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

“Indiana court pilot project helps woman gain independence” - Eight years ago, Beck, a woman diagnosed with a mild intellectual disability and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, had been put into a nursing home in Richmond because she had no one to care for her. Both her parents and stepfather had died, leaving the then-19-year-old alone and without support. She was adjudged by the Wayne Circuit Court to be incapacitated and was appointed a permanent legal guardian. However, last week, Beck, now 27, made Indiana history. She became the first Hoosier to have her guardianship terminated in favor of a supported decision making agreement. -The Indiana Lawyer- June 18, 2018- (Indiana)  
https://is.gd/pQfFZD

“The Tennessee Supported Decision-Making Agreement Act: What’s it all about?”- The sponsor of this legislation in the Senate, Becky Massey, described the SDMA as a “less-restrictive alternative” to a Power of Attorney or Conservatorship.” (Senate Judiciary Committee 1/30/18). Essentially, the bill allows a disabled person to appoint a supporter. That supporter can collect confidential information, explain all the information that the disabled person needs to make a decision, and communicate the disabled person’s decision, among other things. Jackson Sun- June 1, 2018 (Tennessee) https://is.gd/0CKJxc