

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of August 31 to September 6, 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: 3, 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 24, 44, 46, 49

Physical Abuse: 4, 5, 10, 20, 22, 23, 26, 51

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 4

Financial abuse: 6, 9, 21

Murder: 12, 13, 14, 47, 25, 52

Neglected: 11, 14, 17, 19, 25, 48

Related to special education: 4, 10 (T.A.), 11, 15, 47

WINNER of most egregious award: 1. Young woman with a mental illness was jailed for spitting at nurses while in mental hospital for treatment; 2: High school girls bully and video the bullying of a student with autism, then post the video on social media; 15: NYC Education officials ignore orders to provide special education services.

WINNER of “good job” award: 30: California Governor signs bill to increase prosecutions of abuse of people with disabilities by developing training programs for district attorneys.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 12, 44, 52

Stranger: 49

Carer: 3, 6, 17, 20, 21, 48

Emergency Room Staff: 3

Physician: 8, 46

Special education employee: 4, 10, 11, 14, 47 (bus driver: 4, 11)

Group home counselor: 1, 26

Nursing Home: 3, 14, 18, 25, 48, 51

VA Hospital: 21

Law enforcement: 5, 13, 22, 23

POA: 9

Men: 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 44, 46, 49, 51

Women: 4, 6, 10, 12, 19, 20,21,26, 52

Teams: 18, 26

Good News: 30: Bill signed by governor to increase prosecutions of sexual assault perpetrators by training district attorneys; 31: New law protects people with disabilities by training law enforcement officers; 37: Deaf Christians and Leadership celebrate International Week of the Deaf; 38: Boise airport creates virtual reality program for passengers with autism; 53: Officer jumps into swimming pool, rescuing child with autism.

Bad News: 57: “Do it Yourself” sexual assault “kit” to be sold, for individuals to conduct their very own SANE, however the completed kits would not be viable for use in courts!

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “‘I’m Gonna Die in Here’: 19-Year-Old ‘Mentally Ill’ Woman in Jail for Spitting” - This is the crime for which Valentina remains incarcerated. The charges of assault against the nurses at St. Luke’s were dropped a month later. The prosecutor’s office cited Valentina’s mental state as the justification for dismissing the felonies. But the office is still prosecuting her on two counts of ‘assault by a prisoner with bodily fluids’ and two counts of aggravated assault, which also appear related to spitting. – Mad in America – September 1, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/fEz6AJ>
2. “Video of Girls Hitting, Bullying Boy with Autism at School Draws Outrage”- The distressed boy is seen surrounded by a group of girls who laugh while hitting and pulling at him on campus at Rowland High School. The school

did not provide information on how the incident was handled, but students told KTLA the girls were suspended for five days. – Fox 8 – September 6, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/eITCcY>

3. “Dominican Hospital Nursing Assistant Suspected of Sexually Assaulting a Patient” - Santa Cruz resident Peter Francis Dunne, 46, was booked into Santa Cruz County Jail on suspicion of three felony counts: assault with intent to rape, sexual assault with force and oral copulation, according to the county Sheriff’s Office. The assault happened in late March of 2019 and was reported to law enforcement the following day, officials said. During the investigation, Dunne was found to be working in the emergency department when the assault took place. – Santa Cruz Sentinel – September 3, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/lCsHpE>

4. “Florida School Bus Driver Arrested for Allegedly Yelling, Shaking and Poking Wheelchair-Using Non-Verbal Child in The Head” - Evelyn Fields, 56, of Walton County, who drives a school bus in Okaloosa County, is accused of one count of child abuse after she allegedly grabbed the non-verbal boy, who has a condition that causes weak bones, and shaking him shortly after 3 p.m. on August 16. According to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, the school bus camera recorded Fields shouting in the child's face, shaking his arms and poking him in the side of the head. – Newsweek – September 6, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/JGKmG6>

5. “Female Inmate Beaten 'Within an Inch of Death' by Florida Prison Guards: Lawsuit” - A female inmate who requested medical assistance inside a facility near Orlando was instead beaten “within an inch of death” by male guards, a lawsuit filed this week alleges, in what her attorney is describing to Fox News as the “worst case of prison abuse in [Florida](#) I’ve ever seen.” – Fox News – September 5, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/tFxCMi>

6. “Unlicensed Georgia Workers Accused of Stealing from Disabled Patients to Buy Luxury Handbag” - Georgia prosecutors believe Valerie West threatened to break a woman's neck when that woman demanded answers on the whereabouts of her disabled family member who disappeared while in West's unlicensed care. West, a Conyers home care provider, is also accused of stealing another disabled client's Social Security funds to purchase a Dooney & Bourke handbag. These are just a few of the accusations outlined in a 17-count indictment against West, her relatives and her alleged accomplices, according to [WSB](#). – WJCL 22 ABC – Sept 6, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/WcgZKd>

7. “Walker Co. Man Charged with Rape, Exploitation of a Disabled Person” - John Brent Trammel is now being held without bond at the Walker County Jail. His charges include rape, aggravated sodomy, aggravated sexual battery, and exploitation of a disabled person. Sheriff Wilson says investigators believe Trammell committed the crimes at a LaFayette residence on July 4th. – News Channel 9 – September 5, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/owvilx>

8. “Doctor's Sexual Assault Case Still Pending Six Years Later, Hearing Scheduled Friday” - Jose Agusti, who was arrested in March 2013, still faces two D felony counts of sexual battery after a jury cleared him of a B felony count of deviate conduct in March 2017, according to court records. The same jury was unable to agree on a verdict for the two D felonies, which resulted in a mistrial on those pending charges. – nwi.com – September 5, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/fbkTne>

9. “Sioux City Man Accused of Stealing Thousands from Nursing Home Resident” - 53-year-old Ronald Taylor is charged with Dependent Elder Abuse. Court documents allege that since obtaining Power of Attorney for Hilburn Steffe in July of 2017, Taylor spent at least \$22,000 of Steffe's money on home repairs and bills for himself and drained Steffe's bank

account. – Siouxland News – September 5, 2019 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/bMBqG2>

10. “Disabled Student was Dragged Across Playground and Injured. Teacher’s Aide Arrested.” - Brenda Stamper, who was a teacher’s aide at Campton Elementary School, injured the student on Aug. 28 when she “intentionally” pulled or dragged the student by her hands when the student refused to return to the classroom after recess, an arrest warrant served Thursday by a Kentucky State Police trooper alleged. – Lexington Herald Leader – September 6, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/UqqVZQ>
11. “Autistic Child Left on the Bus, Lapeer Mom Says” - Lapeer schools have apologized to the family. They've told ABC 12 the incident is still under investigation and cannot comment publicly at this time. Fox says an apology isn't enough because this one day has set Charlie back. "She's been hitting herself more, and she gets frustrated more. She's been headbanging herself more, which means there are bruises on her head more," Fox said. – ABC 12 – August 30, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/5q4ANW>
12. “Clinton Township Mother Dies after 'Horrendous Beating' at Hands of Daughter, Officials say” - Ann Marie Walsh, of Clinton Township, [was arraigned Aug. 16](#) on a charge of first-degree vulnerable adult abuse for allegedly neglecting, mistreating and abusing her mother, police said. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison. The woman was in unstable condition, incapacitated on a ventilator and had a brain bleed and numerous broken bones, officials said. – Click On Detroit – September 2, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/DAkJnm>
13. “Brooklyn Center Police Shoot, Kill 21-Year-Old Man During Domestic Disturbance Call” - Brooklyn Center police shot and killed a 21-year-old autistic man Saturday afternoon while responding to a domestic

disturbance call. Friends and relatives identified the man who was killed as Kobe Heisler. They say Heisler, who lived with his grandparents, was on the autism spectrum. He died at the scene. Brooklyn Center Police Chief Tim Gannon said in a statement that responding officers were wearing their body cameras and have been placed on standard administrative leave. – Star Tribune -September 1, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/Dpwzvj>

14. “\$3 Million Lawsuit Alleges Elder Abuse, Wrongful Death at Salem Senior Care Home” - According to the \$3 million wrongful death lawsuit, Helen Banks was severely neglected when she fell three times within four days — once being left in a pool of blood with a broken elbow — leading to her death on April 5, 2018. – Statesman Journal – September 4, 2019 – (Nebraska) - <https://is.gd/iiW18Z>

15. “Advocates Charge NYC Education Officials Delay Orders to Provide Special Education Services” - City education officials have blown the legal deadline to help students with disabilities at least 1,000 times — despite orders from administrative hearing officers, according to advocates who filed a motion in federal court Tuesday. The [filing](#) charges the city is in violation of a longstanding legal settlement from 2007 that requires the Department of Education to provide services or payments to special needs families within 35 days of receiving a hearing officer’s order. – Chalkbeat – September 3, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/zRTn0y>

16. “Greensboro Group Home at the Center of Sexual Assault Investigation” - A Greensboro group home at the center of a sexual assault investigation was fined \$4,000 and ordered to suspend admissions. The Center for Progressive Strides, which Greensboro Police Department Deputy Chief James Hinson Jr. partially owns, first got the attention of the Department of Health and Human Services after a client reported an employee abused him and requested sexual favors. A 53-page report shows several interviews were conducted at the facility and employees failed to report the alleged

assault to law enforcement and child protective services. – Fox 8 – September 4, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/NSBP2E>

17. “Defendants Sent to Prison for Statutory Rape, Neglect of Disabled” - Christopher Glen Hall, of 112 Warlick Road, Mills River, pleaded guilty in Henderson County Superior Court to neglect of a disabled person causing serious injury, misdemeanor child abuse and cruelty to animals and was sentenced to 2½ years in prison. Hall’s spouse, who was wheelchair-bound, had been in bed for 6-7 days needing medical attention. Sheriff’s deputies and social workers determined that the condition of the home contributed to the spouse’s illness and also placed the couple’s minor child at risk. Hall’s wife was subsequently hospitalized and the child was placed into the care of social services. Several dogs and cats found in the home were malnourished. Hall is eligible for release after serving 17 months. – Hendersonville Lightning – September 1, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/8JAR52>
18. “1 Arrested, More Arrests Possible in Mannford Nursing Home Abuse Case” - The suspects allegedly discussed the abuse via text messages that included nude photos, according to an arrest affidavit. One man, Senite Alexander Smith, has been arrested on multiple counts of abuse and sexual exploitation. Cimarron Pointe Care Center told Tulsa’s Channel 8 that the workers suspected in the abuse have been fired. – 8 ABC Tulsa – Sept 6, 2019 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/kOV1lk>
19. “Ponca City Police Looking for Woman Accused of Leaving Disabled Adult in Hot Vehicle” - According to the Kay News Cow, Theresa Larssen, 64, of Ponca City, allegedly left the adult in the hot vehicle while at a flea market. Witnesses reportedly told police the engine was off and windows were cracked, and the adult was covered in sweat and moaning. – KFOR – September 5, 2019 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/1hkzqn>

20. "Caregiver Gets Prison Term for Abuse" - Claysburg woman charged after hidden camera tapes actions. Just over a year ago, a 75-year-old Taylor Township woman suffering from Alzheimer's was showing up with black and blue marks and losing weight to the point she only weighed 91 pounds. To determine what was occurring, the family installed a "nanny cam" in the living room of the Honsaker home. Within three days they had their answer. They were "shocked" and "horrified" when video revealed that one of Honsaker's caretakers, Rita Lair, 62, of Claysburg, was repeatedly abusing her. – Altoona Mirror – August 31, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/BaPAKv>
21. "Chester County Woman Gets Prison Term for Stealing from Wheelchair-Bound Veteran in Her Care" - Jacoya Brazzle, 31, received eight months' incarceration, five years supervised release and full restitution by United States Timothy J. Savage for stealing money from a veteran patient in her care. The case was tried in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Brazzle was a nursing assistant at the VA Medical Center in Coatesville. As part of her duties, she was assigned to care for a veteran who uses a wheelchair. Brazzle learned the veteran's Automated Teller Machine card PIN number, and used his ATM card to access his account from May to July of 2018. – Daily Local News – September 4, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/fRZODI>
22. "Another Tennessee Correctional Officer Pleads Guilty to Beating Inmate at Tiptonville Prison" - Multiple officers entered the inmate's cell at Northwest County Correctional Complex, blocked a surveillance camera and punched the man repeatedly without cause, according to information released by United States Attorney D. Michael Dunavant's office. The officers then conspired with superiors to falsely claim that the inmate, who was on suicide watch, injured himself. Tanner Penwell, 22, pleaded guilty Thursday to "using unlawful force on an inmate," an infraction that carries a sentence of up to 10 years. Nathaniel Griffin, 29, pleaded guilty to the same

charge on Aug. 15. – Jackson Sun – September 5, 2019 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/ug8sz8>

23. “Light Sentence for Deputy Who Shocked Hospitalized Woman with Taser” - A former Harris County Precinct 4 deputy constable was convicted Wednesday of official oppression for using a Taser on a mentally ill woman restrained in a hospital bed in May 2016. The judge sentenced him to two years’ probation and a \$500 fine. The could have been more harsh. The law allows a maximum sentence of up to one year in county jail, up to a \$4,000 fine and up to two years of probation. This is the second time that Charles Sanville, 32, has stood trial for the incident. The original trial ended in a hung jury, so the district attorney put him on trial again. – Covering Katy News – September 5, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/TwkZ5l>

24. Lake Brownwood man pleads guilty to sexually assaulting disabled person - 44-year-old Jason Smith was sentenced to ten years deferred adjudication, will have to register as a sex offender for life, and will serve 150 days in the Brown County Jail. Smith was accused of sexually assaulting a disabled woman twice in April of 2018. – KTXS 12 – September 4, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/FexfHq>

25. “Shell Rock Woman Files Suit Over Mother's Nursing Home Death” - The latest lawsuit against Timely Mission Nursing Home in Buffalo Center was filed two weeks ago in Winnebago County District Court by the family of Virginia Olthoff, who died in February 2018. Officials say Olthoff may not have had water several days before being admitted to the hospital. Although Timely Mission staff members couldn't get a blood pressure reading or feel her pulse, they waited nearly three hours before requesting an ambulance to take her to the hospital, according to officials. – The Courier – September 6, 2019 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/wOxvOj>

26. “2nd Woman Accused of Abusing Racine Group Home Resident Appears in Court After Warrant Issued” - Idella Anderson, 40, of Racine, faces one count of intentionally abusing resident, causing bodily harm, as party to a crime, and one count of disorderly conduct, filed Aug. 14. Prosecutors said the owner of the group home identified Anderson and Yolanda Williams, 48, employees of Love of Caring LLC, as those responsible for the abuse. – Fox 6 Now – September 4, 2019 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/koZYKt>

GUARDIANSHIP

27. “UN Expert Welcomes Legal Capacity Reform in Colombia to end Guardianship Regime” - A UN expert has welcomed Colombia’s new law guaranteeing the exercise of legal capacity by persons with disabilities, describing it as a major achievement in the recognition of their full citizenship. “This newly adopted law eliminates all forms of guardianship in Colombia, while also establishing support mechanisms to fully enjoy this fundamental right”, said the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas. “This is a huge step towards the equal recognition of persons with disabilities before the law.” – Ekklesia – September 2, 2019 – (Columbia) - <https://is.gd/gwnXkH>

28. “He’s 42, Autistic – and Finally on His Own” - Supported decision-making, an alternative to guardianship, has made Joshua Strong of Damariscotta a pioneer among Maine’s developmentally challenged. That all changed on June 6, 2018, when Strong became the first person in Maine to dissolve a guardianship in favor of something called supported decision-making. It allows him to create a team of people who serve as sounding boards, but all decisions – about financial matters, about health care, about relationships – are legally his to make. Press Herald – September 1, 2019 – (Maine) - <https://is.gd/tFXEaC>

29. “Attorney General Objecting to Fees in Macomb Co. Guardian Case Exposed by 7 Investigators” - Michigan’s Attorney General is officially intervening in a controversial guardianship case first exposed by the 7 Investigators. On behalf of Attorney General Dana Nessel, State Public Administrator Michael Moody is officially objecting to the fees requested in the case of Bob Mitchell and Barbara Delbridge. – WXYZ ABC Detroit – September 6, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/kEZdKL>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

30. “Bill Increasing Prosecutions of Those Targeting Intellectually/Developmentally Disabled Signed by Governor Newsom” - Late last week, Governor Gavin Newsom signed [AB 640](#) by Assemblymember [Jim Frazier](#) (D-Discovery Bay) that requires training courses conducted by the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) for district attorneys on sexual assault to include cases involving victims with intellectual & developmental disabilities (I/DD). – East County Today – September 4, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/ljKZRY>

31. “New Law Protects People with Communication Challenges in Situations Involving Law Enforcement” - A new law aims to protect people with communication challenges, such as autism or Asperger’s, before they get pulled over by a law enforcement officer. Samuel Allen, co-founder of the nonprofit [Asperger’s 101](#), was diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome when he was 10 years old. The disorder is under the autism umbrella, which can affect a person’s ability to communicate or socialize. – KSAT – September 5, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/T4VKUZ>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

32. “How Homelessness, Mental Illness, Substance Use and the Criminal Justice System Collided in Little Five Points” -Experts say many people experiencing homelessness have experienced trauma as young people or have mental

illness issues. Then they self-medicate. The use of drugs leads to addiction, loss of job and homelessness. But there is still a huge need in the South. According to a [2018 study](#) by the United Health Foundation, Alabama had 93 mental health care providers per 100,000 people compared to 591 per 100,000 in Massachusetts. [A report](#) by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on mental health remedies in Georgia found that the state discharged mentally ill patients to extended-stay motels and homeless shelters rather than continued care. – Juvenile Justice – September 4, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/uHTIZL>

33. “Falling Through the Cracks in Nevada’s Mental Health System” - There are a lot of cracks for people like Banks to fall through in Nevada. According to [a 2018 report](#) produced by Mental Health America, a non-profit addressing needs of those living with mental illness, Nevada’s system of mental health services ranks last in the nation. Neal reached out to Richard Whitley, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, who in turn contacted officials in his own departments. – Nevada Current – September 4, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/xnkUfa>

34. “Improve Services for Special Needs Students, Report Says” - In its latest set of recommendations, the [School Diversity Advisory Group](#) — a task force commissioned by the mayor in 2017 to address school segregation — suggested the city could be doing more to accommodate students with disabilities. The group found two areas where students with special needs were being adversely affected: school bus service and the enrollment practices of District 75, the citywide district dedicated to students with disabilities. – Brooklyn Daily Eagle – September 4, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/aJFYHo>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

35. “Arizona Panel Reviewing System to Protect Vulnerable Adults” - The Arizona Capitol Times reports that a legislative advisory group of lawmakers, representatives of state agencies and advocacy groups recently started a review of the system. The House Ad Hoc Committee on Abuse and Neglect of Vulnerable Adults headed by Democratic Rep. Jen Longdon of Phoenix is supposed to present a report by Dec. 31. – The Bellingham Herald – August 31, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/N1nDN9>
36. “SF Pilot Program Targets Homeless Most in Need of Mental Health, Drug Abuse Services” - San Francisco Mayor London Breed on Wednesday announced plans for a new, long-term approach to help get homeless people suffering from mental illness and substance abuse off the streets and into treatment. According to Breed, the new initiative aims to provide care for nearly 4,000 people -- identified using public health data as having the highest level of service needs and needing specialized solutions for getting healthy. The care would come through a multi-agency pilot program that would streamline housing and health care and increase access to behavioral health services by expanding hours at the city's Behavioral Health Access Center, located at 1380 Howard St. – KTVU Fox 2 – September 4, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/CxaqHO>
37. “Deaf Christians, Deaf Leadership, and International Week of the Deaf” - The International Week of the Deaf is just over two weeks away. Celebrated annually on the last full week of September, the International Week of the Deaf draws attention to needs in Deaf communities. – MNOnline – September 5, 2019 – (Global) - <https://is.gd/GOfE06>
38. “Boise Airport Prepares Autistic Passengers Using Virtual Reality Experience” - The City of Boise and Boise State University collaborated to create a virtual reality airport experience aimed at helping passengers with autism navigate the airport environment. “We understand the airport has a lot of moving parts and can be a daunting experience for some children on

the autism spectrum,” said Airport Director Rebecca Hupp. “We want to take the surprise element out of the equation for families traveling with children for the first time.” – KATU – September 5, 2019 – (Idaho) - <https://is.gd/NYS3V0>

39. “New Idea for Suicide Prevention Hotline: Just Dial 988” - Just as 911 is universal to Americans during emergencies, a federal agency says the number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline should be shortened to three digits: 988. – New York Times – August 15, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/9Bfbpv>

40. “Dental Students Will Soon be Trained to Care for Those with Special Needs” - The Commission on Dental Accreditation approved new standards this summer requiring all U.S. dental schools to train students in the assessment and management of patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities, among other special needs populations. The change means that by mid-2020, schools that offer degrees in dentistry, orthodontics, dental hygiene and dental assistant programs must include clinical training with a “special needs” population of patients in their graduation requirements or risk losing their accreditation. – Disability Scoop – September 3, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/TJ8SX1>

41. “New Jersey Special Needs Program to Remain Open after Sudden Announcement it Would Close Angers Parents” - It’s been a week full of setbacks at A. Harry Moore School. A roof collapse postponed the first day of class. Then, parents of special needs students learned the program they desperately need was going to be axed. Parents say NJCU told them the needs of their kids are no longer aligned with the special education teaching program at the university. WLNy CBS – September 6, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/5PEceL>

42. “How Does Section 8 Homeownership Assistance Factor into Pittsburgh’s Shortage of Affordable Housing?” - Housing choice vouchers [HCV], commonly known as Section 8, are a federal subsidy available to residents who make no more than 50% of the area median income (equal to \$39,950 for a family of four in 2019). They can be applied to either rentals or homeownership, under federal rules. But Paul O’Hanlon, an attorney and affordable housing advocate, said the local reliance on rentals isn’t doing enough. Rather than a long-term investment in a home owned by the resident, rental vouchers give money to landlords. – Public Source – September 5, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/hA7ZWU>

INTERNATIONAL

43. “Many Sick and Disabled People are Refused Permanent Visas. We Need Compassion Not Discrimination” - The case [highlights one example](#) of how a migrant’s health or disability can affect their visa status. Transitioning to permanent status, however, involves more onerous [health requirements](#) that deny visas to people likely to require care or use scarce community resources. Applicants are [assessed](#) against their “deemed cost”, regardless of what health or community services they will actually use. – The Conversation – September 5, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/AC1m2t>

44. “Mumbai: Man Gets Lifer Under POCSO for Minor's Rape” - A special Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court on Saturday sentenced a man to life in prison for raping an intellectually disabled 16-year-old girl in 2015. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 6,000 on Mohammed Ansari (31). The girl had told in her statement to the magistrate that the man had sexually assaulted her four times in the past too. The matter had come to light after the girl had missed her periods and her mother had taken her to a doctor. Sonography test had revealed that she was four months pregnant. On being asked, the girl told her mother

that 'Dukanwala uncle' (shopkeeper uncle) had done it. – DNA India – September 1, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/r6Kmx8>

45. “Muckamore Abbey Hospital: Timeline of Abuse Allegations” - News that [CCTV footage has revealed 1,500 crimes on one ward of Muckamore Abbey Hospital](#) has renewed concerns over alleged ill-treatment of patients. The hospital, on the outskirts of Antrim, is run by the Belfast Health Trust. It provides facilities for adults with severe learning disabilities and mental health needs. Over the past number of years, claims of alleged maltreatment of the hospital's vulnerable patients have emerged. – BBC News – August 31, 2019 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/Hs7lf7>

46. “Doctor Struck Off Register After Indecently Assaulting Impaired Patient” - A former Oamaru doctor who indecently assaulted an intellectually disabled patient has been struck off the medical practitioner register and ordered to pay \$3,240. The Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal has censured Stephen James Dawson and cancelled his registration as a medical practitioner. The Tribunal imposed two conditions Dawson must meet if he ever wishes to again apply for registration as a medical practitioner. – New Zealand Herald – September 4, 2019 – (New Zealand) - <https://is.gd/ksS3qJ>

47. “#JusticeForHunain: Pakistanis Demand Justice for Lahore Teenager Allegedly Tortured to Death by Teacher” - According to police, Bilal, a student of class 10, was "tortured" by his teacher. Quoting the boy's classmates, the police said that the teacher had allegedly done so because "he had failed to memorise his lesson". The teacher and the school's principal was arrested soon after the incident on Thursday and the boy's body was taken for an autopsy. – DAWN – September 6, 2019 – (Pakistan) - <https://is.gd/EHeXUX>

48. "Scots Carer Given Warning after Patient Found Naked, Crying and Caked in Own Feces" - Natalie Walker left multiple vulnerable care home residents lying in their own filth after failing to carry out all required checks on her night shift. - The Scottish Sun – August 31, 2019 – (Scotland) - <https://is.gd/AOKvXB>
49. "Serial Rapist who Launched Brutal Attack of Vulnerable Edinburgh Woman in Her Own Home Jailed" - David Reid held his 63-year-old victim, who has arthritis and walks with a stick, captive at knifepoint in the house in the Corstorphine area of the city before carrying out the "disturbing" attack in October 2017. – Edinburgh News – September 2, 2019 – (Scotland) - <https://is.gd/jeSAwY>
50. "Newport Autistic Pupils Pulled from College Over Bus Funding" - Juliette Davis from Newport, along with other parents, took time off work this week to take their children to Priory College in Pontypool, Torfaen. But many cannot do so any longer, meaning the pupils will not be able to attend college from next week. Newport council said assessments of the pupils' needs were ongoing. Ms. Davis, 44, said her 16-year-old son Luke, who has autism and learning disabilities, is too vulnerable to travel alone. – BBC News – Sept 6, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-49597859>
51. "Newbus Grange Hospital Abuse: 'Sadistic' Care Worker Sean McNulty Jailed" - Sean McNulty was caught on CCTV kicking and punching residents at Newbus Grange Hospital in Darlington earlier this year. The 36-year-old previously admitted two counts of ill-treatment of patients at Teesside Crown Court. He was jailed for two years and eight months. The court was shown CCTV footage of McNulty assaulting residents filmed between February and March this year. One was punched, kicked or slapped a total of 15 times. – BBC News – Sept 6, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/wgN4Y6>

52. “Woman, 80, Gave Dying Husband 'Mercy Killing Overdose in Apparent Suicide Pact'” - An 80-year-old woman gave her terminally-ill husband a lethal dose of prescription drugs in a “mercy killing” before taking a similar potion herself, a jury heard. But Mavis Eccleston survived the apparent suicide pact after relatives called at their Cannock home unexpectedly and discovered them both unconscious. Her husband Dennis, 81, died the following day as she held his hand, Stafford Crown Court heard. – Express & Star- September 4, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/qGTckc>

MISCELLANEOUS

53. “JSO Officer Jumps in Pond in Full Gear to Save Autistic, Nonverbal Child” - When the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office received a call involving the drowning of a disabled person, Officer Matthew Reddish responded and jumped in a pond in full gear to save an autistic, nonverbal child, JSO says. The child was reunited with his family and is safe. – CBS 47 – August 31, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/2lB3iF>

54. “Why Climate Change is a Disability Rights Issue” - “For say, somebody with a physical disability, you can’t evacuate a building if the power goes out or if there’s a natural disaster because the elevators go down,” Alex Ghenis says. Ghenis says as climate change makes extreme weather more common, cities and states should work to understand the specific ways that people with disabilities are affected. Then they can develop inclusive preparedness plans that address the needs of everyone. – Climate Connections – September 6, 2019 – (Global) - <https://is.gd/o4YwM5>

55. “Uthealth Disability Rights Champion Lex Frieden Has Hurricane Preparedness Tips for People in the Path of Hurricane Dorian” - With

Hurricane Dorian bearing down on the East Coast, many people have been advised to evacuate. While a difficult task under the best of circumstances, leaving home can be particularly challenging for people with disabilities. There are issues involving service animals, medical equipment such as ventilators and even prescriptions that may have to be refilled at a remote location. Disability rights champion and wheelchair user Lex Frieden has been through a storm or two and has developed tips to help people with disabilities during a time of crisis. He's even created a website where people can find them. – News Wise - September 3, 2019 – National - <https://is.gd/MKt4cN>

56. “As Patients Struggle with Bills, Hospital Sues Thousands” - Most hospitals do not frequently take patients to court over medical debt. But since 2015, Carlsbad Medical Center, in New Mexico, has filed lawsuits by the thousands. – New York Times – September 3, 2019 – (New Mexico) - <https://is.gd/sJCGon>

57. “You Can’t Do a Sexual Assault Exam at Home, Despite What This Startup Says” - Although they're not yet for sale to consumers, sexual assault [advocacy groups](#) and [medical professionals](#) are warning against an at-home, "do it yourself" sexual assault evidence collection kit—which, they note, cannot provide the healthcare necessary in the aftermath of an assault and is not admissible in court. The company behind the product, called the MeToo kit, says on its website that it designed the kit in order to allow survivors of sexual violence to collect evidence in the privacy of their own home. “It is universal and does not need any specialized training to be administered,” reads the website. – Popular Science – September 6, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/wFEq21>

58. “Greta Thunberg Opens Up About Her Asperger's Syndrome” - Not content with simply being a world-renowned environmental activist at age 16, [Greta Thunberg](#) is also aiming to change perceptions of people on the

autism spectrum. The Swedish climate activist, who arrived in New York on Wednesday after a two-week trip across the Atlantic on a zero-emission yacht, took to social media over the weekend to open up about her [Asperger's syndrome](#). – Huffington Post – September 1, 2019 – (Sweden) - <https://is.gd/mbTE6X>