

STATE OF NEW YORK

3210

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 22, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. PRETLOW -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, the penal law, the social services law, and the civil practice law and rules, in relation to enacting the Child Sexual Abuse Reform Act; providing for the elimination and extending of certain statutes of limitations related to sexual offenses against children, the expansion of reporting requirements in cases of such offenses, and the expansion of the central child abuse and maltreatment register; and providing for the repeal of certain provisions upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Child
2 Sexual Abuse Reform Act".

3 § 2. Subdivision 3 of section 30.10 of the criminal procedure law is
4 amended by adding a new paragraph (h) to read as follows:

5 (h) A prosecution for the offense of hindering prosecution in the
6 third degree as defined in section 205.55 of the penal law, hindering
7 prosecution in the second degree as defined in section 205.60 of the
8 penal law, and hindering prosecution in the first degree as defined in
9 section 205.65 of the penal law, where such offense involves a sexual
10 offense as defined in article one hundred thirty of the penal law which
11 is committed against a child less than eighteen years of age, incest as
12 defined in article two hundred fifty-five of the penal law which is
13 committed against a child less than eighteen years of age, or use of a
14 child in a sexual performance as defined in section 263.05 of the penal
15 law, may be commenced at any time.

16 § 3. Subdivision 7 of section 10.00 of the penal law, as amended by
17 chapter 791 of the laws of 1967, is amended to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 7. "Person" means a human being, and where appropriate, a public or
2 private corporation, an unincorporated association, a partnership, a
3 nonprofit corporation, a government or a governmental instrumentality.

4 § 4. Section 20.00 of the penal law is amended to read as follows:

5 § 20.00 Criminal liability for conduct of another.

6 When one person engages in conduct which constitutes an offense,
7 another person is criminally liable for such conduct when, acting with
8 the mental culpability required for the commission thereof, he or she
9 solicits, requests, commands, importunes, or intentionally aids such
10 person to engage in such conduct or, for an offense listed in article
11 one hundred thirty of this chapter which is committed against a child
12 less than eighteen years of age, after the commission of the offense he
13 or she conceals or hinders the discovery of the offense or evidence of
14 the offense.

15 § 5. Paragraph (h) of subdivision 3 of section 130.05 of the penal
16 law, as amended by section 2 of part G of chapter 501 of the laws of
17 2012, is amended to read as follows:

18 (h) a client or patient and the actor is a health care provider or
19 mental health care provider or anyone representing himself or herself as
20 a member of the clergy who provides health care or mental health care
21 services charged with rape in the third degree as defined in section
22 130.25, criminal sexual act in the third degree as defined in section
23 130.40, aggravated sexual abuse in the fourth degree as defined in
24 section 130.65-a, or sexual abuse in the third degree as defined in
25 section 130.55, and the act of sexual conduct occurs during a treatment
26 session, consultation, interview, or examination; or

27 § 6. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 260.09 to read
28 as follows:

29 § 260.09 Endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree.

30 A person is guilty of endangering the welfare of a child in the first
31 degree when he or she commits conduct which is injurious to the phys-
32 ical, mental or moral welfare of a child less than seventeen years of
33 age and violates any section of article one hundred thirty of this chap-
34 ter or section 263.05 of this title.

35 Endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree is a class E
36 felony.

37 § 7. The section heading, the opening paragraph and the closing para-
38 graph of section 260.10 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 447 of
39 the laws of 2010, are amended to read as follows:

40 Endangering the welfare of a child in the second degree.

41 A person is guilty of endangering the welfare of a child in the second
42 degree when:

43 Endangering the welfare of a child in the second degree is a class A
44 misdemeanor.

45 § 8. Paragraph c of subdivision 5 of section 120.40 of the penal law,
46 as amended by section 7 of part NN of chapter 55 of the laws of 2018, is
47 amended to read as follows:

48 c. assault in the third degree, as defined in section 120.00; menacing
49 in the first degree, as defined in section 120.13; menacing in the
50 second degree, as defined in section 120.14; coercion in the first
51 degree, as defined in section 135.65; coercion in the second degree, as
52 defined in section 135.61; coercion in the third degree, as defined in
53 section 135.60; aggravated harassment in the second degree, as defined
54 in section 240.30; harassment in the first degree, as defined in section
55 240.25; menacing in the third degree, as defined in section 120.15;
56 criminal mischief in the third degree, as defined in section 145.05;

1 criminal mischief in the second degree, as defined in section 145.10,
2 criminal mischief in the first degree, as defined in section 145.12;
3 criminal tampering in the first degree, as defined in section 145.20;
4 arson in the fourth degree, as defined in section 150.05; arson in the
5 third degree, as defined in section 150.10; criminal contempt in the
6 first degree, as defined in section 215.51; endangering the welfare of a
7 child in the first degree, as defined in section 260.09; endangering the
8 welfare of a child in the second degree, as defined in section 260.10;
9 or

10 § 9. Section 260.15 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 447 of the
11 laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

12 § 260.15 Endangering the welfare of a child; defense.

13 In any prosecution for endangering the welfare of a child in the first
14 or second degree, pursuant to section 260.09 or 260.10 of this article,
15 based upon an alleged failure or refusal to provide proper medical care
16 or treatment to an ill child, it is an affirmative defense that the
17 defendant (a) is a parent, guardian or other person legally charged with
18 the care or custody of such child; and (b) is a member or adherent of an
19 organized church or religious group the tenets of which prescribe prayer
20 as the principal treatment for illness; and (c) treated or caused such
21 ill child to be treated in accordance with such tenets.

22 § 10. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 2 of section 422 of the social
23 services law, as added by chapter 717 of the laws of 1986, is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 (c) Whenever a telephone call to the statewide central register
26 described in this section is received by the [~~department~~] office of
27 children and family services, and [~~the department~~] such office finds
28 that the person allegedly responsible for abuse or maltreatment of a
29 child cannot be a subject of a report as defined in subdivision four of
30 section four hundred twelve of this [~~chapter~~] title, but believes that
31 the alleged acts or circumstances against a child described in the tele-
32 phone call may constitute a crime or an immediate threat to the child's
33 health or safety, [~~the department~~] such office shall: (1) convey by the
34 most expedient means available the information contained in such tele-
35 phone call to the appropriate law enforcement agency, district attorney
36 or other public official empowered to provide necessary aid or assist-
37 ance and, (2) include such individuals in the statewide central register
38 in accordance with the requirements of subdivision three of this
39 section, and make such information accessible pursuant to section four
40 hundred twenty-four-a of this title. The commissioner of the office of
41 children and family services shall promulgate any additional rules and
42 regulations he or she deems necessary in furtherance of this paragraph.

43 § 11. Subdivision (a) of section 208 of the civil practice law and
44 rules, as designated by chapter 11 of the laws of 2019, is amended to
45 read as follows:

46 (a) If a person entitled to commence an action is under a disability
47 because of infancy or insanity at the time the cause of action accrues,
48 and the time otherwise limited for commencing the action is three years
49 or more and expires no later than three years after the disability ceas-
50 es, or the person under the disability dies, the time within which the
51 action must be commenced shall be extended to three years after the
52 disability ceases or the person under the disability dies, whichever
53 event first occurs unless such action is for sexual assault upon a child
54 under any section of article one hundred thirty of the penal law, then
55 such action may be commenced up to six years after the disability ceases
56 or the person under the disability dies, whichever event occurs first;

1 if the time otherwise limited is less than three years, the time shall
2 be extended by the period of disability. The time within which the
3 action must be commenced shall not be extended by this provision beyond
4 ten years after the cause of action accrues, except, in any action other
5 than for medical, dental or podiatric malpractice, where the person was
6 under a disability due to infancy. This section shall not apply to an
7 action to recover a penalty or forfeiture, or against a sheriff or other
8 officer for an escape.

9 § 12. The civil practice law and rules is amended by adding a new
10 section 213-e to read as follows:

11 § 213-e. Actions for sexual assault or abuse of an infant. Notwith-
12 standing any provision of law to the contrary, any cause of action of
13 physical or psychological injury sustained by a person under eighteen
14 years of age as a result of a sexual assault or abuse, which is barred
15 because the statute of limitations has expired, is revived, and an
16 action thereon may be commenced within three years of the effective date
17 of this section. For the purposes of this section, sexual assault or
18 abuse shall be a sex offense as defined under article one hundred thirty
19 of the penal law or a predecessor statute at the time of the assault or
20 abuse. Any such cause of action previously dismissed because of the
21 statute of limitations may be brought under this section notwithstanding
22 such dismissal. The provisions of this section shall be applicable to
23 any civil action governed by the statute of limitations of another
24 jurisdiction. Any cause of action for damages arising under this section
25 shall not include, as part of the resolution, a confidentiality clause
26 or agreement as a matter of public policy.

27 § 13. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of section 30.10 of the criminal
28 procedure law is amended to read as follows:

29 (a) Any period following the commission of the offense during which
30 (i) the defendant was continuously outside this state or (ii) the where-
31 abouts of the defendant were continuously unknown and continuously unas-
32 certainable by the exercise of reasonable diligence. However, in no
33 event shall the period of limitation be extended by more than five years
34 beyond the period otherwise applicable under subdivision two, except
35 that an action for an offense listed in article one hundred thirty of
36 the penal law which is committed against a child less than eighteen
37 years of age may be commenced at any time.

38 § 14. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
39 have become a law; provided, however, that section 213-d of the civil
40 practice law and rules, as added by section twelve of this act, shall
41 expire and be deemed repealed three years after the effective date of
42 this act.