Pennsylvania Firm Advocates for Extended Statute of Limitations in Child Sex Abuse Cases

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PHILADELPHIA, PA - April 21, 2025 -
Philadelphia, PA - In a significant development, over 60 individuals have recently filed lawsuits alleging they were sexually abused as children within Pennsylvania's juvenile detention and treatment facilities. These cases, spanning more than two decades, highlight systemic failures in protecting vulnerable youth from harm. The lawsuits accuse both government-run and private institutions of negligence and breach of fiduciary duty, with allegations involving guards, counselors, and other staff members. This brings the total to more than 200 such cases filed since May.

Currently, Pennsylvania law allows survivors of childhood sexual abuse to file civil lawsuits against their abusers until they reach the age of 55. This extension, enacted in 2019, was a significant step forward, recognizing the complex trauma and delayed reporting often associated with such abuse. However, many advocates argue that this is still insufficient, as numerous survivors come forward later in life. Research indicates that the average age at which survivors disclose their abuse is approximately 52, leaving many without legal recourse due to existing time constraints.

In response to these limitations, there is a growing movement within the state to further amend the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse cases. The proposed legislation aims to eliminate the civil statute of limitations entirely and introduce a two-year "look-back" window. This window would allow survivors, whose cases were previously time-barred, to pursue legal action against their abusers and the institutions that failed to protect them. Such measures have already been enacted in neighboring states, providing a pathway to justice for many survivors.

Ashley B. DiLiberto, attorney of Survivors of Abuse in Pennsylvania, emphasizes the critical importance of these legislative changes. "Every survivor deserves the opportunity to seek justice, regardless of when they are ready to come forward," DiLiberto states. "The trauma of sexual abuse is profound, and the healing process is unique to each individual. By extending or eliminating the statute of limitations, we acknowledge

this reality and affirm our commitment to supporting survivors in their pursuit of justice."

Survivors of Abuse is dedicated to representing individuals who have suffered from various forms of sexual abuse in PA, including incidents occurring in institutional settings such as juvenile detention centers, schools, religious organizations, and healthcare facilities. The firm provides compassionate and comprehensive legal support, guiding survivors through the complexities of the legal system to hold perpetrators and negligent institutions accountable.

The recent lawsuits underscore the urgent need for reform. They reveal not only the prevalence of abuse but also the systemic failures that have allowed such misconduct to persist. By advocating for an extended or abolished statute of limitations, Pennsylvania can empower survivors to come forward when they are ready, ensuring that justice is not constrained by arbitrary time limits.

Attorney DiLiberto adds, "Our legal system must evolve to reflect the realities of trauma and abuse. By removing these legal barriers, we send a powerful message to survivors: We believe you, and we stand with you in your journey toward justice."

As the movement for legislative reform gains momentum, Survivors of Abuse remains at the forefront, advocating tirelessly for the rights of survivors. The firm encourages anyone affected by sexual abuse to seek legal counsel to understand their rights and explore their options for justice.

For more information or to schedule a confidential consultation, please visit Survivors of Abuse Pennsylvania.

By supporting these critical legislative changes, Pennsylvania has the opportunity to lead in the fight against sexual abuse, ensuring that survivors have the time they need to come forward and seek the justice they deserve.

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