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. Many thanks to Debra J. Stemmler for her assistance.

– Thomas F. Coleman, Legal Director

“Watchdog: New Florida Legislation Aims to Toughen Guardianship Laws” - After months of promising change to the state's troubled guardianship program, Florida's lawmakers appear to be taking action. A new bill that would create stricter laws is making its way through House and Senate committees. The seven-page companion bills (HB 709 and SB 994) drafted by state lawmakers aim to increase protections for seniors under guardianship. That bill unanimously passed in a House subcommittee early this month. – Bay News 9 – December 31, 2019 – (Florida) -
https://is.gd/OtyXsp

“Reversal: Court Wrongly Denied Evidence Alleging Guardianship Mismanagement” - A Boone County trial court wrongly rejected a husband’s effort to show that the guardianship for his wife was being financially mismanaged and should be terminated, the Indiana Court of Appeals ruled Thursday, finding the judge overseeing the case failed to properly notify him of regular accountings. A few years after Gwendolyn M. Reagan was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, her daughter, Mary Elizabeth Spaw, was appointed as her sole guardian in September 2014. Reagan moved from Lebanon to live with Spaw in her home in Kendallville from November 2014-March 2015, at which time she returned to Lebanon to live with her husband, Thomas Meranda, who had retired and could care for her at home, according to the record. – The Indiana Lawyer – December 26, 2019 – (Indiana) -
https://is.gd/GP8jzp

“How A Seattle Attorney With ‘Heart of Gold’ Ended Up Fleecing Her Brain-Damaged Client” - “This is one of the more egregious cases I’ve seen, not just because of the dollar amounts involved, but because it involves someone who had a
Double duty, as his legal guardian and as an attorney,” said Amanda Froh, deputy prosecuting attorney for King County. On Friday, Seattle attorney Helga Kahr, 69, was sentenced to a year and a half in prison for a scheme to fleece Barrett out of $283,000 back in 2016, which she used to pay off the mortgage on her home. – The Seattle Times – December 6, 2019 – (Washington) - https://is.gd/vYcyib

“Nevada Guardianship Office Protects Seniors from Fraud, Abuse”
“1-833-421-7711, that’s the number to call regarding any matter dealing with abuse or fraud involving a guardian,” urged Kate McCloskey, manager of Nevada’s Guardianship Compliance Office. The office, under the jurisdiction of the Nevada Supreme Court, was created more than two years ago after some of the most contemptible episodes of elderly abuse had surfaced in the state, resulting in national headlines. They involved individuals, known as guardians, who gained access to the care of elderly people in need of assistance and monopolized their assets and income by circumventing a weak guardianship law that existed at the time. –Las Vegas Review Journal –December 4, 2019 –(Nevada) - https://is.gd/xxFaiO

“Some B-Ds Want More Power to Fight Senior Investor Exploitation”-Some broker-dealer firms are asking Finrato give them more power to stave off the exploitation of senior investors, according to Robert Cook, the SRO’s CEO and president. Finra has already put in place —since February last year —several additional protections for senior investors. The protections include a rule that lets broker-dealer firms place temporary holds on disbursements of funds or securities from the accounts of specified customers if there is reasonable belief of financial exploitation of these customers by third parties. –Financial Advisor IQ –December 3, 2019 –(D.C.) - https://is.gd/UlpYcX