

# Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of August 24 to August 30, 2019

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

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

Check the categories below for a guide to types of abuse. The categories are indicated by type, and the number of the article.

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Please send comments or questions to: [nora@disability-abuse.com](mailto:nora@disability-abuse.com) or [baladerian@gmail.com](mailto:baladerian@gmail.com)

**Type:**

**Abuse and Neglect:**

Sexual Assault: 7, 11, 13, 14, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 45, 48

Physical Abuse: 4, 9, 15, 17, 23, 24, 28, 30

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 22

Financial abuse: 6, 8, 11, 12

Murder: 5, 20

Neglected: 2, 8, 9, 22, 27, 44

Related to special education: 2, 18, 21

**WINNER of “good job” award:** 36: NY Law Lifts Statute of Limitations on Child Sex Abuse Claims

**WHO DUN IT** (listed by article number):

Family: 6, 9, 12, 13, 17 + Girlfriend 30

Carer: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 20, 23, 27

Stranger: 19, 45

Special education employee: 2 (bus driver)

Group home staff: 4, 20, 23, 24, 27, 28

Veteran’s Home: 1

Rehabilitation Center: 5

Nursing Home: 7, 11, 26

Chaplain: 11

Therapy program: 25

Law Enforcement Officer: 14

Men: 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 38, 29, 45, 48

Women: 4, 6, 11, 12, 18, 22, 24, 30

Team: 4, 5, 6,8, 24

**Good News:** 35: New Task Force to prevent sexual violence; 36: NY law lifts statute of limitations on reporting child sexual abuse; 41: New training program for people with disabilities to become caregivers; 43: Efforts made to decrease sexual assault by taxi drivers.

**Bad News:** 37: CA Charter Schools exclude and dismiss special education students; 39: CC released report that shows an increase in violence against elderly persons; 47: Staff turnover increased restraints in program where restraints are used.

### **ABUSE & NEGLECT**

1. “‘It’s a Crisis Under Our Feet’: Valley Nursing Homes Putting the Elderly at Risk” - During the reporting on [alleged abuse](#), [understaffing](#) and [investigations](#) at the Floyd E. Tut Fann Veterans Home, a number of sources said conditions at other nursing homes in the valley were just as bad, if not worse. WAFF 48 News spoke with the people who see it on a daily basis, looked through state and federal reports, and reached out to the departments responsible for protecting some of the most vulnerable in our community. – WAFF 48 – August 26, 2019 – (Alabama) - <https://is.gd/2C6tIG>
2. “Video Shows Autistic Teen Being Rescued from Hot Van” - On July 9, as police approached the van, the teen’s mother told the officer, “my son was left in the hot van since 8:00 this morning!” When police searched the van later they discovered deadly conditions, with a thermometer reading 129 degrees inside the vehicle. The teen was taken to the hospital and later released. The driver was later fired and charged with child abuse and endangerment. – Local 12 – August 24, 2019 – (Arizona)- <https://is.gd/VjG8NC>
3. “Assault Suspect Austin Vincent Ordered to Remain in Jail Despite Second Set of Charges Being Dropped” - There was some bizarre hot-potato action

at the Hall of Justice Thursday morning as a herd of reporters followed along as a hearing in the case of Austin Vincent got bounced to three different courtrooms in less than an hour. No judge seemed to want to deal with the case of the mentally ill 25-year-old homeless man after it turned into [huge news two weeks ago](#) and led to public outcry over one judge's decision to release him from jail. But [as KPIX reports](#), Judge Ross C. Moody ordered Vincent to remain in jail, despite a second set of charges that [landed him back there](#) last week being dropped. – Sfist – August 28, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/PeFMiq>

4. “4 Group Home Employees Charged with Abusing Woman with Disabilities in Mount Dora” - The affidavit says the video showed the resident being shoved to the ground, and one of the employees "placed her right foot on the (victim's) head...placing all of her weight on it...possibly causing great bodily harm. "Two employees of the home, Breneisha Blunt and Shenka Hester, were booked into the jail on charges of aggravated abuse to a disabled adult. Two other employees, Jaleyah Wiggins and Carolyn Joe, were also charged, but their booking photos are not yet available. – WESH 2 – August 22, 2019 – (Florida)- <https://is.gd/LpKIM8>
  
5. “Florida Nursing Home Employees Face Charges in Hurricane Irma Deaths” - Three former workers at a Florida nursing home where 12 died in extreme heat when [power was cut after Hurricane Irma](#) face charges after surrendering to authorities on Monday, the Associated Press reports. Lawyers Jim Cobb and Lawrence Hashish said their clients, two nurses and an administrator at the now-shuttered Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, are expected to be slapped with manslaughter charges. – Daily Beast – August 26, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/Z1utiW>
  
6. “Family Members Say Agreement in Deadly Shooting Prevents Elderly Exploitation Charges” - Jewell R. Maul, 39, and her mother, Joyce E. Gill, 64, were arrested in September on charges of financial exploitation of a senior

citizen. They are accused of making transactions totaling \$39,456 from the bank account of Norma Notson, who was 88 and in their care at the time. They have pleaded not guilty and requested a jury trial. Maul is the daughter and Gill is the wife of Robert Gill, who pleaded guilty to the 2015 shooting of Andrew Maul, Jewell Maul's ex-husband. – My Journal Courier – August 27, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/OFou2V>

7. “Nursing Home Worker Accused of Sexually Assaulting Resident” - Clifton Heflin was arrested and charged with sexual assault, aggravated sodomy and reckless conduct after a 59-year-old resident at LaGrange Nursing and Rehab. – 11 Alive – August 29, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/QCGnv4>
  
8. “OR Bond Denied to Exploitation Suspect” - Julia Squires Hunter, 62, has been in jail since Nov. 20, 2017, the day a Richmond County Sheriff investigator found her at the 88-year-old man's home which was allegedly being used to cook methamphetamine. Hunter, John Unger, 51, and Grace McCarthy, 44, have pleaded not guilty in Richmond County Superior Court to charges of exploitation and neglect of an elderly or disabled adult, possession of controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine. – The Augusta Chronicle – August 29, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/8kvE8V>
  
9. “Hearings in Abuse Case Canceled” - Douglas Howell, 49, had been charged with felony abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult resulting in bodily harm for allegedly pushing his mother-in-law, Naoma Ware, to the floor and leaving her without care more than four years ago. His hearing was canceled when Bingham County Prosecutor Paul Rogers told Magistrate Judge James Barrett the charge against him had been reduced to a misdemeanor. Howell is scheduled to change his plea to guilty and be sentenced on the misdemeanor abuse or neglect charge before Barrett on Sept. 4 at 11 a.m. – Bingham County Chronicle – August 22, 2019 – (Idaho) - <https://is.gd/6tz8XF>

10. "Former Nursing Home Chaplain Set to Enter New Plea on Sex Abuse Charges" - James E. Riley's case was set for a motion hearing to sever the two charges of aggravated criminal sexual abuse Thursday when he waived his right to a jury trial and the case was set for a plea and sentencing hearing on Sept. 9. Riley, 58, also is set to enter a guilty plea into an unrelated case where he was charged with one count of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child and three counts of criminal sexual assault. He had pleaded not guilty to all charges last month with both cases set on the September jury trial docket. – Herald Whig – August 29, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/p88nuJ>
  
11. "Oak Brook Health Care Worker Charged with Exploitation of the Elderly, Financial Identity Theft" - Shuton D. Threatt, 35, of the 1500 N. Lawler Ave., Chicago, was arrested by Oak Brook police at Oak Brook Care, 2013 Midwest Road, at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday. She worked there as a clinical nurse assistant. Police said over a one-month period, Threatt used the identities of a 62-year-old man and an 83-year-old woman to make fraudulent credit card transactions. – Chicago Tribune – August 28, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/9dAoem>
  
12. "Daughter Ordered to Pay Restitution in Lawrence County Exploitation Case" - Megan C. Curran, 33, entered the plea Wednesday in Lawrence County Circuit Court, where she had been scheduled to go to trial on the charge. An Alford plea admits no guilt but acknowledges the likelihood of a conviction if the matter were to proceed to trial. Curran entered the plea as part of a plea agreement with the Lawrence County prosecutor's office that called for a suspended sentence and probation. Circuit Judge Jack Goodman accepted the plea deal and assessed Curran five years for the conviction, but he suspended execution of the sentence and placed her on supervised probation instead for five years. The judge also ordered that she pay \$775

in restitution. – The Joplin Globe – August 22, 2019 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/UmtrER>

13. “Man Accused of Having Sexual Contact with Stepson, who is Vulnerable Adult” - Gary King II was charged Monday in Hall County Court with first-degree sexual assault and abuse of a vulnerable adult. The victim, whose last name is different from the defendant, receives supplemental security income (SSI) and is unable to live on his own due to mental disabilities. – Kearney Hub – August 28, 2019 – (Nebraska) - <https://is.gd/O5WZ3d>
  
14. “Ex-Nebraska Officer Sentenced to Prison for Sexual Assault” - A former Nebraska police officer convicted of sexually assaulting a mentally ill woman has been sentenced to prison. Lincoln television station [KLKN reports](#) that 56-year-old Gregory Cody was sentenced Thursday to 12 to 16 years in prison. In June, a Lancaster County jury found Cody guilty of first-degree sexual assault. Cody had faced up to 50 years in prison. – Yahoo.com – August 29, 2019 – (Nebraska) - <https://is.gd/U27Au2>
  
15. “Man Accused of Touching Woman who is Handicapped” - Richard Goossen, of Williamson, was arrested Wednesday. Deputies didn't say when the exactly the alleged incident happened. Goossen is facing charges of forcible touching and endangering the welfare of an incompetent or physically disabled person. He's due back in court at a later date. – WHEC 10 – August 23, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/TDviCo>
  
16. “CMS Investigated for Civil Rights Complaints Regarding Disabilities” - When a student, or a parent, or a teacher, or someone in a school system feels that a student's civil rights under those protections are being violated, they can initiate a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights, which then will look into those complaints and gather facts and see whether or not the district broke any of those statutes and didn't live up to their promises to students.

So that's what we're looking at in CMS and, as you said, there are currently 12 open cases and there are 12 past cases since 2013 that have resulted in corrective action or monitoring from OCR. – WFAE – August 23, 2019 – (North Carolina)- <https://is.gd/byqepm>

17. “Man Sentenced for Viciously Assaulting His Grandmother” - Thomas Arrington, 33, was sentenced in Haywood County Superior Court last Tuesday morning by Judge Brad Letts after pleading guilty to first-degree kidnapping and felony abuse of a disabled or elderly adult. Although the case was on the Sept. 16 trial calendar, it was brought to plea on a deal that dismissed several other charges, including communicating threats, assault inflicting serious injury, assault by strangulation, interfering with emergency communications and interfering with a state’s witness. – The Mountaineer – August 30, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/3iZ61i>
  
18. “Mooresville Teacher Shames Special Needs Student on Social Media” - A local teacher has 'voluntarily resigned' from her position at Mooresville Graded Schools Friday morning after she was suspended because of a rant she posted on Instagram shaming a student with special needs who was held back from a field trip. – Fox 46 – August 30, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/10ulSt>
  
19. “Prosecutors: Man Raped Disabled Cleveland Girl During Home Invasion Weeks after Beating 94-Year-Old Woman to Death” - A 25-year-old man broke into a Slavic Village home and raped a developmentally disabled 16-year-old girl several times before binding her with duct tape two weeks after he bludgeoned [a 94-year-old Honduran woman](#) to death in the same neighborhood, prosecutors say. Cornelius Pames of Cleveland was indicted Thursday by a Cuyahoga County grand jury on five counts of rape, two counts of kidnapping and one count of aggravated burglary. – Cleveland.com – August 29, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/x2fFmN>

20. "Warrant Issued for Caregiver Charged in West Carrollton Group Home Death" - A Dayton man was indicted Thursday on felony charges in connection to the death of a man with developmental disabilities last year at a group home in West Carrollton. Erion Williams faces charges of involuntary manslaughter, patient abuse, and tampering with evidence, according to a Montgomery County grand jury report. – WHIO TV – August 29, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/2q3WgN>
21. "Not Everyone Shocked by Sexual Abuse Allegations Against Peckham Superintendent" - [Superintendent Gary Young](#) is the center of multiple allegations of sexual abuse that began surfacing this week. Former teachers and former students have brought the allegations to the Oklahoma Department of Education, which suspended his teaching and superintendent certificates Thursday. In 2015, Young told News 4 30% of the students admitted to the school system have cognitive disabilities. Engle and Fries both said they also remember the school system began accepting higher numbers of students who struggled in and left the Blackwell Public Schools system. – KFOR – August 23, 2019 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/wToWOp>
22. "Woman Accused of Making Children Eat Dog Feces Receives 7-Year Suspended Sentence" - Mary Elizabeth Moore, 34, of Miami, Oklahoma, was [charged in Delaware County District Court](#) with two counts of child neglect involving two children, ages 5 and 3. "DHS records indicate a long withstanding history of failure to thrive cases brought up against Mary (Moore)," the affidavit states. The younger sibling had been diagnosed as "failure to thrive as early as four months old," the affidavit states. Both of the children's failure to thrive "is due to protein-calorie malnutrition, not being provided enough calories," the affidavit states. – Tulsa World – August 26, 2019 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/8CukhD>

23. "Some Charges Dropped Against Caretaker Accused of 'Horrible' Abuse of Group Home Residents" - On Tuesday, however, prosecutors used a photo of a resident being choked and Antonio Montoya's own admission to certain events to prove their case during Montoya's preliminary hearing. Following the hearing, where none of the accusers testified, a judge dismissed three counts of simple assault, but allowed two counts of neglect and a single count of strangulation against Montoya to head to Northampton County Court. – Lehigh Valley Live – August 27, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/9DWsOu>
24. "Three Arrested in Abuse of a Vulnerable Adult Case" - According to reports from the Conway Police Department, Tiffany Latoya Grier and Tonya Antoinette Davy have been charged with abuse of a vulnerable adult. Connie Sue Bradley was also arrested in this case, charged with failure to report the abuse of a vulnerable adult. The reports say that the victim was living in a group home for disabled adults in the Conway area. An arrest warrant says the Grier forced the victim down a hall and pushed them into a wall. Grier was one of the caretakers at the home. A separate warrant says that Bradley witnessed this event but did not report it to authorities. – WBTW News 13 – August 23, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/MDczeW>
25. "Owner of Horse Therapy Program for Learning-Disabled Kids Charged with Sexually Abusing 9-Year-Old Girl in El Paso" - Homero Baeza Licon, 65, has been charged with aggravated sexual assault for sexually abusing a 9-year-old girl tutored at the Sensory Ranch in El Paso, which he owns, [according to a Thursday release](#) from the city of El Paso. Licon was arrested at the ranch Wednesday afternoon after the victim told her mother about the abuse. – Daily News – August 23, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/oyi5wZ>
26. "Fort Worth Man Gets Life in Prison for Raping Elderly Patient at Nursing Facility Where He Worked" - Anthony Mamboleo Nyakeo, 53, was convicted

Wednesday of two counts of aggravated sexual assault of an elderly or disabled person. The jury gave him a life sentence on each count, according to the Tarrant County District Attorney's office. – The Dallas Morning News – August 22, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/CYKwF3>

27. “Family Says Woman was Malnourished, Left Alone at Pflugerville Group Home” - A woman with Down syndrome is recovering in the hospital after her family members say they found her screaming, soiled and starving in her Pflugerville group home. Shannon Hunt was a resident at Educate in Pflugerville, which is a group home regulated by Texas Health and Human Services. – KXAN – August 28, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/3dltG9>

28. “Group Home Employee Charged with Repeatedly Abusing Vulnerable Patient” - Prosecutors filed charges Friday against a group home employee they allege repeatedly abused a disabled patient, including slamming his head to the floor hard enough to cause a brain injury. Ogden police arrested Spencer Keith Mendenhall, 19, on Wednesday after a psychological counselor reported Mendenhall, who was their patient, had told of abusing a resident of the group home. – Standard Examiner – August 22, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/fUrnxB>

29. “Orem Man Charged with 21 Felonies Connected to Alleged Abuse of Disabled Woman” – “Kerry Scott Robertson, 54, has been charged with 21 felonies, including a dozen counts of rape or object rape; and 10 class A misdemeanors, all for sexual battery. Robertson was interviewed by Orem police, his probable cause statement says. After being informed of his Miranda rights, Robertson told officers he had touched the victim inappropriately for at least a period of two years and had had intercourse with the victim at least 10 times, the statement says.” – Gephardt Daily – August 27, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/nOsm6Z>

30. “Woman Charged with Beating Boyfriend in Wheelchair” - Jacy Renee Andry, 32, was charged Aug. 20 in Racine County Circuit Court with resisting an officer; and aggravated battery of a physically disabled person and disorderly conduct, both with domestic abuse assessments. According to the criminal complaint, police were called to Park Place apartments in Union Grove at about 7:45 p.m. Aug. 19 for a fight. Three women standing outside the apartment entrance yelled to police to hurry and said, “She’s bashing him in the back of the head,” the complaint states. – My Racine County – August 30, 2019 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/kvng24>

## **GUARDIANSHIP**

31. “Ex-Guardian Rebecca Fierle Violated Laws in Handling of Ward Who Died, State Agency Concludes” - Rebecca Fierle, the former professional guardian currently under criminal investigation, violated state laws and guidelines in her handling of incapacitated clients, a state agency determined in late July, according to public records released this week. In a pair of letters to Fierle dated July 29, four days after she resigned from all cases statewide, the state’s Department of Elder Affairs wrote that she had “failed persons served by guardianship and the families who entrusted their loved ones to [her] care.” – Orlando Sentinel – August 29, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/PUM96X>

32. “MI AG Removes 2 Public Administrators at Heart of 7 Action News Investigations into Guardianship” - The Michigan Attorney General's Office announced Friday it was relieving four southeast Michigan public administrators of their appointments, including two who have been at the heart of 7 Action News investigations into guardianship problems. – WXYZ Detroit -August 28, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/cXhQXC>

33. “The Fortress: Probate Courts Enrich Guardians, Conservators, Take Homes, Liberties, Lives of Wards” - According to state and national activists, it’s a

system that has been left unchecked for decades and is now so broken that it has led to unprecedented judicial overreach and the eradication of the constitutional, civil and human rights of thousands of Americans who have suffered from resulting neglect, isolation, abuse, torture and theft on a massive scale, allegedly at the hands of the same individuals assigned to protect them. – Voice of Detroit – August 25, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/Zmxw6w>

34. “Editorial: Public Guardians do Invaluable Work in Helping Vulnerable Elderly Nebraskans” - Nebraska has great need for public and private guardians. From 2010 to 2030, the number of Nebraskans ages 65 and above is projected to increase from 240,000 to 400,000. A state report this year described challenges facing guardians’ efforts, including a waiting list for services, plus inadequacies in medical, behavioral health and nursing home services. Addressing those shortcomings will well-serve the state’s elderly. – Omaha World- Herald – August 25, 2019 – (Nebraska) - <https://is.gd/lxLQSC>

## **LAWS & LEGISLATION**

35. “New Verrelli, Murphy, Downey Law Establishes Task Force to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Developmentally Disabled” - Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are seven times more likely to be victimized by sexual assault. New Jersey will establish a Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Violence Against Persons with Developmental Disabilities under a new law signed by the Governor Friday. – Insider NJ – August 23, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/Nwk3f5>

36. NY Law Lifts Statute of Limitations on Child Sex Abuse Claims: "Justice has Been Denied for too Many Years" - new law going into effect in New York state tomorrow gives victims of child sexual abuse a pathway to justice, no matter how long ago their abuse occurred. Signed by Governor Cuomo

earlier this year, the Child Victims Act (CVA) effectively repeals the statute of limitations on child sex abuse lawsuits for a period of one year. – Newsweek – August 13, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/4lkEQi>

## STUDIES & STATISTICS

37. “California Charter Schools are Excluding and Forcing out Kids with Disabilities, Report Finds” - California charter schools are systematically [leaving disabled kids behind](#)—or worse. A recent report from United Teachers Los Angeles and the California Teachers Association looks at three large school districts, finding that charter schools in all three are enrolling fewer students with disabilities, and especially fewer students with moderate to severe disabilities, than local public schools. And some of the ways charter schools are excluding and forcing out kids with disabilities are downright abusive. – Daily KOS – August 27, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/q5oA6h>
  
38. “Federal Monitor’s Report Reflects Continuing Concerns about DCF, but Progress being Made” - The latest report from the federal monitor overseeing the state Department of Children and Families shows that the agency is not complying with five of 10 key measures that are part of a court supervised plan to improve services for children in its care. Despite this, a lawyer for the plaintiffs expressed optimism that the 30-year-old case will be closed in the next few years because the agency has been making progress, particularly in its hiring and caseload goals, even though it did not reach target levels during the period covered by the report. – Hartford Courant – August 24, 2019 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/v4kqs9>
  
39. “The Disturbing Facts about Elder Abuse, and What the State is Doing About it” - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention put out chilling news earlier this year: Reports of violence against the elderly have increased dramatically. From 2002 to 2016, assault rates against men 60 and older are up 60%; for women, 35%. From 2010 to 2016, the murder rate of men in that age group rose 7.1%. For women, it decreased slightly. The Elder

Abuse Task Force has until January 2021 to turn in its report, the first of its kind in the state in nearly two decades. A look at the data shows why it's sorely needed. – Daily Herald – August 30, 2019 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/dtNWZE>

40. “Nation’s worst-rated nursing homes include 16 in WNY” - The analysis by the Long Term Care Community Coalition is part of an effort to help the public gain insights into the quality and safety of facilities in their communities while highlighting inadequate staffing, substandard care, abuse and neglect within the industry. Across New York state, a total of 101 skilled nursing facilities are rated with one star on the Nursing Home Compare website by the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services. The star rating system includes assessments for health inspections, quality and staffing ratios. – Biz Journals – August 22, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/WUzukv>

### **IMPROVED SUPPORTS**

41. “‘This is my Big Shot’: New Program Trains People with Disabilities to Become Caregivers” - “The DSP Academy,” [a new program that was launched earlier this year](#) to help people with disabilities train to become DSPs. As part of the six-week academy, students learn things like the history of disability rights, developing day plans for people with disabilities, and CPR. It’s funded through the D.C. Department of Disability Services, which refers prospective job candidates to the program. It’s an effort organizers hope will create jobs and fill a significant gap in caretaking. – DCIST – August 23, 2019 – (D.C.) - <https://is.gd/nKODup>

42. “State Seeks Compromise on Student Seclusion Rules” - In Iowa, trained school employees are allowed to restrain or isolate students when the students’ actions risk harm to themselves or others. The ACLU and six other lawyers filed a petition in June 2017 seeking changes to Chapter 103, which

governs how seclusion and restraint may be used in Iowa. With the rewrite of the rules that came from that process now rejected, the state plans to have regional public meetings in September and October before bringing a new set of proposals back to the board to consider in November, Deputy Director David Tilly said. – The Gazette – August 22, 2019 – (Iowa)- <https://is.gd/8NX1A1>

43. “Community Leaders, Advocates Work with TARC to Better Protect Vulnerable Riders” - Following a taxi driver’s arrest, charged with sexually abusing a disabled woman riding in his cab, city leaders and advocacy groups are now working to make changes to the TARC system. Ismael Omer was fired from Yellow Cab, arrested and charged with sexual abuse after allegedly pulling over and getting into the backseat of his cab to touch a disabled woman. Two different but similar incidents were reported about that driver. – Wave News – August 27, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/sVDOo3>

## **INTERNATIONAL**

44. “Intellectually Disabled Man Held in Solitary Confinement for Six Years in 'Outrageous' Case” - [Disability](#) advocates have expressed outrage at revelations an intellectually disabled man judged unfit to face criminal charges was effectively detained in permanent solitary confinement for six years. The case of Adrian, whose real name has been suppressed to protect his identity, is contained in a [scathing report by the Queensland ombudsman into the state’s forensic disability services system](#). – The Guardian – August 29, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/J4o3of>
45. “Disabled Child Raped in Sunamganj” - An eight-year-old physically challenged girl has allegedly been raped by her neighbour in Sunamganj’s Dharampasha Upazila. The victim’s father filed a case against Rum Badsha

Rumali, 18, with Dharampasha Police – The Daily Star – August 28, 2019 – (Bangladesh) - <https://is.gd/k1nPgg>

46. “Alberta’s Four Largest School Boards Met with Education Minister Adriana Lagrange on Thursday to Urge the Province to Lift a [Ban](#) on Seclusion Rooms, Intended to Calm Students in ‘Exceptional Cases.’” - “I can tell you that parents and families in each of our individual districts, as well as staff within our districts, need clarity, and they need certainty around the use of seclusion rooms,” said Edmonton Public School Board chairwoman Trisha Estabrooks from Board chambers on Friday. “At the end of the day ... this is about the safety of students and the safety of staff within our districts.” – Edmonton Journal – August 23, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/nXXSoi>

47. “Staff Turnover and Increased Restraints see Hospital Rated ‘Inadequate’ - An independent hospital that cares for people with a learning disability or autism has been placed in special measures, after inspectors found a “significant” increase in the number of recorded restraints and “high” staff turnover. – Nursing Times – August 23, 2019 – (Wales) - <https://is.gd/6g1VWd>

48. “Delhi HC Upholds 20-Year RI Awarded to Two Men for Raping Mentally Disabled Woman” - The [Delhi](#) High Court has upheld 20 years of rigorous imprisonment awarded to two men by a [trial court](#) for gang-raping a mentally disabled [woman](#), saying there was no reason to disbelieve the victim's testimony in the case. Dismissing the appeal of the two [convicts](#) on Thursday, Justice R K Gauba said there was no merit in it. The court upheld the trial court's convicting [Delhi residents Saurabh](#) and [Sandeep](#) for the offences of raping a [woman](#) who was incapable of giving consent, kidnapping and hurting her; and sentencing each of them to 20 years rigorous imprisonment. – Devdiscourse – August 23, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/SUXggs>

49. “400 Cases of Child Rights Violation Registered at NCPCR Hearing” - The cases were directly dealt by Priyank Kanoongo, the chairperson of NCPCR. Talking about the type of cases he said, “Cases related to differently abled children seems to be a major problem in Ranchi. During the sitting we received a number of cases where these children were facing problems like lack of treatment, unavailability of disability certificate, lack of medical assistance and much more.” – The Pioneer – August 30, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/mMnRgQ>
50. “Hundreds of Children with Autism, Special Needs Without Appropriate School Places” - In addition, special needs campaigners and parents say many more children with complex problems are in inappropriate school placements or pre-school settings that do not meet their assessed needs. This, they say, is due to a shortage of places in special schools, which means many end up in special classes attached to mainstream schools lacking specialized supports. – The Irish Times – August 24, 2019 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/KkBKo6>
51. “Special Education in Israel: Same Mess, Different Year, Say Parents” - The Education Ministry confirmed in an email that the complex reforms mandated by a law passed in the Knesset last year that were designed to make full and partial inclusion in mainstream classrooms possible for thousands of special-education pupils who have been denied that access in the past would go forward as planned, starting September 1, “according to the law.” But earlier this summer, the Education Ministry said there was a budget shortfall of nearly NIS 500m. due to an increase in children entering special education for the coming school year. Then, a few days later, it announced that it had suddenly found some money to make up part of the shortfall, a statement that seemed not to reassure anyone. – The Jerusalem Post – August 31, 2019 – (Israel) - <https://is.gd/oeXztv>

52. “Let Us Not Discriminate Against People Living with Disabilities” - In a report by the Kenya National Survey for Persons with Disabilities, at least 15 per cent of PWDs are affected by environmental factors daily and three per cent on a weekly basis with the most common cases of disabilities emerging from terminal illnesses such as cancer, and HIV and Aids. As a result, the percentage of attempted and successful suicides among PWDs keeps rising. Constitutionally, they are entitled to fair treatment without discrimination. – Ureport – August 26, 2019 – (Kenya) - <https://is.gd/i7ch1c>
53. “In Nigeria, Disability Activist say Social Stigma is the Greatest Obstacle to Human Rights” - In Nigeria today, people with any form of disability are often treated with disparagement. While a new law passed in 2018 offers new hope for disability inclusion, Nigerians with impairments continue to face a host of barriers and mistreatment, including verbal and sexual abuse, employment discrimination and limited access to public spaces and public transportation. – Global Voice – August 27, 2019 – (Nigeria) - <https://is.gd/ZtR4KC>
54. “Daughter Caring for Vulnerable Dad Defrauded Him out of £20,000” - Sarah Jane Garbutt, of Todmorden, has been sentenced for fraud by abuse of position at [Bradford Crown Court](#) after over-claiming wages from her father's Direct Payments. The abuse was discovered during a routine audit by [Calderdale Council](#), where it was discovered a substantial amount of money was missing from his account. An investigation revealed his personal assistant - his daughter - had been claiming additional wages. Garbutt admitted the fraud in a police interview. – Examiner Live – August 29, 2019 – (United Kingdom)- <https://is.gd/Vi4bx4>

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

55. "Disabled Tenants Sue Oakland Over Rent Control Laws, High Cost of Accessible Homes" - Disabled tenants are suing the city of Oakland over rent control laws and the cost of accessible homes for the disabled, claiming they are being priced out of modern homes. It's no secret people living in the Bay Area have some of the highest rents nationwide and Oakland is following state law which lays out which properties are controlled by rent control. The problem is that new housing that is accessible for the disabled is not covered by the city's rent control program. – KPIX 5 – August 26, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/NHlnC1>

56. "Republican Candidate for Congress Bans Drag Show Because Performers Have Down Syndrome" - Peter Meijer, a Republican candidate for Congress in Michigan, canceled a scheduled performance by a group of drag performers with Down syndrome in a venue he owns because he feared they were being "exploited," calling them "special souls" who need to be "protected." In a letter to ArtPrize, one of the organizations involved with producing the show, Meijer pulled the plug on the United Kingdom-based performance group Drag Syndrome. "The differently abled are among the most special souls in our community, and I believe they, like children and other vulnerable populations, should be protected," Meijer wrote in the letter, which was released in a response from DisArt, an organization advocating for disabled artists. DisArt is also a producer of the upcoming performance. – Newsweek – August 29, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/jFFoB4>