Comment: The following news stories about adult guardianship or conservatorship are being circulated by the Disability and Guardianship Project of Spectrum Institute to persons interested in guardianship and conservatorship reform. The stories are extracted from the Newsfeed of the organization’s Disability and Abuse Project. Many thanks to Debra J. Stemmler for her research and to Dr. Nora J. Baladerian for funding the Newsfeed service.

– Thomas F. Coleman, Legal Director

“New Mexico lawmakers weigh reforms of guardianship system.” A measure aimed at overhauling New Mexico’s guardianship laws cleared its first legislative hurdle Thursday, as lawmakers on both sides of the aisle were in resounding agreement that a system meant to protect some of the state’s most vulnerable residents was in need of serious improvement. --- seattletimes.com, January 25 (New Mexico) https://is.gd/k8DSxM

“Big, small guardianship actions debated.” Faced with an approaching deadline and a multimillion-dollar price tag, backers of legislation to overhaul the state’s troubled guardianship system presented dueling substitute measures late Wednesday in a hurried attempt to pass at least some significant changes this year to improve transparency and permit families more involvement with their protected, incapacitated loved ones. --- abqjournal.com, January 31 (New Mexico) https://is.gd/wXQIoy

“Washington State May Make It Easier to Sterilize People with Disabilities.” In 1936, Ann Cooper Hewitt filed a lawsuit against her mother — and with good reason. At the age of 20, her mother Ann had sterilized her against her will. Having succeeded in classifying her as having an intellectual disability, Ann’s mother was legally allowed to authorize the operation over Ann’s objections. --- aclu.org, January 29 (Washington) https://is.gd/cSestm

“Bill aims to re-write state guardianship law.” A bill being proposed at the Roundhouse aims to protect the state's citizens placed under court-ordered guardianship. --- kob.com, January 18 (New Mexico) https://is.gd/GnclrF
“More guardians are needed for Nebraska's vulnerable.” Nebraska took a commendable step forward in 2014 when the Legislature approved a proposal to publicly fund guardians who would help elderly and disabled adults lacking anyone to manage their financial affairs. --- omaha.com, January 11 (Nebraska) https://is.gd/tWhxiy

“New rules on guardianship in Md. put in place.” Changes to Maryland’s guardianship rules go into effect Monday more than two years after a work group was formed to make recommendations on how to improve the process and ensure best practices are employed. The changes include new certification requirements to be completed by doctors and social workers; new training and eligibility requirements --- thedailyrecord.com, January 1 (Maryland) https://is.gd/Jk9Dja

“New rules require training for court-appointed guardians of older, vulnerable Marylanders.” New court rules that went into effect Monday are aimed to better prepare court-appointed guardians for handling the financial and personal matters of vulnerable Marylanders. --- fredericknewspost.com, January 2 (Maryland) https://is.gd/E3VVj6

“Nebraska's Office of Public Guardian expects to hit full capacity, need waiting list in 2018.” A public office created two years ago to provide guardians for vulnerable adults in Nebraska will likely hit full capacity in 2018, prompting the need for a waiting list, a report released this week said. --- omaha.com, January 4 (Nebraska) https://is.gd/TPn6oq