

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of December 22 to December 28, 2018

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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.

Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 2, 5, 9, 13, 14 (for 12 years), 38

Physical Abuse: 4, 12

Murder: 11(abuse & neglect); 16

Financial abuse: 4, 8, 10, 26

Neglected: 3, 6 (failure to report abuse), 7, 11, 26, 30

Kept Enclosed: 34

Related to special education: 12, 15

Related to social media: 37

WINNER of most egregious award: 25: Special education students get harsher punishment in school.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 11, 16

Carer: 7, 26, 27, 34

Group home staff: 9

Special education: 12

Special transporter: 2 (also posed as masseuse)

Physical therapist: 13

“System:” 6

Guardian: 8

Law enforcement: 5

Men: 2, 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 38

Women: 10, 26

Good News: 18: NY extends time to report abuse for people with disabilities; 19: new law increases penalty for theft from elders; 33: Study to identify provision of disability services and death; 39: Blind teen used self defense during sexual assault; 47: Smart Caption glasses allow Deaf audience members to enjoy theater performance.

Bad News: 28: CA allows prone restrains in public schools...stats show that most who are restrained have autism and are black students; 34: No services at hospital allowed without being charged with a crime- in January 2019 laws change to reduce the types o situations in which prone restraints are allowed; 41: Study in Japan details sexual assaults o people with disabilities by types of disability and perpetrator role; 46: During disasters, people with disabilities are more likely to die.

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

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “Judge Puts off Ruling” - A federal judge on Wednesday decided to delay his decision until after the new year in a case including a school district’s negative response to a student’s request to use a service dog during school hours. – The Cabin Net – December 21, 2018 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/SLCMTh>

2. "Ride-Sharing Driver Arrested, Accused of Sexually Assaulting Developmentally Disabled Women in Costa Mesa" - A ride-sharing driver accused of sexually assaulting three developmentally disabled women was arrested and now Costa Mesa police are searching for other possible victims. – KTLA 5 – December 28, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/UcOK5p>

3. "No Beds in Psychiatric Hospitals for Patients Without Crimes"- The Disability Law Colorado Director of Legal Services Alison Butler says Colorado is focused on a "short-minded solution" by giving more beds for people in the criminal justice system. She says "essentially, in order to get mental inpatient mental health services, you have to commit a crime." – The State – December 27, 2018 –(Colorado) - <https://is.gd/3J1d6S>

4. "Rome Man Charged With Burglary and Abuse of Handicapped Person" - Winsdale S. Strickland, 43, of 10 Burnett Street, forced his way into the home and pushed the victim's head backward. Strickland charged with felonies for burglary, abuse of a handicapped person, aggravated stalking and criminal damage to property. – Rome News Tribune – December 27, 2018 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/bX4oJ3>

5. "Former Cop Guilty in Retrial of Sex Case" - A former Michigan City police officer was found guilty Friday of having a sexual relationship with a mentally disabled woman. Thomas Jackson, 53, of Trail Creek, is scheduled for sentencing Jan. 17 on three counts of level 3 felony rape. – NWI Times – December 21, 2018 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/Hx6lOb>

6. "Mentally Ill and Homeless, He Rolls into Traffic to Die but Goes to Jail Instead" - "Jail is absolutely the wrong place for someone like Mr. Edmonds," Friedman said. "In a perfect world, he would get a fairly stout level of support — housing and supervision and health care. He does not get the help he needs when he's incarcerated. It's a humongous waste of public money to lock him in a cell, apart from the fact that it's flat-out cruel." – Lexington Herald Leader – December 17, 2018 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/rwjcUJ>

7. "Nursing Home Failed to Report Abuse" - Supervisors at a Peabody nursing home failed to investigate several incidents of sexual abuse by a resident this year, at one point telling a nurse who reported one incident that "nothing happened," according to an investigation by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. – Gloucester Daily Times – December 21, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/PAfEW4>

8. "West Michigan Man Found Guilty for Stealing \$300,000 From Elderly Client" - A West Michigan man was formally found guilty by a jury for stealing more than \$300,000 from an elderly client through his company, Senior Planning Resource and Future by Design. 57-year-old Gary "Duke" Haynes of Comstock Park was found guilty of 14 felonies Thursday, Dec. 20 in front of judge Annette Smedley in the 14th Circuit Court in Muskegon. – WWMT- December 22, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/1KTwPn>

9. "Former Caregiver at Group Home Sentenced in Connection to Sexual Assault of Resident" - A 27-year-old former caregiver at a Little Canada group home who pleaded guilty to second-degree criminal sexual conduct in October has been sentenced to nine years (108 months) in prison. Court records show Peter Daniel Hackman was given credit for 276 days served. He was accused of sexually assaulting a wheelchair-bound and nonverbal resident at the group home where he worked. – KSTP 5 News – December 21, 2018 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/OtHrxx>

10. "Pennock Woman to be Sentenced for Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Relative" - Melissa Gay Bengtson, 52, faced three felony counts of financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult. Under the terms of an agreement filed Wednesday in Kandiyohi County District Court, she will enter an Alford plea to one of the charges, while the remaining two counts will be dismissed. – West Central Tribune – December 21, 2018 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/i6lGZr>

11. "Nebraska Man Charged with Abuse After Bedridden Wife Dies" - The Lincoln man was charged Wednesday as a John Doe because officials don't believe either of the names he goes by is his real one. A judge set his bail at \$250,000 and scheduled his next hearing for Jan 23. Court records don't list the name of an attorney who could comment for him. – The Seattle Times – December 27, 2018 – (Nebraska) - <https://is.gd/8rplgl>

12. “City DOE Employee Arrested for Allegedly Abusing Autistic Man” - The city's Department of Education says it is "deeply disturbed" following the arrest of one of its employees for allegedly abusing a mentally disabled man in Brooklyn. Sources tell NY1, 44-year-old Aries Baluyot hit the 20-year-old autistic man multiple times with a wooden stick at P.S. 721 in Gravesend. – Spectrum News NY 1 – December 22, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/GpJxLe>

13. “Physical therapist sexually assaulted wheelchair-bound World War Two veteran, 96” - Arnee Rubi, 43, will spend between six and 23 months in jail for molesting the elderly man while administering therapy at the patient’s home in Hanover Township, Pennsylvania. – Metro – December 24, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/jD3m2d>

14. Police: Man confesses to rape charges” - A 65-year-old Mifflinburg man is accused of raping a woman with intellectual disabilities at least monthly for 12 years. – The Daily Item – December 26, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/TKIgru>

15. “Disabled Central Texas student’s TEA Complaint Could Lead to His Arrest” -Austin attorney Elizabeth Angelone said late Thursday her client, a 13-year-old student at Copperas Cove Junior High School, filed the original complaint with TEA on Dec. 4, claiming “CCISD failed to identify the student as a student eligible for special education for years, despite the student having a diagnosis of autism and language disorder; bipolar disorder; a long-standing history of academic and behavioral failure; and parents repeated requests for help.” – KWTX- December 21, 2018 – (Texas)- <https://is.gd/2eDfhO>

16. “Sad Details About the Disabled Teen Who Was Murdered by Her Stepdad” - A Texas man pleaded guilty to murdering his mentally disabled stepdaughter who authorities say he sexually abused and impregnated before stabbing her to death and removing her uterus. – Your Tango – December 22, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/OgZu9E>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

17. As I See It: Legislature Should Continue to Reject Assisted Suicide Bill - But whereas Martignetti frames assisted suicide as a personal choice in the face of “unbearable suffering,” I see a state-run program that will result in people losing their lives to misdiagnosis, treatment denial, and coercion/abuse, and depression. Not all families are united in loving and supporting us. – telegram.com – December 24, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/u8LMoK>

18. “NYers with Disabilities Urge Passage of Child Victims Act” - The new year may finally bring the passage of a bill to allow more time for victims of child sexual abuse to file suits against their abusers in New York state – legislation that is especially important for people with disabilities. Children with disabilities are disproportionately targeted for sexual abuse, but New York has some of the most restrictive laws in the country for holding perpetrators accountable. Currently, victims have until their 23rd birthday to bring civil or criminal cases. Public News Service – December 26, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/YOb1eP>

19. “New OhioLaw Targets Elder Fraud as Cases on the Rise: Here’s How It Works” - The bill, recently signed into law by Ohio Gov. John Kasich, increases financial penalties for theft from an elderly person, defined in state law as someone older than 65. It mandates someone convicted of defrauding an elderly person to pay full restitution, plus a fine of up to \$50,000. The fine will go to county agencies tasked with investigating elder abuse. – Dayton Daily News – December 26, 2018 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/sf3fxE>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

20. “The Plight of People with Disabilities in Africa” - Africa exemplifies the correlation between socio-economic development and the prevalence of disabling conditions. For instance, estimates for the number of people with disabilities in the continent range from twenty to forty percent of the population, including ten to fifteen percent of school-age children (Grol, 2000). – The African Exponent – December 21, 2018 – (Africa) - <https://is.gd/bVjL4V>

21. Study Finds Charter Schools Are Less Likely to Enroll Students with Special Needs” - A professor at the University of Florida, Dr. Isaac McFarlin believes that's the case. Mcfarlin, along with Columbia professor Peter Bergman conducted a study of nearly

6,500 schools across the country, including some in Florida. – WCJB- December 21, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/W5tOjR>

22. “Kansas Auditors Document State’s Routine Underfunding of Special Education” - The state’s budget woes fueled routine underfunding of the formula guiding Kansas appropriations for special education in K-12 public school districts and made it tougher to afford specialized teachers to work with students who were gifted or had a disability, a state audit said. – The Topeka Capital Journal – December 24, 2018 – (Kansas) - <https://is.gd/iTsL16>
23. “MaineHealth Leading Study of Potential ‘Game Changer’ for Families Affected by Autism” - The goal is to learn whether wearable devices that monitor physiological signals can better predict aggressive episodes. - The three-year study that started this fall will track 200 children and their families in Maine, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. – Central Maine CM – December 26, 2018 – (Maine) - <https://is.gd/KZwMv9>
24. “Mental Health Care Drowning in Paperwork” - According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) alcohol poisoning kills six people daily! The group with the most alcohol poisoning deaths per million people is American Indians and Alaska Natives – 49.1 per 1 million. – Albuquerque Journal – December 24, 2018 – (New Mexico) - <https://is.gd/my8D8P>
25. “Special Ed Students More Likely to Receive Harsher Punishments in School” - Students who receive special education services in Texas are more likely to be given some of the harshest punishments in schools, according to an analysis of Texas Education Agency data. – Houston Chronicle – December 26, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/Eh1fwL>
26. “Pillsbury Manor Staffer Accused of Stealing Fentanyl from Patient” -South Burlington police say an investigation into tampering of prescription drugs led them to charge Kimberly Coleman, 55, of Starksboro, with abuse and neglect of a vulnerable adult. – My Champlain Valley – December 27, 2018 – (Vermont) - <https://is.gd/igQcm3>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

27. “New Cub Scout Pack Meets at California School for the Deaf, Riverside - Most members of Pack 234 are deaf or hard of hearing. – The Press – Enterprise – December 24, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/WK4HJ7>

28. “California Teachers Can Pin Students Face Down. Does the Danger Outweigh the Benefit?” - But prone restraints are regularly used in California schools, often on students with special needs such as those on the autism spectrum — and at a higher rate on black students, an analysis of federal data by The Sacramento Bee found. Next month, California state regulations on the use of prone restraints on students will change, limiting them to emergency situations. – The Sacramento Bee – December 24, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/NdhNKh>

29. As New Orleans Catholic Schools Expand Special-Needs Programs, a Closer Look at Push for Inclusion - But the scene was also evidence of a broader goal: for the local Catholic school to educate kids who communicate through sign language because of learning disabilities that limit their speech. – The New Orleans Advocate – December 19, 2018 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/eHGLR6>

30. “South Mississippi Strong: SNO Brings Fun, Friendships to People with Special Needs” - SNO stands for Special Needs Organization, and it serves special needs clients and their families all across the Coast. It was started by Executive Director Donna Brewer and co-founder Cindy McNelley primarily to meet an ongoing need: having fun. – WLOX – December 26, 2018 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/bOueE5>

31. “Boardman Beanery Teaches Life Skills to Special Education Students” - Starting this semester, staff can get coffee each Friday inside Glenwood at Boardman Beanery, a coffee shop operated by special-education students in seventh and eighth grades. – The Vindicator – December 29, 2018 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/nph0tR>

32. “After Other Options Fail, A Family Tries Medical Marijuana for Son with Autism” - Rhode Island is one of a small but growing number of states that allow medical marijuana for treating severe forms of autism. The decision is raising hopes for some parents of autistic children. But there's scant scientific evidence about the benefits —

and risks — of marijuana use in these children. – NPR- December 25, 2018 – (Rode Island) - <https://is.gd/1eb5HZ>

INTERNATIONAL

33. “Poor Disability Support Has Life or Death Implications” - At the specific request of the then Housing, Disability and Ageing Minister, one of my new functions is to inquire into and, at my discretion, investigate the provision of disability services to people who died whilst in receipt of those services. – The Courier – December 23, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/27NOi8>

34. “Woman, 91, Tied to Chair at Haliburton Place Nursing Home” - After Hill filed a complaint under the Protection for Persons in Care Act alleging her mother suffered as a result of being forcibly placed and tied into a geriatric chair with a restraint, the Health Department investigated and confirmed the abuse. – The Chronicle Herald – December 20, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/8ST1Lo>

35. “Fatal Edmonton Group-Home Fire 'Horrorific,' Says Agency That Runs Facility” - Three men and one woman were sent to hospital after a fire tore through the group home around 2 a.m. Monday. The home is located at 166th Street and 90th Avenue in the West Meadowlark neighbourhood. – CBC – December 26, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/va0nfz>

36. “House Approves in Principle Bill on National Council for Persons with Disabilities” - The House of Representatives approved in principle a bill introduced by the government on issuing the Law of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities. – Egypt Today – December 23, 2018 – (Egypt) - <https://is.gd/SBsYzn>

37. “BJP MP Seeks Centre's Intervention to Curb Digital Sexual Abuse” - Quoting a media report, Chandrashekar said that there is an exponential growth in [short video mobile applications](#) and due to their 'free availability' and 'simple user interface' these apps become the easily accessible and finally the breeding ground for grooming underage children for the acts of pornography. He cited the example of applications such as Kwai,

Clip, TikTok, NewsDog, LiveMe, and Helo. – Business Standard – December 24, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/HWqjx9>

38. “Mentally Retarded Woman’s Rape: Bring Guilty to Book, Says HC” -The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed police to ensure those behind rape of a mentally retarded woman, who gave birth to a child in an abandoned house at Kulan area of central district Ganderbal without any medical help in the dead of night on November 20 this year, are brought to book. – Kashmir Observer – December 25, 2018 – (India) <https://is.gd/Bn6J7H>

39. Blind Teenager in Mumbai Fights off Molester Using Self-Defense Moves She Learned at School, Police Say - A few minutes after the train left the platform, Vishal Singh, 24, allegedly molested the girl, who responded by holding his finger in a tight clasp and bringing him to his knees. She then twisted his arm and he fell to the ground. – Sand Hill Express – December 20, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/r6pKSJ>

40. “People with Intellectual Disabilities in Iran Lack Crucial Services and Support” - At least 1.5 million people were living with intellectual disabilities in Iran in 2018 but only 350,000 of them were registered with the [State Welfare Organization](#) (SWO) that year, according to figures presented by state officials. The Iranian government meanwhile failed to provide specific programs to help citizens living with intellectual and psychological disabilities gain independence in their lives or protect them from abuse and violence. – Center for Human Rights – December 28, 2018 – (Iran) - <https://is.gd/OiaP4C>

41. “Record 3,544 People with Disabilities Confirmed Abused in FY 2017” - Of the confirmed victims, including those with multiple disabilities, 1,825 had intellectual disabilities, 1,101 had psychological disabilities, and 720 had physical disabilities. Families and caregivers were responsible in 1,557 cases, employers in 597 cases, and staffers of facilities for disabled persons in 464 cases. – The Mainichi – December 27, 2018 – (Japan) - <https://is.gd/YG74up>

42. Disabled Kiwi Women Being Left Out of The #MeToo Conversation” - "When we talk about how far women have come in New Zealand since 1893, we have got to also be lifting the lid on groups of women who are not doing as well and disabled women are part of that. – Stuff – December 23, 2018 – (New Zealand) - <https://is.gd/x8acM1>
43. “In Peru, Novel Program Paves the Way for Autistic People’s Employment”- Their focus on the strengths of individuals with autism is very important,” says [Tele Tan](#), professor of civil and mechanical engineering at Curtin University in Perth, Australia. Tan founded and directs the [Autism Academy for Software Quality Assurance](#), a program that teaches computer-programming skills to adolescents with autism and helps them gain professional experience as software testers. – Spectrum – December 21, 2018 – (Peru) - <https://is.gd/PET7yu>
44. “Powys Care Worker Cleared of Sexually Assaulting Dementia Patient - A care worker with learning difficulties has been cleared of sexually assaulting an elderly dementia patient at a nursing home. – BBC- December 21, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/LawiGs>
45. “Huge Increase in Adult Abuse Claims Across Birmingham” - More than 8,000 cases of abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults were reported in Birmingham in a year, mostly taking place at home. Cases of financial abuse were the most prolific category of concern, closely followed by incidents of neglect, physical abuse or psychological abuse. – Birmingham Live – December 28, 2018 - (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/NfBs4M>

MISCELLANEOUS

46. In Natural Disasters, A Disability Can Be a Death Sentence -How disability rights advocates want to change the landscape of disaster response. Several of the 88 people killed in the Camp fire that devastated Butte County, California, in November had disabilities. – Huff Post – December 24, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/1SnaNs>
47. “Smart Caption Glasses Allow Deaf Audience Members to Watch Live Theater Performers Directly” - Deaf people can now enjoy live theatrical performances more than ever before thanks to these new “smart caption glasses”. The Royal National

Theater in London has been piloting the glasses with their audience members who may be deaf or hard of hearing. – Good News Network – December 26, 2018 – (England) - <https://is.gd/sf3fxE>

48. “As Floods Push Homes Higher, the Disabled Risk Being Pushed Out” - She survived, but once the floodwaters receded, officials pushed residents of her Long Beach neighborhood to rebuild their houses on stilts. Treston went along, fearing that if she didn't, her flood insurance premiums would jump. – New Haven Register – December 18, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/OOLIUV>