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The Sean P. McIlmail Statute of Limitations Research Institute



SNAP

Maryland

Survivor Toolkit

A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who Are Considering Legal Action



The new laws go into effect on October 1, 2023





Maine

Survivor Toolkit

A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who Are Considering Legal Action



The revival law went into effect on October 18, 2021



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Colorado

Access to Justice Toolkit

A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who Are Considering Legal Action



The new laws go into effect January 1, 2022



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Arkansas

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A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who Are Considering Legal Action



The window opens February 1, 2022 and closes January 31, 2024





Nevada

Survivor Toolkit

*A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who
Are Considering Legal Action*



A new law went into effect of June 2, 2021

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Louisiana

Survivor Toolkit

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The window opens June 14, 2021 and closes June 13, 2024



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New York

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WINDOW CLOSED

The window opens August 14, 2019 and closes August 13, 2021





Arizona

Survivor Toolkit

*A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who
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WINDOW CLOSED

The window opens May 27, 2019 and closes December 30, 2020



Montana

Survivor Toolkit

A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who Are Considering Legal Action



WINDOW CLOSED

The window opens May 7, 2019 and closes May 6, 2020





Rhode Island

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A new law went into effect July 1, 2019

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New Jersey

Survivor Toolkit

*A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who
Are Considering Legal Action*



The window opens Dec. 1, 2019 and closes Nov. 30, 2021



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California

Survivor Toolkit

A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who Are Considering Legal Action



The window opens January 1, 2020 and closes December 31, 2022



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North Carolina

Survivor Toolkit

*A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who
Are Considering Legal Action*



The window opens Jan. 1, 2020 and closes Dec. 30, 2021





Vermont

Survivor Toolkit

*A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who
Are Considering Legal Action*



The new law went into effect May 28, 2019





District of Columbia

Survivor Toolkit

*A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who
Are Considering Legal Action*



WINDOW CLOSED

The window opens May 3, 2019 and closes May 2, 2021

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SNAP

Kentucky

Survivor Toolkit

A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who Are Considering Legal Action



The new law went into effect March 23, 2021





Maryland

Survivor Toolkit

A Guide For Child Sex Abuse Survivors Who Are Considering Legal Action



The revival law will go into effect on October 23, 2023



What is District of Columbia's New SOL Law?

The D.C. Law explained:

This new law will benefit MANY victims of sex abuse in D.C in some way. Some parts of the law will be permanent going forward and some parts of the law are temporary and have a limited time for action.

New Civil SOL for CHILD Sex Abuse:

All future survivors and some current survivors will have until their 40th birthday or 5 years from discovery of the abuse to file a civil lawsuit, whichever is later. Adults who were abused as children that are currently under age 40, or older but recently discovered their abuse, can now sue until May 2, 2021.

New Civil SOL for ADULT Sex Abuse:

All future survivors and some current survivors who are abused while under age 35 will have until their 40th birthday or 5 years from discovery of the abuse to file a civil lawsuit, whichever is later. All future survivors and some current survivors who are abused at age 35 or older will have 5 years from the abuse or discovery of the abuse to sue. Some survivors may be able to sue until May 2, 2021, depending on the age they were abused, how old they are now, and the date they discovered their abuse.

New Criminal SOL for CHILD and ADULT Sex Abuse:

There is no longer an age or time limit for criminal prosecution of sex abuse crimes committed against children and adults.

**THE WINDOW OPENS MAY 3, 2019
AND CLOSSES MAY 2, 2021**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in District of Columbia.

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How Will District of Columbia's New SOL Law Help You?

Are you a DC survivor of CHILD sex abuse?

If you were abused in D.C., you may have the right to file a civil lawsuit and criminal prosecution of the abuser may be permitted for a longer period of time. The scope of your rights depends on your current age.

If your birthday is on or after May 4, 1994:

Civil: You will benefit from the civil SOL extension and can sue for your abuse until your 40th birthday or 5 years after you discover the abuse, whichever date is later.

If your birthday is from May 4, 1979 to May 3, 1994:

Civil: You will benefit from the 2-year revival window that is open and can sue for your abuse until May 2, 2021.

If your birthday is on or before May 3, 1979:

Civil: If you discovered your abuse within the last 5 years, you may benefit from the 2-year revival window that is open and may sue for your abuse until May 2, 2021. If you discovered your abuse over 5 years ago, you will not benefit from the SOL extension or window and do not gain any rights under this new law.

Criminal: If a child sex abuse felony crime was committed against you and you are currently under age 36, you may benefit from the criminal SOL elimination and your abuser may be prosecuted at any time. If you are currently age 36 or older, the SOL for criminal prosecution has already expired and cannot be revived.

THE WINDOW OPENS MAY 3, 2019 AND CLOSSES MAY 2, 2021

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in District of Columbia.

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How Will District of Columbia's New SOL Law Help You?

Are you a DC survivor of ADULT sex abuse?

If you were abused in D.C., you may have the right to file a civil lawsuit and criminal prosecution of the abuser may be permitted for a longer period of time. The scope of your rights depends on the age you were when you were abused and your current age.

If you were abused at Age 18-34 and your birthday is after May 3, 1979:

Civil: If the SOL was not already expired, you will benefit from the civil SOL extension to age 40 or 5 years from discovery of the abuse. If the SOL already expired, you will benefit from the 2-year window that is open and can sue for your abuse until May 2, 2021.

If you were abused at Age 18-34 and your birthday is on or before May 3, 1979:

Civil: If the SOL was not already expired, you will benefit from the civil SOL extension to 5 years from discovery of the abuse. If the SOL already expired but you discovered your abuse within the last 5 years, you may benefit from the 2-year revival window that is open and may sue for your abuse until May 2, 2021. If you discovered your abuse over 5 years ago, you will not benefit from the window and do not gain any rights under this new law.

If you were abused at Age 35 or older:

Civil: If the SOL was not already expired, you will benefit from the civil SOL extension to 5 years from the abuse or discovery of the abuse. If the SOL already expired, and the abuse occurred within the last 5 years or you discovered your abuse within the last 5 years, you may benefit from the 2-year window that is open and can sue for your abuse until May 2, 2021.

Criminal SOL for all ADULT sex abuse survivors: If the criminal SOL was not already expired on May 3, 2019, you may benefit from the criminal SOL elimination and the abuser may be prosecuted at any time for felony sex abuse. If the SOL was already expired, it cannot be revived.

THE WINDOW OPENS MAY 3, 2019 AND CLOSSES MAY 2, 2021

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What is Vermont's New SOL Law?

The Vermont Law Explained:

It will benefit ALL survivors of child sex abuse in Vermont -- past, present, and future.

New Civil SOL:

There is no longer an SOL for civil claims relating to child sex abuse and all claims that were previously expired are revived. All children being abused now will be able to file a civil lawsuit against an abuser, other individual, entity, or the government at any time. Adults of all ages who were abused as children will now be able to sue whenever they are ready, even if they were abused years ago and their claim was already expired.

THE NEW LAW WENT INTO EFFECT ON MAY 28, 2019

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Vermont.

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How Will Vermont's New SOL Law Help You?

Are you a Vermont survivor of child sex abuse?

If you were abused in Vermont at any time, you now have the right to file a civil lawsuit for your abuse against any party -- your abuser, other individual, organization, institution, or the government. You will benefit from the civil SOL elimination and permanent revival window and can file a lawsuit against any party for your abuse whenever you are ready.

**THE NEW LAW WENT INTO EFFECT
ON MAY 28, 2019**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Vermont.

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What is North Carolina's New SOL Law?

The North Carolina Law explained:

This new law will benefit ALL victims of child sex abuse in North Carolina. Some parts of the law will be permanent going forward and some parts of the law are temporary and have a limited time for action.

New Civil SOL:

All future survivors and some current survivors will have until age 28 or 2 years after an abuser is convicted of a related felony sexual offense to file civil lawsuits against their abuser, other individual, organization, or entity. Adults of all ages who were abused as children now have the right to sue from January 1, 2020 through December 30, 2021, even if the abuse happened years ago and their claim was already expired.

New Criminal SOL:

Abusers can be criminally prosecuted at any time for felony child sex abuse crimes and now there is a longer 10-year limit from the crime for prosecution of child sex abuse misdemeanors.

**THE WINDOW OPENS JANUARY 1, 2020 AND CLOSSES
DECEMBER 30, 2021**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in North Carolina.

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How Will North Carolina's New SOL Law Help You?

Are you a North Carolina survivor of child sex abuse?

If you were abused in North Carolina, you now have the right to file a civil lawsuit for your abuse. The scope of your rights depends on your birthday.

If your birthday is on or after December 1, 1998:

You will benefit from the civil extension and can file a civil lawsuit against an abuser, other individual, organization, or entity for your abuse until you are 28 years old or 2 years after an abuser is convicted of a related felony sexual offense, whichever is later.

If your birthday is before December 1, 1998:

You will benefit from the revival window and can file a civil lawsuit against an abuser, other individual, organization, or entity for your abuse until December 30, 2021.

**THE WINDOW OPENS JANUARY 1, 2020 AND CLOSSES
DECEMBER 30, 2021**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in North Carolina.

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What is California's New SOL Law?

The California Law explained:

This new law will benefit ALL victims of child sex abuse in California. Some parts of the law will be permanent going forward and some parts of the law are temporary and have a limited time for action.

Longer SOL for Many Survivors:

All past, present, and future survivors will have until their 40th birthday or 5 years after discovery that their injuries were caused by child sex abuse to file a civil suit against any party -- their abuser, other individual, entity, organization or the government.

Window for All Survivors:

Any adults who were sexually abused as children now have the right to file civil lawsuits against any party from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022, even if they are over 40 and the abuse happened years ago.

**THE WINDOW OPENS JANUARY 1, 2020 AND CLOSSES
DECEMBER 31, 2022**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in California.

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How Will California's New SOL Law Help You?

Are you a California survivor of child sex abuse?

If you were abused in California, you now have the right to file a civil lawsuit for your abuse against any party -- your abuser, other individual, organization, institution, or the government. The scope of your rights depends on your current age.

If you are currently under Age 40:

You will benefit from the civil SOL extension and the 3-year revival window. You can file a civil lawsuit against an abuser, other individual, entity or the government for your abuse until your 40th birthday, 5 years after you discover your injuries were caused by the abuse, or during the window that is open until December 31, 2022, whichever date is later.

If you are currently Age 40 or older:

You will benefit from the civil SOL extension and the 3-year revival window. You can sue an abuser, other individual, entity or the government for your abuse during the window that is open until December 31, 2022. Even after the window closes, you can sue up until 5 years after you discover your injuries were caused by the abuse.

**THE WINDOW OPENS JANUARY 1, 2020 AND
CLOSES DECEMBER 31, 2022**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in California.

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What is New Jersey's New SOL Law?

The New Jersey Law explained:

This new law will benefit ALL victims of sex abuse in New Jersey. Some parts of the law will be permanent going forward and some parts of the law are temporary and have a limited time for action.

New Civil SOL for CHILD Sex Abuse:

All past, present, and future survivors will have until age 55 or 7 years after discovery that their injuries were caused by child sex abuse to file a civil suit against any party -- their abuser, other individual, organization, entity, or the government. Also, adult survivors of any age who were sexually abused as children now have the right to file civil lawsuits against any party from December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2021.

New Civil SOL for ADULT Sex Abuse:

All past, present, and future survivors will have 7 years after they were sexually abused or 7 years after discovering that their injuries were caused by the abuse to file a civil suit against any party. Also, adult survivors of any age who were sexually abused as adults now have the right to file civil lawsuits against any party from from December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2021, even if they knew of their injuries long ago.

**THE WINDOW OPENS DECEMBER 1, 2019 AND
CLOSES NOVEMBER 30, 2021**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in New Jersey.

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How Will New Jersey's New SOL Law Help You?

Are you a New Jersey survivor of CHILD sex abuse?

If you were abused in New Jersey, you now have the right to file a civil lawsuit for your abuse against any party -- your abuser, another individual, organization, institution, or the government. The scope of your rights depends on your current age.

If you are currently under Age 55:

You will benefit from the civil SOL extension and the revival window. You can sue any party for your abuse during the window that is open until November 30, 2021. Even after the window closes, you can sue until you are 55 years old or within 7 years after you discover that your injuries were caused by your abuse, whichever date is later.

If you are currently Age 55 and older:

You will benefit from the revival window that is open and can file a civil lawsuit against any party for your abuse until November 30, 2021. Even after the window closes, you can sue within 7 years after you discover that your injuries were caused by your abuse.

Are you a New Jersey survivor of ADULT sex abuse?

You now have the right to file a civil lawsuit against any party for your abuse during the revival window that is open until November 30, 2021. Even after the window closes, you can sue within 7 years after your abuse or 7 years after you discover that your injuries were caused by your abuse, whichever date is later.

**THE WINDOW OPENS DECEMBER 1, 2019 AND
CLOSES NOVEMBER 30, 2021**

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What is Rhode Island's New SOL Law?

The Rhode Island Law explained:

It will benefit many victims of child sex abuse in RI in some way:

New Civil SOL:

All children being abused now will have until Age 53 or 7 years after discovery that their injuries were caused by child sex abuse to file civil suits against abusers, individuals, entities and the government. Adults who were abused as children will now have until they are 53 years old or 7 years from discovery to sue a perpetrator for the recovery of damages for injuries suffered as a result of abuse.

**THE REVIVAL LAW WAS EFFECTIVE ON
JULY 1, 2019**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Rhode Island.

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How Will Rhode Island's New SOL Laws Help You?

Are you a Rhode Island survivor of child sex abuse?

You may have the right to file a civil lawsuit for your abuse. The scope of your rights depends on your current age.

If you are currently under Age 21:

You will benefit from the civil SOL extension and can file a civil lawsuit against a perpetrator, individual, entity or the government for your abuse until you are 53 years old or 7 years after discovery that your injuries were caused by your abuse, whichever date is later.

If you are currently Age 21-52:

You may benefit from the civil SOL revival law and can file a civil lawsuit against a perpetrator until you are 53 years old or 7 years after discovery that your injuries were caused by your abuse, whichever date is later. Civil claims against non-perpetrators are already expired and the limited revival law does not apply to them.

If you are currently Age 53 and older:

You may benefit from the civil SOL revival law and can file a civil lawsuit against a perpetrator only if it is within 7 years after you discover that your injuries were caused by your abuse. Otherwise, civil claims against perpetrators and non-perpetrators are expired.

THE REVIVAL LAW WAS EFFECTIVE ON JULY 1, 2019

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What is Montana's New SOL Law?

The Montana Law explained:

This new law will benefit ALL victims of child sex abuse in Montana. Some parts of the law will be permanent going forward and some parts of the law are temporary and have a limited time for action.

New Civil SOL:

All past, present, and future survivors will have until age 27 or 3 years after discovery that their injuries were caused by child sex abuse to file a civil suit against their abuser or an entity. Any adults who were sexually abused as children now have the right to file civil lawsuits against their abuser or an entity until May 6, 2020, even if they are over 27 and the abuse happened years ago.

New Criminal SOL:

There is no longer an age or time limit for criminal prosecution of any sex abuse crimes committed against children.

**THE WINDOW OPENS MAY 7, 2019
AND CLOSSES MAY 6, 2020**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Montana.

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How Will Montana's New SOL Laws Help You?

Are you a Montana survivor of child sex abuse?

If you were abused in Montana, you now have the right to file a civil lawsuit against your abuser or an entity responsible for your abuse and criminal prosecution of your abuser may be permitted for a longer period of time. The scope of your rights depends on your current age.

If you are currently under Age 27:

Civil: You will benefit from the civil SOL extension and the revival window. You can sue an abuser or entity for your abuse during the window that is open until May 6, 2020. Even after the window closes, you can sue for your abuse until you are 27 years old or 3 years after discovery, whichever date is later.

Criminal: If the SOL was not already expired as of May 7, 2019, you will benefit from the criminal SOL elimination and the abuser may be prosecuted at any time.

If you are currently Age 27:

Civil: You will benefit from the revival window that is open until May 6, 2020 which temporarily allows you to file a civil lawsuit against an entity and an abuser who is alive and has been convicted of or admitted to the abuse. Even after the window closes, you can sue for your abuse up until 3 years after discovery.

Criminal: If the SOL was not already expired as of May 7, 2019, you will benefit from the criminal SOL elimination and the abuser may be prosecuted at any time.

If you are currently Age 28 and older:

Civil: You will benefit from the revival window that is open until May 6, 2020 which temporarily allows you to file a civil lawsuit against an entity and an abuser who is alive and has been convicted of or admitted to the abuse. Even after the window closes, you can sue for your abuse up until 3 years after discovery.

Criminal: The SOL for criminal prosecution has already expired and cannot be revived. Even though your abuser can no longer be prosecuted for the crime, you may still report the abuse to the police department in the town where you were abused.

THE WINDOW OPENS MAY 7, 2019 AND CLOSSES MAY 6, 2020

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Montana.

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What is the Arizona Child Protection Act?

The Child Protection Act explained:

This new law will benefit ALL victims of child sex abuse in Arizona. Some parts of the law will be permanent going forward and some parts of the law are temporary and have a limited time for action.

New Civil SOL:

All past, present, and future survivors will have until their 30th birthday to file a civil suit against any party -- their abuser, other individual, entity or the government -- for intentional and negligent conduct, including failure to report sexual abuse of a minor. Any adults who were sexually abused as children now have the right to file civil lawsuits until December 30, 2020, even if they are over 30 and the abuse happened years ago.

**THE WINDOW OPENS MAY 27, 2019 AND
CLOSES DECEMBER 30, 2020**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Arizona.

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How Will Arizona's Child Protection Act Help You?

Are you an Arizona survivor of child sex abuse?

If you were abused in Arizona, you now have the right to file a civil lawsuit for your abuse against any party -- your abuser, other individual, organization, institution, or the government. The scope of your rights depends on your current age.

If you are currently under Age 30:

You will benefit from the civil SOL extension and the revival window. You can sue any party for your abuse during the window that is open until December 30, 2020. Even after the window closes, you can sue for your abuse until you are 30 years old.

If you are currently Age 30 and older:

You will benefit from the revival window that is open and can sue any party for your abuse until December 30, 2020.

**THE WINDOW OPENS MAY 27, 2019 AND
CLOSES DECEMBER 30, 2020**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Arizona.

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What Are Colorado's New Statute of Limitations Laws?

The Laws explained:

Colorado passed two new laws that will benefit **MANY** survivors of child sex abuse in the state. Some parts of the laws will be permanent going forward and other parts of the laws are temporary and have a limited time for action. Together the laws eliminate the statute of limitation (SOL) for filing civil claims for recent and future child sex abuse. There is also a 3-year window for filing some claims for abuse that was committed years ago.

SOL Before the Laws:

Child sex abuse victims had to file civil lawsuits against their abuser before **age 24** or within 6 years of discovering their injuries, whichever date was later. They had even less time for suits against other individuals and institutions and had to file by **age 20** or 2 years after discovery.

SOL After the Law:

No SOL for Many Survivors: Survivors whose civil claims have not expired and future survivors of child sex abuse can file suit whenever they are ready.

Window for Some Survivors: Adults who suffered sexual abuse as a child on or after January 1, 1960 can file a lawsuit starting on January 1, 2022, while the 3-year window is open.

**THE NEW SOL LAWS GO INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2022
THE WINDOW OPENS JANUARY 1, 2022 AND CLOSSES DECEMBER 31, 2024**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Colorado.

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How Will Colorado's New Laws Help You?

Are you a Colorado survivor of child sex abuse?

If you were abused in Colorado, you may have a new right to file a civil lawsuit for your abuse. The scope of your rights depends on your current age, how long ago you were abused, and when you discovered your injuries from the abuse.

If your birthday is on or after January 2, 2002:

You will benefit from the SOL elimination law and can file a lawsuit against any person or organization for your abuse at **any time**.

If your birthday is from January 2, 1998 to January 1, 2002:

You will benefit from the SOL elimination law and can file a lawsuit against your abuser at **any time**. You may also benefit from the 3-year **window** and can file a lawsuit against a public or private organization until December 31, 2024.

If your birthday is on or before January 1, 1998:

You may benefit from the 3-year **window** if you were abused on or after January 1, 1960, and can file a lawsuit against your abuser and a public or private organization until December 31, 2024. Unfortunately, if you were abused before January 1, 1960, you do not gain any new rights under these new SOL laws unless you recently discovered your injuries from the abuse.

If you recently discovered your injuries from abuse:

Regardless of your birthday, you may benefit from the SOL elimination law. If you discovered your injuries on or after January 2, 2020, you can file a lawsuit against any person or organization at **any time**, no matter how long ago you were abused. If you discovered your injuries on or after January 2, 2016, but before January 2, 2020, you may file a lawsuit against your abuser at **any time**, depending on how long ago and how old you were when you were abused.

**THE NEW SOL LAWS GO INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2022
THE WINDOW OPENS JANUARY 1, 2022 AND CLOSSES DECEMBER 31, 2024**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Colorado.

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What Is the Maine Act to Provide Access to Justice for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse?

The Law explained:

It will benefit ALL survivors of any age who have suffered child sex abuse in Maine in the past:

SOL Before the Law:

On April 7, 2000, Maine eliminated the statute of limitations for child sex abuse claims. This meant that victims of future abuse and victims whose claims had not already expired could now bring a claim at any point. However, the change in 2000 did not revive claims for older victims that were already expired.

SOL After the Law:

Window for All Survivors: All claims that were previously expired are revived. Adults of all ages who were abused as children will now be able to file lawsuits for child sex abuse starting on October 18, 2021 even if their claim was expired under the prior law.

THE NEW LAW WENT INTO EFFECT ON OCTOBER 18, 2021

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Maine.

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How Will Maine's New Law Help You?

Are you a Maine survivor of child sex abuse?

If you were abused in Maine at any time, you now have the right to file a civil lawsuit for your abuse against any party -- your abuser, other individual, organization, institution, or the government. You will benefit from the permanent revival window and can file a lawsuit against any party for your abuse whenever you are ready.

THE NEW LAW WENT INTO EFFECT ON OCTOBER 18, 2021

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Maine.

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What Is Kentucky's New SOL Law?

The Law explained:

This new law will benefit **SOME** victims of child sex abuse in Kentucky. Some parts of the law will be permanent going forward and some parts of the law are temporary and have a limited time for action.

SOL Before the Law:

In 2017 Kentucky extended its SOLs for child sex abuse. It gave victims until **age 28** or within 10 years of when the abuse ended or their discovery of the abuse, whichever was latest, to file civil lawsuits. The law did not make clear, however, if this longer SOL applied to claims against institutions and claims for abuse before 2017.

SOL After the Law:

The new law broadens the SOL and clarifies that the SOL for child sex abuse claims in Kentucky against any abuser, organization, institution, or the government is **age 28**, 10 years from discovery of the abuse, 10 years from when the abuse ended, or 10 years after an abuser is convicted, whichever is latest. It also temporarily revives some recently expired claims.

THE NEW LAW WENT INTO EFFECT ON MARCH 23, 2021

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Kentucky.

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How Will Kentucky's New SOL Law Help You?

Are you a Kentucky survivor of CHILD sex abuse?

If you were abused in Kentucky, you may have the right to file a civil lawsuit for your abuse. The scope of your rights depends on your birthday.

If your birthday is on June 29, 1994 or later:

You can sue your abuser, an organization, institution, or the government for your abuse until your 28th birthday, or within 10 years after you discover your abuse, 10 years after the abuse ended, or 10 years after your abuser is convicted of abuse crimes committed against you or others, whichever date is latest.

If your birthday is from March 23, 1994 to June 28, 1994:

You will benefit from the revival law and can sue for your abuse until your 28th birthday, or within 10 years after you discover your abuse, or 10 years after the abuse ended, whichever date is latest.

If your birthday is before March 23, 1994:

If you discovered your abuse between March 23, 2012 and June 28, 2012, you may benefit from the revival law and can sue for your abuse until 10 years after your discovery. Otherwise, you do not gain any rights under this new law.

THE NEW LAW WENT INTO EFFECT ON MARCH 23, 2021

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What Is the Arkansas Justice for Vulnerable Victims of Sexual Abuse Act?

The Law explained:

This new law will benefit **ALL** victims of child sex abuse in Arkansas. Some parts of the law will be permanent going forward and some parts of the law are temporary and have a limited time for action. The law extends the statute of limitation (SOL) for filing civil claims from age 21 to age 55 and opens a 2-year revival window for expired claims.

SOL Before the Law:

Child sex abuse victims had to file civil lawsuits before **age 21** or within 3 years of discovering their injury was caused by the abuse, whichever date was later.

SOL After the Law:

Longer SOL for Many Survivors: All child sex abuse victims under age 21 (as of July 31, 2021) and future victims will have until **age 55** or 3 years from discovery to file a civil lawsuit, whichever date is later.

Window for All Survivors: Adults of all ages can file lawsuits for child sex abuse starting on February 1, 2022, while the 2-year window is open, even if their claim was expired under the prior law.

**THE WINDOW OPENS FEBRUARY 1, 2022
AND CLOSSES JANUARY 31, 2024**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Arkansas.

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How Will Arkansas's New Law Help You?

Are you an Arkansas survivor of child sex abuse?

If you were abused in Arkansas, you now have the right to file a civil lawsuit for your abuse against any party -- your abuser, other individual, organization, institution, or the government. The scope of your rights depends on your age.

If your birthday is after July 31, 2000:

You will benefit from the SOL extension and can file a lawsuit against any party for your abuse. You can sue until your **55th birthday** or 3 years after you discover your injuries were caused by the abuse, whichever date is later.

If your birthday is on or before July 31, 2000:

You will benefit from the 2-year revival window. You can file a lawsuit against any party for your abuse while the window is open between February 1, 2022 and January 31, 2024. Even after the window closes, you will still have 3 years after you discover your injuries were caused by the abuse to sue.

**THE WINDOW OPENS FEBRUARY 1, 2022
AND CLOSSES JANUARY 31, 2024**

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What Is Nevada's New Law?

The Law explained:

Nevada passed a new law that will benefit **MANY** survivors in the state -- victims of child sexual abuse (assault, incest, and lewdness) and exploitation (prostitution, pornography, and child sexual abuse material (CSAM)). The law eliminates the statute of limitation (SOL) for filing civil claims against abusers and persons who are criminally liable for any past, present, and future abuse or exploitation. It also extends the SOL to when a survivor reaches age 38 for claims against other individuals and entities for any past, present, and future abuse or exploitation.

Child Sexual Abuse SOL:

Before the Law: Child sexual abuse survivors had to file civil lawsuits against all defendants before **age 38** or within 20 years of discovering their injury was caused by the abuse, whichever date was later.

After the Law: All past, present, and future survivors can file a civil lawsuit against abusers or those criminally liable at **any time** and against other individuals and entities until they reach **age 38**.

Child Sexual Exploitation SOL:

Before the Law: Child exploitation survivors had to file civil lawsuits against all defendants before **age 20**, with an exception for those appearing in CSAM while under age 16, who could file civil lawsuits against promoters, possessors, and online viewers of CSAM before age 38 or within 20 years of the verdict in a criminal case, whichever date was later.

After the Law: All past, present, and future survivors can file a civil lawsuit against abusers or those criminally liable at **any time** and against other individuals and entities who were involved in or benefited from their exploitation until they reach **age 38**, with an exception for those appearing in CSAM while under age 16, who could file civil lawsuits against promoters, possessors, and online viewers of CSAM at any time.

THESE CHANGES WENT INTO EFFECT ON JUNE 2, 2021

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Nevada.

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How Will Nevada's New Law Help You?

Are you a Nevada survivor of child sexual abuse or exploitation?

Child sexual abuse includes sexual assault, incest, and lewdness, while sexual exploitation includes creating CSAM and encouraging a child to engage in prostitution, a live performance, or view pornography. If you were sexually abused or exploited in Nevada, you now have the right to file a civil lawsuit for your injury. The scope of your rights depends on your age at the time of abuse and your age now.

If you are currently younger than age 38:

You can file a civil lawsuit against the abuser or person criminally liable for your abuse or exploitation at **any time**. If you appeared in CSAM when you were under age 16, you can file a civil lawsuit against promoters, possessors, and online viewers of the CSAM at any time. You can also file a civil lawsuit against other individuals or entities for your abuse or exploitation until your **38th birthday**.

If are age 38 or older:

You can file a civil lawsuit against the abuser or person criminally liable for your abuse or exploitation at **any time**. If you appeared in CSAM when you were under age 16, you can file a civil lawsuit against promoters, possessors, and online viewers of the CSAM at **any time**. Otherwise, civil claims against other individuals and entities are likely expired.

THESE CHANGES WENT INTO EFFECT ON JUNE 2, 2021

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What Is Louisiana's New Law?

The Law explained:

This new law will benefit **ALL** victims of child sex abuse in Louisiana. Some parts of the law will be permanent going forward and some parts of the law are temporary and have a limited time for action. The law eliminates the age 28 statute of limitation (SOL) for filing civil claims and opens a 3-year revival window for expired claims.

SOL Before the Law:

Child sex abuse victims had to file civil lawsuits before **age 28** or within 10 years of discovering their injuries, whichever date was later.

SOL After the Law:

No SOL for Many Survivors: There is no SOL limiting civil claims for child sex abuse for future victims and current survivors whose claims have not yet expired. This means that survivors whose birthday is after June 13, 1993 and survivors who discover their injuries after June 14, 2011 can file suit whenever they are ready.

Window for All Survivors: Adults of all ages can file lawsuits for child sex abuse starting on June 14, 2021, while the 3-year window is open, even if their birthday is on or before June 13, 1993, they were abused years ago, and their claim was already expired.

**THE WINDOW OPENS JUNE 14, 2021
AND CLOSSES JUNE 13, 2024**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Louisiana.

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How Will Louisiana's New Law Help You?

Are you a Louisiana survivor of child sex abuse?

If you were abused in Louisiana, you now have the right to file a civil lawsuit for your abuse against any party -- your abuser, another individual, organization, institution, or the government. The scope of your rights depends on your age.

If your birthday is after June 14, 1993:

You will benefit from the SOL elimination and can file a lawsuit against any party for your abuse at any time.

If your birthday is on or before June 14, 1993:

You will benefit from the 3-year revival window. You can file a lawsuit against any party for your abuse while the window is open between June 14, 2021 and June 13, 2024. If you discovered your injuries from abuse after June 14, 2011, you will still be able to file a lawsuit at any time.

**THE WINDOW OPENS JUNE 14, 2021
AND CLOSSES JUNE 13, 2024**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Louisiana.

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What Is New York's Child Victims Act (CVA)?

The Law explained:

This new law will benefit **ALL** victims of child sex abuse in New York. Some parts of the law will be permanent going forward and some parts of the law are temporary and have a limited time for action. The law extends the statute of limitation (SOL) for filing civil claims to age 55 and opens a 2-year revival window for expired claims. It also extends, and in some cases eliminates, the SOL for prosecuting child sex abuse crimes.

New Civil SOL:

All survivors whose claims have not yet expired and future victims of child sex abuse will have until they reach **age 55** to file a lawsuit. Adults of all ages can file suit starting on August 14, 2019, while the **2-year window is open**, even if they were abused many years ago and their claim was already expired.

New Criminal SOL:

There is no time limit for prosecuting many 1st degree felony child sex abuse crimes, and an extended SOL ranging from when a survivor reaches age 25 to age 43 for prosecuting other child sex abuse crimes.

**THE WINDOW OPENS AUGUST 14, 2019
AND CLOSSES AUGUST 13, 2021**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in New York.

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How Will New York's New Law Help You?

Are you a New York survivor of child sex abuse?

If you were abused in New York, you now have the right to file a civil lawsuit for your abuse against any party -- your abuser, another individual, organization, institution, or the government. Also, criminal prosecution of your abuser may be permitted for a longer period of time. The scope of your rights depends on your age.

If your birthday is on or after August 15, 1998:

You will benefit from the civil SOL extension and can sue any party for your abuse until your **55th birthday**.

If your birthday is before August 15, 1998, but on or after August 15, 1996:

You will benefit from the civil SOL extension for claims against your abuser and the revival window for claims against others. You can sue any party for your abuse during the **2-year window** that is open until August 14, 2021. Even after the window closes, you can sue your abuser until your **55th birthday**.

If your birthday is before August 15, 1996:

You will benefit from the 2-year revival window that is open and can sue any party for your abuse until August 14, 2021.

**THE WINDOW OPENS AUGUST 14, 2019
AND CLOSSES AUGUST 13, 2021**

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in New York.

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What Is Maryland's Child Victims Act (CVA)?

The Law Explained:

This new law will benefit **ALL** victims of child sex abuse in Maryland. The law eliminates the civil statute of limitations for sexual abuse of a minor and opens a permanent revival window with damage caps of \$1.5 million for expired claims for non-economic damages. There is no cap for economic damages. If abused by a state actor, the damages are capped at \$890,000 per incident (public schools, foster care, law enforcement). The law does not cover claims where the victim is deceased.

SOL Before the Law:

The civil SOL for CSA claims was age thirty-eight against all defendants, with additional evidentiary requirements for claims against non-perpetrator defendants when a victim was over age twenty-five.

New Civil SOL:

All survivors whose claims have not yet expired, and future victims of child sex abuse can file a lawsuit at any age or time. Adults of all ages can file suit starting on October 1, 2023, even if they were abused many years ago and their claim was already expired.

THESE CHANGES TAKE EFFECT ON OCTOBER 1, 2023

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Maryland.

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How Will Maryland's New Law Help You?

Are you a Maryland survivor of child sex abuse?

If you were abused in Maryland at any time, you will have the right to file a civil lawsuit for your abuse against any party -- your abuser, other individual, organization, institution, or the government. You will benefit from the civil SOL elimination and permanent revival window and can file a lawsuit against any party for your abuse whenever you are ready.

THESE CHANGES TAKE EFFECT ON OCTOBER 1, 2023

*This is not legal advice. To determine the SOL in a particular sex abuse case, contact a lawyer in Maryland.

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10 Things to Remember

- 1 You are not alone.** About 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 13 boys are sexually abused. 86% of child sexual abuse is never reported and those who do report often cannot come forward until adulthood.
- 2 The brain adapts to trauma in order to cope,** and that coping may manifest in PTSD, depression, anxiety, or other ways.
- 3 It's never too late to report abuse.** You can contact the local police department in the town where you were abused and tell them what happened at any time.
- 4 Take good care of yourself.** Consider seeing a therapist and encourage loved ones to do the same. Practice self-care, like exercising regularly, mindfulness, limiting alcohol and recreational drugs, and seeking social support through a survivor support group.
- 5 The court system may not understand your needs.** Some officials will have received trauma-informed training, some will not.
- 6 The legal system is a lot of "hurry up and wait."** It is normal to be asked to produce information quickly, and then not hear from your lawyer for a while.
- 7 The litigation process can take time.** Your case may resolve quickly or slowly depending on your state and other factors.
- 8** There may be triggers during litigation that cause you to re-experience the initial trauma. This **re-traumatization can be treated** through proper therapy.
- 9 You control your story.** Your attorney and therapist will be bound by certain confidentiality rules and you may have the option to file a lawsuit under a pseudonym to protect your identity.
- 10 Your attorney works for YOU.** If you are offered a settlement, your attorney can only settle your case with your permission after you approve the monetary amount. If you receive settlement funds, this is American justice. You deserve to be compensated for harm.

10 Resources to Trust

- 1 CHILD USA:** www.childusa.org
Although CHILD USA cannot represent you in your legal action, we have additional resources to support you, your lawyer, your therapist, and your loved ones. Please share our website with your social support team.
- 2 Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP):** www.snapnetwork.org
For those interested in connecting with other survivors, contact SNAP at www.snapnetwork.org/events to be included in a virtual support group, or to meet survivors.
- 3 CHILD USA Advocacy:** www.childusadvocacy.org
To get involved in advocating for better child protection laws, including SOLs.
- 4** For free **access to research** often needed in child abuse cases visit: www.nationalcac.org
- 5** To find a local **Child Advocacy Center** visit: www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/
- 6** The **National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline:** 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
- 7 The National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC):** www.victimsofcrime.org/
- 8 The National Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 1-800-273-8255
- 9 The National Center for Exploited and Missing Children:** www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow
- 10 Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN):** www.rainn.org

10 Terms to Know

- 1 Child Sex Abuse (CSA):** Any sexual activity with a minor (like fondling, intercourse, exposing oneself, masturbating, obscene calls, messages, or digital contact, vaginal, anal, or oral sex, sex trafficking, producing or possessing child sexual abuse material (CSAM), or any other harmful sexual conduct).
- 2 Delayed Disclosure of Abuse:** the common phenomenon where survivors of child sex abuse wait for years, often well into adulthood, before telling anyone they were abused. The average age of disclosure is 52 years-old.
- 3 Statute of Limitation (SOL):** a law that sets the amount of time after a person is abused that: (1) the person can file a civil lawsuit for their injury, or (2) the government can criminally prosecute an abuser and others for their crimes.
- 4 Criminal Prosecution:** The state or federal government may prosecute by filing criminal charges against a person or entity for their crimes relating to child sex abuse. Punishment for criminals could involve jail time, fines, or restorative justice.
- 5 Civil Lawsuit:** A survivor of child sex abuse may file a claim against an abuser, other individual, entity or the government to recover money damages or seek other remedies for abuse-related injuries.
- 6 Discovery Rule:** A law that says the SOL time countdown doesn't begin until a person is aware of their injuries relating to child sex abuse or makes the connection that their injuries were caused by abuse.
- 7 Injuries Caused by Child Sex Abuse:** Injuries can include physical and mental health issues, like STDs, depression, anxiety, PTSD, addiction, and difficulty participating in relationships, work, or community.
- 8 Defendant:** A person or institution that is sued for child sex abuse. A defendant can be an **abuser**, a person who sexually abused a child, or other individuals or institutions that knew about or enabled the abuse. **Institutions** can be a private organization (like a business, non-profit company, or religious institution) or a public organization (like a government agency or public school).
- 9 SOL Extension or Elimination Laws:** Laws that change the SOL to give survivors more time to file claims for abuse-related injuries. **Extension** laws lengthen the SOL so that it expires later, while **elimination** laws completely remove the SOL so that there is no limit for when claims can be filed.
- 10 Revival Laws:** Laws that establish a specific period of time during which survivors can bring previously-expired civil claims to court. When the revival period is a set amount of time after the law is passed, it is called a **revival window**, and claims can be filed while the window is open. States have opened windows for a few years or permanently. When the revival period is set at a survivor's age, it is called a **revival age limit**, and claims can be filed until a survivor reaches that specific age. The age states choose ranges from 27-55.

Join CHILD USA in Our Fight to End Child Abuse and Neglect

VISIT CHILD USA'S HAMILTON LIBRARY

The Hamilton Library is the only library on child sex abuse, curated by experts to inform survivors, parents, advocates, lawyers, lawmakers, teachers, coaches, or anyone that might be around children. It contains a selection of books (both fiction and nonfiction), documentaries, videos, articles, and online resources that are respected, illuminating, and informative. The library is continually updated, free, and open to the public.

Visit the Hamilton Library at:
<https://childusa.org/library>

JOIN THE SOL REFORM MOVEMENT

The Sean P. McIlmail Research Institute at CHILD USA was founded in 2018 with a generous donation from the parents of Sean McIlmail, a brave clergy sex abuse victim who passed away from a drug overdose while awaiting justice. Due to Pennsylvania's exceedingly short SOLs, Sean was the only person in statute that could prosecute Fr. Robert Brennan of the Philadelphia Archdiocese. The Institute, which will help preserve Sean's legacy, is dedicated to studying and analyzing SOLs to fight for access to justice for all child sex abuse victims. For more information on SOL reform, visit childusa.org/sol. To get involved in advocating for better SOLs in your state, please contact our sister organization, CHILD USAAdvocacy, at info@childusadvocacy.org.

