THE HISTORY OF MCADSV LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY
The Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV) unites Missourians with a shared value that rape and abuse must end, and advances this through education, alliance, research and public policy.
HISTORY OF MCADSV’S LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Since its beginning, the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence has been a continuous voice in public policy, advocating for victims through stronger legal protections, increased funding for services and better systems response.

MCADSV is proud to present this history of accomplishments—none of which would have been possible without the leadership of survivors, our membership, board members, state and national partners, and staff.

1980
MISSOURI ADULT ABUSE REMEDIES LAW PASSES

• The first Missouri domestic violence laws pass, creating Chapter 455 in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri (RSMo).
• Orders of Protection are established with criminal penalties for violations.
• Arrest becomes mandatory for the non-surrender of children if custody is awarded under an Order of Protection.
• Law enforcement officers are required to make the same response to domestic violence crimes as to other crimes between persons.

1982
ADULT ABUSE REMEDIES LAW UPHELD BY MISSOURI SUPREME COURT

• The Missouri Supreme Court affirms the constitutionality of Ex Parte Orders of Protection and criminal penalties for violations of orders in Williams v. Marsh.
• The Adult Abuse statute is amended to allow counties to charge a $5 fee on marriage licenses and $10 fee on dissolutions of marriage, with these funds designated to support domestic violence shelters.
• The law establishes requirements for domestic violence shelters, including that the Board of Directors’ composition reflect the demographics of those served.
• The representation of formerly battered women on domestic violence shelters’ Boards of Directors is mandated as eligibility criteria for the receipt of marriage and dissolution fees.

1986
ADULT ABUSE ACT IS EXPANDED

• Amendments to the Adult Abuse Act expand the definitions of abuse, strengthen requirements for law enforcement responses and increase penalties for those convicted of domestic violence crimes.
1987
CHILD ORDERS OF PROTECTION ARE CREATED
- Under Chapter 455 RSMo, Child Orders of Protection are established for child victims of abuse by an adult family or household member.
- MCADSV achieves passage of the first law in the nation to allow court testimony on Battered Woman’s Syndrome as a defense for battered women who kill in self-defense.

1989
SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENTS TO ADULT ABUSE ACT
- Probable-cause arrest is instituted, allowing arrest without a victim’s statement or willingness to proceed with a criminal complaint.
- The primary physical aggressor is defined for domestic violence arrest purposes.
- Arrest is mandated for a second law enforcement response to the same household within a 12-hour period.
- No initial filing fee is required to file a petition for an *Ex Parte* Order of Protection.
- The definition of “petitioner” for an Order of Protection is broadened to include people who live together and former cohabitants.
- Mutual Orders of Protection are prohibited unless both parties file petitions and both are granted by a judge with jurisdiction.
- Law enforcement officers are directed to provide domestic violence victims with transportation to a place of safety.
- Orders of Protection are not allowed to change custody determinations made through an existing decree of dissolution.

1990
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS CONSIDERED IN CUSTODY CASES
- Child custody and visitation rights are to be ordered in a manner that best protects the child, parents or any family member from domestic violence.
- Counties are required to collect $5 per marriage license to fund local domestic violence shelters.

1991
MARITAL RAPE IS CRIMINALIZED
- Marital rape is made a crime in Missouri law.
1992
MORE DETAILS ESTABLISHED ON COURT FINES AND CRIME REPORTING
• Municipal and county court fines are established to fund domestic violence shelters.
• Missouri law enforcement agencies are required to specify incidents of domestic violence crimes in Missouri Uniform Crime Reports to the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

1993
FIRST-EVER STATE FUNDING APPROVED FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS
• First-time state funding of $125,000 is appropriated for domestic violence shelters.
• Stalking is added as a cause for obtaining an Order of Protection and to the definition of abuse.
• Gender-neutral language is adopted in the definition of “petitioner” for an Order of Protection, allowing those in same-sex relationships to receive protection orders.
• Orders of Protection allow for renewals without any subsequent acts of abuse against the petitioner by the respondent.
• Changes in child custody law require that current addresses in school records are not to be released to a parent who is the respondent to an Order of Protection if the other parent/order petitioner has been the victim of domestic violence.

1994
VAWA PASSES
• The federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) passes.
• State funding for domestic violence services increases to $400,000.

1995
ORDER OF PROTECTION LAW IS AMENDED
• The child custody and visitation components of Orders of Protection are brought into compliance with dissolution and custody laws.
• Statute language for Child Orders of Protection is amended to parallel adult orders so that no filing fees can be required. Stalking also is included in the definition of abuse, allowing protection orders to be entered against non-family members if stalking of a child occurs.
• Victims of domestic violence who are out-of-state residents and who work or spend significant time in Missouri are allowed to petition for a Missouri Order of Protection.
• Orders of Protection from other states (“foreign orders”) may be registered in Missouri courts and accorded full faith and credit in enforcement.
• The Missouri Supreme Court is directed to create standardized petition forms for Ex Parte Orders of Protection and Full Orders of Protection for use in all state courts.
• Legislation is passed to increase state domestic violence funding to $1.15 million.
1996
AFTER-HOURS FILINGS, JUDGES’ AUTHORITY AND OTHER AMENDMENTS PASS

- Orders of Protection are allowed to be in effect for as many as 12 months with two one-year renewal periods, and no subsequent acts of abuse are required.
- The Missouri Supreme Court is directed to develop and establish statewide court procedures for obtaining *Ex Parte* Orders of Protection after business hours, on holidays and on weekends.
- Filing fees are disallowed for Orders of Protection, service of an order, warrants for arrest or filing of criminal domestic violence charges.
- Law enforcement agencies are instructed to keep records of domestic violence calls for the Missouri Uniform Crime Reports.
- Family Court judges are given the authority to issue and sign Orders of Protection.

1997
FUNDING AND TAX CREDITS BENEFIT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Tax credits for donations to domestic violence shelters allow a 50 percent tax credit to people who donate $100 or more.
- A matching fund requirement is removed from State Services to Victims Fund grant guidelines.
- State funding for domestic violence service providers is passed at $2.3 million.
- The videotaped testimony of a child is allowed in a court proceeding for obtaining a full Child Order of Protection.

1998
INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION IS PROHIBITED

- Insurance policies cannot be denied, cancelled or refused on the sole basis that the insured or prospective insured person is a victim of domestic violence. Domestic violence cannot be considered a pre-existing condition.
- The law to criminalize marital rape is reinstated after legislators repealed the 1991 statute that disallowed marriage as a defense to sexual assault crimes.
- Domestic violence homicides are to be reported to the Missouri State Highway Patrol for inclusion in the annual Missouri Uniform Crime Index.
- Penalties are enhanced for prior and persistent domestic violence criminal offenders.
- State domestic violence program funding is maintained at $2.3 million. Federal funding is increased from $750,000 to $1 million.

1999
TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS CLARIFY ISSUES RELATED TO ORDERS OF PROTECTION

- Orders of Protection issued by other states (“foreign orders”) must be enforced by law enforcement officers even if the foreign order is not registered with Missouri courts.
• An additional “dwelling unit” category is added to allow courts to issue an Order of Protection prohibiting the respondent from entering the dwelling unit “jointly occupied by the petitioner and a person other than the respondent, provided that the respondent has no property interest in the dwelling unit.”

• Ex Parte Orders of Protection are to take effect when entered by the court and remain in effect until there is valid service of process and a hearing is held on the motion. Failure to serve an Ex Parte Order of Protection on the respondent does not affect the validity or enforceability of such an order.

• State domestic violence services funds are increased by $500,000 to $2.8 million.

• Counties can increase court fines to fund domestic violence shelters.

• The House Interim Committee on Domestic Violence is established by the Missouri House of Representatives.

2000
WIDE-RANGING NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWS ENHANCE PROTECTIONS
• Adults in current or past dating relationships are made eligible for Orders of Protection.

• Restrictions are added to restrain a protection order respondent from "communicating with the petitioner in any manner or through any medium."

• Communication initiated by a respondent is an arrestable violation of Ex Parte and Full Orders of Protection.

• Respondents can be ordered to pay for medical treatment resulting from domestic violence injuries.

• A respondent’s Social Security number is to be included in the full Order of Protection if known.

• Courts are required to impose a $2 surcharge on any civil case filing, except for a case in which the filing fees are waived. Funds are to be expended only to provide financial assistance to shelters for victims of domestic violence.

• The law requiring law enforcement agencies to report domestic violence homicides is expanded to include domestic violence-related suicides.

• In determining the existence of domestic violence, law enforcement officers are to consider whether the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim was that of a family or household member, whether either previously has filed for a protection order and whether anyone had been investigated previously for domestic violence.

• Confidentiality of information and records is added as a requirement to be eligible for domestic violence shelter funding.

• Three separate crimes for domestic assault are established. First- and second-degree domestic assault become felonies; third-degree domestic assault becomes a misdemeanor offense but could be a felony if there are two previous offenses within 10 years. Persistent and prior offenders cannot have the imposition of their sentences suspended, cannot pay a fine in lieu of imprisonment and are not eligible for parole or probation until they have served at least six months in prison.

• The Missouri Department of Public Safety is to collect Uniform Crime Reports from all law enforcement agencies and publish an annual report of collected data.

• A process is established to allow an individual to obtain payment on an insurance claim for property damaged or destroyed by another person who has an interest in the property.

• Domestic violence shelters can admit 16- and 17-year-old victims of domestic violence if certain criteria are met.

• State funding for domestic violence programs is retained at $2.8 million.
2001

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REQUIRED

- Law enforcement training standards require 30 hours of training on domestic violence.
- Information in court databases regarding Orders of Protection is to be electronically entered in the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System (MULES).
- State funding for domestic violence services is increased to $3.8 million.
- The Office for Victims of Crime is established in the Department of Public Safety and funded by an increase in Crime Victims’ Compensation fund fines.

2002

VOTERS WHO WERE VICTIMS MAY RETAIN CONFIDENTIALITY OF ADDRESSES

- Voters with Orders of Protection may keep residential addresses confidential on voter registration lists.
- No fees, court costs or bonds are allowed for Orders of Protection.
- Full Orders of Protection can terminate when the petitioner files a motion, except both parties must consent or the respondent must fail to object in those cases in which the respondent has been granted child custody.
- Out-of-state (“foreign”) Orders of Protection are valid in Missouri without having to be registered.
- A court may order a party to pay a reasonable amount to the other party for attorney’s fees in actions seeking a protection order.
- Circuit court clerks must provide uniform petition forms to those seeking a Child Order of Protection. Filing fees and court costs are eliminated for child protection orders. The court must appoint a guardian ad litem (GAL) or court-appointed special advocate (CASA) within 24 hours of the filing of a child protection order.
- A total of $4.3 million in state funds is approved for domestic violence services.

2003

ORDER OF PROTECTION PROCEDURES CHANGE

- Petitioners do not need to include their Social Security numbers in public court records in Order of Protection cases.
- Respondents may be charged court costs for Orders of Protection, either adult or child. Petitioners cannot be charged.
- Child Orders of Protection are to be entered in MULES and reported to juvenile officers.
2004

LAWS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING CREATED

- New laws are created to address the crimes of human trafficking.
- Missouri’s Supreme Court issues a decision in State ex rel. Hope House v. Merrigan requiring domestic violence shelters to maintain the confidentiality of victims and records of services provided to them.
- The definition of stalking in Order of Protection cases is amended to remove the word “harass” to reduce filings by neighbors and those involved in landlord/tenant disputes.
- Judges may hold compliance review hearings and may punish a respondent for contempt of court in Order of Protection cases.
- A victim of domestic violence, child abuse or abuse by a family or household member is no longer required to publish a public notice of a legal name change.
- A “non-offending parent” is entitled to custody of a child when an abuse or neglect investigation is proceeding against the other parent.
- Child custody and visitation law is modified to prohibit courts from awarding custody or supervised visitation to a parent convicted of child abuse.
- A person owing more than $10,000 in past-due child support cannot file for modification of a child custody order unless a bond is paid and may be subject to termination of parental rights upon the custodial parent’s petition.
- Those age 16 or 17 (“qualified minors”) can receive various services, including domestic violence shelter services, if there is expressed or implied parental consent for services. Prior law provided only for expressed parental consent.

2005

CORRECTIONS MADE TO 2004 CHILD WELFARE BILL

- Errors in the 2004 child welfare bill are corrected, including a change to strengthen the law that a “non-offending parent” is entitled to custody of a child when an abuse or neglect investigation is proceeding against the other parent.
- Domestic violence program funding is maintained at $4.3 million in state funds despite significant reductions in funds for other state services.
- Judges can hold compliance review hearings in Child Order of Protection cases, and the term of a Child Order of Protection increases to a maximum of one year, from 180 days.

2006

FUNDING INCREASES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

- State domestic violence service funds are increased by $200,000 to total $4.5 million.
- The State Services to Victims Fund [SSVF] receives a $1.5 million funding increase. This increase is the result of a permanent 50/50 funding split between Crime Victims Compensation and SSVF, which was enacted by the legislature in 2004.
- Administration of the domestic violence shelter tax credit program is moved from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Social Services.
2007

SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMS TO BE PAID FOR BY DHSS

- The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is required to pay for the costs of forensic rape exams. Previously, charges could be billed to sexual assault victims. A first-time appropriation of $250,000 is approved to cover the costs of exams.
- Domestic violence program funding increases by $250,000 to $4.75 million in state funds.
- Staff and volunteers working for rape crisis centers are required to maintain the confidentiality of victims served and records of services provided.
- Law enforcement officers are prohibited from requiring victims of sexual assault to submit to a polygraph test prior to investigating a report of a sexual offense.
- “Safe at Home,” operated by the Missouri Secretary of State’s office, is established to allow victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking to receive an alternate address that would protect their physical street address from being disclosed in public documents and records.
- Qualified minors can receive services from domestic and sexual violence providers. Prior law only allowed programs to provide shelter to these 16- and 17-year-olds.
- Missouri courts are required to close and redact personally identifying victim information from criminal court records that are accessible to the public.
- The Missouri Board of Probation and Parole is allowed to conduct case reviews and hold parole hearings for battered women incarcerated for killing abusive partners. The women must meet a number of criteria to be eligible for case review.

2008

STALKING AND HARASSMENT LAWS STRENGTHENED

- The definitions of stalking and harassment crimes are broadened to include a greater number of harmful behaviors, and penalties are increased.
- Electronic communications are included in behaviors that constitute harassment.
- Aggravated stalking is expanded to include actions that harass another person and: make a credible threat against the person being harassed; violate a valid Order of Protection; violate probation or parole, or release of bond; instances where the victim is 17 years of age or younger and the perpetrator is 21 years of age or older; or the perpetrator has previously pleaded guilty to or been found guilty of domestic assault, violation of an Order of Protection of any other crime where the person was the victim.
- The sexual assault exam fund is increased for a total appropriation of $1.3 million.

2009

17-YEAR-OLDS ABLE TO GET ADULT ORDERS OF PROTECTION

- A law is passed to allow 17-year-olds to obtain Adult Orders of Protection.
- First-time federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant funding is awarded to sexual violence services programs.
• The Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) program is statutorily placed under the authority of the Crime Victims’ Compensation program. To protect rape survivors’ privacy, forensic exam reports no longer must be sent to prosecutors. New protocols for health care professionals are included in the law for adult forensic exams, with specific provisions for minors.

• After more than a decade of legislative advocacy, the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act passes. The UCCJEA interstate custody law contains new protections for domestic violence victims and their children.

• No domestic violence state funds are cut by the legislature or subsequently in two Governor’s budget withholdings of $600 million for Fiscal Year 2010.

• Domestic violence offenses committed in other states are included in Missouri law for the purposes of enhanced penalties for prior and persistent offenders.

• Legislation is defeated that would have reclassified emergency contraception as an abortion-causing drug, which would have reduced access by rape survivors.

• Personally identifying information is made confidential in divorce and custody court filings.

2010
NEW GRANT FUNDS RELEASED FOR SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES
• During a year of sweeping state budget cuts, MCADSV gains the restoration of full state funding for domestic violence services after funds had been slashed 50 percent by legislators.

• MCADSV advocacy gains the release of $2 million in grant funds for sexual and domestic violence services that had been held in a state crime fine reserve fund.

• Legislation passes to further refine laws that protect identifying information about victims of sexual and domestic violence from being disclosed through court documents and filings.

• Bills are defeated that would have limited access to public assistance and related health care insurance benefits.

• At the request of MCADSV, Missouri’s Attorney General establishes an Attorney General’s Task Force on Domestic Violence, which reviews all state domestic violence laws and practices of intervention and issues a report recommending legislative and public policy changes.

2011
UNANIMOUS VOTE PASSES COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE OF 30 YEARS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWS
• One definition of domestic violence is created in law, and all statutory references to domestic violence are made consistent with that definition.

• Domestic violence incidents among dating couples and teens are included in statewide crime data annual reports.

• Conflicts between Child and Adult Orders of Protection are eliminated.

• Drafting errors and inconsistencies in domestic assault and stalking laws are corrected.

• Child Orders of Protection are allowed to be entered against juvenile respondents, and new sections of law are created to govern these new juvenile court processes.
• The law clarifies and expands which violations of protection orders are arrestable offenses.
• Municipal and county court convictions for domestic assaults can be used as penalty enhancements for subsequent state court convictions.
• Judges have more discretion about what they can include in protection orders as prohibitions or requirements of respondents that are specific to the individual circumstances of the parties.
• The law provides for ongoing renewals of orders without requiring additional hearings if respondents do not file objections and request hearings.
• Petitioners may not be charged fees for filing motions for contempt for violations of Orders of Protection.
• Judges are allowed to determine whether a protection order is being voluntarily dismissed by a petitioner.
• Custody and visitation orders contained in Orders of Protection must be entered into MULES within 24 hours. Similar immediate entry into MULES is required when protection orders are served on respondents.
• The Division of Probation and Parole is established as the credentialing authority for court-authorized batterer intervention programs.
• The Safe at Home address confidentiality program is reauthorized.
• Administrative rules setting maximum reimbursement rates for sexual assault forensic examinations are required for the SAFE program.
• Organizations funded through State Services for Victims’ Fund (SSVF) grants are allowed to use no more than 10 percent of those funds for administrative purposes.
• Revisions to the trafficking law expand activities that constitute forced labor, sexual exploitation and sexual trafficking of a child. The law provides a defense for victims of trafficking who commit prostitution offenses as an aspect of being trafficked themselves, adds restitution requirements, adds the element of blackmail to trafficking crimes and allows trafficking victims to file for civil damages.

2012

FUNDING RESTORED IN STATE BUDGET
• Federal funding of $889,134 is restored for the Rape Prevention and Education grant program after it is eliminated in an initial appropriations bill.
• Gov. Jay Nixon releases $750,000 in state funds for domestic violence services after they had been withheld due to state budget constraints. State funding remains at $4.75 million for domestic violence shelter and services grants.
• Paternity actions are prohibited until the conclusion of criminal proceedings for those charged with rape when a child is conceived and born as a result of the offense.
• Legislation is defeated that would have had a negative impact on victims and decreased accountability for offenders. These were bills to: weaken sex offender registry laws, change mandatory child abuse reporting, eliminate cash-only bonds for offenders and end tax credits to domestic violence shelters.
• The Justice Reinvestment Act increases community-level supervision and accountability for convicted offenders on probation or parole.
2013

LACK OF CONSENT ADDED AS ELEMENT OF RAPE CRIMES

• In the most significant change made in decades, Missouri rape laws are revised and redefined. The changes add elements to felony rape crimes that include a victim’s incapability or incapacity to consent to sexual activity. Previously, such offenses were based on an offender’s use of force or drugging of a victim.

• Sections of Missouri’s domestic violence laws are corrected after the extensive 2011 bill that revised all domestic violence statutes.

• Funding to support domestic violence programs is increased by $1.9 million, to a total of $8.4 million.

• In a change to mandated reporting of child abuse, those who are identified as mandated reporters must make such reports directly to the Children’s Division. Previously, reporters could give the information to a supervisor, who then contacted the Children’s Division.

• The Governor’s Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children is continued indefinitely beyond its original 2013 expiration date.

2014

SIGNIFICANT FUNDING INCREASES AT LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS

• MCADSV advocacy leads to first-time state funding of $500,000 for sexual assault services. Gov. Jay Nixon then vetoes the funding, which is followed by legislators’ override of the veto to restore the funding. Citing budget concerns, the Governor withholds the money for rape crisis centers until releasing it in early 2015.

• MCADSV contributed to a successful national effort to increase federal funding for services to victims nationwide. Funding released nationwide through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) was tripled to $2.3 billion, along with other increases for federal grant programs.

• Long-standing local funding for domestic violence shelters through local fees was strengthened to allow local governments to increase ordinance violation fines from $2 to $4 per case.

2015

SEXUAL ASSAULT PROTECTION ORDERS CREATED IN LAW

• MCADSV achieves a unanimous vote for a bill to create Sexual Assault Orders of Protection, allowing rape victims without family or household relationships to their perpetrators to obtain civil protection orders.

• Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funding increases by $28 million in Missouri’s state budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

• MCADSV gains unanimous support for a bill to double the weekly compensation amount provided to victims of crime through the Crime Victims’ Compensation fund.

• MCADSV provides a lead advocacy role to achieve compromise to mitigate some of the negative impact of legislation that significantly decreases the public assistance provided in Missouri through the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program.
2016
NO PERMITS REQUIRED TO CARRY CONCEALED WEAPONS

- Firearms laws change to allow the carrying of concealed weapons without a permit, allowing domestic violence offenders and those with Orders of Protection in effect against them to carry concealed weapons that would have been prohibited through the permit process.

- Protection orders are expanded to allow victims to retain family plan cellphone numbers and accounts separate from their abusers.

- Trafficking victims are made eligible for the address confidentiality program Safe at Home.

- Notification is required for victims of domestic violence misdemeanor crimes about all court processes and offender release information, a right previously afforded only to victims of felony offenses.

- Universities and colleges are required to develop Memoranda of Understanding [MOUs] with local law enforcement agencies for responses to incidents of sexual and domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

2017
FEDERAL VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT GRANTS MOVED TO DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

- Effective July 1, the Victims of Crime Act [VOCA] federal grant funds for victim services programs are administered by the Department of Social Services and removed from the authority of the Department of Public Safety.

- Extensive revisions to Missouri’s entire Criminal Code, passed in 2014 by the Missouri General Assembly, take effect on Jan. 1, 2017.

- Confidentiality rights are strengthened for participants in the Safe at Home address confidentiality program by requiring court orders to disclose participants’ street addresses.

- State General Revenue funding is increased for domestic and sexual violence services: a $250,000 increase for sexual assault services, for a total of $750,000 in state funding; and a $250,000 increase for domestic violence services, for a total of $9.2 million in state and federal funds.

2018
REVISIONS ARE MADE TO THE CRIME VICTIMS’ COMPENSATION PROGRAM

- Revisions are made to the entirety of laws governing the state Crime Victims’ Compensation program to expand eligibility, reduce barriers to compensation and replace decades-old operations with online systems.

- Mandatory timelines are set in state law for testing sexual assault forensic evidence that is collected from victims, and a requirement is established for the creation of a statewide electronic tracking system for evidence collected from sexual assault survivors.

- New crimes are established for the nonconsensual distribution of private sexual images and the offense of threatening to distribute the images.

- Reports to law enforcement agencies are required when a resident of a long-term care facility is sexually assaulted.
• Counties and municipalities are allowed to establish Domestic Violence Fatality Review panels.

• Child Orders of Protection laws are revised to allow issuance of orders for a child subject to an existing custody order if the respondent is not a party to the custody order.

• Courts are allowed to place those who violate Orders of Protection on electronic monitoring, with the informed consent of victims of the offenders.

• Courts are allowed to terminate the parental rights of a man found in civil court to have fathered a child through rape.

• Qualified minors (self-supporting 16- and 17-year-olds) are allowed to receive services from rape crisis centers.

• Schools’ coursework is required to include curricula on sexual harassment, sexual violence and consent in human sexuality education classes.

• The legal minimum age to obtain a marriage license is raised to 16 years of age, and no marriage license can be issued to a person 21 years old or older to marry someone who is younger than 17 years old.

• The statute of limitations is removed for the prosecution of sexual offenses against children and for prosecution of cases when a match is found with an accused person’s DNA evidence and evidence previously processed by a crime lab.

• Posters advertising the national human trafficking website and hotline number are required to be posted in public places.

• The Safe at Home address confidentiality program eligibility is expanded to all victims of crime who fear for their safety and to household and family members of program participants. Safe at Home program participants’ street addresses are protected from being revealed in court records for child relocation proceedings.

• A three-tiered system is established for the sex offender registry based on the seriousness of offenses, with a process for offenders to petition courts to be removed from the sex offender registry if certain conditions and time requirements are met.

• Funding to support domestic and sexual violence services is increased: a $160,000 increase for sexual assault services, for a total of $960,000 in state and federal funding; and a $1.84 million increase for domestic violence services, for a total of $11.11 million in state and federal funding.

2019

**HOUSING RIGHTS PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS CREATED IN LAW**

• A new section of law is created establishing housing rights protections for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Victims may terminate residential property leases and have protections from eviction or denial of tenancy.

• Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funding increases to $63.7 million in Missouri’s state budget for Fiscal Year 2020.

• A technical correction is made to the 2018 law on the crime of nonconsensual distribution of private sexual images.

• Revisions are made to allow expungement of prostitution convictions for persons convicted of the offense when younger than age 18 or when coerced.