

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of August 10, 2019 – August 17, 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

Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 5, 7, 10, 13, 23, 31, 35, 51, 52, 56, 57

Physical Abuse: 2, 3, 16, 21, 22, 25, 27, 30 32 Financial abuse: 9

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 9, 12, 34

Financial Abuse: 9

Murder: 1, 4(killed over 60 patients), 17, 21

Neglected: 8, 11, 18, 26, 28

Enclosed:18

Isolated: 27

Related to special education: 6, 14, 20, 26, 34, 54

WINNER of most egregious award: 6: Oxnard School District delays educational services; 15: Restaurant tells family with a member with a disability to eat and leave after complaint from another customer; 20: Special education student was handcuffed for crying, police officer was exonerated.

WINNER of “good job” award: 5: Jury awards \$13 million to sexual assault victims at psychiatric hospital.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 3,16, 17, 18

Carer: 2, 5, 10, 11, 12, 16, 21, 22, 25, 27, 30, 31, 33, 56

Stranger: 1, 51

Special education employee: 20

Skilled Nursing Facility: 12, 22

Group Home: 27, 30

Acute Care Hospital: 4

Psychiatric Hospital: 5

Respiratory Therapist: 4

Janitor: 7

Bus Driver: 8, 52

Taxi driver: 13

Restaurant owner: 15

Hired hand: 23

In-home care provider: 33

Men: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, 18, 23, 30, 51, 52, 57

Women: 11, 12, 16, 19, 22, 25, 32, 34

Team/couple: 11, 12, 21

Good News: 29: PA closes two State Hospitals, patients to live in community based programs; 44: New marker found to diagnose autism; 46: “Watch Us Farm,” program lets people with disabilities live and work on community integrated farm.

Bad News: 28: American Airlines neglects children with disabilities during layover; 36: Guardianship abuse case, perpetrators billed \$123K for three months of care; 43: study finds most financial abuse victims are exploited by family members, a USC research study found; 53: Medically assisted suicide offered by hospital staff, care agencies, in lieu of care; 58: NS changed services and no longer provides help for victims of abuse and neglect.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

1. “Indiana Man Charged in Death of Developmentally Disabled Woman Pleads Not Guilty” - A 21-year-old Indiana man charged with masterminding the death of a developmentally disabled Anchorage woman has pleaded not guilty to five murder counts. The Anchorage Daily News [reports](#) Darin Schillmiller entered his pleas Friday. He’s charged in the death of 19-year-old Cynthia Hoffman, who authorities say was bound and shot in the back of the head. Her body was left in the Eklutna River. – CBS 4indy – August 4, 2019 – (Alaska) - <https://is.gd/v74kp3>
2. “Man Accused of Leaving Wheelchair-Bound Man in Triple-Digit Heat in Phoenix” - A man is accused of abusing and threatening to kill a wheelchair-

bound man in Phoenix. According to court documents, 49-year-old Earl Wintersmith held the victim down on his bed and bit him on his right arm. He then pushed the victim outside onto the front porch, while it was 105 degrees outside. Wintersmith admitted to being the full-time care taker for the victim. He was booked into jail for vulnerable adult abuse. – AZ Family – August 12, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/nfOqck>

3. “Fort Mohave Man Sentenced for Slapping Disabled Daughter” - An elderly, wheelchair-bound Fort Mohave man who harmed his disabled daughter will spend another month in custody before he is released from the Mohave County jail under terms of a plea agreement entered Wednesday. Dean Peters, 77, pleaded guilty to vulnerable adult abuse by domestic violence. – Mohave Valley Daily News – August 12, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/5ZEStn>
4. “Respiratory Therapist ‘Lost Count’ of Victims after Killing 60 Patients with ‘Magic Syringe’” - Multiple medical murderers and serial killers have been dubbed “Angels of Death,” but few have taken as many lives as Efen Saldivar, a medical professional who killed his victims at several Southern California hospitals with a “magic syringe” filled with heart-stopping drugs. – Oxygen – August 7, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/6joH2x>
5. “Jury Awards \$13 Million to 3 Women Who were Sexually Abused at Ventura Psychiatric Hospital” - Three years ago, Juan Valencia, a mental health worker at Aurora Vista del Mar Hospital in Ventura, pleaded guilty to sex crimes involving female patients in 2013. He was sentenced to more than six years in jail. – The Los Angeles Times – August 13, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/np88w8>
6. “Class-Action Lawsuit Against Oxnard School District Centered on Special Education Access” - A federal judge has certified [a class action lawsuit](#)

[against the Oxnard School District](#) over special education access. The lawsuit alleges that the district has delayed and denied students of special education evaluations and services, while using a "wait and see" approach that is "both illegal and disastrous for students."-Ventura County Star – August 15, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/m8oy0b>

7. “Police: Pensacola Maintenance Man Sexually Assaulted Developmentally Delayed Adult” - Mark Gandy, 53, was arrested Friday and charged with abuse of an elderly or disabled person. He was booked into the Escambia County Jail with a \$25,000 bond. County records indicated that as of Monday afternoon, he remained in custody. – Pensacola News Journal – August 12, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/CrOQe4>
8. “Driver Left Woman Inside Hot Van for Hours: Deputies” - Oscar Augusto Dorador, 38, was arrested Wednesday and faces a charge of neglect of an elderly disabled adult, according to Broward County jail records. On August 8, Dorador picked up the woman from her dialysis appointment in a medical transport van, deputies said in an arrest report. The victim told officials that she was never brought back to her residence and instead was driven to Dorador's house and was left inside the van. The woman is partially blind, has kidney issues, and uses a wheelchair, according to the report. – NBC Miami – August 15, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/Qip5fL>
9. “North Augusta Man Charged with Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult” - Herbert E. Walker Jr., 63, of North Augusta was charged with exploitation of a vulnerable adult and pointing and presenting firearms at a person, according to jail records. A complaint by a DSS worker reported in 2018 that their agency received allegations that Walker was exploiting an 82-year-old victim, according to an Aiken County Sheriff's Office incident report. – Aiken Standard – August 13, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/DKc9fr>

10. "Charges Dropped in Nursing Home Sexual Assault Case" - Charges were dropped against a man accused of sexually assaulting an Evansville nursing home resident. Austin Cook was arrested in July and charged with rape. At the time, police said he dressed in makeup and sexually assaulted a 68-year-old Alzheimer's patient at Columbia Nursing Home. Cook was scheduled to go to trial Monday, but prosecutors dropped the charges after they said the story from the only eyewitness changed from the time the investigation began until the time the trial was supposed to start. – Tristate Home Page – August 12, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/g1pZ7t>

11. "Pair Charged with Neglect of Elderly Man" - According to a probable cause affidavit filed by the La Porte County Prosecutor's office, Kobat and Zitt were the caregivers for the victim, who suffers from dementia and other physical ailments, and requires constant care for feeding and daily functions. Madison S. Kobat, a 31-year-old La Porte woman, has been charged with two Level 6 counts of neglect of a dependent, according to the La Porte County Sheriff's Department. She remained in the La Porte County Jail on a \$755 cash-only bond as of Friday evening. Lawrence R. Zitt III, a 24-year-old Michigan City resident, is also facing a Level 6 felony count of neglect of a dependent, along with a misdemeanor count of conversion, according to the sheriff's department. Zitt was also wanted on a probation revocation warrant for an unrelated drug conviction, according to court records. – The Michigan City News Dispatch -August 16, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/k9pBEv>

12. "Nursing Home Sued after Video Shows Staff Taunting Elderly Woman" - Brayan Cortez and Jamie Montesa were both charged with misdemeanor disorderly conduct. Police said Cortez was in the video and Montesa recorded it and they said she told investigators she had recorded video of Collins in her wheelchair once before. Now, the family is suing the nursing home, its parent company and the workers. The lawsuit seeks more than \$1 million in damages. – WTRK – August 9, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/8LEkJd>

13. “Non-Profit Wants Answers After Police Say Taxi Driver Sexually Abused Rider with Down Syndrome” - Down Syndrome of Louisville provides almost 800 members in Kentucky and Indiana with support, education, and advocacy. Executive Director Julie Torzewski says her non-profit also goes to great lengths to make sure those members are safe during their stays at the organization's Indiana Campus in New Albany and Kentucky Campus on S. Hurstbourne Parkway in Louisville. Torzewski recently learned one the young people who frequently visits the Kentucky Campus was sexually abused. The female victim, who police say has a "profound" intellectual disability, wasn't abused at the campus on S. Hurstbourne Parkway, but LMPD says the female victim was sexually abused by a cab driver who picked her up at the campus to take her home. – WDRB – August 16, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/v1JaPf>

14. “Kennedy HS Student Says he was Unofficially Sent Home for Months, Describes what Civil Rights Lawyer Calls ‘Blatant’ Special Education Violations” - Nicole Jones said that throughout her son TJ’s four years at John F. Kennedy High School, school administrators seemed to target him. First, they tried kicking him out, citing a dispute over his residency. Then, she said, they placed him alone in what they called a “self-contained classroom.” Finally, last November — during what was supposed to be his final year at the school — they just sent him home, telling him to take his classes online at home. – The Lens – August 13, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/uW5ZCj>

15. “Eat and Leave, Restaurant Tells Family of Special Needs Child” - Braun says her family was having dinner last weekend at an Outback in Glen Burnie, Maryland, when a manager asked them to finish eating and leave, [WJLA](#) reports. Another customer had complained about the noises her son was making, the manager said. Braun's 4-year-old son, Killian, has a

neurological disorder that affects his speech. – Newser – August 13, 2019 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/17jXfP>

16. “Clinton Twp. Woman Charged with Abusing Elderly Mother” - Ann Marie Walsh, 55, was arraigned on charges of first-degree vulnerable adult abuse, a 15-year felony, by Clinton Township Magistrate Ryan Zemke of 41B District Court. She was given a \$100,000 cash bond. – The Detroit News – August 16, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/zMa8nd>

17. “Man Who Held Meth-Fueled ‘Death Party’ for His Wife Gets Prison Time” - Duane Johnson originally faced a third-degree murder charge for taking his sick wife Debra from a medical facility and partying with her until she died. – Oxygen – August 13, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/tg8Zzm>

18. “Amory Man Charged with Neglect, Abuse of Mother” - An Amory man is accused of neglecting his vulnerable mother. According to Amory police detective Andy Long, Johnny Spratt was responsible for taking care of his mother. Spratt’s mother was found locked in her bedroom and unable to escape, Long said. During the weekend, investigators charged Spratt, 56, with abuse, neglect of a vulnerable adult. – WTVA – August 12, 2019 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/V4LX4D>

19. “Missouri Woman Gets Life Term in Death of Mentally Disabled Man” - Pamela Hupp, 60, of the St. Louis suburb of O’Fallon, [entered an Alford plea](#) in June on a first-degree murder charge in the 2016 death of 33-year-old Louis Gumpenberger. The plea wasn’t an admission of the crime but conceded that evidence existed for a conviction. Hupp claimed she killed Gumpenberger in self-defense when he tried to kidnap her on Aug. 16, 2016. In reality, St. Charles Prosecuting Attorney Tim Lohmar said, Hupp killed Gumpenberger to distract from the re-investigation of her friend

Betsy Faria's 2011 death. – Fox 4 KC – August 12, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/3X5Euc>

20. "Boy, Handcuffed at Age 7 for Crying, Loses Lawsuit after Court Rules School Officer Took 'Reasonable Course of Action'" - [Kalyb Wiley-Primm](#) was just 7 years old when he found himself face to face with the law — not because he did anything wrong, but because, after being taunted by a group of boys about his hearing impairment in the middle of class, he began to cry, which led to his being escorted out of the room — and handcuffed — by school officer Brandon Craddock. Now, after being tied up in court for years, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals has [come to its final decision](#) — ruling, shockingly, in favor of the officer, by calling his use of handcuffs on the not-quite-4-foot, 50-pound child a “reasonable course of action.” – Yahoo.com – August 8, 2019 –(Missouri) - <https://is.gd/Z2b49R>

21. "2 Charged in Bollinger Co., Mo. after 8-Year-Old with Disabilities Found Malnourished, Tested Positive for Meth" - Two people are facing charges after a child with disabilities was found in neglectful conditions and allegedly had meth in her system. Megan Burrow, 31, and Shawn Blaney, 35, both of Fredericktown, were charged with three counts of abuse or neglect of a child and two counts of animal abuse. Both were in court on Wednesday, Aug. 14 and pleaded not guilty. – KFVS – August 15, 2019 – (Montana) - <https://is.gd/Slw6x6>

22. "Warrants: Nursing Home Aide Pinched, Smacked Disabled Patients" - Tryquissa Maria Liverman, 34, of Fairview, has been charged with three misdemeanors for assaulting individuals with disabilities. According to arrest warrants, Liverman is accused of in one instance of "striking victim about the arm four times." In another instance, the warrant states she pinched the arm and grabbed the hand of a woman with a disability. And in a third instance, a warrant states an individual with a disability was

smacked and shoved "about the face." – Citizen Times – August 16, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/0wEIXv>

23. "Sex Offender Indicted on 75 Counts for Allegedly Raping 83-Year-Old Brighton Woman" - James Pascalar, 64, is charged with endangering an elderly/incompetent/disabled person - sexual contact, endangering the welfare of an incompetent/physically disabled person, criminal sexual act, three counts of rape, 34 counts of identity theft, and 33 counts of criminal possession of a forged instrument. Brighton Police say [an 83-year-old woman hired Pascalar](#) to do work at her home. He was arrested back in July. – WHEC – August 12, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/2xBaW0>

24. "Body of Missing Autistic Boy from Lima Recovered from Body of Water" - The body of an autistic boy who was reported missing in Lima early Sunday morning was recovered from a body of water Sunday afternoon, according to the Allen County Sheriff's Office. 8-year-old Matthew Converse had last been seen around 12 a.m. Sunday, according to the Lima Police Department. – News 5 Cleveland – August 11, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/VNuRpr>

25. "Dayton Woman Accused of Elderly Patient Abuse to Appear for Final Pretrial Hearing" - A Dayton woman is scheduled to appear for a final pretrial hearing on charges of abusing a 90-year-old woman in her care, according to court documents. The Montgomery County Prosecutor's office said in a release that Dikki Crane, 43, was working at The Sanctuary at Wilmington Place nursing home in Dayton when the alleged abuse took place. – WHIO TV – August 12, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/gVLKGc>

26. "Child with Special Needs Sent Home on Wrong Bus after School in Hamilton" - Sarah Walker told FOX19 NOW her son has special needs and that the school is supposed to arrange for a van to pick up her child after

school, but he was sent home on a regular school bus. The 7-year-old was supposed to come home at 4 p.m. Monday, but his grandmother, Liz Rowe, said he was never dropped off. – Fox 19 – August 12, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/vT81Q7>

27. “\$4.5 Million Lawsuit Alleges Abuse of Developmentally Disabled Man at State-Licensed Group Home” - Matthew Lamb, now 26, has cerebral palsy and developmental disabilities as well as vision and hearing impairments. He has the mental aptitude of a 3-year-old, but is “a smart, loving, active, sociable and teachable individual,” the suit says. In her suit, Lamb alleges the inattention of Dungarvin Oregon employees allowed her son to be physically abused by other residents and potentially exposed to sexual abuse by another resident at the group home on 193rd Avenue. He also was left in isolation for long periods of time, according to the suit. – Oregon Live – August 11, 2019 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/9wllHy>

28. “Special-Needs Kids Stranded at the Airport for 13 Hours; American Airlines Apologizes” - “In a statement to USA TODAY, American spokesman Ross Feinstein said, “Unfortunately, after boarding Flight 1736 from Charlotte to Portland on Friday, the flight experienced a mechanical delay that caused it to remain in Charlotte overnight. The children were kept in our dedicated unaccompanied minor room where they were kept safe and comfortable in the care of American Airlines personnel at all times. But the families take issue with American's claim that the kids were kept comfortable and supervised at all times. They were given few bathroom breaks, were unable to charge their phones and could not take medications to fend off seizures and migraines at the prescribed times because they hadn't been fed since breakfast. – USA Today – August 14, 2019 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/1hdT72>

29. “Pennsylvania Will Close Two State Centers for Intellectually Disabled” - The state Department of Human Services will close two of four remaining

state centers for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Polk State Center in Venango County and White Haven State Center in Luzerne County. “The closures reflect the Wolf Administration’s work to serve more people in the community, reduce reliance on institutional care, and improve access to home- and community-based services so every Pennsylvanian can live an everyday life,” Human Services Secretary Teresa Miller said in a statement. – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – August 14, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/BPbB8G>

30. “Caregiver at Lancaster County Group Home Accused of Choking Resident Diagnosed with Autism” - Junior Sesay, of Landsdowne, Delaware County, was charged with one count of strangulation, a second-degree felony, on August 1. He allegedly choked the 19-year-old resident with one hand and put the other and over the resident’s mouth during an argument at the home, located on the 1200 block of West Swartzville Road. The incident occurred on July 15, according to East Cocalico Township Police. – Fox 43 – August 14, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/DsfgGN>

31. “Boy Sexually Assaulted in His Bedroom at Woods Services, Lawsuit Alleges” - A boy with autism was sexually assaulted in his bedroom last month by a fellow resident of a Langhorne facility for the intellectually disabled, his attorneys said, and the attack was captured on a video camera monitored by his parents. The mother called Woods in a panic, upset that she hadn’t been notified of what happened hours earlier and insistent that someone take her son to the hospital, said Michael D. Shaffer, a lawyer for the boy and his family. No one did so until the following day, he added. – The Philadelphia Inquirer – August 14, 2019 – (Pennsylvania)- <https://is.gd/cqnMlg>

32. “Teacher Charged with Abusing Student Pleads Not Guilty” - Shea Lindsey, a 25-year-old who taught at East Middle School, was soft-spoken and straight-faced during her brief arraignment at the Pennington County

Courthouse. She has remained out of jail on bond since her arrest in May. Lindsey faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$20,000 if convicted of child abuse. – Rapid City Journal – August 12, 2019 – (South Dakota) - <https://is.gd/WydtFd>

33. “Care Provider for Spokane Adults with Disabilities Accused of Neglect, Abuse One Year after Sister Company Shut Down” - A year after shutting down a troubled provider of in-home care for people with developmental disabilities, the Washington Department of Social and Health Services is cutting ties with the provider’s sister company, citing similar problems of neglect, abuse and mismanagement that allegedly resulted in one woman’s death. – The Spokesman – Review – August 14, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/E5qj9h>

34. “Former Teacher, Aides Accused of Abuse in Berkeley County Arrested” - Christina Lester and aides June Yurish and Kristin Douty were arrested Aug. 16. They were charged on the recommendation by Attorney General Patrick Morrisey after an investigation into child abuse of special needs children. The complaint alleges the three women verbally assaulted the students with threats of physical violence. – West Virginia Record – September 1, 2019 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/7XHMX4>

35. “Judge Declines to Hear Warrant Issue Alleged in Casper Sex Crime Case” - Judge Catherine Wilking issued the ruling from the bench in response to Trae D. Smith’s request for a hearing to challenge a warrant that police obtained while investigating the allegations of sexual abuse of the child. After police served the warrant, they did not find the video of abuse they’d expected to find but instead found video of Smith sexually assaulting the two women, according to prosecutors. Smith worked at the facility at the time, but he has since been dismissed from the job and is incarcerated in the Natrona County Detention Center. – Casper Star Tribune – August 13, 2019 – (Wyoming) - <https://is.gd/wveo3m>

GUARDIANSHIP

36. “Local Family says Guardianship Cost Elderly Woman \$123K for 3 Months of Care” - More than \$123,000. That’s what a local family says a guardianship cost their elderly mother for three months of care. It was a huge chunk of her life savings. It’s the same guardianship company that 7 Investigator Heather Catallo exposed back in May when they were accused of cutting off family contact with an elderly couple. – WXYZ – August 13, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/UWvvhN>

37. “Congress Attacks Elder Guardianship Abuse after Criminal Investigation” - Plaintiffs in states, including Texas, Florida, Michigan and Ohio, have increasingly cried foul in recent years and as a result U.S. Representatives Darren Soto, Charlie Crist and Gus Bilirakis of Florida as well as Debbie Dingell of Michigan re-introduced HR 4174 on Aug. 7 to assist states in guardianship oversight. – SE Texas Record – August 12, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/Zl0YiZ>

38. “Guardianship Often Fails Poor Seniors. Is There a Different Way?” - The Vera Institute’s The Guardianship Project (TGP) is trying to get courts and communities to reimagine guardianship, both through research and advocacy and through running its own guardianship model, which now serves about 180 people across New York, including Cassidy. On a national level, TGP’s research on guardianship programs in several states [suggests the system](#) is [letting many seniors fall through the cracks](#): - Truth Out – August 16, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/kUGacv>

39. “New Guardianship Regulations Increase Accountability” - The Guardianship Tracking System, or GTS, allows county officials to better track if guardians complied with state law that mandates they file reports listing their ward’s assets and expenses within 90 days of their appointment

and annually thereafter. – The Citizen’s Voice – August 12, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/7KcBEI>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

40. “New N.H. Law Aims to Fight Financial Abuse” - “We believe this new law is a giant step forward in protecting the elderly and other vulnerable adults who may fall prey to individuals seeking to take advantage of them,” Barry Glennon, director of the bureau, said in a statement. “With New Hampshire having the second-oldest average age in the country and with the increasing numbers of baby boomers approaching retirement, it is particularly important to protect an aging population.” – Concord Monitor – August 10, 2019 – (New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/8SqFJO>

41. “One Year after Scathing Report on Clergy Sex Abuse of Children in Pa., Much has Changed and Much has not” - One year ago today, Pennsylvania emerged at the epicenter of the global clergy sex abuse crisis. The 40th Statewide Investigating Grand Jury outlined in [horrific details the criminality and concealment](#) of child sex crimes on the part of the Catholic Church in Pennsylvania. In September, when the Legislature reconvenes from its summer recess, the Senate will have pending [two companion bills](#) that would broadly reform the state’s child sex crimes: the bills would abolish criminal statute of limitations and call for a referendum seeking to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to revive expired statute of limitations. Under current state law, victims must pursue criminal cases by age 50 and civil cases by age 30. – Penn Live – August 14, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/6VTKt6>

42. “Pennsylvania’s Charter Schools, Explained: How They Work, and why Gov. Wolf Wants to Reform Them” - Charter school critics say the schools try to boost their test scores by dissuading needy students — including those with disabilities, limited English language skills, or behavioral problems — from applying.- Pennsylvania Capital Star – August 15, 2019 – (Pennsylvania)- <https://is.gd/mSqPHW>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

43. “The Sad Truth About who is Abusing Older Adults the Most” - Older Americans are more likely to be financially abused by their own families than they are by a complete stranger. That is the disturbing trend [reinforced by a new study](#) from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, which analyzed almost 2,000 calls, emails and messages logged by the National Center on Elder Abuse resource line between August 2014 and June 2017. – Market Watch – August 15, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/WAeVtH>
44. “New Study Shows How Autism can be Measured Through a Non-Verbal Marker” - Researchers have identified a non-verbal, neural marker of autism. This marker shows that individuals with autism are slower to dampen neural activity in response to visual signals in the brain. This first-of-its kind marker was found to be independent of intelligence and offers an objective way to potentially diagnose autism in the future. - Science Daily – August 15, 2019 – (New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/GUvMiZ>
45. At Risk: Sexual Abuse and Boys & Girls Clubs – This is a report on Boys and Girls clubs across the nation. This incident identified in the report was in Texas. A 14-year-old boy sexually assaulted a 13-year-old girl at the Boys & Girls Club of Arlington, Texas, when the two were left alone during an after-school program, according to a 2016 civil suit. Both children were disabled and required adult supervision at all times, the lawsuit said. The club was ordered to pay \$600,000 after a settlement, according to court documents filed in the case. – The Telegraph – August 15, 2019 – (Texas)- <https://is.gd/37nTGB>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

46. “Watch Us Farm: Building a Future for Adults with Special Needs” - Watch Us Farm’s mission is to provide adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities the opportunity to live, learn and work on a community-integrated farm. Watch Us Farm’s goals are to provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment for adults with disabilities and to develop meaningful, individualized job skills while building independence, friendships and a sense of belonging. – Zionville Monthly Magazine – August 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/yX4XbQ>
47. “New Center to Provide Career Readiness Courses to Deaf, Visually Impaired Students” - The Louisiana Special School District unveiled its renovated career and technical education center this afternoon at the [joint campus of the Louisiana School for the Deaf](#) and the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired, off Brightside Drive. – Greater Baton Rouge Business Report – August 14, 2019 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/pmiB8u>
48. “First Responders Train to Assist Special Needs People in Active Shooter Situations” - Kirk said schools that specialize in teaching individuals with special needs prepare for active shooting situations, but if school officials encounter communication barriers, they would need the help of caregivers. “Sometimes their communications is a little bit different and so that's where we count on that teacher for a hand in communicate with those kids in that type of situation,” Kirk said. – WSBT- August 10, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/dvH2Hj>
49. “KARE Child Advocacy Center Helps the County’s Most Vulnerable” - That little green house also sits at the epicenter of Haywood County’s network of victim advocacy providers. It’s called the KARE house, and it’s where many of the county’s most heinous crimes are revealed and investigated — crimes against children. Inside that little green house — airy, bright and homey — there’s a framed picture on a wall, a stick-figure drawing with a big red heart and words obviously scrawled by a young child — “It is OK,

they are here to help all of us too!” - Smokey Mountain News – August 14, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/iKOND7>

50. “ACRES Project in State College Provides Job Training for Autistic Individuals” - The ACRES project in State College works with individuals of all ages and at all points on the autism spectrum. One major goal of the project is to develop career and social skills in order to combat the 85% unemployment rate among college graduates with autism. – WPSU – August 13, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/ndUvCN>

INTERNATIONAL

51. “‘Creepy’ Sex Offender Arrested after William Tyrrell Disappearance” - A man regarded as “creepy” who was later convicted of sexually assaulting young intellectually disabled men was living in his van near Kendall at the time William Tyrrell disappeared. [The inquest into William Tyrrell’s disappearance](#) heard that Taree petrol station worker Robert Donohoe was arrested soon after William had vanished from the town of Kendall on September 12, 2014. – News.com – August 13, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/te33H9>

52. “Illawarra Mother's Anguish over Disabled Daughter's Sexual Assault while Under Care of NDIS Provider” - An Illawarra mother is calling for change after her intellectually disabled daughter was sexually assaulted while under the care of a local disability service provider. Her 20-year-old daughter was indecently assaulted on a bus trip home from an outing organized by her NDIS provider - Essential Employment and Training - earlier this year. – Illawarra Mercury – August 16, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/wM8QEz>

53. “Chronically Ill Man Releases Audio of Hospital Staff Offering Assisted Death” - An Ontario man suffering from an incurable neurological disease has provided CTV News with audio recordings that he says are proof that hospital staff offered him medically assisted death, despite his repeated requests to live at home. Roger Foley, 42, who earlier this year launched a landmark lawsuit against a London hospital, several health agencies, the Ontario government and the federal government, alleges that health officials will not provide him with an [assisted home care team of his choosing](#), instead offering, among other things, medically assisted death. – CTV News – August 2, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/uuvaDe>
54. “Karnataka Disability Commissioner Cracks Down on School Charged with Abuse of Child with Autism” - A tough, decisive stand taken by Karnataka Disability Commissioner V S Basavaraju, one that will hopefully set a precedent. In response to charges of abuse brought against a Bengaluru school by a parent, Mr. Basavaraju has issued an interim order. – NewzHook – August 10, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/OBgo0z>
55. “Woman Gang-Raped in Front of Disabled Husband” - The accused, identified as Trishit Sharma, Vivek Kunwar, and Bhaskar Borgohai, had allegedly entered the house on the pretext of drinking water. When the husband opened the door, they barged in and then raped the woman, who tried to escape from the spot but could not. – India Glitz – August 13, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/JBlq31>
56. “Caretaker of Tamil Nadu Girls’ Home Rapes 4 Inmates, Held” - The accused was identified as K Adhisivan, a native of Karum in Madurai district. He was arrested on Sunday and produced before a judicial magistrate before being lodged in a prison under judicial custody. – The Times of India – August 12, 2019 – (India) - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/caretaker-of-tamil-nadu-girls-home-rapes-4-inmates-held/articleshow/70651028.cms>

- Shortened URL not available

57. "50-Year-Old Man Rapes Disabled Minor for Months; Gets her Pregnant" – Several stories of similar incidents occurring in India. The accused, identified as Rajpal Saini, repeatedly raped the 15-year-old girl over a span of a few months that got her seven months pregnant. – She The People – August 15, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/EA7Yf4>

58. "NHS Accused of Failing Abused and Neglected Children's Mental Health" - The mental health of almost 130,000 vulnerable children in Yorkshire is at risk because of NHS restructuring, a charity has claimed. The NSPCC has attacked NHS plans to change services and claimed thousands of child victims of abuse and neglect across Yorkshire aren't being supported properly. They have said the majority of areas in England are falling short when it comes to caring for youngsters who have suffered traumatic upbringings and claimed plans to revamp services are putting more than 1.3m children at risk of mental ill health. It estimates 129,910 children in Yorkshire who have been abused or neglected could be "sidelined" as a result of changes to services. – Examiner Live – August 11, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/nuqtCY>