

# abc14news.com

A website that falsely purports to be associated with an ABC-affiliated television station and that publishes false stories, including a made-up article about a West Virginia mother who fatally shot a registered sex offender that was picked up by other media outlets.

<b>Ownership and Financing</b>	<p>It is unclear who owns the ABC 14 News website, although it appears to be part of a larger collection of fake news sites, including CBS15.com, NBC9News.com, TVTNews.com, and CGCNews.com. All of the sites use the same design, contact form, and privacy policy. Many of the same articles appear on multiple sites, sometimes displaying different publishing dates.</p> <p>NewsGuard sent a message through the ABC14News.com contact form inquiring about the site's ownership, but did not receive a response.</p> <p>ABC14News.com is not listed as an ABC affiliate by the Federal Communications Commission or on ABC's websites for its affiliates and its owned-and-operated stations. There are two licensed ABC affiliate stations in the U.S. that are broadcast on channel 14.</p> <p>The site appears to earn revenue through advertising.</p>
<b>Content</b>	<p>ABC14News.com resembles a legitimate site and publishes articles in five sections -- national, world, politics, business, and entertainment. Each section contains true articles that apparently were written for ABC14News.com, with information pulled from credible sources. The site also links to reputable media outlets such as Reuters, USA Today, NBC, and Time. Although the website presents itself as a local television news station, NewsGuard did not find any video segments in its October 2018 review.</p> <p>The motivation behind ABC 14 News is unclear. Stories do not appear to be published in connection with a political agenda, and articles -- both the false ones and the real ones -- appear to be fairly random, although a number of the fake articles report about purported crimes involving pedophiles.</p>
<b>Credibility</b>	<p>ABC14News.com published multiple false articles in late September and early October 2018, all of which involved violent actions supposedly taken against pedophiles.</p> <p>One claimed a mother in Morgantown, West Virginia, fatally shot a registered sex offender who was attempting to rape her 12-year-old daughter, "blowing off most of his head." It cited information provided by the unnamed mother and quoted anonymous sources, identified as a member of a "victims rights" group and an "investigator." The bogus story was picked up by several sites including Bossip.com, IndependentSentinel.com, and SOTT.net.</p> <p>Ed Preston, chief of police for the Morgantown Police Department, told The Associated Press that the story was false and that ABC 14 News "does not exist in that area."</p> <p>Another fake story claimed that a "52-year-old" man, whom the site named, attempted to rape two young girls in their bedroom, but was thwarted when a bulldog mutilated the man. The site ran at least three versions of this story, changing the location but keeping most of the other details the same. All three cited the girls' unnamed father and anonymous "hospital staff."</p> <p>Additional articles on the site appear suspicious due to a lack of credible sourcing, an absence of relevant information, and the use of deceptive headlines.</p> <p>For example, a December 2017 article titled "The Private Education Sector Is About To Be Disrupted By A New Startup" referenced a "new firm dedicated to providing remote education" that is "undergoing a seed round raising capital to fund further investment." No other information about the firm or its funding was mentioned in the rest of the article, which focused instead on the differences between public and private schools.</p> <p>Articles on ABC14News.com often reference dated information and summarize stories originally published months before. For example, a true article about a wrongly imprisoned Florida man was published in August 2018, but the original story appeared in other media in June 2018. An article published on ABC14News.com in September 2018 titled "New Study Finds Teen Suicide Rate Has Doubled In US From 2008 to 2015" referred to a May 2018 study written about by CBS the same month.</p> <p>New content is published infrequently. Multiple stories featured prominently in October 2018 appeared to have been first published in April 2018.</p> <p>NewsGuard could not find examples of corrections or updates on the site. A message sent through the ABC14News.com contact form inquiring about the site's editorial</p>



**Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.**

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors
- ✓ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising
- ✗ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information

*Criteria are listed in order of importance.*  
*[More information.](#)*

practices did not elicit a response.

<b>Transparency</b>	<p>Articles written for ABC14News.com name the author, although no biographical or contact information is available. When NewsGuard reviewed ABC14News.com in October 2018, articles were attributed to four authors whose names on each story linked to a general contact form housed on ABC14News.com. NewsGuard could not immediately determine if the names were real.</p> <p>Information about the site's ownership is not disclosed. There is also no information about editorial leadership. The only contact information available to users is the general contact form.</p> <p>Basic information that typically appears on local TV news websites is missing on ABC14News.com, including the station's call letters and links to Federal Communications Commission documents. Additionally, the site does not appear to report on a specific area or community, as would be expected of a local television site.</p> <p>NewsGuard sent a message through the ABC14News.com contact form inquiring about the site's lack of disclosure of its ownership, leadership, and content creators but did not receive a response.</p> <p>Advertisements are clearly labeled.</p>
<b>History</b>	<p>The ABC14News.com domain name was created on September 22, 2018.</p> <p><b>Written by:</b> <a href="#">Melissa Goldin</a> <b>Edited by:</b> <a href="#">Joe Danielewicz</a>, <a href="#">Eric Effron</a></p> <p><b>Send feedback to NewsGuard:</b> <a href="#">Click Here</a></p>

## Sources

<b>Ownership and Financing</b>	<p><a href="http://abcotvs.com/">http://abcotvs.com/</a> <a href="https://abc.go.com/local-stations">https://abc.go.com/local-stations</a> <a href="https://publicfiles.fcc.gov/find/abc/page-offset-0/order-best-match/filter-[]/">https://publicfiles.fcc.gov/find/abc/page-offset-0/order-best-match/filter-[]/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/privacy/">http://abc14news.com/privacy/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/contact/">http://abc14news.com/contact/</a></p>
<b>Content</b>	<p><a href="http://abc14news.com/national/">http://abc14news.com/national/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/world/">http://abc14news.com/world/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/politics/">http://abc14news.com/politics/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/business/">http://abc14news.com/business/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/entertainment/">http://abc14news.com/entertainment/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/iowa-woman-arrested-after-throwing-frozen-chicken-at-supermarket-worker/">http://abc14news.com/iowa-woman-arrested-after-throwing-frozen-chicken-at-supermarket-worker/</a> <a href="https://wcfcourier.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/woman-arrested-for-assault-with-chicken-at-waterloo-grocery/article_7241a37c-31c5-5228-a1b3-5dd9b7c0463f.html">https://wcfcourier.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/woman-arrested-for-assault-with-chicken-at-waterloo-grocery/article_7241a37c-31c5-5228-a1b3-5dd9b7c0463f.html</a> <a href="https://patch.com/michigan/detroit/abused-dog-s-leg-amputated-garden-shears-kitchen-knife">https://patch.com/michigan/detroit/abused-dog-s-leg-amputated-garden-shears-kitchen-knife</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/florida-woman-charged-with-felony-after-spray-painting-boyfriends-name-in-park-causing-10k-of-damage/">http://abc14news.com/florida-woman-charged-with-felony-after-spray-painting-boyfriends-name-in-park-causing-10k-of-damage/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/florida-man-spends-a-week-in-prison-before-prosecutors-realise-they-had-the-wrong-guy/">http://abc14news.com/florida-man-spends-a-week-in-prison-before-prosecutors-realise-they-had-the-wrong-guy/</a> <a href="https://miami.cbslocal.com/2018/06/05/week-in-jail-prosecutors-had-wrong-guy/">https://miami.cbslocal.com/2018/06/05/week-in-jail-prosecutors-had-wrong-guy/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/morgantown-mom-catches-pedophile-trying-to-rape-child-blows-his-head-off-with-shotgun/">http://abc14news.com/morgantown-mom-catches-pedophile-trying-to-rape-child-blows-his-head-off-with-shotgun/</a> <a href="https://www.sott.net/article/396944-Notorious-pedophile-killed-by-mother-during-attempted-rape-of-12yo-daughter">https://www.sott.net/article/396944-Notorious-pedophile-killed-by-mother-during-attempted-rape-of-12yo-daughter</a> <a href="http://www.independentsentinel.com/pedophile-shot-dead-by-mom-as-he-tried-to-rape-her-child/">http://www.independentsentinel.com/pedophile-shot-dead-by-mom-as-he-tried-to-rape-her-child/</a> <a href="https://bossip.com/1670792/virginia-mom-catches-pedophile-trying-to-rape-her-daughter-blows-his-head-to-smithereens-with-a-shotgun/">https://bossip.com/1670792/virginia-mom-catches-pedophile-trying-to-rape-her-daughter-blows-his-head-to-smithereens-with-a-shotgun/</a></p>
<b>Credibility</b>	<p><a href="http://abc14news.com/private-education-sector-disrupted-new-startup/">http://abc14news.com/private-education-sector-disrupted-new-startup/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/florida-man-spends-a-week-in-prison-before-prosecutors-realise-they-had-the-wrong-guy/">http://abc14news.com/florida-man-spends-a-week-in-prison-before-prosecutors-realise-they-had-the-wrong-guy/</a> <a href="https://miami.cbslocal.com/2018/06/05/week-in-jail-prosecutors-had-wrong-guy/">https://miami.cbslocal.com/2018/06/05/week-in-jail-prosecutors-had-wrong-guy/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/new-study-finds-teen-suicide-rate-has-doubled-in-us-from-2008-to-2015/">http://abc14news.com/new-study-finds-teen-suicide-rate-has-doubled-in-us-from-2008-to-2015/</a> <a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/big-spike-us-children-teens-attempting-suicide/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/big-spike-us-children-teens-attempting-suicide/</a> <a href="http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2018/05/14/peds.2017-2426?ss=1&amp;ssso_redirect_count=1&amp;nftstatus=401&amp;nftoken=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&amp;nftstatusdescription=ERROR%3a+No+local+token">http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2018/05/14/peds.2017-2426?ss=1&amp;ssso_redirect_count=1&amp;nftstatus=401&amp;nftoken=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&amp;nftstatusdescription=ERROR%3a+No+local+token</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/roanoke-bulldog-bites-off-a-pedophiles-genitals-as-he-tried-to-rape-children/">http://abc14news.com/roanoke-bulldog-bites-off-a-pedophiles-genitals-as-he-tried-to-rape-children/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/roanoke-bulldog-bit-off-a-pedophiles-genitals-as-he-tried-to-rape-sleeping-children/">http://abc14news.com/roanoke-bulldog-bit-off-a-pedophiles-genitals-as-he-tried-to-rape-sleeping-children/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/elgin-illinois-bulldog-bites-off-a-pedophiles-genitals-as-he-tried-to-rape-sleeping-children/">http://abc14news.com/elgin-illinois-bulldog-bites-off-a-pedophiles-genitals-as-he-tried-to-rape-sleeping-children/</a> <a href="http://abc14news.com/morgantown-mom-catches-pedophile-trying-to-rape-child-blows-his-head-off-with-shotgun/">http://abc14news.com/morgantown-mom-catches-pedophile-trying-to-rape-child-blows-his-head-off-with-shotgun/</a> <a href="https://apnews.com/afs:Content:2238211519">https://apnews.com/afs:Content:2238211519</a> <a href="http://www.independentsentinel.com/pedophile-shot-dead-by-mom-as-he-tried-to-rape-her-child/">http://www.independentsentinel.com/pedophile-shot-dead-by-mom-as-he-tried-to-rape-her-child/</a></p>

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**Transparency**

<http://abc14news.com/florida-woman-charged-with-felony-after-spray-painting-boyfriends-name-in-park-causing-10k-of-damage/>  
<http://abc14news.com/florida-man-spends-a-week-in-prison-before-prosecutors-realise-they-had-the-wrong-guy/>  
<http://abc14news.com/iowa-woman-arrested-after-throwing-frozen-chicken-at-supermarket-worker/>  
<http://abc14news.com/contact/>

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**History**

<https://domainbigdata.com/abc14news.com>