Survivors of Abuse NY Expands Legal Education on Sexual Abuse Cases in Institutional Settings

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NEW YORK, NY - December 18, 2025 -
Survivors of Abuse NY announced an expansion of its educational outreach focused on civil legal remedies for survivors of sexual abuse across New York, including Staten Island. The initiative, led by partner Thomas Guiffra, Esq., is designed to increase awareness of survivors? rights under state law and the mechanisms available to pursue accountability through the civil justice system.

?Survivors often face uncertainty about how to come forward and what options are available under the law,? said Thomas Guiffra, Esq., partner at Survivors of Abuse NY. ?Our goal is to provide factual, accessible information about civil processes so that individuals can make informed decisions about how to seek justice.?

The initiative comes at a time of ongoing attention to institutional accountability within New York?s civil justice landscape. Survivors of Abuse NY?s outreach emphasizes the distinctions between criminal prosecution and civil litigation, highlighting how civil claims can hold both individual perpetrators and responsible organizations liable. These cases may involve employers, schools, religious institutions, or other organizations that failed to report, supervise, or act on allegations of misconduct.

Recent legislative reforms have played a major role in expanding access to justice for survivors. The Child Victims Act and Adult Survivors Act have opened temporary ?lookback windows,? permitting claims that were previously time-barred to move forward in court. These provisions have enabled survivors of abuse from Staten Island and across the state to file lawsuits addressing historical misconduct in institutional and professional settings. The legislative reforms also underscore the importance of transparent institutional policies and adherence to mandatory reporting requirements.

Survivors of Abuse NY?s educational materials explain how civil cases progress, from filing a complaint through discovery and potential resolution. The organization provides factual guidance on evidentiary standards, statute of limitations considerations, and the types of damages that may be recoverable under

New York law. By focusing on education rather than advocacy, the initiative seeks to equip survivors and their families with reliable information that clarifies complex legal procedures.

Institutional sexual abuse cases frequently involve multiple levels of authority and oversight. Civil claims may examine whether organizations properly conducted background checks, responded to prior complaints, or followed established safeguarding protocols. Evidence such as internal communications, employee records, and policy documents often plays a key role in determining whether institutions acted in accordance with their legal duties. Survivors of Abuse NY?s focus on these elements aims to encourage greater understanding of how the civil process promotes accountability and institutional reform.

The organization incorporates trauma-informed practices into its work with survivors, emphasizing confidentiality, informed consent, and sensitivity throughout legal proceedings. Many survivors experience hesitation or fear of retaliation when considering whether to pursue civil action, particularly in cases involving trusted authority figures. The trauma-informed approach prioritizes survivor choice and aims to reduce the emotional barriers associated with participating in the legal process.

Civil litigation has also contributed to broader institutional changes across New York. Settlements and court findings in abuse cases have led to revised hiring policies, updated reporting procedures, and the introduction of independent oversight mechanisms in various sectors. Survivors of Abuse NY continues to participate in discussions that connect individual legal outcomes with larger efforts to improve prevention and transparency within community institutions.

Established to serve individuals impacted by sexual abuse and institutional misconduct, Survivors of Abuse NY provides educational resources outlining survivors? rights and the legal options available under New York law. The organization?s statewide outreach includes information sessions, written materials, and updates on evolving legislation that affects survivors? access to the courts.

For more information, visit Survivors of Abuse NY or to learn more about civil legal remedies and institutional accountability efforts in New York.

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