

# Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Newsfeed September 29, 2018 – October 5, 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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Visit our website at [www.disabilityandabuse.org](http://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>

## **Type:**

Sexual Assault: 1, 8, 22, 41, 45

Physical Abuse: 2, 6, 7, 14, 18, 45, 52, 53, 54 (torture)

Emotional Abuse: 57

Financial Abuse: 4, 10, 11, 13, 15, 57

Seclusion/Restraint: 19, 20, 43, 56

Murder: 3k, 12, 16, 17, 41, 62

Neglected: 5

Human Trafficking: 7

Related to special education: 2, 6, 8, 19, 20

**Winner of most egregious award:** 4: Care staff and administrators steal from patients; 7: after mother's death, woman with autism physically abused and used for sex trafficking by family; 9: Maine failed to investigate multiple deaths reported in residential care programs.

**Winner of most wonderful award:** (none this week)

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

Family: 3, 5, 7, 12, 13, 41, 53, 62

Carer: 4, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 22, 43, 56

Stranger: 1, 16, 45, 54, 57

Special education staff: 6, 8, 18, 19, 20

Co-student: 2

Law enforcement professional: 14

**Gender of Perpetrator:**

Men: 1, 3, 5, 8, 13, 16, 22, 41, 45, 53, 54

Women: 2, 3, 7, 10, 11, 12, 17, 62

**Good News:** 29: Proposed legislation to improve service for air travelers with disabilities; 30: More professionals added to mandated reporters list in Ohio.

**Bad News:** 14: Police mace Deaf man; 36: congress reluctant to pass Civil Rights bill for people with disabilities; 42: Reporting abuse in nursing homes appears ineffective in reducing or getting a response; 48: reports of discrimination in health services per 1 in 5 reports; 49: Abuse in Ireland's care centers research reveals thousands of cases per study, indicating percentages per types of abuse.

## ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “2 Charged in Rape, Sodomy of Mentally-Disabled Woman: 1 Jailed, 1 At Large” - Two men have been charged with the rape of a mentally disabled woman in Shelby County. – AL.COM – October 1, 2018 – (Alabama) - <https://is.gd/jTQDAx>
2. “VIDEO: Special-Needs Student Allegedly Bullied, Assaulted, Police Investigating” - “This type of behavior is not tolerated at any of our schools,” the Antelope Valley Union High School District said in a statement. “Appropriate action has been taken with the parties involved by the both the school and law enforcement.” – NBC 12 – September 29, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/SGMeOD>
3. “Duo Implicated in Grandmother's Death Nabbed Near Las Cruces” - Two homicide suspects from Florida were taken into custody at the Border Patrol checkpoint on Interstate 25 north of Las Cruces on Sunday. Arthur Ross Miller, 36, and Vivian Gutierrez, 32, are accused of neglecting Miller's grandmother to the point of death – Las Cruces Sun News – October 5, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/Y20L2J>
4. “3 Instances of Nursing Home Theft Examined” - It feels as though nursing home staff seem to be caught stealing from vulnerable and sick residents and their facilities more often. Brought on by the nation’s opioid epidemic, staff steal medication and patient drugs most often, but theft can also be in the form of residents’ possessions or finances, and when executives swindle millions from the company and spend it on personal items or other investments. – Blog: Levin & Perconti – October 1 ,2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/JisOZ1>

5. “Davenport Man Convicted of Neglect of His Wife's Intellectually Disabled Daughter” - A Davenport man has been convicted of one count of neglect of a dependent person several months after police found his wife’s adult intellectually disabled daughter locked in bedroom at his Davenport home. – Quad City Times – October 5, 2018 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/9ZN1r6>
  
6. “Autistic Boy Who Was Dragged Down School Hallway Has Been Hurt Before, Mom Says” - The mother of a Bates Creek Middle School student with autism says that her son, who sustained cuts and bruises when school officials dragged him down a hallway in September, has been hurt in school before. – Lexington Herald Leader – October 2, 2018 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/zymrOO>
  
7. “Louisiana Woman Pleads Guilty After Relative Held Captive” - A Louisiana woman has pleaded guilty in a case in which a woman relative was held captive — sometimes in a makeshift cage, federal prosecutors said. – Star Tribune – September 29 ,2018 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/OZoZle>
  
8. “Lake Charles School Employee Accused of Raping Disabled Student” - Police say they have arrested a Lake Charles school employee, accused of raping an infirmed student. – KATC 3 – October 3, 2018 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/yqZ1w4>
  
9. “Maine Voices: Parents of The Intellectually Disabled Have Reason to Fear Our Social Service System” - Exacerbating their fears was a 2017 audit by the U.S. DHHS, severely criticizing Maine officials for failing to investigate the deaths of 133 individuals in state-funded facilities between January 2013 and June 2015. Nine deaths were described as “unexplained,

suspicious or untimely.” – Press Herald – October 1, 2018 – (Maine) - <https://is.gd/2GDSYX>

10. “Lowell Woman Allegedly Stole Thousands Meant for Handicapped Kids” - Amy Young allegedly embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars meant for disabled kids and their families over at least half of the 10 years she worked at LifeLinks Inc., using state-provided funds on home modifications, family medical bills, gym memberships, home items, electronic equipment and a party for her son. – Lowell Sun – October 2, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/NQdDq6>
11. “Woman Accused of Stealing Money, Drugs from Disabled Burlington Man Nabbed in Florida” - A woman accused of stealing money and prescription drugs from a disabled and elderly Burlington man who she was supposed to be taking care of was captured in Florida and returned to Massachusetts last week, officials said. – WHDH 7 – October 1, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/mBe0Iz>
12. “Mother Whose Disabled Son Died After Drinking Windshield Washer Fluid Gets Probation” - A mother accused of failing to seek medical treatment fast enough for her disabled son after he drank windshield washer fluid and later died was sentenced to probation last week. – Michigan Live – October 1, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/gLEHoG>
13. “Moberly Man Charged with Financial Exploitation of Missing Wife” - Lawrence Warfel, 75, of Moberly was charged Thursday with financial exploitation of an elder/disabled person, a class C felony. Lawrence Warfel was withdrawing cash for nearly a year from his missing wife’s Social Security debit card, according to a probable cause statement made by

Randolph County Sheriff's Deputy Aaron Wilson. – Moberly Monitor – September 28, 2018 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/jr1mnw>

14. "Video of Paterson Police Appearing to Mace Deaf Man Sparks Outrage" - A viral video of a deaf man in Paterson who was arrested on Friday has caught the attention of the city's mayor. – NorthJersey.Com – October 1, 2018 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/LPwYHz>
  
15. "Allegations of Elder Abuse and Neglect at Central Ohio Nursing Home Leads to Investigation" - A large red sore across his back, yellow film across the pillow, food on the floor, and a filthy air conditioner. A Central Ohio woman took pictures of what she saw at her 90-year-old grandfather's nursing home, but says they can't capture what she calls neglect and abuse that she saw with her own eyes. – ABC 6- October 3, 2018 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/YhIN41>
  
16. "Man Accused of Killing Portland Woman, 89, Had Decades of Disturbing Behavior" - He racked up dozens of disciplinary infractions during more than a decade in prison, records show. From behind bars nearly 30 years ago, he also pursued a different elderly woman, that woman's family said. – The Oregonian – September 28, 2018 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/oKyywc>
  
17. "Woman Charged with Death of Elderly Man in Her Care in Columbia" - Betty Miles, 75, is facing a count of neglect of an elderly adult resulting in death. Back on June 27, Henry Harmon was found dead at Miles Residential Care on Koon Store Road, which Miles owns. – WLTX 19 – October 2, 2018 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/XtS5AZ>

18. "Lawsuit Claims Socastee High Special Needs Student Victim of Assault, Negligence" - A family says their special needs daughter was assaulted and neglected by educators at Socastee High School. The family, identified in the court documents as John, Jane and Janie Doe, says the student has an intellectual disability, vision impairment and is non-verbal. – WMBF News-October 4, 2018 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/Woz1tP>
  
19. "Texas Mom Said Teachers Forced Autistic Daughter into Closet" - A Texas mother said teachers forced her young daughter, who has autism, into a closet and held the door closed. And the mother, Jennifer Clark, is demanding an apology. Clark said it happened at David Elementary School, in the Conroe Independent School District. "They never told me that she could be forcibly put in this (seclusion) room and locked in," Clark said. – Rochester First – October 4, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/xUIDFG>
  
20. "The Hidden Victims of Restraint: Facility Caregivers and Staff" - When staff treats these children, techniques can include applying restraints or seclusion. This year alone, under the load of increasing admissions, staff members here placed children in mechanical restraints 621 times. – News Leader – October 3, 2018 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/KJEo24>
  
21. "Bus Driver Shortage Leaves Special-Needs Child at Home" - "We were standing by this window, the bus never showed up," said Tiffany Connors, who described her son's disappointment when she said the bus never showed up on the first day of school. – KIRO 7 – October 4, 2018 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/7aWWkk>
  
22. "Couple Sues State Hospital Over Assault" - A Weston County couple accuses the state's provider of mental health services of breaching their

duties of care by allowing the couple's daughter, a vulnerable adult, to be sexually assaulted by a person charged with watching her during one-on-one observation periods. – Gillette News Record – October 1, 2018 – (Wyoming) - <https://is.gd/w3wFrF>

## GUARDIANSHIP

23. “New Law Offers Alternative to Traditional Guardianship” - A new alternative to traditional full guardianship for older adults in Alaska is “a cutting-edge concept” and more person-centered, AARP Alaska says. [HB 336](#), which was signed by Gov. Bill Walker on Thursday, allows for the creation of a formal legal agreement among a vulnerable adult and his or her chosen “supporters” — who could be family, friends or others — for counsel and support of the adult in making important decisions. – McKnights Senior Living – October 3, 2018 – (Alaska) - <https://is.gd/k5aNLJ>

24. “San Francisco Seeks to Implement Recently Signed Conservatorship Bill” - A bill signed by Gov. Jerry Brown last week will allow for San Francisco to create new conservatorship programs for severely mentally ill people to get them off city streets and into treatment. – KPIX 5 – October 4, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/VWKHGi>

25. “Tips for Voters: Getting Help Voting and Independent Voting” - 1. If you are under a guardianship you still have the right to vote unless your guardianship court order says that the court has taken away your right to vote. – Austin Daily Herald – September 29, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/207V1p>

26. “For Desperate Parents, Possibility of Guardianship Over Gravely Disabled Adult Children” -A Washington state senator who says he's heard from

“literally hundreds of parents” of adult children who are struggling with mental illness or addiction wants to allow families to petition for temporary guardianship. – NW News Network – October 3, 2018 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/irhKO2>

27. “Guardianship Vs Settlement Trust: Which Is the Better Solution?” - When a person is injured, they can suffer any number of life-changing medical complications. In some cases, they may be rendered incapacitated. Legally, this means the person is no longer capable of making some—or possibly any—decisions on his or her behalf. – The Legal Examiner – October 1, 2018 – (No State Identified) - <https://is.gd/EVykt0>

## LAWS & LEGISLATIONS

28. “Bill to Protect Elderly in American Samoa Moves to Next Stage” - The American Samoa Senate has given final approval to the Lolo Administration's legislation, which creates a new law to protect the territory's elderly and disabled adult population. The "Elderly and Disabled Adult Neglect, Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Act" now goes to the territory's House of Representatives for their review and approval. – Radio NZ – September 29, 2018 (American Samoa) - <https://is.gd/ncEgRB>

29. “Senator Baldwin’s Reforms To Protect Rights Of Disabled Airline Passengers Pass Congress” - U.S. Senator [Tammy Baldwin](#) worked to include a number of key measures from her Air Carrier Access Amendments Act in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 to protect the rights of disabled airplane passengers and close service gaps that passengers with disabilities frequently encounter in air travel. The reforms included in the legislation passed the House and the Senate and now head to the President for his signature. – Urban Milwaukee – October 3, 2018 – (D.C.) <https://is.gd/fptQNR>

30. “This New Law Means Many More Ohio Officials Are Watching Out for Elder Abuse. Here’s Why It Was Passed.” - New requirements begin today that broaden the definition of a mandatory reporter to pull in professions that have the ability to spot issues from many different perspectives. Those include pharmacists, dialysis technicians, firefighters, first responders, building inspectors, CPAs, real estate agents, bank employees, financial planners and notary publics. – Springfield News - Sun – September 29, 2018 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/tBeDIH>
31. “Texas Spent Less on Students with Disabilities. But Did It Break the Law?” - But the U.S. government says Texas violated an unambiguous federal law requiring states to maintain the same amount of funding each year for special education services in order to continue to be eligible for federal special education grants. – The Texas Tribune – October 1, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/KR9IEj>
32. “AG Schimel’s Elder Abuse Task Force Proposes Legislation” - A state Justice Department task force is proposing a package of legislation designed to protect senior citizens and vulnerable adults from exploitation. – Channel 3000 – October 3, 2018 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/5NsBOE>

## STUDIES & STATISTICS

33. “Study Links Subset of Genetic Variants to Autism, Intellectual Disability” - The study looked at nearly 7,000 people who have a condition of brain development, such as intellectual disability, developmental delay or autism. The participants are all severely affected, suggesting that their conditions are the result of rare mutations, some of which are spontaneous or non-

inherited. – Spectrum – October 3, 2018 – (National- Multiple Sites) - <https://is.gd/9D8pV4>

## IMPROVED SUPPORTS

34. “New Technology at Sky Harbor Helps Those with Hearing Loss Communicate” - Newly installed video relay service tablets are now available at Sky Harbor International Airport to assist the deaf, hard of hearing and speech-challenged travelers – Fox 10 – September 30, 2018 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/qJYFOE>
  
35. “Panama - Buena Vista District to Directly Serve Most Special-Needs Students” - “We wanted to have greater oversight and control over the programs that our students are going into,” said Denita Maughan, director of special services for the district. “Instead of sending them away where we have little to no contact with them, we are providing the services and supports and making sure they have the highest quality education they can get.” – Bakersfield – September 29, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/xQBZoP>
  
36. “Congress Reluctant to Pass Civil Rights Bill for People with Disabilities” - Advocates say the bipartisan bill is crucial for ensuring that people living with disabilities are not forced to live in nursing homes and other institutions against their will and can choose to receive supportive services in their own homes instead. – Truth Out – September 29, 2018 – (D.C.) - <https://is.gd/Eg5Rn9>
  
37. “New D.C. Program Aims to Make It Easier for Victims to Report Sexual Assault” - The new SVU includes a team of specially trained prosecutors who focus on cases in which juveniles commit sexual assaults and other

crimes against other juveniles. The unit also works to prosecute juveniles who commit crimes against the elderly and disabled, as well as adults charged with indecent exposure. Everyone is trained in “trauma informed” interviewing, which helps elicit sensitive details of a crime without causing unnecessary discomfort. – The Washington Post – October 2, 2018 – (D.C.) - <https://is.gd/ft5Eqt>

38. “Ohio Expands List of People Required to Report Elder Abuse” - Ohio is expanding the list of people required to report suspicions of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation to authorities. – The News Herald – September 29, 2018 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/vzOM8X>

39. “Protecting the Most Vulnerable: Ordinary Residents Can Help Elderly from Being Abused” - Last year, Adult Protective Services received 22,709 calls of possible abuse, neglect, exploitation or self-neglect of vulnerable adults, referring 9,181 cases to community partners for services and referring 5,029 to community partners to meet basic needs. – Enid News & Eagle – September 30, 2018 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/DIZ9PO>

## INTERNATIONAL

40. “Sydney Aged Care Home Faces Sanctions After Alleged Assault” - An aged care home on Sydney's northern beaches is at risk of permanently losing its government accreditation after one of its workers was secretly filmed allegedly abusing an elderly dementia patient. – ABC News – October 2, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/hDtBd2>

41. “Brazilian Man Jailed for Sexually Abusing His Wife's Mentally-Ill Sister Is Released from Prison but Then Murders His 13-Year-Old Daughter” - Leticia Tanzi Lucas, 13, was brutally murdered by her father on Wednesday after

she declined to withdraw the sexual abuse charges she levied against him. – Daily Mail – October 6, 2018 – (Brazil) - <https://is.gd/IDNFM8>

42. “Reporting Alleged Abuse in Nursing Homes to Province 'Like Talking to A Wall,' Families Say” - Lack of follow-up from Health Department 'a slap in the face,' says sister of late dementia patient – CBC – October 2, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/OMNagB>

43. “Physical Restraint Used On 50% More NHS Patients with Learning Disabilities” - Growing numbers of patients with learning disabilities are being physically restrained in mental health units, despite ministers telling [NHS](#) trusts to use such techniques less often. – The Guardian – October 1, 2018 – (England) - <https://is.gd/GZy6iX>

44. “North: A Young Person Assaults A Woman in A Wheelchair and His Disabled Son, 4 Years Old” - The facts have any of the aggression for free. A woman in a wheelchair and her 4-year old son is himself disabled were assaulted on Friday 28 in the morning at Anzin, in the North by an individual aged twenty years. – The KOZ Post – October 1, 2018 – (France) - <https://is.gd/ShbQdn>

45. “Isère: Hosted by A “Friend”, A Young Disabled Person Is Raped and Tortured” - Five young men aged 17 to 19, have been indicted by a judge from Grenoble Thursday, 20 for rape and violence in a meeting on the vulnerable person. A warrant of committal has been issued against them, according to France Bleu Isère, which reports the facts. – The KOZ Post – September 21, 2018 – (France) - <https://is.gd/IEalkW>

46. “Indonesia: Shackling Reduced, But Persists” - The [Indonesian](#) government has taken important steps to end the practice of shackling people with mental health conditions, Human Rights Watch said today. But many people remain locked up in institutions instead of being able to live in the community. – The Human Rights Watch – October 2, 2018 – (Indonesia) - <https://is.gd/54SVUt>
47. “Report Finds People with Disabilities Experience More Discrimination Than Those Without” - Around one in every five reports of discrimination among people with disabilities concerns health services, more than any other area of life. ESRI Research Officer Dr Joanne Banks said they are making recommendations to improve the situation for disabled people at work. – Irish Examiner – October 1, 2018 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/cGPnmy>
48. “One in Five Reports of Discrimination Against Disabled Linked to Health Services” - People with disabilities are to be invited to serve on a committee to monitor the implementation by Ireland of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. – Irish Times – October 1, 2018 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/iFFxKK> (Different Story from Above)
49. “HIQA Received 4,600 Allegations of Abuse of Disabled Residents In 2017” - The complaints, which were passed on to the Health Information and Quality Authority (Hiqa) by the country’s 1,109 care centres, also included allegations of sexual abuse (209), psychological abuse (104) and “financial or material” abuse (135) by staff and other residents. – The Irish Times – October 1, 2018 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/0kuE47>
50. “Special-Needs Schools Ask for Staff Training on The Safe Restraint of Pupils” - The Inclusion Ireland report highlighted 14 cases in which parents

said their children with disabilities were injured or traumatised from being physically restrained by staff or secluded in unsuitable rooms without supervision. – The Irish Examiner – October 2, 2018 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/Bkc5th>

51. “Woman, 62, Extradited to Israel Over Abuse of Disabled Son” - Suspect lost custody of her adult son after allegedly starving and chaining him, then kidnapped him from care facility and fled to Cyprus. She was extradited from Cyprus to Israel on Thursday. – The Times of Israel - October 5, 2018 – (Israel) - <https://is.gd/ZH7blu>

52. “Napier Rest Home Found in Breach of Code After Elderly Man Died After Assault by Fellow Resident” - A Health and Disability Services report released today found a Napier rest home in breach of the Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights Code over the incident which saw an 87-year-old man die. – New Zealand Herald – October 1, 2018 – (New Zealand) - <https://is.gd/gRU0b4>

53. “Gloriavale Father Convicted for Assaulting Daughters Across 13 Years” - An assault case that Gloriavale tried to keep suppressed can now be revealed, shining light on a culture of child discipline in the religious sect. – NewsHub- October 6, 2018 – (New Zealand) - <https://is.gd/eYUD0x>

54. “Ural Teens Rape and Torture Disabled Kid with Soldering Iron While Chanting "A.U.E." - Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug is conducting an investigation into video clips on the VKontakte social network. The videos show two teenagers being tortured in Khanty-Mansiysk. One of the victims reportedly has a disability. – Crime Russia – October 2, 2018 – (Russia) - <https://is.gd/1VAApx>

55. "I Had to Fight for My Daughter's Autism Diagnosis – There's Still A Belief That It Just Affects Boys" - The professor claims that there are up to 200,000 undiagnosed autistic women in the UK, which may affect their mental health. – Metro – September 29, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/CSVqrt>

56. "Shameful' Use of Restraints on Disabled Patients" - The use of restraints on adults with learning disabilities in hospital units in England rose by 50% between 2016 and 2017, figures show. – BBC News – October 2, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/ZTcDEH>

57. "Disabled 78-Year-Old Woman Evicted After Being 'Exploited' By Drug Dealers Who Used Her Home" - A judge accepted that deaf, partially sighted wheelchair user Kathleen Carmichael was not involved in drug activity and anti-social behaviour at her house. The pensioner still lost her adapted home of 25 years at St Nicholas Court, Grangetown because others were using it to cause trouble. – Teesside Live – October 1, 2018 – (Wales) - <https://is.gd/w1O0r9>