

# Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of July 20 to July 27, 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*, *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.

## Types of Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 2, 4, 33, 42

Physical Abuse: 2, 6, 13

Emotional abuse: 30

Human trafficking: 6

Neglect: 1, 3 7, 8, 10, 13, 14

Murder: 8, 10

Restraint: 5, 6

***WINNER of most egregious award:*** 31: Latimer, who was convicted of murdering his daughter who had cerebral palsy seeks pardon.

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

Family: 3, 6

Parents: 3, 14

School: 5

Carer: 1, 7, 8, 19, 13

Job Coach: 2

Co-Students: 30

Therapist: 4

(Note: not all articles identify gender of perpetrators.)

Men: 2, 4, 6, 8, 14, 33

Women: 1, 6, 13, 14

**Good News:** 15: DPCC to host Registry of Abusers of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; 21: Chicago Board to change ambiguous suspension policies; 48: CCTV approved for all care homes.

**Bad News:** 27: Schools do not provide summer services, parents scramble to provide care; 39: lawyers protest increase in sexual assault of women with disabilities; 46: sentence reduced for sexual assault perpetrator; 47: children with autism given sex change drugs; 51: increase in hate crimes lead to increase in charity action.

**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>

## ABUSE & NELECT

1. "Owners of elder care home charged with abuse after five hospitalized" - City code enforcement officials shut down an elder care facility Wednesday after temperatures inside reached 103 degrees and five victims were hospitalized. Its owner faces several counts of abuse and endangerment. - KGUN 9 – July 26, 2018 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/7alvrS>
2. "Job coach in sex case was fired for shoving disabled client" - The detective recounts accusations by one of the disabled men who had worked for HARC, a Hartford-based organization for the handicapped, that Marchand engaged in sex acts with him and another male client, as well as directing the two clients to engage in sex acts with each other.- Journal Inquirer- July 20, 2018- (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/vYLzZn>
3. "Parents charged after 21-year-old man with disability found severely malnourished" - The mother and stepfather of a 21-year-old man with a disability who was found severely malnourished in a southwest Atlanta home were charged with felony abuse and cruelty on Monday. The 21-year-old was removed from the home on Thornberry Lane on Saturday and taken to Grady Memorial Hospital in grave condition, polices say. - WSB-TV- July 23, 2018 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/svAGNX>
4. "Coeur d'Alene therapist accused of rape, sexual abuse and exploitation of a vulnerable adult" - Jeffrey Worley is facing charges of rape and sexual abuse and exploitation of a vulnerable adult. He was arrested Thursday and booked into the Kootenai County Jail. – KREM 2 – July 20, 2018 – (Idaho) - <https://is.gd/AtiqZT>
5. "Indiana couple: School strapped autistic daughter to chair" - Charles and Heather Castle allege in a federal lawsuit filed last month that the teacher and two paraprofessionals at Kingsford Heights Elementary School tied their daughter down to a plywood chair with a belt, causing bruises and abrasions to her body, the (Northwest Indiana) Times reported. - Hastings Tribune – July 27, 2018- (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/VXFvUa>

6. "5 charged for holding autistic Amite woman in cage, accused of beating her among other heinous acts" - The physical and psychological abuse of an autistic woman held captive for a year in Tangipahoa Parish included forcing her to eat both dog feces and her mother's ashes, attempted sex trafficking and numerous beatings, according to charges issued Thursday against five Amite residents in federal court in New Orleans.- The Advocate – July 26, 2018 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/ktbsVd>
7. "Facility Facing Possible Charges After Autistic Man Found Alone, Jogging Near I-9" - The case of the missing non-verbal autistic man found jogging along Interstate 93 Monday in Lawrence, Massachusetts, is now being viewed as a "potential crime," according to police. – NBC Boston- July 25, 2018- (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/d9z549>
8. "Cadillac man charged with vulnerable adult abuse" - A 58-year-old Cadillac man is facing an abuse charge after he was recently arrested and arraigned in 84th District Court. Jay De Spoor was charged with one count of second-degree vulnerable adult abuse for allegedly failing to provide physical, medical and hygienic care that caused a vulnerable adult to incur infections which contributed to their death, court records indicate. – Cadillac News – July 20, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/hpZ12e>
9. Michigan parents ordered to get rid of autistic son's ducks - Parents of a 12-year-old boy with autism are fighting against a western Michigan township's order to get rid of their son's ducks that are used as emotional support animals.- WNDU 16- July 25, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/hCDynj>
10. "Family seeks answers after man dies at local group home" - A family is seeking answers after a man was found dead at a group home. Wally Lassiter had been living at Wildwood Programs in Schenectady for several years, but something went wrong two weeks ago. Now, police and the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs are investigating. – News 10 – July 19, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/rPOSro>

11. Cuomo & Miranda allowing countless sexual predators to walk our streets - *Sexual predators, pedophiles and rapists are protected from prosecution and released to the streets- This is a summary of previous stories related to this issue.* – EIN News Desk – July 23, 2018- (New York) - <https://is.gd/n1hzhm>
12. Picture shared on social media sparks outrage, caregiver and family say it isn't what it seems - The picture shows a caregiver at what is described as a car wash in Rockwell. An elderly man is bending down and appears to be wiping the rims of the car while the caregiver watches. "She pushes him around almost making him fall, jerks him around," the caption reads. "She was forcing him to clean her rims though he could barely bend down." –WBTV 3 – July 26, 2018- (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/Et9NFi>
13. Residential care facility remains under investigation after owner arrested for abuse, neglect - The owner of a Columbia residential care facility is now facing multiple charges of abuse and neglect. Betty Miles, the owner of Miles Residential Care, has been charged four counts of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults. – WISTV News – July 23, 2018 – (South Carolina) <https://is.gd/UEhTWX>
14. "Hoarder' house and injuries of disabled adult described in newly filed search warrant" - According to court documents, the Harrell Avenue home was, "consistent of a 'hoarder' with piles of property with carved pathways throughout the residence to navigate." The search warrant also describes pictures of 24-year-old Jason Arenz, an adult with cerebral palsy whose primary caregivers were his parents, Philip and Georgia Arenz. Original medical files state Jason Arenz had bed sores infected with maggots, fused bones and severe ulcers. – WTKR- 3 News- July 24, 2018- (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/AKQiVv>

## LAWS & LEGISLATIONS

15. "Caretaker registry bill advances to House" - Advocates for people with disabilities cheered the Senate for passing a bill to create a registry of caretakers found to have abused those in their care and called on the House to follow suit before the end of the month. The Senate bill (S 2606) would direct

the Disabled Persons Protection Commission to maintain the "Massachusetts Registry of Abusers of Persons with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities" and add to the list any care provider against whom the commission substantiates a claim of abuse. – Lowell Sun News – July 21, 2018- (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/3RECAF>

## STUDIES & STATISTICS

16. "Systematic failures in Illinois Department of Human Services' group home oversight." - An Illinois state audit has found systemic failures in the Department of Human Services licensing and oversight of thousands of taxpayer-funded group homes for adults with disabilities. - The nearly 230-page report released Thursday by Auditor General Frank Mautino's office found communication failures within the state DHS, the Chicago Tribune reported. – WQAD 8- July 20, 2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/6Rr9p2>

## IMPROVED SUPPORTS

17. "UF Dorm Designed For Disabled Students Getting An Expansion." - One of the special offerings of the Cypress Hall dormitories is a lift system to get disabled students easily out of bed and around their rooms. UF's Director of Disability Resource Center Gerardo Altamirano explained: "UF is one of two facilities in the nation that has lift systems integrated in the resident hall dwelling and the only institution which is a top ten public research institution." – WCJB- July 20, 2018 – (Florida) <https://is.gd/K5eP0V>

18. "Ivy Hawn to remedy 'discriminatory acts' with more ESE services" - In an effort to change what the district's attorney called "discriminatory" practices by Ivy Hawn Charter School of the Arts in its accommodations for students with disabilities (Exceptional Student Education), the Volusia County School Board will vote on a new corrective action plan on Tuesday. – The Daytona Beach News Journal – July 21, 2018- (Florida) - <https://is.gd/EmYTus>

19. "National parks aim to increase accessibility" - The upgraded trail reopened earlier this year after a \$1.1 million transformation from a rolling, rutted gravel

footpath to an 8-foot-wide concrete and wood path with little slope. New exhibits include Braille and invite visitors to experience them by touch to make them more meaningful to the visually or cognitively impaired. – Denton Record Chronicle – July 21, 2018 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/WG27PT>

20. “New plan calls for CTA stations to be fully accessible by 2038” - The Quincy station has only stairs now, but an \$18 million revamp will add two elevators. The CTA now plans to make all its L stations compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act by 2038.- Chicago Sun Times- July 20, 2018- (Illinois) <https://is.gd/h3weI5>
21. “CPS to Revise Student Suspension, Bullying Guidelines” - The Chicago Board of Education will soon consider alterations to Chicago Public School’s student conduct policy, including changes to ambiguous suspension policies and the addition of requirements relating to student-on-student sexual abuse and harassment. – WTTW- July 23, 2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/sbPQ5w>
22. “Seneca White Deer adds handicapped accessible bus for tours, adds another day” - With financial help from Seneca Meadows, Seneca White Deer has a 14-passenger, handicapped-accessible bus to use on its tours. – Finger Lakes Times- July 20, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/INXCo3>
23. “Smart Lending for Underserved Demographics” - *Empowering the underserved*: The Census Bureau reports that one in 10 people within the U.S. population has a disability, making them a large percentage of the underserved population. Many basic financial services, including traditional and alternative banking, online payment services, and mobile banking are inaccessible to this group. With the advent of accessible technology, including magnifiers, dictation support, hearing aids, and more, people with disabilities are gaining access to the financial services they deserve. – The MR Report – July 21, 2018- (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/dJpMw4>
24. “As the 28th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act approaches, Pittsburgh’s city government is poised to make the city more disability-friendly” - Advocates say another problem lies behind the scenes. Despite the

city's stated agenda for inclusivity, advocates say the city didn't give enough consideration to disability access in the early planning stages of new initiatives like bicycle paths and bus rapid transit. When accessible parking spaces were removed to clear space for bike lanes in Oakland, advocates protested, saying the city did not account for their needs. - Public Source – July 23, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/Dops3n>

25. "School district, community outline plan to address 'systemic issues' in special education" - But most students with disabilities in the district are bused to certain schools where they spend their days segregated from the general population. This widespread problem, which experts say violates the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, is what a three-year plan for inclusion presented at Thursday's school board meeting aims to address. – Times Free Press – July 22, 2018 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/xoXExJ>

26. "American Fork Presbyterian church opens park for autistic kids " - At first glance, the new park at the American Fork Presbyterian Church looks a lot like other parks: a squat brown and red play system with slides, spinning panels, tunnels, platforms and a playground spinner.- Daily Herald- July 22, 2018 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/xuySih>

27. "Summer can be challenge for some families of kids with special needs" - With school divisions unable to provide many of the services available during the school year to children with special needs over the summer, parents have to find other avenues to educate and entertain their children. – The News Advance – July 21, 2018 – (Virginia) <https://is.gd/3NDH7V>

28. "Virginia To Conduct First Rate Study of Private Special Education Day Program Services" - The Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) plans to conduct its first-ever rate study of private special education day program services, according to a recent request for proposals (RFP OCS-18-201). – Open Minds – July 22, 2018 – Virginia - <https://is.gd/7NNLlo>



## INTERNATIONAL

29. "Law to bring SA into abuse redress scheme" - The South Australian government has introduced legislation to state parliament to confirm SA's participation in the National Redress Scheme for victims of institutional child sex abuse. – 9 News – July 25, 2018- (Australia) - <https://is.gd/prBRGi>- Again not specific to PWD but may apply.
30. "My son with Asperger's received a petition at school telling him he's disgusting". - A hand-written petition, given to him in class, in which a half dozen or more of his fellow students told him he was disgusting. They went on to explain exactly why. Then they signed the document and presented it to him. – Honey Nine – July 24, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/FO2Rqv>
31. "Canadian man who killed disabled daughter seeks pardon" - Sixty-five-year-old Robert Latimer received a life-sentence (including ten years without parole) after killing his daughter Tracy Latimer in 1993; Tracy suffered from severe cerebral palsy, and was allegedly in "chronic pain". In October 1993, Latimer propped the girl's head up against the front seat of his truck and connected a hose from the truck's exhaust pipe to the cab. – BioEdge- July 21, 2018 (Canada) - <https://is.gd/RjriAJ>
32. "Cameroon's burgeoning disability rights movement" – in pictures – Picture Essay- The Telegraph- July 24, 2018 – (Cameroon) <https://is.gd/XUXsRu>
33. "Christian Missionary Gets 23 Years for Sexually Abusing Vulnerable Kids in Haiti" - A man serving as a Christian missionary in Haiti was sentenced yesterday to 23 years in prison for sexually abusing a child under 12 years old during his international travels.- No Sacred Cows- July 24, 2018- (Haiti) - <https://is.gd/1fsaf2>- This is not specific to PWD but applies generally
34. "Physically challenged rape convict commits suicide in Haryana's Panipat – Handigarh" - A 32-year-old disabled man, who happens to be a rape convict committed suicide in his house. – The Times of India – July 22, 2018 – (India)

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/physically-challenged-rape-convict-commits-suicide-in-haryanas-panipat/articleshow/65092721.cms>  
(Shortened URL not available)

35. “How Google Glass-based solutions can empower autistic people in India” - Google Glass -- an eye-wearable device that made headlines in 2015 but failed in the consumer technology space -- has now rekindled the hopes of millions of people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) globally, including in India. – The Economic Times – July 22, 2018–(India)-  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/how-google-glass-based-solutions-can-empower-autistic-people-in-india/articleshow/65089240.cms> - (Shorten URL not Available)
36. “Activists Note Serious Failings by Iranian Organization Tasked with Supporting People with Disabilities” - As Iran’s State Welfare Organization (SWO) marked its 38th birthday, several people with disabilities based in the country told the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) that the organization must undergo fundamental reform in order to carry out its mission. – Center for Human Rights in Iran – July 21, 2018 – (Iran) - <https://is.gd/rKmRrV>
37. “Disability rights group calls for ‘drastic increase’ in support” - Ireland’s recent ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is “ironic” given the ongoing lack of supports for people to live independently, a leading disability rights organisation has said. The Irish Times – July 23, 2018 – (Ireland) <https://is.gd/k30sMr>
38. “Disabled 'Panthers' Resume Protests and Block Railroad Traffic”- "The disgraceful raise that we received this year leaves us below the poverty line and sentences the disabled people to starvation...," said Naomi Moravia. Demanding an immediate raise in the monthly allowance given to people with disabilities, a group of 15 activists representing the disabled community blocked trains for 30 minutes on the Tel Aviv-Haifa railroad line on Tuesday. – The Jerusalem Post – July 24, 2018 – (Israel) - <https://is.gd/SLcwh2>

39. “FIDA (Federación Internacional de Abogadas) irked by rising rape cases against disabled women” - Women leaders have condemned the rise in sexual assault against women living with disability. FIDA chairperson Josephine Mong’are yesterday said the government should give security to women with disability and act accordingly for those affected. – The Star- July 30, 2018- (Kenya) - <https://is.gd/taZUKk>
40. “Sadiq Khan urged to intervene over London’s ‘special needs timebomb’” - In 2017, around 204,000, or 14 per cent of all pupils in London had some level of special educational need or disability. This is 20 per cent more than ten years ago, and thousands more places for SEND pupils will be needed in the coming years, politicians have warned. – Schools Week – July 23, 2018 – (London) - <https://is.gd/EHHBoV>
41. “NEWS learns some disabled people being paid as little as 89 cents an hour to work in NZ” - and it's legal- People with disabilities are being paid as little as 89 cents an hour to work in New Zealand, while hundreds are earning less than \$5 an hour - and it's all legal. In the last three years, 1500 minimum wage exemptions have been granted by the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment for businesses that employ disabled people. 1 News – July 20, 2018 – (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/8qK6WB>
42. “Two girls including one disabled raped in Punjab” - Two girls including a disabled one became the victims of rape on Saturday in separate incidents of sexual violence in Multan and Sheikhpura, cities of Punjab province. – Pakistan Today – July 21, 2018 – (Pakistan) - <https://is.gd/kPQPPO>
43. “No Party Addresses Disabled Persons’ issues in their manifestos, says study” - Though they do mention persons with disabilities, none of the political parties’ manifestos include their plans for addressing issues faced by disabled people, a new study says. – DAWN – July 23, 2018 – (Pakistan) - <https://is.gd/VhP4kY>
44. GO GEORGE showcased as example at national disability rights meeting - The GO GEORGE bus service was presented as a case study of the integrated public

transport network that has made most progress in moving towards universal access (UA) in public transport at the annual National Disability Rights Machinery (NDRM) meeting recently held in Pretoria. – Rnews- July 23, 2018 – (Pretoria) - <https://is.gd/dWrSN3>

45. “Disabled woman asked to remove CCTV camera from Aberdeen home” - Smrithi Pucadyil, of Kittybrewster, took the decision to install a camera outside her front door after several instances of antisocial behaviour in the area left her feeling vulnerable and afraid. However, Grampian Housing Association (GHA), which owns the property, has said it is not permitted due to being in a communal area. The CCTV would also help me to see who is ringing the doorbell, because I cannot get up each time it rings. “The stress of the whole situation has left me bedridden for over a week and I have had panic attacks. – Evening Express- July 21, 2108 – (Scotland) - <https://is.gd/Tqgqd9>
46. “Andalucia’s Superior Court of Justice has cut a jail sentence for a defendant convicted of sexually assaulting a woman with Asperger’s syndrome in Garrucha in Almeria following an appeal”. - The court, sitting in Granada, ruled the defendant would now serve seven years in prison after it found the man did not know about the woman’s disability.- Sol Times – July 25, 2018 – (Spain) - <https://is.gd/3fUqi6>
47. “Autistic children given sex change drugs by the NHS”- Up to 150 youngsters treated with puberty-blocking jabs 'might not even be transgender'- Up to 150 youngsters have been given ‘puberty blocker’ drugs, which stop the body maturing, after being seen at Britain’s only NHS child transgender clinic- Daily Mail – July 21, 2018- (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/t4dvqY>
48. “Hope of law to put CCTV in all care homes” - Thousands of care homes could be forced to install CCTV under a new drive to stamp out shocking cases of abuse and neglect. - Express- July 23, 2018- (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/DDD74U>
49. “Child Sex Abuse Inquiry Fined £200,000 After Email Identifies Abuse Victims”- For the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse though, sending the wrong e-

mail was a major data breach which resulted in them receiving a £200,000 fine. – Human Rights News- July 23, 2018- (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/fwwg3q> (Although this did not specifically identify people with disabilities as being victims, it could impact them)

50. “More action urged on women's human rights” - A report says UK welfare reforms have had a "disproportionate impact", particularly on disabled, black and minority ethnic women and lone mothers. SHRC also highlights mental health and inequality in pay and job status. The report, to be presented to the UN's Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women on Monday, makes 27 recommendations for improvements. – BBC News – July 23, 2018- (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/yLNFkW>
51. “Charity takes action after huge rise in disability hate crimes” - The latest figures from West Yorkshire Police show disability hate crimes and incidences have increased by 71 per cent. Disability charity United Response is now working with West Yorkshire Police to help people with physical and learning disabilities, Down syndrome and autism to recognise the signs of hate crimes and know how to report them.- Yorkshire Evening Post – July 22, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/QT9SoD>
52. “Israeli Soldiers Assault Palestinian Youth with Down Syndrome - The soldiers attacked Mahmoud Zayed, 26, with the back of their guns and left him with a broken arm in the Bab al-Zawiya area in Hebron on Friday, Ynis al-Juneidi, head of Palestinian group Fatah in Hebron, said. – Albawaba News- July 22, 2018 – (West Bank) <https://is.gd/PihdaM>

#### MISCELLANEOUS

53. “Charity Champion’ shortlisted for national award for helping families with autistic children”- A St. Albans ‘charity champion’ has been nominated for a national award for her work helping families of children with ADHD and autism. Anne Ross set up the St Albans-based charity ADD-Vance in 1996, and since then the charity has expanded to support families of children affected by ADHD, autism and related conditions across Hertfordshire by offering training,

coaching, support groups, a helpline and Facebook groups. – The Advertiser – July 21, 2018 – (United Kingdom) <https://is.gd/jJY6Yd>

54. “8 autism myths I wish I could dispel.” There have been several myths that have been discussed umpteen times so some might seem repetitive, but pushing the point across one more time might not hurt. -Autism Support Network- July 21, 2018 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/EbvM93>

55. “Critics: Book on killer of disabled people sends wrong message” - Hiroyuki Shinoda of Tsukuru Publishing Co. defends the release of a book about the perpetrator of a deadly attack against disabled people in Kanagawa Prefecture. (Naoto Iizuka) A book about the confessed killer of 19 people was released on July 20, despite deep concerns that it could spread his disdain for disabled people and legitimize his ideas about euthanizing them. – The Asahi Shimbun – July 23, 2018 – (Japan)  
<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201807230065.html>