

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7968

## IN SENATE

January 4, 2024

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to averting retraumatization of victims of sexual offenses in a behavioral health outpatient setting

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

1 Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section  
2 7.50 to read as follows:

3 § 7.50 Victims of sexual offenses; outpatient group setting.

4 The office shall develop guidelines regarding victims of sexual  
5 offenses receiving services in an outpatient group setting. Such guide-  
6 lines shall outline best practices providers may use when providing  
7 services to victims of sexual abuse in an effort to avert retraumatiza-  
8 tion by known sex offenders. Such best practices shall, to the greatest  
9 extent possible, be based on evidence based practices. In creating such  
10 guidelines, the office shall consult with stakeholders. Such stakehold-  
11 ers shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of consumer  
12 advocates, providers and victim rights groups.

13 § 2. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 19.44  
14 to read as follows:

15 § 19.44 Victims of sexual offenses; outpatient group setting.

16 The office shall develop guidelines regarding victims of sexual  
17 offenses receiving services in an outpatient group setting. Such guide-  
18 lines shall outline best practices providers may use when providing  
19 services to victims of sexual abuse in an effort to avert retraumatiza-  
20 tion by known sex offenders. Such best practices shall, to the greatest  
21 extent possible, be based on evidence based practices. In creating such  
22 guidelines, the office shall consult with stakeholders. Such stakehold-  
23 ers shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of consumer  
24 advocates, providers and victim rights groups.

25 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD06007-01-3