



2018 Sexual Violence Legislative Agenda

Sexual Violence Services Funding

A person is sexually assaulted every 98 seconds in the United States. Despite this, Arizona is one of the only remaining states without sexual violence funding and Rape Crisis Centers. Our current measures are not enough. Arizona needs to support survivors of sexual violence with funding for victim-centered services, including an expansion of current services and the introduction of 24/7 sexual violence specific services available to those who experience this trauma.

Comprehensive Health Education

ACESDV is dedicated to preventing sexual violence before it happens. One way of doing this is insuring that Arizona children receive fact based, comprehensive health education about relationships, sex, and sexuality in schools. Only by having the facts can individuals recognize and avoid dangerous situations. This health education needs to be inclusive so that all Arizona youth have the knowledge and tools to empower their safety.

Protection of Sexual Violence Survivors Identity

Non-disclosure agreements should not be binding in cases of sexual violence but proper protection of the victims identity must be upheld. Sexual violence survivors already face tremendous trauma and deserve to be protected. While ACESDV supports HB2020, an exception should be made for victims to decide if their information is released.

Repeal of Parental Rights of Rapists

In Arizona, convicted rapists lose parental rights over children conceived during the rape. However, only 2 of every 100 reported rapes result in felony convictions, leaving many perpetrators still in possession of their parental rights. This leads to rape victims being forced to have shared custody, visitation, and other contact with their rapist. This is dangerous for both the children and the victim. In cases of sexual violence, Family Court should be able to use a preponderance of evidence to remove the parental rights from rapists and restore safety.

Clarification of Medical Forensic Exam Payment

In order to increase transparency and ease for sexual violence survivors seeking a medical forensic exam, ACESDV would like to clarify the language to specify which county agency is fiscally responsible for medical forensic exams within the county. This will provide greater clarity to law enforcement, advocates, and survivors as to who will financially support this important medical procedure.

Support for Clarification of Reporting for Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

ACESDV recognizes that good reporting and updates support the system that serves sexual violence survivors. Older reporting requirements, however, are a drain on the resources of the state. ACESDV supports the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) as they seek to update reporting requirements and eliminate those that are not applicable in the current system. In addition, making sure reported data from law enforcement mirrors the ACJC system is needed for standardization and effectiveness.

Other Areas of Interest

ACESDV believes in enhancing survivors' ability to maintain safety and promote social justice for the betterment of those affected by violence. We will continue to focus our efforts on additional legislative issues such as family law, healthcare, education, immigration, and other areas that may impact sexual and domestic violence survivors and their families in Arizona.