



Support SB 333

Empowers survivors seeking medical treatment for sexual assault to protect their privacy and have a choice about when law enforcement is notified by the healthcare provider

Status: Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading - March 7, 2023

Sponsor: Sen. David Koehler (D-46)

What Does SB 333 Do?

This bill amends the mandate that hospitals and healthcare providers treating crime victims must notify law enforcement as soon as treatment permits. SB 333 would allow survivors of sexual assault to choose to delay notification up to 24 hours and to control what information is shared. The option of delayed notification empowers survivors to choose when to interact with law enforcement and still provides a notification, which can be connected to the medical record and, if applicable, evidence collection kit, if the survivor chooses to make a report later.

Why Is SB 333 Important for Sexual Assault Survivors?

- Some victims of sexual violence do not seek medical care because of the requirement that hospitals and healthcare providers call law enforcement.
- When a survivor goes to a hospital for sexual assault treatment, the healthcare provider gives them options and empowers them to make choices about treatment and evidence collection: this is victim-centered care. It undermines the survivor's options to require immediate notification of law enforcement when the victim is not ready to report.
- Most U.S. states and territories do not require medical personnel to report sexual assaults to law enforcement. VRLC's Mandatory Reporting of Non-Accidental Injuries: A State-by-State Guide shows that Illinois is in the minority (36%) in requiring notification. Allowing a short delay in notification when a survivor chooses not to interact with law enforcement is important to protect survivors' privacy and give them back control.

Survivors of sexual assault should decide when the hospital notifies law enforcement and what information is shared about their assault.

For more information: Sarah Beuning at 217-753-4117 or sbeuning@icasa.org.