

MISSOURI LEGISLATORS CONTINUE FILING BILLS TO REFORM CIVIL STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS AND NDAS IN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASES

REP. CAMERON PARKER JOINS REP. BRIAN SEITZ AND SEN. BRAD HUDSON IN FILING LEGISLATION FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE SURVIVORS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (January 30, 2025)--[Rep. Brian Seitz \(R\)](#), House Judiciary Chair and [Rep. Cameron Parker \(R\)](#), and [Sen. Brad Hudson \(R\)](#) have filed legislation to reform the civil statute of limitations (“SOL”) and use of nondisclosure agreements (“NDAs”) for child sexual abuse (“CSA”) victims in Missouri.

The joint resolutions filed would narrowly amend the Missouri constitution in order to allow for retroactivity in civil CSA and trafficking cases, and supplemental legislation would eliminate the civil SOL for CSA victims prospectively. Over 33 states and U.S. territories have passed similar revival legislation for this issue.

The proposed Joint Resolutions include:

- [House Joint Resolution 58](#) (Seitz)
- [House Joint Resolution 79](#) (Parker)
- [Senate Joint Resolution 51](#) (Hudson)

The supplemental legislation filed includes:

- [House Bill 883](#) (Seitz)
- [House Bill 1132](#) (Parker)
- [Senate Bill 589](#) (Hudson)

“Bravo to Rep Seitz, Rep Parker, and Senator Hudson for introducing this critical child safety legislation. They have taken a zero-tolerance stance on protecting Missouri’s children from the heinous acts of sexual predators and those that negligently harbor them. By listening to the voices of survivors, they have taken a huge and important step toward protecting children and honoring basic notions of justice,” said Kathryn Robb, Esq. National Director, Children’s Justice Campaign, ENOUGH ABUSE®

Additional bills filed this session seek to prohibit the misuse of NDAs in civil settlement agreements for CSA. Legislators and advocates have informally referred to this legislation as “Trey’s Law,” in honor of Trey Carlock, who died by suicide after being groomed and abused from ages seven to 17 by serial sex offender Pete Newman at Kanakuk Kamps, a Christian summer camp based in Branson, Mo. His sister, Elizabeth Carlock Phillips, has advocated for the bills and says that her brother was silenced to his grave by a restrictive NDA. The bills filed as “Trey’s Law” include:

- [House Bill 709](#) (Seitz)
- [House Bill 1131](#) (Parker)
- [Senate Bill 590](#) (Hudson)

“Kanakuk abuse survivors are grateful to both Rep. Seitz and Sen. Hudson for being the first to take action upon hearing victims’ stories of trauma, since Kanakuk Ministries is headquartered in the areas they represent. To also have Rep. Parker’s support on these critical bills now is a big win, as it signals that other esteemed legislators in Missouri realize these crimes against children aren’t unique to Southwest Missouri and happen in every district. They’re paying attention and hearing us—and they want to respond to make their state safer for all kids,” Phillips said.



These bills join a wave of legislation introduced in recent years to protect survivors of CSA in Missouri and elsewhere. This is the third session that survivors of CSA have advocated for SOL reform in Missouri, and Seitz has twice introduced bills to increase the civil statute of limitations for survivors of CSA. Both of Seitz's previous civil SOL reform bills passed unanimously in the House with bipartisan support, but were not voted on in the Senate due to the session calendar.

How does SOL reform serve survivors of CSA?

Sen. Barbara Washington (D) spoke in support of a similar senate bill last session, stating “We know that sexual victims, rape victims, oftentimes do not come forward, ever, as children...We would like to provide them with an opportunity to stay stable, to be able to deal with that when they are ready and available to open themselves up to bringing those type of lawsuits.”

Currently, Missouri law only allows survivors of CSA to sue their perpetrator up to age 31, or within three years of discovering any injuries related to CSA, and age 26 to file against liable institutions. Advocates for SOL reform in civil CSA cases say this leaves many survivors without legal recourse, as research shows it takes an [average of 20 years](#) for survivors of CSA to first disclose their abuse, with many not disclosing until [their 50's and 60's](#), and a large number of survivors [choosing to never disclose](#).

How does NDA reform serve survivors of CSA?

NDAs (also known as confidentiality and non-disparagement clauses) are contracts or clauses within a settlement agreement or contract where one or more parties agree that certain information will remain confidential. While they are intended to keep proprietary business information, such as trade secrets or sensitive client information, confidential, they are also commonly included in settlement agreements for civil disputes, including as a standard practice in CSA cases. As a result, survivors are legally silenced and forbidden to share their stories to various extents depending on settlement language.

While 17 states and Congress have clarified the law on NDAs in the workplace, Tennessee is the only state to pass legislation specific to prohibiting the use of NDAs in civil CSA settlements, making them [“void and unenforceable.”](#) Nineteen states, two U.S. territories, and the federal government have prospectively eliminated the civil SOL for some or all CSA claims.

Silencing CSA victims with NDAs in Missouri has come under scrutiny in recent years. Kanakuk Kamps has garnered national media attention for using NDAs in child sex abuse settlements as recently as 2023, despite denying the practice. Reports of CSA within Boy Scouts, “troubled teen” programs, and clergy abuse in Missouri have also made headlines, and survivors barred from filing civil litigation have testified at hearings during prior sessions advocating for SOL reform so they can have their day in court. The bills will now need committee assignments and hearings before going before the full House or Senate for a floor vote.

ENOUGH ABUSE® is a movement-building initiative working nationally and in states to prevent child sexual abuse by educating parents and the public; training child/family-serving professionals; promoting prevention policies in schools and youth organizations; and advocating for laws to prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation. The Children's Justice Campaign at ENOUGH ABUSE® focuses on child protection and survivor's rights legislation: reforming the statutes of limitations, ending NDAs for child sex abuse claims, and reforming charitable and state immunity and the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

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