Trey's Law



Overview

End the misuse of NDAs against child sexual abuse and trafficking victims in civil settlement agreements.

Trey Carlock was a victim of child sexual abuse at Kanakuk Ministries for over a decade and in various jurisdictions, although the organization is based in Southwest Missouri. After Kamp Kanakuk director and serial sex offender, Pete Newman, was sentenced to three life terms in 2010, Trey pursued justice to hold others involved accountable through civil litigation. That retraumatizing process ended with a restrictive settlement agreement, which included a highly intimidating nondisclosure agreement (NDA), barring Trey from ever speaking about his abuse and Kanakuk's role in it. Trey died by suicide at the age of 28 after telling a therapist, "They will always control me, and I'll never be free." **His story sparked a movement of others coming forward about institutional abuse, and survivors continue pleading to have their voices back.**

What are NDAs?

- Nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) go by many names, but their general purpose is to serve as a legal mechanism to protect sensitive information.
- Can be a standalone agreement or a clause within a wider settlement contract.
- NDAs were created to protect trade secrets, intellectual property and confidential data but have since been misused in civil child sexual abuse and trafficking cases.

NDAs in CSA cases

- NDAs in child sexual abuse (CSA) settlements have become standard practice within the legal and insurance professions, and are currently a lawful form of "hush money."
- Perpetrators and institutions protect their reputations while survivors are legally silenced and prohibited from speaking about their abuse.

The Effects

NDAs in CSA settlements:

- Protect perpetrators and negligent institutions.
- Conceal abuse and discovery from the public.
- Harm children who are unknowingly allowed to interact with bad actors.
- Prevent justice and healing for survivors by inhibiting freedom to share their stories.



1 in 8 children in the USA experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.

Finkelhor et al., 2024

Silence is ending for adult sexual assault survivors. We must give child victims the same rights.

The Speak Out Act was passed federally in 2022, prohibiting the use of pre-dispute NDAs for ADULT survivors and witnesses of sexual harassment and assault in the workplace. It does not protect kids.



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Visit TreysLaw.org for more information.

Trey's Law went into effect in Texas on September 1, 2025, and in Missouri on August 28, 2025.

Enacted in 2025, these laws prohibit the misuse of nondisclosure agreements in civil settlement agreements for child sexual abuse and trafficking victims, allowing survivors to freely tell their stories while exposing predators and the institutions that protect them. Tennessee, California, Texas and Missouri are the only states with an enacted version of Trey's Law. The Texas version is the most comprehensive NDA reform for survivors to date.

End Silence. Expose Abusers. Protect Children. Save Lives.