Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Understanding the Issue and Accessing Support Services

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Newark, NJ ? Joseph L. Messa, Esq. talks about how April marks Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), a time dedicated to raising awareness about sexual violence and advocating for survivors' rights. This year's national theme, "Together We Act, United We Change," highlights the importance of collective action in preventing sexual assault and supporting those affected by it. Sexual violence continues to impact countless individuals, and SAAM serves as a crucial reminder of the resources available to survivors seeking justice and healing.

Sexual assault remains a widespread issue in New Jersey and across the United States. According to national statistics, one in three women and one in six men will experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime. Many survivors hesitate to come forward due to fear, shame, or lack of knowledge about their rights. Sexual Assault Awareness Month is an opportunity to provide information, support, and advocacy to ensure that survivors receive the assistance they need.

"Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a time to acknowledge survivors, educate communities, and promote the resources that can help those affected by sexual violence," said Joseph L. Messa, Jr. "It is essential that survivors know they are not alone and that there are services available to help them recover and seek justice."

Messa provides comprehensive legal support to those who have experienced sexual abuse or assault in New Jersey. The firm assists survivors in navigating the legal system, ensuring they understand their rights and options. Legal representation can be a crucial component of the healing process, offering survivors a path toward accountability and compensation.

Understanding one?s legal rights is crucial for survivors considering civil action. Under New Jersey law, survivors of sexual assault may be eligible to file a civil lawsuit seeking damages for their suffering. These

claims can provide financial compensation for medical expenses, therapy, lost wages, and emotional distress. Importantly, recent changes in legislation have extended the statute of limitations for survivors, allowing more individuals the opportunity to come forward and hold their abusers accountable.

In addition to legal support, there are numerous resources available for sexual assault survivors in New Jersey, including:

WOAR Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Violence ? Provides a 24-hour hotline (215-985-3333), crisis counseling, and trauma therapy services for survivors of all ages.

New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA) ? Offers advocacy, education, and support programs to empower survivors and prevent sexual violence.

Sexual Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance Centers ? Located throughout New Jersey, these centers provide confidential crisis intervention, counseling, and advocacy services.

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) ? The nation?s largest anti-sexual violence organization, offering confidential support through their national sexual assault hotline (1-800-656-HOPE).

"Healing from sexual violence is a complex journey, and survivors deserve access to compassionate, professional resources that support them every step of the way," added Messa. "Whether it's legal representation, counseling, or advocacy, we want survivors to know that help is available."

Survivors of Abuse NJ encourages anyone affected by sexual violence to reach out for assistance. Whether they seek legal counsel or need emotional support, various organizations stand ready to help. Education and awareness are key components in preventing sexual violence, and SAAM provides an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations about prevention strategies, supporting survivors, and holding perpetrators accountable.

For more information on survivors' rights, legal options, or accessing support services, visit Joe L. Messa, Esq. - The Abuse Lawyer NJ at https://survivorsofabusenj.com/.

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