

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 050843)

RESOLUTION

Urging the members of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to extend or eliminate entirely the statute of limitations for reporting crimes involving the sexual abuse of children.

WHEREAS, The sexual abuse of children is a serious and pervasive problem in our society; and

WHEREAS, The sexual abuse of children can take place even in the most trusted environments and frequently, is perpetrated by family members or family friends; and

WHEREAS, Statistics show a high prevalence of serious sexual assault of adolescents in the United States where approximately 12.39% have reported incidents of abuse; and

WHEREAS, Children who are victims of sexual abuse often do not report, or delay in reporting, the abusive conduct to responsible adults because of fear, shame or manipulation; and

WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Inquirer has reported that up until the year 2002, victims of sexual abuse could file criminal charges only two (2) to five (5) years from the date the abuse occurred; and

WHEREAS, In the year 2002, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania extended the statute of limitations to allow victims of childhood sexual abuse to file criminal charges up to twelve years past their eighteenth birthday; and

WHEREAS, Other states have extended their statutes of limitations beyond that of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or have eliminated such statutes entirely for crimes of childhood sexual abuse; now therefore, be it

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RESOLUTION NO. 050843 continued

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That Council urges the members of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to extend or eliminate entirely the statute of limitations for reporting crimes involving the sexual abuse of children.

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RESOLUTION NO. 050843 continued

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RESOLUTION NO. 050843 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-ninth of September, 2005.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Miller and Ramos

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Miller, Ramos, Blackwell, DiCicco, Tasco, Goode, Kenney, Council President Verna, Councilmembers Kelly, Rizzo, Nutter, Krajewski, Clarke, Mariano and O'Neill