

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of August 17 to August 23, 2019

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Articles are listed in alphabetical order by state within each category, so you can easily scan through the articles for those within your state or other states in which you have an interest. *International* articles are near the end. The categories are: *Abuse and Neglect*, *Guardianship*, *Laws & Legislation*, *Studies & Statistics*, *Improved Supports*, *International*, and sometimes, *Miscellaneous*.

Check the categories below for a guide to types of abuse. The categories are indicated by type, and the number of the article.

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Please send comments or questions to: nora@disability-abuse.com or baladerian@gmail.com

Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 1, 5, 15, 20, 22, 23, 27, 28, 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, 56

Physical Abuse: 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 17, 26

Financial abuse: 16, 17, 18, 57

Kept enclosed: 55

Murder: 47

Neglected: 4, 8, 9, 15, 21, 26, 51

Related to special education: 54, 55

WINNER of most egregious award: Too hard to choose between: 10: ID theft massive investigation which hurt people with disabilities and elders; 24: Munchausen's case of healthy son; 27: More victims of pries abuse are disclosed; 31: More individuals are left in emergency rooms w/o guardians or carers; 62: ICE sued for ignoring medical and mental health needs of captive detainees.

WINNER of "good job" award: 6: efforts are made to stop shocking of children/adults with autism at "treatment" center.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

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Carer: 1, 3, 4, 9, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23

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LOCATIONS & POSITION:

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Mental Health Day Program: 1

Senior Living Program: 2, 23, 56

Tenant: 50

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Women: 3, 4, 8, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 24, 26, 47, 55

Teams: 3, 4

Good News: 6: Ballot measure seeks to ban program that uses shocking of vulnerable patients; 32: Link found between early trauma and adult illness; 33: Soon one can look up care providers against whom there are credible abuse complaints; 40: Study of abuse of vulnerable adults to begin in AZ following Hacienda tragedy; 41: ASD teen creates app to help track anxiety; 44: Wearable sensor predicts outbursts in ASD individuals; 53: Increased support for abuse victims formed; 59: Airline crew failed to accommodate family including autistic person to sit together; 63: Doctors with disabilities push for change in culture in medicine (NPR)

Bad News: 36: CA Charter schools are excluding children with disabilities; 46: Rule allows nursing homes to over-medicate and restrain elders; 57: Multiple complaints of financial abuse raised without response for five years; 58: Study finds girls with disabilities are considered “unworthy investments” for marriage per 2006 study; 61: Lack of autism specialists in NV causes difficulties for families.

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “Caregiver Accused of Battering Disabled Man” - The man who was beaten was taken to a hospital and treated for injuries. He required stitches to close a wound to his head, officers said. Kevnon Saquan Neal-Parker, 23, of St. Petersburg, was charged with one count of Abuse of a Disabled Person. Police said they were called to D-Tec, a licensed mental health day care facility at 5251 110th Ave. N No. 114, about 2:45 p.m. Monday (Aug. 19) for a report of a battery. Police said they found that Neal-Parker, a D-Tec employee, had battered a client who has a severe cognitive disability. – Tampa Bay Reporter – August 20, 2019 – (Florida)- <https://is.gd/8YHwZ3>

2. "Terracina Grand Maintenance Man Charged with Molesting Dementia Patient" - Terracina Grand Senior Living maintenance man Robert D. Ganassin has been arrested and charged with [molesting an elderly dementia patient](https://is.gd/243OBg) at the facility in Naples, according to the Collier County Sheriff's Office. The report says that Ganassin was found in the victim's room with the door locked on several occasions. During one incident, he was discovered hiding under her bathroom sink. The woman's daughter told deputies that she installed a CCTV camera in her residence because of concerns regarding her mother's safety. According to deputies, the camera captured footage of Ganassin inappropriately touching the victim and attempting to sexually assault her, but that she was able to fight off the attempted assault. – The Legal Herald -August 20, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/243OBg>

3. "6 Mount Dora Caregivers Face Charges for Allegedly Assaulting Disabled Patient" – Six women are facing charges for aggravated assault to a disabled adult after Mount Dora police said the women were supposed to be taking care of. According to the arrest warrant Jalayah Wiggins, Carolyn Joe, Breneisha Blunt and Sheneka Hester all engaged in the abuse. – WFTV 9 – August 26, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/jTZLgy>

4. "Pair Charged with Neglect of Elderly Man" - Victim suffering dementia was 'abandoned' and 'endangered'. Madison S. Kobat, a 31-year-old La Porte woman, has been charged with two Level 6 counts of neglect of a dependent, according to the La Porte County Sheriff's Department. She remained in the La Porte County Jail on a \$755 cash-only bond as of Friday evening. Lawrence R. Zitt III, a 24-year-old Michigan City resident, is also facing a Level 6 felony count of neglect of a dependent, along with a misdemeanor count of conversion, according to the sheriff's department. According to a probable cause affidavit filed by the La Porte County Prosecutor's office, Kobat and Zitt were the caregivers for the

victim, who suffers from dementia and other physical ailments, and requires constant care for feeding and daily functions. The affidavit, filed Aug. 2 in La Porte Circuit Court, alleges they left the victim alone for “multiple days” in a “soiled” adult diaper and “out of reach of food and water.” – The La Port County Herald-Argus – August 16, 2019 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/8GZ0lt>

5. “Cab Driver Charged with Sexually Abusing Woman with Down Syndrome” - Ismael Omer, 35, is charged with sexual abuse after a complaint was filed alleging that he sexually groped a woman with Downs Syndrome. He was a driver for Yellow Cab, which was contracted by TARC to provide the ride. The incident occurred after Omer picked up the woman around 5 p.m. on July 3 from Down Syndrome of Louisville at 5001 S. Hurstbourne Parkway, according to court documents. During the ride, Omer allegedly pulled the cab over, got into the backseat with the woman and groped her. – Courier Journal – August 16, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/k5Lblq>

6. “Initial Ballot Petition Filed to Ban Shocks of Disabled Students” -Daniel Farnkoff watched video of Andre McCollins get restrained and shocked for hours at the Judge Rotenberg Center in Canton and has opposed the practice ever since. The Boston resident, who said he has no ties to Rotenberg Center or the disabled community, has watched as the state and federal governments have both tried, so far unsuccessfully, to end the practice. Now he's trying to do something about it. He's trying to get a ballot question before voters next November that would ban the use of the shocks as therapy. The Rotenberg Center is the only place in the country to use this kind of aversive therapy. – WCVB 5 – August 15, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/MbOmt3>

7. “State Hospital Employee Accused of Beating Mentally Ill Patient State Police Say” - An employee at Shattuck Hospital is accused of beating a mentally ill patient at the Jamaica Plain facility over the weekend, according

to the Massachusetts State Police. 5 Investigates has learned the 55-year-old patient was in the care of the Department of Mental Health. State police said a trooper responded to the hospital at approximately 12:30 p.m. Saturday after a Shattuck Hospital police officer reported the alleged assault. The 30-year-old employee will be summoned to court, according to state police. State police said he will not be identified until he is arraigned in court. – WCVB 5 – August 20, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/vTT6v6>

8. “Macomb County Prosecutor Charges Woman with Abuse of Mother “- This afternoon, Ann Marie Walsh, 56-years-old, of Clinton Township, was arraigned on charges of Vulnerable Adult Abuse – 1st Degree, a 15-year felony, for allegedly neglecting, mistreating, and abusing her own mother. “The amount of [abuse this elderly victim](#) sustained is unbelievable. She has suffered a multitude of trauma, broken bones, and even a brain bleed,” stated Prosecutor Smith. “No one deserves to be treated like this, especially by their own child.” – MI Headlines – August 16, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/qMrWiV>

9. Non-profit helps parents sue Brandon daycare for alleged child abuse - Friday, a lawsuit against Barnyard Kids Child Care Center was filed by the Disability Rights Mississippi non-profit organization in Rankin County Circuit Court. In a statement, the non-profit says that the motion was made after allegations of negligence and abuse of young children with disabilities came to light. – WLBT 3 – August 16, 2019 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/saAgzD>

10. “5 Arrested in Identity Theft Scheme Targeting Disabled and Elderly Veterans” - The Justice Department [announced charges](#) in a foreign-based conspiracy Wednesday in what it called the largest-ever identity theft scheme against military members and their families, with the alleged co-conspirators specifically targeting disabled and elderly veterans. The DOJ said there were at least 3,300 victims of the fraudulent scheme, and that

they weren't done identifying victims in the case. The thefts and attempted thefts of personal information began in 2014 and continued through this summer, totaling in the millions of dollars. – Washington Examiner – August 22, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/qshgJJ>

11. “Nurse Caught on Video Stabbing Autistic Teen with Syringes at N.J. Hospital Loses her License” - New Jersey regulators have revoked the nursing license of a [woman caught on security cameras stabbing an autistic teenager](#) with syringes when he failed to comply with her instructions, officials said Thursday. The state attorney general's Division of Consumer Affairs announced in a news release that the New Jersey Board of Nursing had revoked the registered nursing license of Naomi Derrick because of the 2016 episode at an Atlantic City hospital's psychiatric unit. Officials said they also plan to begin proceedings to revoke Derrick's license for respiratory therapy. – NJ.Com – August 15, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/ou61EG>

12. “‘I Was an Easy Target’: Man in Wheelchair Assaulted” - Police are looking for surveillance and eyewitnesses after a 62-year-old wheelchair-bound man was punched in the nose and thrown to the ground. “I looked like an easy target,” Michael Marinangeli told PIX11 News. Marinangeli uses an electric wheelchair to get around after three strokes and now he has a broken nose after an attack last Saturday night. – PIX 11 – August 17, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/uaheZI>

13. “Disability Rights Advocates Sue NYPD for Body Cam Video of Maspeth Woman’s Shooting Death” - The New York Lawyers for the Public Interest’s Disability Justice Program has [sued the NYPD in Manhattan Supreme Court](#) to obtain the video, which would show the events leading up to the moment officers shot and killed Susan Muller, 54, inside her home. Muller, who had a long history of mental illness, had called 911 to report a robbery. The officers who arrived at her home were reportedly unaware of

her mental health issues and shot her when she allegedly approached them with a knife. The NYPD denied NYLPI's Freedom of Information Law request for audio and video files of the incident, prompting the lawsuit, said Disability Justice Program Director Ruth Lowenkron. – Queen's Daily Eagle – August 20, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/C3WHFB>

14. "WNC Woman Accused of Abusing Disabled Nursing Home Patients" - Sheriff's officials in North Carolina say a nursing home aide has been arrested on accusations she abused elderly, disabled patients. The Asheville Citizen-Times reports that arrest records show 34-year-old Tryquissa Maria Liverman was charged with three misdemeanors in connection with reported assaults on disabled patients at a Fletcher nursing home. Arrest documents accuse her of pinching and striking patients in the face. – WSPA 7 News – August 21, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/Z1nf7b>

15. "Defendants Sentenced for Rape, Armed Robbery, Neglect of the Disabled" - Christopher Glen Hall, of 112 Warlick Road, Mills River, pleaded guilty in Henderson County Superior Court to neglect of a disabled person causing serious injury, misdemeanor child abuse and cruelty to animals. He was sentenced to an active prison sentence of 30 months. Hall's spouse was wheelchair bound and had been in bed for six to seven days needing medical attention, the release states. It was determined by deputies and social service officials that the condition of the home contributed to the spouse's illness and also placed the couple's minor child at risk. – Blue Ridge Now – August 22, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/IPTFOw>

16. "Unprotected: Botox, Breast, Butt Implants Allegedly Bought with Cash from Elderly Victims" - Details of the alleged scheme were revealed during testimony in a Cuyahoga County courtroom where 38-year-old Latasha Wisniewski is on trial on charges she orchestrated an elaborate plan to befriend the recently widowed victim and ultimately fleece him of his life savings. The testimony came from Wisniewski's aunt, 39-year-old Lisa

Dotson, who pleaded guilty earlier Monday in the same courtroom to similar charges in a separate case involving multiple elderly victims. – News 5 Cleveland – August 19, 2019 – (Ohio)- <https://is.gd/QgZyck>

17. “Enid Woman Faces Caretaker Abuse, Exploitation Charges” - A 66-year-old Enid woman was arraigned Thursday on charges of abuse by caretaker and exploitation of an elderly disabled adult. Sharon Louise Wood appeared Thursday free on \$7,500 bond before Special District Judge Brian Lovell for arraignment on the felony charges. She appeared without an attorney and was ordered to return to court Oct. 7 for a bond appearance. Wood faces up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000 on each of the charges. – Enid News & Eagle – August 22, 2019 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/l8pTOq>

18. “Former Nursing Home Worker Charged with Exploiting Victim in Her Care” - A former activities director at a nursing home is facing charges after allegedly stealing money from a resident. On Nov. 28, 2016, authorities say Jaime Ruth Persall was working as the activity director at the Quail Creek Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Oklahoma City. – Oklahoma’s News 4 – August 22, 2019 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/x8Rals>

19. “SCI Albion inmate had right to shower, federal court rules” - A federal appeals court has sided with a disabled Pennsylvania inmate who claims he was forced to go without a shower for three months at the State Correctional Institution at Albion. The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found in favor of the inmate, 50-year-old Robert Furgess. The precedent-setting decision overturned a ruling by then-U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan Paradise Baxter, who dismissed Furgess’ civil rights lawsuit in March 2018. – Pocono Record – August 16, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/PrRXxd>

20. “Caretaker Admits to Having Inappropriate Contact with Group-Home Resident, Police Say” - On July 9, Kingston police responded to Pennsylvania

Mentor, a residential group home for individuals with intellectual disabilities, after an employee was reportedly having inappropriate contact with a resident. 38-year-old William Hontz II, who was employed as a DSP for Pennsylvania Mentor, was assigned to a residential group home and was accused of taking photos of the victim and touching him inappropriately. – Fox 56 – August 20, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/xe5xW6>

21. “She Allowed an Older Man to Develop Deadly Wounds. Here is Her Punishment for the Crime” - Hafida Osborn was in Horry County court on Tuesday as she pleaded guilty to neglect of a vulnerable adult. Judge Paul Burch sentenced Osborn to five years’ probation. “A man lost his life,” said Pansy Rabon, the victim’s daughter. “She didn’t care enough to give him medical attention in time.” – Myrtle Beach Online – August 20, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/AKtjc7>

22. “Family Friend Accused of Raping Bedridden Elderly Woman he was Taking Care of” - Jason Lee Rodriguez, 41, is accused of raping a bedridden woman in her 80's while taking care of her. Bexar County deputies responded to "several outcries" Aug. 13 regarding the alleged sexual assault. Authorities believe the sexual assault happened two days before the initial outcry. News 4 SA – August 16, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/WKyTJX>

23. “Man Found Guilty of Sexually Assaulting 74-Year-Old Disabled Woman in His Care” - A man accused of raping a disabled Tarrant County woman in his care has been found guilty of aggravated sexual assault and sentenced to two life sentences. Anthony Nyakeo, 53, was facing two counts of aggravated sexual assault after prosecutors said he raped a 74-year-old patient at the Woodridge Health & Rehabilitation center in Grapevine where he worked. – NBCDFW 5 – August 22, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/JKqaTs>

24. "Munchausen's Mum Put Healthy Son, 8, Through THIRTEEN Unnecessary Operations, Took Him to GP Hundreds of Times and Confined Him to a Wheelchair" - Kaylene Bowen, 35, convinced doctors that her son Christopher was terminally ill and publicly announced he had cancer on Facebook. The mother publicized the cause widely on social media, launching crowdfunding pages to pay for the treatments, including one that raised more than £6,000. On Thursday she pleaded guilty to recklessly causing injury to a child and is due to be sentenced in October. She faces two to 20 years in jail for second degree felony. – The Scottish Sun – August 20, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/a9z68C>
25. "Midvale Woman Arrested for Alleged Elder Abuse" - A probable cause statement from the 3rd District Court of Salt Lake County said Anne Helene Cockrell, 42, is facing charges of two counts of aggravated abuse of a disabled or elderly adult, intentional, a second-degree felony; and two counts of aggravated assault, a third-degree felony. – Gephardt Daily – August 18, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gdA/hlQDWJ>
26. "Weber County Care Center Worker Booked for Suspected Felony Abuse of a Vulnerable Adult" - A man who worked at a Weber County care center has been accused of felony abuse of a vulnerable adult after investigators say the suspect admitted to purposely hurting a patient in his care. Spencer Keith Mendenhall, 19, has been charged on suspicion of aggravated abuse of a vulnerable adult, a second-degree felony; and intentional abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult, a class A misdemeanor. – Gephardt Daily – August 22, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/LbIDjP>
27. "Diocese Says More Victims of Priest Abuse in Wyoming Have Come Forward Since June" - That list identified [30 known and substantiated victims of the 11 men](#). Twenty-nine victims were juvenile boys and girls,

while one was identified by the diocese as a vulnerable adult. It's unclear how many more victims have come forward since the list was released in the diocese's newsletter and on its website June 12. – Casper Star Tribune – August 17, 2019 – (Wyoming) - <https://is.gd/IsF8l5>

28. “Casper Man Convicted of Abuse against Child and Disabled Women” - A Casper man on Monday told a judge he molested two mentally disabled women while he worked at a local group home. Trae D. Smith made the admissions as part of a deal with prosecutors in which he pleaded guilty to three felonies, including two sex crimes. The agreement calls for him to serve between five and 60 years imprisonment. Judge Catherine Wilking will determine the sentence after hearing attorneys' arguments. – Casper Star Tribune – August 20, 2019 – (Wyoming) - <https://is.gd/lecONn>

GUARDIANSHIP

29. “Florida’s Troubled Guardian Program-Critics say Program Marred by Conflicts” - Fierle is currently under criminal investigation after it was revealed that she had filed unauthorized “do not resuscitate” orders on incapacitated clients, sparking a scandal that has embroiled Florida’s guardianship program. She has since resigned from all her cases. – Orlando Sentinel – August 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/qmG3Ov>

30. “In Wake of Scandal, Guardianship Critics Host Town Hall Meeting in Orlando” - Critics of the state’s guardianship system are hosting a town hall meeting in Orlando on Sept. 9 to discuss “Florida’s horrific guardianship abuse scandal” in the wake of the Rebecca Fierle case and announce a grassroots proposal for change. – Orlando Sentinel – August 20, 2019 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/iYmHqz>

31. “Uptick in 'Guardianship Cases' Leave Maryland Patients in ED’s for Months” - An increasing number of patients without guardians are staying in Maryland emergency departments for months, even though they don't require emergency care, according to [The Capital Gazette](#). The patients often lack a legal guardian and cannot care for themselves. Many have advanced dementia or a psychiatric illness. If case managers cannot find relatives to assign as guardians, the hospital must go through the county circuit court to appoint two people: one to make care decisions and the other to make financial decisions. – Becker’s Hospital Review – August 20, 2019 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/u3Oxlk>
32. “Link Between Early Trauma and Adult Illness” - Neuroscience (the study of how the brain works) has discovered the link between extreme stress events — traumas — occurring in the first two decades of life, and adult medical illness. In the same way that smoking cigarettes is now linked to lung cancer, so too are Early Life Traumas — occurring from birth to age 18 — linked to adult diseases, such as high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes II, COPD and premature death. Using a question and answer format, let’s look at this groundbreaking science. – Journal Review – August 19, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/yOXrbj>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

33. “Residents May Soon Be Able to Look up Care Provider Against Whom There Are Credible Claims of Abuse” - The Arc of Massachusetts told supporters earlier this month that it is working with Rep. Kay Khan and others to redraft a bill that would create a “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. – Metro West Daily News – August 19, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/HWAZO0>

34. “New Hampshire Law Empowers Advisors to Protect Senior Clients from Financial Fraud” - State lawmakers in New Hampshire have passed a bill protecting seniors from financial exploitation in the state. The bill, NH S 252, was introduced in January 2019, and passed the New Hampshire Senate and House in July. – Financial Advisor – September 2, 2019 –(New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/rETQg6>
35. “State Republicans Introduce Bills to Combat Elder Abuse” - Sen. Patrick Testin and Rep. John Macco’s bills would expedite hearings in criminal cases involving elderly victims or witnesses and allow brokers and investment advisers to delay transactions from vulnerable adults’ accounts when they suspect financial exploitation. – Fox 6 Now – August 20, 2019 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/vEpWao>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

36. “California Charter Schools are Excluding and Forcing out Kids with Disabilities, Report Finds” - California charter schools are systematically [leaving disabled kids behind](https://is.gd/kkQhYs)—or worse. A recent report from United Teachers Los Angeles and the California Teachers Association looks at three large school districts, finding that charter schools in all three are enrolling fewer students with disabilities, and especially fewer students with moderate to severe disabilities, than local public schools. And some of the ways charter schools are excluding and forcing out kids with disabilities are downright abusive. - The report looks at Los Angeles, San Diego, and Oakland. In Oakland, 13.58% of the students in district schools have disabilities, while just 7.67% of charter school students have disabilities. In San Diego, it’s 15.07% to 12.96%, and in Los Angeles, it’s 14.16% to 11.11%. For kids with moderate to severe disabilities—autism, intellectual disability, orthopedic impairment—the gap is even bigger. – Daily Kos – August 27, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/kkQhYs>

37. “Special Education Teachers are Hard to Find. They’re Also Some of The Hardest to Keep, New Study Shows.” - The study, published this week by the Denver-based [Regional Educational Laboratory Central](#), examined staffing data and change in Colorado, Missouri, and South Dakota between the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years. Trudy Cherasaro, director of the laboratory, said the findings about special education teachers likely won’t surprise most education leaders but, “when you have that data it’s easier to start talking about policies.” - Chalk Beat – August 21, 2019 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/rHKkdT>
38. “New Studies Challenge the Claim that Black Students are Sent to Special Ed too Much” - Against the backdrop of this civil rights debate, some quantitative researchers are arguing that the earlier research may have inadvertently misidentified the equity problem. Two new studies by independent groups of scholars find that students of color are actually less likely than similar white students to be identified as having disabilities and obtain special education services at schools. – Hechinger Report – August 19, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/hNhkxZ>
39. “Chinese Americans Face Increased Risk of Elder Abuse, Rutgers Studies Find” - The studies found that a history of abuse, lack of positive social support, and isolation from family significantly increase older Chinese Americans' risk of experiencing elder abuse, chronic health conditions, and even early death. Culturally-sensitive screening for a history of violence among minorities - the key to improving care - remains inadequate, however. – Eurek Alert – August 19, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/IV8zgW>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

40. “Arizona Study Committee to Look at issue of Abuse, Neglect of Vulnerable Adults” - On Tuesday, members of the Arizona Legislature, as well as

disability advocates, aging advocates and heads of some state agencies, held a study committee to look at the issue of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults with disabilities and seniors. Democratic Rep. Jennifer Longdon chairs the study committee. She asked everyone in attendance four questions, [stemming from what happened at Hacienda HealthCare](#), the Phoenix facility where an incapacitated woman was raped and later gave birth. Over the coming months, the group will explore how allegations of abuse and neglect are reported and investigated. – KJZZ 91.5 – August 22, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/D2uhKI>

41. “Autistic Teenager Creates App To Help People On The Spectrum - Ethan Shallcross, who has a form of autism and lives in the English town of Torquay, developed [Aumi](#) to enable people to manage their anxiety, monitor their mental health and reduce burnout. “The app has been built with people on the autism spectrum in mind, and his has influenced the design and functionality of the entire app,” he says. “However, it is not just for people on the autism spectrum. People who have high anxiety, are frequently burnt out, or struggle with their mental health may also find it useful.” – Forbes – August 17, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/wTK9aS>

42. “Disability Rights Promoted at the United Nations” - Actions include ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ten years ago. Relentless commitment to elevate the standards of health and wellbeing of persons with disabilities is already demonstrated. “We already had in existence institutions such as special needs schools, hospitals, homes that provided for education and needs of the physically impaired, mentally challenged, and visual impaired as well as speech and hearing impaired,” explained Ambassador Sulimani. “Of course, there is provision in our Constitution, in Article 8, that also provides for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. “Also, the Disability Act of 2011 mandates free health care for people with disabilities, provides compulsory screenings at health care centers for early identification of

people with disabilities and proscribes discrimination. – Black Star News – August 20, 2019 – (Global) - <https://is.gd/niYsZx>

43. “Maryland to Add School History Lessons on LGBT, Disability Rights” - Educators in Maryland are busy at work developing history curriculum standards regarding the civil rights battles of the LGBT community and those with disabilities. According to [The Washington Post](#), once the standards are approved, Maryland will become the fifth state in the country to require LGBT history, joining Illinois, Colorado, New Jersey, and California. – The College Fix – August 17, 2019 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/WikDKF>

44. “Wearable Sensor Predicts Outbursts from Autistic Users” - Scientists at Northeastern University have created a wearable device that claims to be able to predict aggressive outbursts from autistic people a minute before the outburst happens. The wearable device is designed to alert caretakers when stress levels are nearing the point where an aggressive episode could happen. The device was created by a behavioral scientist called Matthew Goodwin. – Slash Gear – August 22, 2019 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/VXHnhZ>

45. “In Cultural Shift, Jewish Day Schools Investing in Special Needs” - As head of a Jewish day school in Michigan, Rosenberg noticed a marked increase in families interested in enrolling children with disabilities like dyslexia, attention deficit disorder and autism. Rosenberg wanted to welcome these families seeking a Jewish education for their children, but she knew that accommodating such students required extra resources — a real challenge for her small elementary school, Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor. “It would be a terrible shame and really a crime if we didn’t, as a Jewish community, as Jewish educational institutions, make sure that all children have an opportunity to participate,” she said. – Jewish Telegraph Agency- August 21, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/KIEB0I>

INTERNATIONAL

46. “Australia: Inquiry into Rule Putting Older People at Risk” - [Australia’s](#) parliament should scrap a new rule that allows nursing homes to overmedicate and restrain older people, a group of organizations working for older people’s rights in Australia said today. On August 20, 2019 in Sydney, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights will hold a hearing on human rights concerns relating to the new rule. Human Rights Watch, Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia (ADA Australia), and others will appear. – Human Rights Watch – August 19, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/itke3z>
47. “Oakville Woman Who Allowed 9-Year-Old Daughter to Starve to Death Sentenced to Time Served” - Meredith Lis was sentenced to time served and three years of probation during a Burlington court hearing Friday. The one-day sentence, which was handed down by Justice Lesley Baldwin, takes Lis’s 276 days of pretrial custody and the conditions of her incarceration into consideration. – The Star- August 17, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/PFHYHo>
48. “Man with Sleep Fetish Abused Passed out Teen After Offering her Place to Stay” - Predator James Kipps-Bolton, 38, found the distressed teenager outside a nightclub in Leamington Spa and offered her a bed for the night. When she passed out as a result of drinking as well as taking prescribed medication, he sexually abused her and recorded his activity on his phone, the trial heard. Kipps-Bolton was jailed for nine years and ordered to register as a sex offender for life after the jury took just two hours and 40 minutes to find him guilty by a majority of 10-2. – Mirror – August 17, 2019 – (England)- <https://is.gd/lw4fVn>

49. “Man Charged with Sex Assault at Lytham St Annes Care Home” - Detectives said the elderly resident had allegedly been subjected to a sexual assault. On Friday (August 16), Josh Haworth, 18, of Gisburn Avenue, St Annes was arrested on suspicion of rape, sexual touching, burglary and criminal damage. Following consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), he was charged last night (August 19) with attempted rape, sexual assault, trespass with intent to rape and criminal damage. – Black Pool Gazette – August 20, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/1b1i35>
50. “Man Rapes Mentally Retarded Girl, Arrested” - A man was arrested for allegedly raping a mentally retarded woman in Rahmatnagar area on Thursday. As per reports, a woman was living with her mentally retarded daughter in Rahamatnagar area and taking care of her. Pallakonda Veeraswamy (38), a native of Redlavada of Nekkonda Mandal in Warangal district, has been living as a tenant in her house for the past three months. He has a wife and three children and works as a daily wage labourer. Later, he got separated from them and was living alone. – Sakshi Post – August 17, 2019 – (India) - <https://is.gd/zD42eJ>
51. “Nursing Home Complaints: Allegations of Sexual Assault and Unexplained Injuries” – Allegations have been made regarding an incident of sexual assault, unexplained injuries and poor hygiene standards in nursing homes in Ireland, according to documents released to TheJournal.ie under the Freedom of Information Act. – thejournal.ie – August 21, 2019 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/9dhDEz>
52. “Disability Rights Commissioner Calls for 'Clumsy' Euthanasia Bill to be Scrapped, Started Over” - he controversial End of Life Choice Bill will be debated by MPs for a second time today, but Disability Rights Commissioner Paula Tesoriero is calling for it to be scrapped all together. The first debate three weeks ago saw an amendment to the bill which would allow those with a terminal illness and less than six months to live to

access assisted dying. – TVNZ 1 News – August 20, 2019 – (New Zealand) - <https://is.gd/ZnpgzJ>

53. “Assistance for Abused Grows from Tragedy” - When a wheelchair-bound woman was raped in Port Elizabeth’s Walmer Township in 2018 and the perpetrator never found, a group of residents had had enough – and so the Bamb’isandla Sam Foundation was born. The organization, which reaches out to victims of abuse, is growing quickly, with a number of men playing a pivotal role in supporting women, children and those with disabilities through workshops and festivals and by throwing their weight behind those who need help overcoming tragedy- Herald Live – August 18, 2019 – (South Africa) - <https://is.gd/KwXCSS>

54. “Boy, 13, with Down's Syndrome is Raped in Classroom 'By Member of Staff' at South African Special Needs School” - A 13-year-old boy with Down's syndrome was raped by a staff member at a special needs school in [South Africa](#), it is alleged. The teenager was allegedly locked in a classroom and attacked in East Rand, near Johannesburg, on August 5. The boy's mother said he had come home smelling and acting strangely and said she found evidence of an attack on the youngster's clothes. – Daily Mail – September 2, 2019 – (South Africa) - <https://is.gd/OxtMqt>

55. “Bury St. Edmunds Head Teacher 'Locked Children in Rooms’” Alison Earl admitted leaving children in the rooms, but denied it was for an "inappropriate" amount of time. The education secretary is to rule on what disciplinary action she will face. The hearing heard, under Mrs. Earl's leadership, staff would put children into solitary confinement for bad behavior. – BBC News – August 19, 2019 – (United Kingdom)- <https://is.gd/vtldkH>

56. “Gran ‘Sexually Abused’ in Care Home Family Had Warned Against” - Dorothy Close was taken to Ivy House Care Home in West Heath because council and NHS hospital staff wanted to free up her hospital bed. But within days of moving into the home – now renamed and under new ownership – she told her granddaughter she had been abused. Police were called in to investigate but there was not enough evidence to go to court, and the NHS trust involved called off its own probe. Sadly, Dorothy has since died. Her daughter, who brought the complaint, also passed away during the investigation. – Birmingham Live – August 19, 2019 – (United Kingdom)- <https://is.gd/Bw9KrZ>
57. “Berkshire Council Failed to Protect Vulnerable Disabled Man from Carer's Financial 'Abuse'” - Concerns were raised about the man's carer 14 times, but it took five years for anything to be done. Daniel, 76, is estranged from his immediate family but had support from a woman called Ellen, who lied about her relationship with him. Between 2013 and 2017 concerns were raised by Daniel’s care providers and later by council officers and Daniel’s independent advocate, regarding possible financial abuse by Ellen. During this time, correct safeguarding procedures were not followed and Daniel was at risk of financial abuse. Concerns were raised to the local authority by other agencies on 14 occasions about Ellen over a five-year period. – Berkshire Live – August 21, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/lwwszT>
58. “Of Marriage Bill, Disability” - Girls with disability are considered as unworthy investments, as marriage and employment prospects are low and they are consequently subjected to physical and emotional abuse by parents failing to come to terms with the birth of a child with disability. The World Report on Violence against Children (2006), notes that children with disabilities are at heightened risk of violence for a variety of reasons, ranging from deeply ingrained cultural prejudices to the higher emotional, physical, economic, and social demands that a child’s disability can place on his or her family. – The Herald – August 20, 2019 – (Zimbabwe) - <https://is.gd/OCxXjJ>

MISCELLANEOUS

59. “Airline Crew Allegedly Refused to Accommodate Traveler with Autism. Now, They've Been Grounded” - A man says crew members on a SkyWest Airlines flight refused to allow his brother with autism to sit near a family member Friday and walked off the plane, forcing all 75 passengers to deplane and board another flight three hours later. Now, the crew, including the pilots, have been grounded while the airline investigates the incident. – NBC News – August 19, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/JNjc5f>
60. “Agency Did Not Conduct Required Oversight of Program for Those with Disabilities” - ACL said it could not conduct the reviews because of limited funds for travel. The office is given a set amount of funding to administer grants to independent living programs and monitor them, but OIG determined it did not set aside enough money to conduct its oversight activities. – The Washington Post – August 14, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/eh3Woa>
61. “Lack of Autism Specialists, Therapists Impacting Families in Southern Nevada” - For the nearly 9,000 children living with autism in Nevada, life is like a puzzle and finding the right pieces, the right services can be a fight against time. Both are caught in the middle of a desperate need for providers and therapists to work with children living with autism. “We’re short speech therapists, occupational therapists and especially ABA therapists,” said Dr. Mario Gaspar De Alba, a developmental-behavioral pediatrician. – News 3LV – August 20, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/WBotxn>
62. “SPLC, Allies Sue ICE for Ignoring Medical, Mental Health and Disability Needs of Detained Immigrants” - As the Trump administration has packed immigrants into detention centers across America, thousands of men and

women are living in horrific, inhumane conditions in repurposed prisons and jails. SPLC has come to know their stories through our [Southeast Immigrant Freedom Initiative](#), which provides direct representation at detention facilities in the rural South where lawyers are scarce and justice is hard to come by. – Southern Poverty Law Project – August 19, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/U69iIU>

63. Doctors with Disabilities Push for Culture Change in Medicine - Now, a growing movement of current and aspiring doctors with disabilities is starting to challenge that narrative, saying it is a disservice both to the medical profession and to patients. It's important to acknowledge and accommodate medical professionals with disabilities, says [Lisa Meeks, a psychologist and researcher](#) at Michigan Medicine specializing in disabilities in medicine and medical education. "It deserves attention and its own problem-solving," she says. – NPR – August 6, 2019 – (National) - <https://is.gd/1KFneY>