

The Sean P. McIlmail Statute of Limitations Research Institute at CHILDUSA

PRESS ADVISORY EMBARGOED UNTIL

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Justice No Longer Denied: CHILD USA Announces the Formation of The Sean P. McIlmail Statute of Limitations Research Institute and its First Publication and New Resource

CHILD USA will be hosting a press conference on **Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 1:00 PM** at the CHILD USA offices (3701 Chestnut St., 6th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104). The conference will be attended by CEO, Prof. Marci Hamilton, Deborah and Michael McIlmail, and Sarah Klein.

CHILD USA is the only organization to track the child sex abuse Statute of Limitations (SOL) reform movement and to study and analyze SOLs.

Today CHILD USA releases the first publication of the new Sean P. McIlmail Statute of Limitations Reform Institute—the 2019 Child Sex Abuse SOL Summary. This document will be available at www.childusa.org/2019sol and will be updated as the SOL reform movement advances in 2019. These yearly summaries will be a regular feature on the CHILD USA website.

The Sean P. McIlmail Statute of Limitations Research Institute was founded with a generous donation from the parents of Sean McIlmail, a brave clergy sex abuse victim who passed away when the stress of prosecuting Fr. Robert Brennan triggered his struggle with opioids. Sean was the only victim in Philadelphia who could prosecute due to Pennsylvania’s exceedingly short child sex abuse SOLs. The Institute, which will help preserve Sean’s legacy, is dedicated to studying and analyzing SOLs to fight for access to justice for all child sex abuse victims. Deborah and Michael McIlmail have turned their tragedy into a mission for the greater good.

CHILD USA CEO, Professor Marci Hamilton commented, “This is an exciting day for CHILD USA as we receive the needed resources to energize and empower the movement for victims’ access to justice with the best in legal research and cutting edge social science. We are inspired by Deborah and Michael McIlmail’s big hearts and generosity. They have turned tragedy into the cause of justice.

We are announcing today the McIlmail Institute’s first project: a new resource for the public, victims, and lawmakers: a daily updated record of the child sex abuse SOL bills introduced each year, how they fare, and which states are leading the way with elimination of the criminal or civil SOLs or window legislation.”

Deborah and Michael McIlmail said, “Our feelings at the release of this new tool are ones of hope, empowerment and to advocate changes in SOL legislation for the protection of all children.”

They continued, “We feel this institute is honoring Sean, just as the words from the song, which has since become his mantra- ‘I WAS HERE’

. . . ‘Cause I know it’s my destiny to leave more than a trace of myself in this place

. . . And I know I will do more than just pass through this life

. . . I’ll leave nothing less than something that says I was here . . . ”

Survivor, Sarah Klein commented, “I did not realize until my late thirties that the ‘treatment’ I received for 17 years from Larry Nassar was not in fact legitimate medical treatment, but was rather the sexual abuse of a minor. By the time I became aware of this fact, the statute of limitations had run. My story is far too common. It is time for the silence to end and survivors to be given their power back, which includes access to the justice system. This institute will accomplish that very thing.”

The SOL reform movement is more vibrant than ever with New York finally passing the Child Victims Act this year and Governor Cuomo signing it this Thursday. Over half of the states have already proposed bills in 2019 that aim to increase access to justice for victims of child sex abuse.

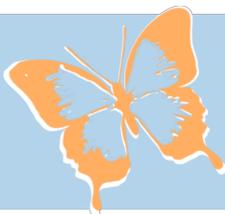


Copies of the McIlmail Institute’s new SOL reform resource will be available at the press conference and hosted at childusa.org/law after the press conference.

About CHILD USA

CHILD USA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to ending child abuse and neglect through policy-based research. CHILD USA is the nation’s leading organization that tracks and advocates for access to justice for child sex abuse victims, including child sex abuse statutes of limitations in the United States and internationally. Sexual abuse and the maltreatment of children often occur in secret, behind closed doors, but have public consequences. Victims, their families, and the public pay a high price even decades after the violence ends. CHILD USA draws on the combined expertise of the nation’s leading medical and legal academics to reach evidence-based solutions to persistent and widespread child abuse and neglect. For more information, visit <https://www.childusa.org>.

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