolcraft is charged with willful neglect of an elderly person after she failed to provide aid to the victim who had allegedly fallen Thursday and was left there for hours, according to Major Michael Nunn with the Florence County Sheriff’s Office. Nunn said Schoolcraft was the live-in caretaker for the vulnerable adult and “placed the adult at an unreasonable risk of harm by failing to provide aid to the adult who had allegedly fallen for approximately 11 hours.” – WPDE 15 – August 9, 2019 – (South Carolina)- <https://is.gd/VfX1w4>
27. “13-Year-Old South Carolina Girl with Special Needs Dies in Hot Car” - Rita Pangalangan, 49 — who was later determined to be the girl’s mother — and Larry King, 41, were charged with murder, according to authorities [and local station WCBD](#). The girl was locked in the car for at least two hours, Colleton County Fire-Rescue Chief Barry McRoy told the station. – New York Post – August 7, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/aJo6FP>
28. “2 Nursing Home Aides Fired Over #FeltCute ‘Might Drop Your Grandma’ Joke” - Two nursing aides are being accused of elder abuse after posting a controversial photo caption on Facebook. They were employed at the Etowah Health Care Center in Etowah, Tennessee, and fired after publishing a Facebook post that showed them posing with a piece of medical equipment and featured the caption, “[Felt cute ... might drop your grandma later.](#)” Once the post was live, it didn’t take long for the post to be shared and receive a strong backlash, especially from those who have had to deal with elder abuse and lost loved ones to neglect. – Nurse.Org – August 1, 2019 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/ocwm5S>

29. "Whittemore Charged with Rape after Incident at Hotel with Girlfriend" - According to police, Brandon Whittemore, 29, hit and grabbed his girlfriend during an argument that became physical. According to the victim, she bit him in the face in order to get away from him. The two were staying in a hotel at the time. Police found the victim suffering from a panic attack, and had difficulty speaking to officers because of pre-existing mental disabilities. – Chattanooga – August 6, 2019 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/QFjZh5>

30. "Dispute Between Dallas ISD, TEA Leads to Hearing over Student's Special Education Testing" - A Dallas ISD parent is fighting for her son to receive special education instruction, but she says the district is going overboard by demanding her son be tested for autism. – FOX 4 News – July 31, 2019 – (Texas)- <https://is.gd/UY1N7v>

31. "Brazos County Grand Jury Indicts 49 on Felonies" - Erik Garza, 30, was charged May 23 with aggravated sexual assault of a disabled person. Authorities said a 14-year-old girl's mother contacted police after her daughter told her Garza touched her inappropriately a few days prior.- The Eagle – August 9, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/FG29Ku>

32. "67-Year-Old Registered Sex Offender Arrested for Sexually Abusing Intellectually Disabled Man" - According to arresting documents, Robert Joseph Bywater was booked into the Salt Lake County Jail on one second-degree felony count of forcible sexual abuse and a misdemeanor aggravated abuse of a vulnerable adult. The victim reported to police on July 23 that he was being harassed by Bywater. The victim stated Bywater had made him sign a contract stating he would perform sexual favors on him but when he refused to do the acts of the contract, Bywater would text him and harass him about it. – ABC 4- August 9, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/bhTMF3>

33. "Man Sentenced to 30 Days in Jail for Punching 14-Year-Old Disabled Boy Trying to Protect his Mom" - According to charging documents, Robert Bryson Smith was arguing with a woman and grabbed her by the neck, threw on the bed and shouted: "Do you want to (expletive) die?" The woman's 14-year-old disabled son heard the argument and put on a mask, grabbed a stick and a can of body spray. He went into the room and sprayed Smith with the body spray who in return punched the boy three times in the face, causing his nose to bleed, according to documents. – ABC 4 – August 7, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/zAr0eu>

34. “Weyers Cave Woman Indicted on Adult Neglect Charge” - The Augusta County grand jury recently indicted a Weyers Cave woman amid allegations she failed to report that a 97-year-old resident under her care fell and suffered numerous injuries. Shirley M. Rodeffer, 68, of Weyers Cave, is charged with felony neglect of an incapacitated adult. The woman suffered numerous injuries including slight bleeding from the brain, a fractured nose, facial bruising, a broken finger, injuries to her knees and bruising on both arms, the sheriff's office said. – News Leader – August 7, 2019 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/2tHU9b>
35. “‘They Must Change’: Seattle Woman, Brother Speak after Hidden Camera Nursing Home Rape Arrest” - KIRO 7 first told you [earlier this month](#) that prosecutors had charged 29-year-old nursing assistant, Nshimiyiana Hamzat, with second-degree rape after they said he was captured on hidden camera repeatedly raping a disabled patient in his care at Foss Home and Village in North Seattle. – KIRO 7 – August 1, 2019 – (Washington)- <https://is.gd/TMBpRW>
36. “Elderly Couple in Apparent Murder-Suicide Indicated They Could Not Afford Medical Care” - An elderly couple in Washington state was found dead in their home in an apparent murder-suicide, authorities said, and police say they discovered notes about the couple’s struggle to afford necessary medical care. A 77-year-old man living near Ferndale, Wash., called 911 Wednesday morning and told the dispatcher he was contemplating suicide, according to a Facebook post from the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office. The sheriff’s office wrote that the dispatcher tried to keep the man on the line, but he hung up, saying, “We will be in the front bedroom.” – The Hill – August 8, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/uqG6nf>

GUARDIANSHIP

37. “Florida Tried to Fix Guardianship System. Rebecca Fierle Case Reveals it’s Still Broken, Critics Say | Exclusive” - When Florida lawmakers reformed guardianship rules in 2016 — vowing to protect the state’s most vulnerable residents from what one legislator called “cockroaches” who find gaps in the law — advocates for the elderly and intellectually disabled celebrated. “We will not tolerate the exploitation of Floridians in the guardianship system that was established to help them,” said Carol Berkowitz, who became executive director of the state’s revamped guardianship watchdog agency, the Office of Public and Professional Guardians. – Orlando Sentinel – August 8, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/Er5On0>

38. “Darren Soto, Gus Bilirakis, Charlie Crist File Bill to Tighten Guardianships” - Following an alarming congressional report and a [series of stories investigated by the Orlando Sentinel](#), a bipartisan trio of Florida lawmakers, Darren Soto, Gus Bilirakis, and Charlie Crist, announced Wednesday they filed a bill to tighten protections for mostly-disabled, mostly-elderly people under control of legal guardians. – Florida Politics – August 7, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/U0hjse>
39. “Arc of Madison Cortland Wins NYSARC Grant for Lifelong Guardianship Program” - The Arc of Madison Cortland was recently awarded a grant from NYSARC Trust services to support the agency’s guardianship program, which makes lifelong commitments to people who have no one else to advocate on their behalf. – WXHC – August 5, 2019 – (New York) - <https://www.wxhc.com/?p=56206>
40. “Special Guardianship Orders: What Happens to the Foster Money?” - When a child cannot be looked after by either of their parents often, they will be cared for by other family members, such as their grandparents, siblings, aunts or uncles. In many cases the long-term plan will be for the child to remain living with the family member. It was recognized that other orders available in those circumstances, such as Adoption or ‘Residence Orders’, were not applicable to these types of arrangements, and that there needed to be another type of mechanism to provide for permanence for the child under a legal order and for the person with long term care of the child to have parental responsibility. – Open Access Government – August 9, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/8L5uH8>
41. “This Tri-Cities Lawyer Committed ‘Financial Exploitation’ With an Elderly Client. He’s Been Suspended” - A longtime Kennewick lawyer is suspended for three years for misconduct stemming from a guardianship case that started in 2013. John C. Bolliger was found to have violated several Rules of Professional Conduct when he continued to represent a dementia-stricken man, even after a judge appointed a different attorney and ordered Bolliger to stay away from the case. – Insurance News Net – July 31, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/qLvpOE>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

42. “Lawmakers Push to Include LGBT, Disability Rights Movements in School Lessons” - A group of state lawmakers wants Maryland’s superintendent of schools to update social studies curricula to include lessons on the disability rights and LGBT rights movements. Del. Eric G. Luedtke (D-Montgomery) organized the letter, which was signed by 34 other delegates and 13 senators. – Maryland Matters- August 1, 2019 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/zLon31>
43. “New Hampshire Law Aims to Protect Vulnerable Elderly” - At the request of its securities regulators, New Hampshire has enacted a law that will take effect on Sept. 8, intended to protect vulnerable adults from financial exploitation. – Investment News – August 7, 2019 – (New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/71e7Jx>
44. “Joined by Riverhead Family, Zeldin Calls for Reform of Group Homes” - Last week, Congressman Lee Zeldin (R-Shirley) joined the Berrios family alongside another victim’s family at Suffolk County District Court in Central Islip to call for reforms in group homes – and how agencies respond to and investigate cases of abuse and neglect. – Riverhead News Review – August 1, 2019 – (New York)- <https://is.gd/IPSm6l>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

45. “GAO: Nursing Home Surveyors Need to do More to Prevent Abuse” - The number of abuse cases in nursing homes has more than doubled in the U.S. That’s according to the Government Accountability Office, which looked at data from the federal agency responsible for making sure nursing homes are safe and free from abuse. There are more than 15,000 nursing homes in the U.S. that provide care to about 1.4 million people. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, or CMS, works with state agencies to conduct its yearly inspections. The GAO analyzed data, as well as narratives from contracted CMS surveyors, as it relates to the abuse of residents. – KJZZ- July 31, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/H2LUYm>
46. “DHS Notes Increase in Elder Abuse, Exploitation Cases” - Officials at the Department of Human Services said they are seeing a steady increase in the number of elder abuse and exploitation cases. FOX23 recently reported on three different instances of someone being accused of taking advantage of the elderly. A supervisor with Adult Protective Services said these cases are becoming more common, especially when it comes to financial exploitation. Elderly adults are often targeted by family members or caretakers

who take advantage of them and take their money. – Fox 23 News – August 5, 2019 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/UpBEi7>

47. “Autistic Women Twice as Likely as Autistic Men to Attempt Suicide” - “Autistic females have a higher risk for suicidal behaviors in almost all types of suicidal behaviors we analyzed,” says lead researcher [Tatja Hirvikoski](#), associate professor of clinical psychology at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. Siblings of autistic people are also more likely to attempt suicide than siblings of controls. This pattern also holds, although less so, for half-siblings and cousins. – Spectrum – August 2019 – (Sweden) - <https://is.gd/dBC6bM>

48. “Children at Risk of Sexual Exploitation Need Better Support, Report Concludes”- Dr. Sophie Hallett of Cardiff University led the study, which used case records to track a cohort of 205 children involved with social services in one Welsh local authority. These were the first young people in the UK to be assessed for their risk to child [sexual exploitation](#) (CSE)—as a whole group—back in 2006. – Medical Xpress – August 9, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/Q6KPjF>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

49. “Local First Responders to Receive Autism Training” - People with autism may need to be helped in different ways than those without it. That's why Marshall County Judge Executive Kevin Neal talked about autism training for first responders at the county fiscal court meeting Tuesday. – WPSD – August 6, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/lg3MQ3>

50. “How to Build the Road to Independence with Autism” - While there is a wide range of cognitive, motor and communication abilities among students on the autism spectrum, they all are on the road to acquire as much independence as they are able. – Autism Parenting Magazine – August 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/Ps9YSR>

51. “Lincoln Overhauling Special Education” - It began last June with the hiring of Student Services Director Allynn Grantham. That hire marked the start of the district’s efforts to shift the majority of special education services in-house, saving money down the road on out-of-district tuition costs. Given an additional \$400,000 in state aid, Supt. Larry

Filippelli said officials felt “that the best use of that money would be to create robust programs for special needs students.” – The Valley Breeze – July 31, 2019 – (Rhode Island)- <https://is.gd/1umdkZ>

INTERNATIONAL

52. “Many Australians with Disability do not Have Enough Support or Income, Survey Finds” - More than half of Australians living with a disability do not have the support services they need, and many say they have experienced violence or abuse because of their condition, a new survey has found. The survey of 900 people, collated by PricewaterhouseCoopers for People With [Disability](#) Australia, also found 61% lived on an income – either wages or welfare – that was insufficient for their basic needs. – The Guardian – August 1, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/VbH4XV>

53. “Sexual Assault and Excessive Force Claims in State-Run Nursing Homes being Checked by Police” - A spokesman for Queensland Health would not confirm which facilities were subject to the complaints or the outcome of the investigations, but said each case was taken seriously. "We do everything we can to provide the best possible care to our frail and elderly," the spokesman said. "Queensland Health takes all allegations or suspicion of assault against people receiving care in our facilities extremely seriously and has taken the necessary action to investigate and resolve these instances. – ABC.NET – August 6, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/OWYtTQ>

54. “No Jail for Wodonga Woman who Falsely Imprisoned two Disabled Warrnambool Women” - Cramp pleaded guilty to the rape of the two Warrnambool victims, also intellectually disabled women, plus false imprisonment and theft. She and partner Alexander Trewin befriended and conned the women into going to their Wodonga home, and held them captive between August 15 and October 12, 2016. Cramp digitally raped both women, then aged 22 and 26, and told them "don't tell anyone what I've done". – The Standard – August 7, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/jTYnhg>

55. “Priests Accused of Abusing Deaf Argentine Students on Trial” - Downcast and sitting in a wheelchair as his historic trial began Monday in Argentina, the Rev. Nicola Corradi didn't look like the man former students at an institute for the deaf say was the force behind years of “indescribable” torment through alleged sexual abuse. The 83-year-old Italian priest, along with the Rev. Horacio Corbacho, 59, and Armando Gómez, 63, are being tried for 28 cases of alleged abuse against ex-students at the Antonio Prévolo Institute for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children in Mendoza province. They face prison

sentences of up to 20 years in some cases, up to 50 years in others. –Federal News Network- August 5, 2019 – (Argentina) - <https://is.gd/QIPzBD>

56. “CWC Chief Shuts Down Two CCI’s for Alleged Violations” - Violation of children rights will not be tolerated, warned Child Welfare Committee (CWC) District Chairman Gurugubelli Narasimha Murthy. Speaking to media at CWC office here on Thursday, he said that CWC was a statutory body established under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (JJA) to protect neglected, orphan, abandoned, deserted, missed, differently abled and mentally retarded children from exploitation. He added the CWC has ordered to close two childcare institutions (CCI) in Srikakulam city. – The Hans India – August 1, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/sol67w>

57. “Suspended Sentence for Then 16-Year-Old who Sexually Assaulted Disabled Cousin, 12” - The girl has a serious disability, as well as speech difficulties and her mental age was below her actual age, the Dublin Children’s Court was told. The accused, now aged 24, had delayed his case by five years after skipping court in 2014 and he then spent a number of years homeless. He cannot be named to protect the identity of the victim. A pre-sentence report placed him at a low risk of re-offending. He was also working, interested in furthering his education and his life was now a lot more stable, the court heard. – Breaking News – August 1, 2019 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/ApyRtO>

58. “Care Worker, 64, Who Raped Severely Disabled Man Multiple Times is Jailed” - Steven Watson, 64, carried out the horrific crimes on the unidentified man in his 40s, who was unable to give consent. Watson, of Dunfermline, Fife, who worked for a charity providing care within a residential care home, attacked his victim repeatedly between December 2018 and January this year. – Yahoo.com – August 1, 2019 – (Scotland) - <https://is.gd/pQNSFI>

59. “Man Handed Life Sentence for Raping Mentally Disabled Mdantsane Teen” - "Investigators were able to link Zamuxolo Grey, 37, to the crime after he raped a physically and mentally disabled girl in May 2018," described police spokesperson, Captain Nkosikho Mzuku. "The Macleantown man was sentenced to life in prison for the rape. The girl is also a mute and unable to communicate. "The accused is known to the victim as he frequently visited her uncle." Capt. Mzuku said that Grey was given the maximum life sentence in the Grahamstown High Court on Frida after being convicted

earlier the same day of raping the teen in her home. – Rnews – August 6, 2019 – (South Africa) - <https://is.gd/93rs2g>

60. “‘Deeply Worrying’ Police Investigating Claims Carers Were Cruel to Children at Special Needs Residential School in Bristol” - Two staff members were suspended following the investigation at Aurora St Christopher’s School in Bristol. Avon & Somerset Police told The Sun: “We’re investigating allegations of child cruelty offences relating to a special education school in the north Bristol area. “We’re working with our multi-agency partners to ensure that safeguarding measures are being put in place and Ofsted has been notified. Parents have been contacted. – The Sun – August 1, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/xfISHI>

MISCELLANEOUS

61. “Autism Advocacy Group Ends Relationship with 'Sesame Street' Over PSA’s that 'Further Stigma'” - For example, ASAN’s statement cites language in the initiative’s 100 Day Kit suggesting unrelated frustrations with spouses or family members are actually caused by autistic children, compares a diagnosis to a child dying, and “to view autism as a terrible disease from which their child can ‘get better.’ ” – The Hill – August 6, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/WwUSv1>

62. “Lose Your Group Home License, Get a \$4 Million Contract to Open a Baby Jail” - So OF COURSE the federal Administration for Children and Families, part of the Department of Health and Human Services, awarded a \$3.9 million grant to New Horizons, to open a brand new, much bigger facility to house up to 72 undocumented migrant kids between the ages of seven and 17. Just to add another agency into the mix, the facility would operate under contract with the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) which oversees the nation's network of immigration baby jails. – Wonkette – August 1m, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/VldJDi>

63. “Court Turns Down Groups’ Request to Keep Cash Assistance Program Temporarily Alive for PA's Poorest Citizens” - The Community Legal Services of Philadelphia and the Disability Rights Pennsylvania were [denied an injunction](#) by Commonwealth Court that would have stopped a law repealing the program from taking effect Thursday. That would have allowed the assistance to continue pending the outcome of a lawsuit challenging that law’s constitutionality. The program provided about \$200 a month to

recipients, many of whom are childless adults with a temporary or permanent disability waiting for a Social Security Administration determination on their application for disability benefits. Recipients also included domestic abuse survivors and others who had no other source of income. – Penn Live – August 1, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/lmIHMO>