



## 2019 Sexual Violence Legislative Agenda

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### Sexual Violence Services Funding

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A person is sexually assaulted every 98 seconds in the United States. Despite this, Arizona is one of few states without sexual violence funding and community Rape Crisis Centers. 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 assault specific services available to those who experience this trauma.

### Comprehensive Health Education

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ACESDV is dedicated to preventing sexual violence before it happens. A critical component of sexual violence prevention is the provision of fact-based, comprehensive health education about consent, healthy relationships, and sexuality in Arizona schools. Education of this kind has been empirically demonstrated to reduce sexual violence perpetration and victimization among youth. Comprehensive health education should be equally accessible among students, so that all youth have the knowledge and tools to enhance safety and respectful relationships.

### Repeal of Parental Rights of Rapists

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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 clear and convincing evidence standard without a conviction requirement to remove the parental rights from rapists and restore safety.

### Sexual Assault Protective Order

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Currently, petitioners of orders of protection must be in an intimate or familial relationship with their assailant and have documented more than one incident of violence. This creates a barrier for sexual violence survivors who often do not meet these requirements, but may still need an order of protection against their perpetrator. ACESDV advocates for a Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO) that does not require the petitioner and respondent have an intimate or familial relationship and that allows for petitions based on a single incident of sexual violence based on a preponderance of the evidence standard.

### Other Areas of Interest

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ACESDV believes in enhancing survivors' and community safety through dismantling oppression and promoting equity. We will continue to focus our efforts on additional legislative issues such as family law, healthcare and reproductive healthcare access, education, humane and just immigration policies and reform measures, and other areas that may impact sexual and domestic violence survivors and their families in Arizona.