

# **Disability and Abuse Newsfeed**

Week of April 21 – 27, 2017

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Articles are listed in alphabetical order by state within each section, so you can easily scan through the articles for those within your state or other states in which you have an interest.

This week's collection of articles has the usual array of articles! Check the categories below for a guide. The categories are indicated by type, and the number of the article. We added the miscellaneous category.

**Sexual Assault:** 17, 18, 76, 78, 87

**Physical Abuse:** 2, 3, 5, 11, 16, 17, 19, 20, 75

**Restraint:** 10, 96

**Neglect:** 1, 22

**Murder:** 9, 12, 35

**Education-related:** 6, 15, 20, 36, 67 (inadequate sped. \$ in military)

**Legal issues:** 2, 4, 6, 8, 13, 24, 32, 46,

**Of concern:** 92 (criminal history OK to hire for group home)

**Funding:** 33, 46

**Miscellaneous:** 50 (misinformation contributes to bias)

**Good Samaritans:** 52, 58

## ABUSE AND NEGLECT

1. **Conway man suspected of neglecting autistic son.** Authorities are investigating a neglect complaint against a Conway man after police found an autistic 20-year-old man covered in feces wandering the city wearing only a diaper. thecabin.net, April 22 (Arkansas) <https://is.gd/FEbh30>
2. **A mentally ill inmate was dragged from a cell. Prison staff now may face punitive damages.** For 22 years, the federal court in Sacramento has pounded the California Department of Corrections with orders and injunctions and slapped it with sanctions to get the state prison system to clean up its mental health treatment mess. sacbee.com, April 24 (California) <https://is.gd/qjjY4e>
3. **24 psychiatric hospital workers suspended over abuse claims.** State health officials say more than 20 employees at a Connecticut psychiatric hospital have been suspended amid allegations of patient abuse at the maximum-security facility. wtnh.com, April 24 (Connecticut) <https://is.gd/lnDLUj>
4. **Chief State's Attorney's Office Reviewing Choate Sex Abuse Case.** The chief state's attorney's office said Wednesday it is reviewing whether anyone at Choate Rosemary Hall broke the law by failing to report suspected child abuse. courant.com, April 26 (Connecticut) <http://cour.at/2oKx2EN>
5. **Cops look for Lakeland man who reportedly stole aunt's wheelchair, gave it to girlfriend.** The Polk County Sheriff's office is asking for the public's help finding 22-year-old James McCloud from Lakeland. wfla.com, April 21 (Florida) <https://is.gd/mCOpi5>
6. **Mom films arrest, handcuffing of autistic Florida boy.** The arrest of a 10-year-old autistic Florida boy was filmed by his mother who complained that he was treated far too harshly by authorities. firstcoastnews.com, April 20

(Florida) <https://is.gd/aJrkKP>

7. **2 die in car that hit special needs school bus; students OK.** Georgia police say two people died when their car drove under a school bus, but the four special needs students in the bus were all unhurt. News media report that the victims' names were withheld until their next-of-kin could be notified. [washingtontimes.com](https://www.washingtontimes.com), April 24 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/Y3neCK>
8. **Handicapped man forced to leave store on knees after staff takes away electric cart.** A handicapped Iowa man has received an apology from a store at which employees forced him to "walk" out of the store on his knees after confiscating the store-provided electric cart he was using. [fox13memphis.com](http://www.fox13memphis.com), April 27 (Iowa) <http://bit.ly/2p9e0eA>
9. **Handicapped man beaten to death by his own cane.** Convicted man gets 29 years in prison for 2015 murder. [heraldguide.com](http://www.heraldguide.com), April 21 (Louisiana) <https://is.gd/AcNLNj>
10. **Maine students restrained thousands of times in 4 years, report finds.** A new report finds Maine students were physically restrained and placed in seclusion about 13,000 times each year for the past four years. The report by the advocacy group Disability Rights Maine indicates more than half of the students who were restrained have severe disabilities. [pressherald.com](http://www.pressherald.com), April 24 (Maine) <https://is.gd/AymA72>
11. **HORRIFIC: Group home worker beat autistic resident with shower rod, say police.** A staff worker at a Needham, Massachusetts, group home for people with developmental disabilities is accused of beating a 22-year-old with a shower curtain pole. [crimeonline.com](http://www.crimeonline.com), April 24 (Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/Uhkw4p>
12. **Woman reported Missouri man was abused at group home.** A central Missouri woman says she once called an abuse hotline because she suspected a man whose body authorities believe was found in a dumpster this week was being abused at a group home. [fox2now.com](http://www.fox2now.com), April 27

(Missouri) <http://bit.ly/2p9uDa3>

**13. NH woman allegedly stole handicapped parking for 7 years using deceased relative's car.** A woman is being charged with two felonies after allegedly using other people's handicapped credentials to park for free for seven years.

According to [Seacoastonline](#), Siobhan Hyman, 52 of Portsmouth, was charged after a police investigation found that she had been misusing relatives handicapped credentials to park for free in the High-Hanover parking garage since 2010. nh1.com, April 24 (New Hampshire)

<https://is.gd/QZZCUz>

**14. 'Pro-suicide' websites lure vulnerable people.** In January 2003, Suzanne Gonzales wrote to an online messaging group: "I cry for no reason, and I can't help but feel that I'm bothering others with my whining. I'm sorry to everyone. It would just be best if I would go away."

santafenewmexican.com, April 23 (New Mexico) <http://bit.ly/2oPZ2XJ>

**15. Report: investigation into special education program at North Colonie School.** Disability Rights New York (DRNY) issued a public report documenting abuse and neglect in a special education classroom at Blue Creek Elementary. The report, claims that the District used physical restraints repeatedly on three students as a substitute for behavioral interventions. cbs6albany.com, April 21 (New York) <https://is.gd/646vJK>

**16. Poughkeepsie man guilty for endangering developmentally disabled man.**

A man, who was formerly employed as an aide at a state-operated residential facility in Amenia is due to be sentenced in June after pleading guilty to a charge of endangering a person in his care. Eric Kellerhouse, 38, of Poughkeepsie, pled guilty to a misdemeanor of reckless endangerment as a misdemeanor. midhudsonnews.com, April 23 (New York)

<https://is.gd/58fVwx>

**17. Summit student faces rape allegation.** Federal complaint for \$2.5M alleges abuse of a vulnerable person. Bend-La Pine Schools and one of its students are facing a lawsuit in federal court after an alleged rape during school hours at Summit High School. bendbulletin.com, April 23 (Oregon)

<https://is.gd/JINkTd>

18. **Former Pawtucket group home employee accused of sex-trafficking teen in DCYF care.** A former staff counselor at a group home was charged this week with sex trafficking a teenage girl who was under the care of the state Department of Children, Youth and Families. The Cranston police, working with U.S. Department of Homeland Security investigators, arrested Reysean Williams, 27, Monday at the Blackstone Valley Youth and Family Collaborative in Pawtucket. providencejournal.com, April 27 (Rhode Island) <http://bit.ly/2oOqJQs>
  
19. **Shelby County grand jury indicts two on charges of adult abuse.** A Shelby County grand jury has indicted two Memphis area residents for reportedly abusing adult patients in their care. Christina Allen, 25, and Jeremiah Chatham, 30, were indicted March 27 on a count each of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation. thedailytimes.com, April 23 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/hsk4zN>
  
20. **Tennessee special needs teacher-aide charged with biting boy.** A Tennessee special needs teacher's aide is facing charges after being accused of biting a student on the playground. 32-year-old Jenny Price has been charged with assaulting a minor. wkrn.com, April 26 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/pBBo4s>
  
21. **Court records: Kimberly Thomas accused of child abuse, humiliating children.** Bloody beatings, forced nudity and confinement to a basement. These are a few of the violent and humiliating conditions detailed in court documents where Kimberly Thomas is accused of child abuse and neglect. tennessean.com, April 27 (Tennessee) <http://cour.at/2oKx2EN>
  
22. **Woman charged after leaving elderly family member on the floor in 'deplorable conditions'.** A woman was arrested and charged after leaving a 97-year-old family member on the floor in "deplorable conditions," according to the Prince William County Police Department. wjla.com, April

27 (Virginia) <http://bit.ly/2oC8iTN>

23. **'I can't even comprehend it:' Family heartbroken after child's wheelchair ramp stolen.** Colleen Grove and her husband woke up Monday morning to find their son's wheelchair ramp missing from their front porch. ktvb.com, April 25 (Washington) <https://is.gd/PCHjyN>

24. **Some offenders allowed to work at group homes.** Two employees of a group home run by Love of Caring LLC in the 100 block of Howland Avenue, Racine, are facing misdemeanor battery and disorderly conduct charges after a physical fight on Jan. 5 at the home between the employees over work schedules. journaltimes.com, April 24 (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/oOwhkq>

## LAWS AND LEGISLATION

25. **House OKs autism therapy coverage mandate.** The Alabama House of Representatives on Thursday unanimously approved a bill that mandates insurance coverage for therapy methods often pursued by autistic children and their families. bizjournals.com, April 21 (Alabama) <https://is.gd/MKKeNP>

26. **Arkansas and America's long dance with death.** Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty 40 years ago, it imposed an important limitation on its use. Because an execution is "unique in its severity and irrevocability," it must be reserved for the worst of the worst — society's most morally blameworthy defendants. gantdaily.com, April 26 (Arkansas) <https://is.gd/a8PNyt>

27. **The Fight for Disability Rights Must Extend to Death Row.** Why didn't more disability rights groups work to stop the execution of Ledell Lee in Arkansas? psmag.com, April 21 (Arkansas) <https://is.gd/pzeTON>

28. **WeHo's Disabilities Board Addresses Dogs in Shops and Grocery Stores.** West Hollywood's Disability Advisory Board voted 6 to 1 last night to form a

short-term subcommittee to address ways to inform and educate the public about service animals. weherville.com, April 27 (California)

<http://bit.ly/2oRDsCV>

**29. Assembly Republicans hold developmental disabilities rally.** Republican assembly members and advocates rallied to protect funding for services for those with developmental disabilities on Wednesday. signalscv.com, April 26 (California) <http://bit.ly/2oOkpbl>

**30. Judge's rules against Rio Nido bar and in favor of disability rights activist.** A local judge has ruled in favor of Guerneville disability rights activist Richard Skaff in his lawsuit accusing the Rio Nido Roadhouse of noncompliance with state disability access laws. sonomawest.com, April 25 (California) <https://is.gd/qulpqc>

**31. New head of agency serving intellectually disabled pushes reform, welcomes challenge.** Between a medical leave and the departure of the former commissioner, the agency that serves nearly 17,000 people with intellectual disabilities, with a yearly budget of about \$1 billion, hasn't had a permanent leader for months. courant.com, April 28 (Connecticut) <https://is.gd/jEGDYm>

**32. Budget cut jeopardizes expanding Stamford's special ed program.** Budget cut jeopardizes expanding Stamford's special ed program. stamfordadvocate.com, April 23 (Connecticut) <https://is.gd/KmPF5J>

**33. Families of group home residents speak out against layoffs, privatization.** News 8 has been telling you that there could be state employee layoffs to help balance the budget and about the Governor's plans to privatize group homes, and that is outraging families of the disabled. wtnh.com, April 21 (Connecticut) <https://is.gd/m8tm20>

**34. Springfield settlement talks extended; study finds 'disability bias' most common housing complaint.** Jacksonville city attorneys have been granted a deadline extension as they grapple with the details of a settlement allowing

for a Springfield apartment complex for the disabled and chronically homeless. wjct.org, April 24 (Florida) <https://is.gd/HaG4wZ>

**35. Prosecution of caregivers of at-risk adults is rare in Georgia.** When Allison Mauldin pressed to prosecute a personal care home owner for murder, there wasn't much enthusiasm. But she wouldn't let it go. "This was the worst case I have ever seen," said Mauldin, an assistant district attorney with the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit. chronicle.augusta.com, April 23 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/79ymYv>

**36. Report: Majority of students restrained in schools have special needs.** An average of 13,000 students were physically restrained or placed in seclusion in Maine schools annually over the past four years. That's according to a report on the controversial methods educators use to handle students with behavioral problems, conducted by Disability Rights Maine, which advocates for parents and students. wlbz2.com, April 22 (Maine) <https://is.gd/Kmur4y>

**37. Deaf advocates stress importance of legislative involvement.** The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's legislative advocacy day on Wednesday inspired students like Melissa Davis, a junior at the Missouri School for the Deaf in Fulton, to stay aware of policy matters that can affect her family and community. newstribune.com, April 27 (Missouri) <http://bit.ly/2p9gVDY>

**38. Missourians living with disabilities can save for long-term care under new state program.** A Missouri program that sets up savings accounts for individuals living with disabilities or their families begins Monday. The Missourians Achieving a Better Life Experience, or MO ABLE, accounts can be used to pay for qualified expenses related to living with disabilities and special needs. stlpublicradio.org, April 23 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/DIRdWi>

**39. New York City subway faces two lawsuits over disabled access.** Most of New York City's huge, aging subway system is inaccessible to disabled

people, and its operator illegally discriminates against them by failing to fix the problems, disability rights advocates said in two lawsuits on Tuesday. reuters.com, April 25 (New York) <https://is.gd/h3Xn4B>

40. **Bosses discriminated against me because my son has Down syndrome, judge says.** A Superior Court judge in Ocean County has sued his bosses, claiming they forced him out of his job because of his obligations to care for a son with Down syndrome. In a suit filed on Monday in U.S. District Court in Trenton, Judge John Russo contends Assignment Judge Marlene Lynch Ford and Superior Court Judge Madelin Einbinder discriminated against him from the moment he was appointed to his position December 2015. nj.com, April 27 (New Jersey) <http://bit.ly/2oCbC1n>
41. **New complaint targets Paterson special ed evaluations.** For third time in two months, an advocacy group is accusing the Paterson district of missteps on special education. northjersey.com, April 21 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/hO7pG1>
42. **New Nevada guardianship laws promise accountability and protection.** A Contact 13 investigation has led to long-overdue changes in state law. Abuse and exploitation have run rampant in our adult guardianship system, but protection and oversight are on the way. It's deadline day in the Nevada Senate and two bills both passed to safeguard older and vulnerable citizens from those who would exploit them. ktnv.com, April 25 (Nevada) <https://is.gd/EoZdh8>
43. **Bill to reform DSS bears watching, officials say.** A complete revamp of the state's social services system is proposed in legislation touting the reformation of the state's child welfare system. reflector.com, April 23 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/O49SA7>
44. **Burgum signs county social services takeover bill.** North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum signed legislation creating a two-year pilot program for the state takeover of county social services costs Wednesday, April 26. inforum.com/news, April 26 (North Dakota) <http://bit.ly/2oC8iTN>

- 45. Senate approves state takeover of county social services pilot program.** The Senate has approved a pilot program for the state to take over the management of county social services in order to provide property tax relief. The program will pay out based on case load. kfyrtv.com, April 21 (North Dakota) <https://is.gd/9STs2k>
- 46. DHS restores in-home care services for disabled Oregonians.** The state Department of Human Services has temporarily halted cuts to in-home care services for people living with disabilities. Disability Rights Oregon, a Portland-based nonprofit organization, last week filed a federal lawsuit against DHS, alleging it violated disability laws by cutting assistance for in-home services. registerguard.com, April 19 (Oregon) <https://is.gd/bvkifH>
- 47. Judge looks at issues with Houston area's disabled voter access.** A federal judge has told officials he is considering an independent review of the Houston area's polling locations to ensure they are accessible to disabled voters. mystatesman.com, April 22 (Texas) <https://is.gd/7NZkqJ>
- 48. Bill that would create more options for voluntary guardianship wins House approval.** A bill that would allow the state's Department of Family and Protective Services to work with nonprofit organizations to provide services to families in crisis was passed by the state House of Representatives Thursday and will next go before the Senate. communityimpact.com, April 22 (Texas) <https://is.gd/myWszK>
- 49. Rockbridge Social Services employees cleared of criminal wrongdoing.** A special grand jury issues no indictments after seven month investigation. wsls.com, April 26 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/yK63zd>
- 50. Disability Rights Advocates Accuse Washington Post Of Perpetuating 'Myths' About Benefits.** Disability rights advocates and a leading Democratic think tank are livid at The Washington Post over a March 30 front-page story on the prevalence of disability benefits in rural America. huffingtonpost.com, April 22 (Washington DC) <https://is.gd/qRFjep>

## IMPROVED SUPPORTS

51. **Expensive, grueling fights in store for US special education.** Lisa Connor felt her disabled daughter should have been making more progress in school, yet annual meetings with the district to set services and goals sometimes felt like a tug of war. themorningsun.com, April 26 <http://bit.ly/2prTYMR>
52. **Passerby saves autistic girl from drowning** A woman passing by a pool jumped in to save a 7-year-old autistic girl from drowning in Apache Junction on Sunday. azfamily.com, April 23 (Arizona) <https://is.gd/9NVHuv>
53. **Disabled Tucson man wants free handicapped parking.** One Tucson man believes handicapped parking spaces should be free. Tom Guthrie's in his 80's, has back issues and isn't a big fan of parking downtown. "I think it's outrageous that they charge for the handicapped people," Guthrie said. kvoa.com, April 21 (Arizona) <https://is.gd/OPDZ00>
54. **For families with autistic kids, a chance to dine out without stress or stares.** The scene at Fireside restaurant in Ravenswood is pleasant and peaceful, with children playing, conversation humming and the smell of bacon rising from the buffet table. communityimpact.com, April 27 (Illinois) <http://bit.ly/2ql28nz>
55. **New hospital to rewrite rules of psychiatric care.** A sprawling campus on the edge of town is out. A compact, modern tower in the central city is in. Long hallways with 30 patient rooms are out. Short hallways with 15 rooms are in. Small windows and fluorescent lights are out. Large windows that let in plenty of natural light—and LED fixtures that can be adjusted to change colors and brightness to mimic circadian rhythms—are in. ibj.com, April 22 (Indiana) <https://is.gd/spnB5C>
56. **Pilot project to give additional support to autistic people after the age of 21.** When a person diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum reaches age 21, mandated state and federal services end. Mary Lloyd Moore, Director of the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex at Western Kentucky

University, says this has been compared to falling off a cliff. wcluradio.com, April 22 (Kentucky) <https://is.gd/Q4RQVd>

**57. Rockville Couple Plans Affordable Housing Project for Adults With**

**Disabilities.** A local couple is working on an innovative project to provide inclusive, affordable housing to adults with developmental disabilities in Rockville. (Maryland) <https://is.gd/G4Er9m>

**58. Police praise teens for leading lost autistic boy to safety.**

A group of Massachusetts teenagers is being lauded by police for leading a young boy with autism to safety after he got lost in the woods. dailyjournal.net, April 21(Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/MzUnpv>

**59. Program designs special toy cars to help kids with disabilities.**

Two children in Petoskey with disabilities now have customized toy cars they can use, thanks to a program called Go Baby Go. Go Baby Go is a national program that makes customized toy cars for kids with disabilities. upnorthlive.com, April 22 (Michigan) <https://is.gd/ug7Y0o>

**60. Level four special education facilities in the works.**

Throughout the region, there are 5,890 students eligible for special education services, 84 of which qualify for level four care, according to Detroit Lakes Public Schools Superintendent Doug Froke. dl-online.com, April 23 (Michigan) <https://is.gd/2pZY0u>

**61. Intervention for kids with FASD helps parents most.**

When children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) receive a multi-component intervention, both the children and their parents see the benefits, a new pilot study suggests. .futurity.org, April 26 (New York) <https://is.gd/2d8LOi>

**62. Oak Island plans wheelchair accessible beach access.**

THE ISSUE: It won't be available this year, but Oak Island residents and visitors who rely on wheelchairs will have a way to access the beach when summer rolls around in 2018. BACKGROUND: The town's parks and recreation department won an \$84,352 grant from the state, funds coming from the portion of the voter-approved Connect NC bond issue earmarked for certain Americans

with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements. starnewsonline.com, April 22 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/8klamZ>

**63. Event helps those with special needs navigate airport.** Autism Takes Flight was held at the Wilmington International Airport on Saturday morning. The 4th annual event taught several people with special needs how to navigate and what to expect at the airport. wect.com, April 22 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/lqGKMD>

**64. Autistic men don't always understand consent. We need to teach them.** Judah Kalb still remembers when he was in elementary school in Chapel Hill, N.C., and tried to give his male friend a hug. A counselor reprimanded him, warning that men don't do that. washingtonpost.com, April 24 (North Carolina) <http://wapo.st/2qduKTm>

**65. BrightStone to fundraise for residential campus for adults with special needs.** Franklin non-profit BrightStone will start fundraising this summer for a new residential campus for adults with special needs. Plans for the 138-acre campus include student housing, greenhouses, an equine center, a chapel, an aquatic center, a gymnasium and medical facility. tennessean.com, April 23 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/j6wq8E>

**66. Chattanooga learns from Nashville's special education successes.** Flipping through the pages of her daughter's yearbook, Debbie McAdams realized there was no longer a page dedicated to a special education class. McAdams, director of exceptional education for Metro Nashville Public Schools, said this is the moment she realized the significant strides the district was making to include students with disabilities in regular classrooms. timesfreepress.com, April 22 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/wpH8e6>

**67. For soldiers whose kids have special needs, Texas hasn't been a good fit.** Cuts in special education services hit schools that serve military bases hardest. houstonchronicle.com, April 23 (Texas) <https://is.gd/tIWT9Z>

**68. Workers learn how to make dining more friendly for the deaf.** When you walk into a store or restaurant, it's normal to hear a worker welcome you in. Unless you're deaf. Customers who are deaf or hard of hearing can find eating out especially challenging. komonews.com, April 22 (Washington)  
<https://is.gd/mBuNhV>

## INTERNATIONAL

**69. Quarter of kids in parts of Cape York are intellectually disabled and not getting help, report finds.** Mr Pearson's Cape York Institute commissioned two clinical psychologists to assess children in three remote communities in the far north Queensland region. abc.net.au, April 27 (Australia)  
<http://ab.co/2qkTkhE>

**70. Diagnosed autism linked to maternal grandmother's smoking in pregnancy.** Scientists from the University of Bristol have looked at all 14,500 participants in Children of the 90s and found that if a girl's maternal grandmother smoked during pregnancy, the girl is 67% more likely to display certain traits linked to autism, such as poor social communication skills and repetitive behaviours. sciencedaily.com, April 27 (Australia)  
<http://bit.ly/2oRDsCV>

**71. Secret NDIA business - no ABA for school students.** A month ago, a NDIS planner in the ACT told a mother that the NDIA had "two publically available reports that the NDIS is using to avoid funding ABA therapies in kids aged 5 and above i.e. school-aged kids". a4.org.au, April 21 (Australia)  
<https://is.gd/bTqKkF>

**72. \$110M lawsuit targets Ontario wait lists for developmentally delayed adults.** Father of disabled woman says she was abruptly cut off from support funding when she turned 19. thestar.com, April 23 (Canada)  
<https://is.gd/7dUFS6>

- 73. After son's suicide, father pushes for assisted dying for mentally ill.** After his 27-year-old son's suicide, Graham Clayton has vowed to push for changes to the country's doctor-assisted dying laws in order to prevent other Canadians from having to take their own lives. cbc.ca, April 21 (Canada) <https://is.gd/808NZu>
- 74. Teenage girl died in fire at group home on Friday.** Ottawa Fire crews reported seeing heavy smoke from Trim Road, one kilometre away. A teenage girl was killed in a fire on Old Montreal Road Friday afternoon, according to published reports. metronews.ca, April 23 (Canada) <https://is.gd/r8jSEw>
- 75. Father filmed at home hitting mentally challenged toddler.** A man seen on home security camera footage physically abusing his mentally challenged young son at their house in Pathum Thani has been arrested in Sing Buri province. bangkokpost.com, April 27 (China) <http://bit.ly/2qctQUe>
- 76. Man jailed for raping mentally impaired cousin.** A twenty-year-old carpenter has been jailed to twelve years six months imprisonment for raping his mentally impaired cousin. fbc.com.fj, April 22 (Fiji) <https://is.gd/pWcsTM>
- 77. IPL 2017: Wankhede authorities make special arrangements for differently abled fans.** There's some good news for all physically challenged fans. The Indian Premier League (IPL) Mumbai Venue Operations team, Mumbai Indians (MI) and the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) have made special arrangements to make Wankhede Stadium easily accessible for the physically challenged. mid-day.com, April 23 (India) <https://is.gd/BmORXn>
- 78. 17-year-old mentally retarded girl sexually abused at special school.** More than 100 people from Virupatchi Sri Lankan Refugee Camp thronged the office of the Superintendent of Police here on Thursday afternoon, demanding action against some unknown persons who reportedly sexually

assaulted a 17-year-old mentally retarded refugee girl, staying in a private home-cum-school for special children at Angu Nagar here. thehindu.com, April 27 (India) <http://bit.ly/2pnzRNP>

**79. Special care centers for mentally challenged.** The Rehabilitation Office of the State Welfare Organization is planning to set up 45 special care houses for the moderately and mildly-disabled people in 25 provinces by the end of the current fiscal in March 2018. According to the director general of the office, specialty care will be provided to those with borderline intellectual functioning and mild intellectual disability. financialtribune.com, April 22 (Iran) <https://is.gd/fpl6fq>

**80. Disability-related insult 'asupe' rampant in Japan.** Japanese netizens in their 20s to 30s are using the term "asupe" to refer to a mentally disabled person or "those who behave differently from the majority." But recently, the public realized a shocking fact: the term refers to the developmental disorder "Asperger's syndrome." koreatimes.co.kr, April 23 (Japan) <https://is.gd/4a7Oel>

**81. Lower House endorses draft law on people with disabilities.** The Lower House on Sunday endorsed the draft law of people with disabilities for 2017, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. jordantimes.com, April 23 (Jordan) <https://is.gd/VoeRKC>

**82. UN disability rights expert to make inaugural visit to North Korea.** Trip will be first ever visit by independent expert designated by the UN Human Rights Council. nknews.org, April 28 (North Korea) <http://bit.ly/2ql8kfe>

**83. Thousands of workers who support intellectually disabled adults to strike.** Thousands of support workers for intellectually disabled adults will strike this week after progress on a collective agreement stalled. Workers at IDEA - the operational arm of IHC - will strike for one hour on April 27 to protest the lack of progress in bargaining for a new agreement. nzherald.co.nz, April 24 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/BNHLSb>

- 84. Autistic man behind attacks on Minecraft, Xbox Live and TeamSpeak jailed for two years.** The man behind a program used to attack services including *Minecraft* servers, Xbox Live and TeamSpeak has been jailed for two years. gameplanet.co.nz, April 26 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/fwM3b9>
- 85. Rally warns politicians of disability rights movement's strength ahead of local elections and #GE17.** Around 200 disabled people and supporters gathered in front of Glasgow city chambers yesterday (20 April), to warn that Glasgow's 150,000 disabled people would be a potent force in elections in the city, and that disabled people across the country represent one in five voters. commonspace.scot, April 21 (Scotland) <https://is.gd/5G7MaB>
- 86. Dementia sufferer died after falling 12 times during Darlington care home stay.** A VULNERABLE elderly woman suffering from advanced dementia fell 12 times during a short stay in a care home, leading to her death. Gladys Goodrick died in hospital in January 2016 after suffering serious injuries following numerous falls during her stay in North Park Care Centre, Darlington, which is rated "good" by the Care Quality Commission. thenorthernecho.co.uk, April 25 (UK) <https://is.gd/mtulvu>
- 87. 'Missing' schoolboy, 17, was romping with his special needs teacher.** The 17-year-old reportedly told officers that he had intercourse with his special needs tutor Riana Lane. The 23-year-old brunette also performed oral sex on him, he added. express.co.uk, April 21 (UK) <https://is.gd/m5TZwd>
- 88. London group home operator Keith Charles sentenced to intermittent jail, probation.** The question wasn't "if a fire tragedy was going to happen — it was [the question of] when," said Justice Peter Aharan, as he sentenced a London man found guilty of 12 fire code violations after a fatal blaze nearly two-and-a-half years ago, to 20 days of intermittent jailtime and two years of probation. globalnews.ca, April 24 (UK) <https://is.gd/0mE89Q>

**89. Smoking in pregnancy hurts your grandkids by ‘increasing their risk of autism’.** KIDS are at much greater risk of autism if their nan smoked when pregnant, a study suggests. Experts found youngsters whose maternal grandmother lit up were up to 53 per cent more likely to be diagnosed with the condition. thesun.co.uk, April 27 (UK) <http://bit.ly/2oOkpbl>

**90. Police issue warning about blue whale 'game' targeting vulnerable people.** Police have issued a warning about a social media "game" which has reportedly been linked to teenage deaths in Russia. The blue whale challenge is reported to involve people being set a series of tasks over 50 days - ending in the person taking their own life. bbc.co.uk, April 25 (UK) <https://is.gd/OnTaKB>

## MISCELLANEOUS

**91. Anti-Vaxxers Are Furious With Sesame Street "Normalizing" Autism.** What kind of heartless jackass sees a much-needed advocate for autistic children and immediately labels her a conspiracy? thedailybanter.com, April 21 <https://is.gd/9cYvSm>

**92. Why are we criminalizing behavior of children with disabilities?** A video of a 10-year-old Florida boy with autism being arrested by a school resource officer, along with the story of how John Benjamin Haygood’s mother filmed the April 12 incident, have gone viral. washingtonpost.com, April 25 (Florida) <https://is.gd/tAVdVY>

**93. Woman with Down syndrome to compete in Miss Minnesota USA pageant.** When Mikayla Holmgren applied for the Miss Minnesota USA pageant, she submitted a lengthy résumé that highlighted her past pageant experience, her status as a triple-threat athlete and her work as a mentor for other young women like her. startribune.com, April 22 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/Cph8o1>

**94. Twin Cities mom seeks to create ‘sensory salon’ for people with disabilities.** Twin Cities woman is looking to change the beauty salon experience for customers with disabilities. Noises, access and lighting can

be a setback for customers who have physical or sensory challenges. Cat Rongitsch wants to create a salon that's comfortable for everyone. minnesota.cbslocal.com, April 22 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/T2DP8X>

**95. Whole Person helps those with disabilities put yard problems in the bag.**

A dozen big sacks of yard debris lined Gloria Wiley's curb by 10 a.m. Saturday, just an hour after several gray-headed members of the Nemesis softball team started whacking at the brush in her backyard. kansascity.com, April 22 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/2nSYvC>

**96. Emily Reid, fighting against the seclusion of her son, says she feels**

**isolated.** Aiden Reid's mother and grandmother call it the closet. They say the Concord school district hates that term, but they say it's an appropriate label. They point to Aiden's bedroom and say the "closet" is half that size, about 10-by-10 feet, perhaps smaller. concordmonitor.com, April 23 (New Hampshire) <https://is.gd/rHq0T7>

**97. How to interact with autistic child? Look to Sesame Street's Julia.**

Sesame Street's new character with autism, Julia, came to life with the help of a University of North Carolina professor. mynews13.com, April 21 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/Xac6oR>

**98. Special-needs interns get the job done at courthouse.**

When Family Court Judge Maritza Berdote Byrne began her tenure at the Morris County Courthouse a few years ago, she already had some experience working with special-needs interns. mycentraljersey.com, April 27 (New Jersey) <http://mycj.co/2oClojY>

**99. Only a Third of Autistic Teens Get Driver's License by 21.**

Just one in three New Jersey teens on the autism spectrum receive a driver's license, according to a study published in the journal Autism. goodtherapy.org, April 24 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/bj8hZF>

**100. Bitty and Beau's, a coffee shop staffed by intellectually and developmentally disabled people, opening in Charleston.** For a year I tutored a Down syndrome young man in Burlington, Vt. Always cheerful and

quick to tell a joke, Chris was a pleasure to spend time with weekly. But at 22, he still lived with his parents and his opportunities for employment were limited. charlestoncitypaper.com, April 27 (North Carolina)

<http://bit.ly/2oRs89H>

101. **Parents Recreate Closed Blockbuster Store For Autistic Son.** When an autistic Texas man's favorite video store closed, his parents surprised him by bringing part of it home. 20-year-old Hector Zuniga visited the Blockbuster video store in Sharyland, Texas, twice a week since he was 13 to rent his favorite movies. cbslocal.com, April 26 (Texas) <https://is.gd/h9Xpdl>

102. **Special Education Teachers Are Biggest Need in Virginia.** A new report from Virginia Department of Education says the biggest shortage of teachers is in special education. usnews.com, April 26 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/Rua9YS>

103. **Technology lets legally blind boy see Jazz game for first time.** Landon Carter, 7, loves all things Utah Jazz. His favorite player is Gordon Hayward and when his dad, Jeff Carter, turns on a televised game, Landon is the first to pull up a stool and start watching. kutv.com, April 22 (Utah) <https://is.gd/drJZ7E>