

Catholic Church Child Sex Abuse Survivors Could Potentially Change the Sexual Abuse Victim Laws

In response to the Pennsylvania Catholic Church Child Sex Abuse Case, sexual abuse victim laws could be changed for every victim.

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Tuesday, September 25th, PA Senate leaders did not say yes but also did not say no to passing a bill that would temporarily permit a two-year window for victims of sexual abuse outside of the legal report deadline the chance to file civil suits for their cases. The bill under consideration is in response to the PA Catholic Church sex abuse charges.

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Alvin F de Levie, Esq.

Though the Senate did not come to a final decision on Tuesday, they did promise they would decide by the end of October to get the victims of the Catholic church case compensation for the pain they’ve endured. They need more time to choose how that is.

“Anyone who has endured such traumatic pain for so long deserves the ultimate form of compensation,” said [Alvin de](#)

[Levie, Esq.](#) “These poor people have been living with their haunting past and finally have a chance to get the closure they deserve.”

The temporary two-year window would allow child sex abuse victims to report the abuse anytime before their 50th birthday. Those who support the bill argue that this amount of time is needed for some abuse victims to come to terms with the abuse and have the strength to report it.

Senate Majority Leader, Jake Corman, saw some issues with the bill as is when it passed through Senate that he feels should be rechecked and edited. One major issue with the House bill as is the standard for civil liability for sex abuse happening in public institutions as “gross negligence.”

Corman feels this gives public school employees a shield whereas not one for private schools. “If you’re a victim, you don’t care if your abuser is a priest or private doctor, or it’s a teacher,” he said. Whoever it is he feels should be held equally responsible.

Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati, R-Jefferson County has discussed his preference to have a fund for the victim’s of the Catholic Church abuse to get compensation without the prolonged litigations inside the courtroom. The House, however, does not feel that is enough arguing this issue goes beyond just this specific case in the church.

The House hopes this bill could benefit any child sex abuse victims who have run out of time or have taken longer to build the strength to report what happened to them. This could break boundaries and possibly prevent child sex offenders from continuing to walk the streets unreported.

Democratic member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Mark Rozzi, is more than willing to hear the Senate's concerns and offerings about the bill as it stands. He has said all he cares about is helping the victims get justice.

As the bill moves through the Senate, the victims, as well as the House of Representatives, await what could be groundbreaking Legal changes to the way child sexual abuse laws function. The possible adjustment to the age deadline set for filing a case could open the door for many victims too afraid to come forward quickly against their abusers.

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