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

“Too Disabled to Vote: How a Constitutional Right is Stripped Away” - How far would you go to keep your loved one from being exploited? For some it means taking away their right to vote. – Rocket City Now – November 1, 2018 – (Alabama) - https://is.gd/qSpB1l

“Disability: All People Under Guardianship will be Able to Vote and Marry” - The majority of people under guardianship will have in the future a right to vote inalienable and will also be able to marry, separate, and divorce, which a judge cannot deny, announced Thursday the secretary of State to Persons with disabilities, Sophie Cluzel, before the holding of an inter-ministerial committee of the disability. – The Koz Post – October 25, 2018 – (Canada) - https://is.gd/MptYwp

“Guardianship lawsuit against county rejected by Collier court” - Betty and several others in the county are victims of what is known as guardianship abuse. – Fox 4-October 22, 2018 – (Florida) - https://is.gd/TQlXG3

“Candidates: Address Guardianship Issue” - We at Americans Against Abusive Probate Guardianship-New Mexico (AAAPG.net) are very interested in learning how both candidates running for New Mexico governor would handle the governor’s responsibilities within the flawed guardianship system in New Mexico. – Albuquerque Journal – October 19, 2018 – (New Mexico) - https://is.gd/R0lMFV
“Kazakhstan: Persons with Mental Disabilities Denied Equal Rights Under Repressive ‘Guardianship’ System” - “We are like dead souls”: Life without Legal Capacity in Kazakhstan documents how Kazakhstan’s current laws mean thousands of persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities have been declared “incapable” by law and put in the care of a guardian (often a close relative). Under this system they cannot exercise their rights and are not able to challenge the decision in court. – Amnesty International – October 12, 2018 – (Kazakhstan) - https://is.gd/0VM7hz

“Response to SB 1045 and Possible Expansion of Conservatorship” - As a coalition of community groups who work with people with disabilities, seniors, and homeless people, we strongly oppose implementation of SB 1045 in San Francisco. We agree that we have a crisis of homeless people living and dying on our streets. But an expansion of involuntary conservatorship is the wrong approach and will do nothing to address the underlying drivers of psychiatric disabilities, substance abuse, and homelessness. – The Berkley Daily Planet – October 15, 2018 – (California) - https://is.gd/KnMSGQ

“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

“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

“New Mexico's Guardianship System Raises Serious Questions” - It seemed incredible that for over a year her guardian and court-appointed lawyer (perhaps well-intentioned), had charged Kise big bucks to keep her locked up and away from her family. – KRWG NPR – October 7, 2018 – (New Mexico) - https://is.gd/htlN40
“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

“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

“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