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Beyond

THE
COURTHOUSE

GB

Goldstein & Bashner

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Child Victims Act Empowers Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

As more victims come forward about their experiences of sexual assault and abuse, our society is becoming more aware of the prevalence of this underlying epidemic. The recent passing of the Child Victims Act into law is a much-needed step forward for survivors and could significantly help hold abusers accountable for their crimes.

The Child Victims Act extends the statute of limitations for victims seeking justice for sexual abuse crimes committed against them as children and the new stipulations are much more considerate of the necessary healing time needed for a survivor to come forward.

The new statute of limitations generally allows for four updates to the law:

1. In civil cases, survivors can file charges until they reach the age of 55. This change is extremely important because often victims of childhood sexual abuse do not come forward until many years after the abuse if they do at all. According to Child USA, on average most victims refrain from reporting until age 52. Additionally, in most of these cases, the children are abused by someone they know or trust. Therefore, most victims do not come forward out of shame and fear.

2. In criminal cases, prosecutors can file charges on behalf of the complainants until they reach age 28. In New York, this limit used to be that victims could only criminally file charges until they turned 23. A mere five years after victims legally become an adult was simply not enough time for them to recover and be ready

to confront their abuser.

3. The installment of a one-year “look-back window.” This amendment to the Child Victims act allows for victims above the age of 55 to bring their abusers to justice for one year, which could help bring justice to survivors in New York regardless of their current age.

4. The ability to sue both public and private institutions. Additionally, the law allows victims to sue both private and public institutions that allowed these types of abuse to occur and continue. Before this bill was passed, there were several hurdles that a victim had to overcome to sue a public entity, including the requirement to give notice within a short 90 days of the assault. Now, those barriers are lifted, and survivors have more time to bring their abusers to justice.

The passing of the Child Victims Act marks the end to a difficult journey for survivors and politicians alike. Before this recent triumph, New York had some of the most restrictive statute of limitations in the country, while ten states across America have no statute of limitations at all. Not only will

victims have more time to come to terms with their abuse and get help, they can ultimately fight back with legal action against their abusers.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ONE IN 10** children will be sexually abused before the age of 18.
- 2 OUT OF 3** teachers are not trained to PREVENT, RECOGNIZE, or RESPOND to child sexual abuse.
- 90%** of victims KNOW THEIR ABUSER.
- 9** is the median age of a child who is SEXUALLY ABUSED.
- 60%** of child sexual abuse victims NEVER TELL ANYONE.
- SHARE** WITH YOUR FRIENDS & SPREAD THE WORD.
- DARKNESS TO LIGHT** END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.
- PREVENTION IS POSSIBLE**

Learn more about how you can prevent child sexual abuse at www.D2L.org

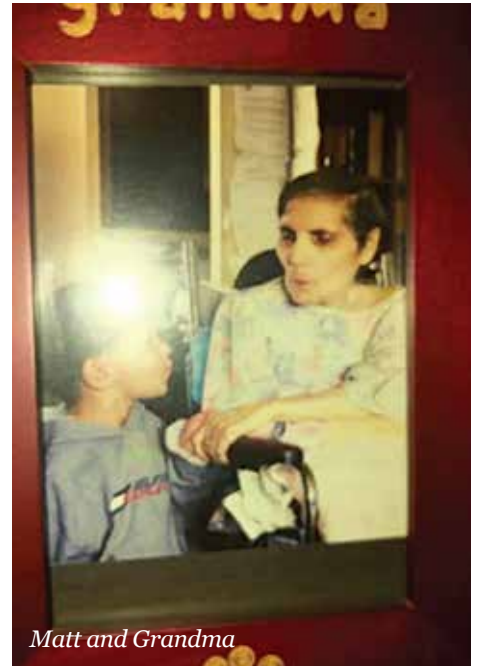
Legacy Lessons - The final kiss: Caring For Those Who Need Extra Love & Support

This is the very last picture of my son with my mom. It was taken when he was three. I don't think it was a kiss, but it was a final visit. I didn't stage the picture and I certainly didn't know mom would be gone within two months. The picture always reminds me of love and compassion for those who are not physically or mentally well. Obviously having grown up in a home where mom was chronically ill, for me, compassion for those that are infirm, weak, or simply going through momentary physical or mental challenges is part of who I am and my son was taught the same. Yes, it's awful as a young child



Neal and Cary with Mom

to see your mother crawl on the floor to lift herself up but it doesn't have to be so vivid in order to have a deep sense of humanity for those who are unable to care for themselves. Yes, it may be one of the reasons why I am married to an extremely compassionate woman or maybe why I represent people who are facing significant physical or mental challenges. I would love to hear from you about your experiences with those around you who have faced physical or mental issues and how it resonated with you.



Matt and Grandma

Recipe of the Month Chicken Tortilla Soup

This easy chicken tortilla soup can be made in an Instant Pot or Crock Pot in about 30 minutes!

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 boneless skinless chicken breasts (about 1 ½ lbs)
- 1 ½ tsp salt
- 2 (10 oz) cans tomatoes with green chiles
- 1 (14.5 oz) can chicken broth
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 2 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 1-3 tsp chipotle pepper powder
- 1 tsp cumin
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 2 zucchinis, chopped
- 1 (14 oz) can full-fat coconut milk or coconut cream, whisked until smooth
- Garnishes: fresh avocado slices, red onions sliced thinly, fresh cilantro chopped, and/or lime juice. Optional: shredded cheese and/or tortilla strips.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Sprinkle chicken breasts with salt. Add the chicken to the Instant Pot. Toss in remaining ingredients except for coconut milk and garnishes.
2. Secure the lid on the Instant Pot. Cook at high pressure for 18 minutes. Allow the pressure to

naturally release for 10 minutes, then use the manual release. Pull out the chicken and add coconut milk. Switch Instant Pot to sauté mode and stir to combine. Dice chicken, then return it to the soup. Serve hot, topped with garnishes of choice.

3. If using a Crock Pot, add all ingredients, except coconut milk and garnishes, in the order listed. Cook on low heat for 7 hours or on high heat for 4 hours. Remove chicken breasts and dice. Stir in coconut milk, then return chicken to slow cooker. Serve with garnishes.



Remember When: Do You Recognize Your Favorite CB Radio Phrase?

Movies like *Convoy*, *Smokey & the Bandit*, *Coast to Coast* and television shows like *Dukes of Hazzard* and *Movin' On* made the CB radio more popular than ever back in the 1970's. Short for "Citizen's Band radio," CB radios took America by storm and soon the 23 channels that had been established in the 1950's had to jump to 40 channels in the 70's just to accommodate all of the traffic. Kids attached CB radios to their bikes, adults put them in their cars, and they were no longer just for truckers to communicate with one another. See if you can recognize any of these CB slang favorites and be sure to share with us the phrases you used to use! Over and out!

Checking My Eyelids for Pin Holes
Drop the Hammer
Dusted my Britches
Evil Knievel
Keep the Wheels Spinning
Kojak with a Kodak
Log Some Z's
Magic Mile
Motion Lotion
Over and Out
Pull the Hammer Back
Running Shotgun
Smokey with Ears
Wall-To-Wall and Ten Feet Tall
Wear Your Bumper Out
What's Your Twenty?
Wilco Roger





Goldstein & Bashner

OUR MAIN OFFICE

1778 Hempstead Turnpike 606 Johnson Ave #30
East Meadow, NY 11554 Bohemia, NY 11716

P: 516.730.9219

F: 516.222.0034



FREE CONSULTATION: 516.730.9219

eglaw.com    

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RAVING FAN OF THE MONTH

The care they gave my family came at a time that just didn't make sense. I would so recommend this law firm. As our family winds down with everything, I'm going to miss the phone calls from Gail. She was so patient caring and understanding...she totally went above and beyond. Thank you all for everything.

- Barbara and Walter



Multi-Million-Dollar Verdict Awarded To War Veteran Injured In A Bus Accident

Our client was 52-year-old war veteran riding on a city bus in the Bronx towards Jerome Avenue on Kingsbridge Road when the driver lost control of the bus, hitting multiple parked cars, throwing our client around, and badly injuring him. He suffered very serious injuries to his back, neck, right arm, and shoulder. As a result of his injuries, he needed back surgery and will still require additional back and neck surgeries. Filing a lawsuit against the city is a tough win. Our lawyers went into overdrive, thoroughly investigating the accident and meticulously documenting the client's injuries and medical costs. We presented a case that convinced a jury of peers to agree to a significant multi-million-dollar verdict. What is even more surprising is that the jury awarded an even higher amount than what was expected, which is very unusual. It is so difficult to sue and win against the city—this was a tremendous win for our client, who will now recover all his costs and be compensated for his very severe pain and suffering.

