

2023 Legislative Priorities

Domestic violence advocates across New York State are joining NYSCADV in supporting specific legislation to improve services and expand rights for New York's domestic violence victims. These include:

Rights of Domestic Violence Survivors and Advocates:

1. **A636 Rozic/S2061 Stavisky:** Prohibits police responding to a DV incident from asking victims about their immigration status; if such status is ascertained and would result in adverse immigration consequences to the victim, the officer shall not report such information to any law enforcement agency.
2. **A7672A* Rosenthal L./S2705 Persaud:** Updates and expands the resources than an applicant of public assistance may possess without affecting eligibility for assistance.
3. **A2105 Meeks/S214 Myrie:** Expands eligibility for victims of crime to access victim compensation funds by eliminating New York's requirement for victims to report crime to law enforcement; extends time period for filing compensation claims from one year to three years; permits victims to self-attest to their injuries or provide third-party attestations from a victim service provider, witness, health care provider, or Order of Protection to show a qualifying crime was committed.
4. **A1309 Rosenthal L./S2278 Cleare:** Prohibits creditors from enforcing a consumer debt incurred as a result of fraud, intimidation, identity theft, exploitation of debtor's personal information or similar economic abuse perpetrated against the debtor; establishes a right of action by the debtor for declaratory and injunctive relief against creditors for violation.
5. **A1283 Seawright/S108A Krueger:** Modifies the State Constitution to ensure no person is denied equal protection due to their race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed, religion, or sex including sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, reproductive healthcare and autonomy.

Prevention:

1. **A4604 Gonzalez-Rojas/S2584A* Brouk:** Requires K-12 comprehensive sexuality instruction for students in grades K-12 which addresses age and developmentally appropriate physical, mental, emotional and social dimensions of human sexuality, healthy relationships, consent and the use of technology and social media in intimate relationships.

Family Court and Child Protective Services:

1. **A2750 Hevesi/S4149 Palumbo:** Prohibits courts from using forensic child evaluators or allowing a forensic child custody report into evidence in a child custody or visitation proceeding.
2. **A3346 Hevesi/S3170 Skoufis:** Known as Kyra's Law, prioritizes the health and safety of children over other best interest factors in child custody and visitation proceedings; sets requirements for judicial training in DV and child abuse; restricts admissibility of parental alienation and other non-scientifically valid theories.
3. **A2479 Hevesi/S902 Brisport:** Requires a caller making a report of suspected child abuse or maltreatment to the central registry to leave their name and contact information.
4. **A3771 Weinstein/S4434 Fernandez:** Enables parents and their attorneys to obtain copies of court-ordered child custody evaluations and the underlying information supporting the evaluation.

Criminal Justice System:

1. **A961 Rosenthal L./S3071 Fernandez:** Enables prosecutors to access prior Orders of Protection issued in domestic violence cases so repeat violators can be charged with criminal contempt.

Housing:

1. **A2583 Hevesi/S15 Gounardes:** Addresses the system-wide lack of shelter for single adults by reimbursing DV providers for any payment differential for housing a single individual in a room intended for double occupancy.
2. **A2542 Hyndman/S2918 Cleare:** Requires the New York City Housing Authority, in reviewing applications for Section 8 housing, to prioritize applications of survivors living in DV shelters over any other class of applicants.
3. **A1113 Stirpe/S936 Bailey:** Requires statewide housing authorities, in reviewing applications for housing, to grant DV survivors the same priority granted to other disenfranchised populations such as the disabled, the elderly and the homeless.
4. **A1493 Joyner/S2721 May:** Establishes the state Office of Civil Representation to provide access to legal services in eviction proceedings; requires that eligible individuals be given notice of their ability to obtain legal representation or legal consultation.
5. **A8552B* Reyes/S4561 Gonzalez:** Requires New York State to pay all costs to ensure individuals living in temporary shelters, including DV shelters, have access to the Internet.
6. **A8865* Rosenthal L:** Reforms the method by which New York State funds DV services by eliminating the per diem reimbursement system and permitting OCFS to enter into contracts directly with DV programs.
7. **A8900A* Rosenthal L/S2982 Kavanagh:** Requires local social services districts to provide individuals receiving shelter allowances with up to 100% of the fair market rent for their area.

* 2021-2022 bill number; bill number will be updated when available

Established in 1978, the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) is designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the information clearinghouse, primary point of contact, and resource center on domestic violence for the State of New York. NYSCADV works to create and support the social change necessary to prevent and confront all forms of domestic violence. NYSCADV's policy agenda employs both legislative and systems change advocacy to support the needs of domestic violence survivors and their families and the programs that support them.

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