



2022

PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

Proactive Agenda \ Bill Package

www.acesdv.org

ARIZONA COALITION TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

OUR MISSION

ACESDV's mission is to end sexual and domestic violence in Arizona by dismantling oppression and promoting equity among all people.

WHO WE SERVE

Our primary customers are providers of direct services to victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence. **Victims and survivors are the beneficiaries of our work.**

OUR HISTORY

The Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence was formed in 1980 so that concerned citizens and professionals could unite in a statewide organization to end domestic violence. In 2013, the coalition became the federally-designated dual coalition to address both sexual and domestic violence, thus becoming the **Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV).**

OUR PURPOSE

AMPLIFY awareness of sexual and domestic violence to reduce stigma, prevent violence, and champion healing and justice.

SUPPORT organizations in building and sustaining trauma-informed responses and comprehensive sexual and domestic violence services.

COLLABORATE with survivors and community partners to end violence and oppression by shifting culture, systems and policy.

LEAD the anti-sexual and domestic violence movement in Arizona through centering and elevating the needs and voices of survivors.



ACCESS TO SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Expand Lease Termination Options for Survivors of Violence

NEED:

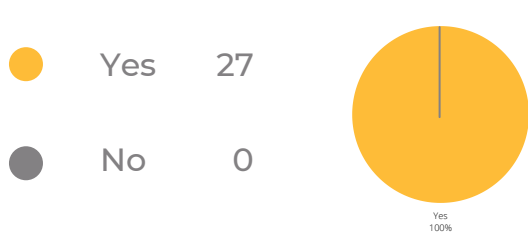
Existing law allows for lease termination for sexual and/or domestic violence survivors who can provide a protective order or police report to prove violence occurred. However, many survivors do not obtain protective orders or report to the police. Expanding allowable forms of documentation of violence will ensure more survivors are able to leave violent or unsafe homes.

SOLUTION:

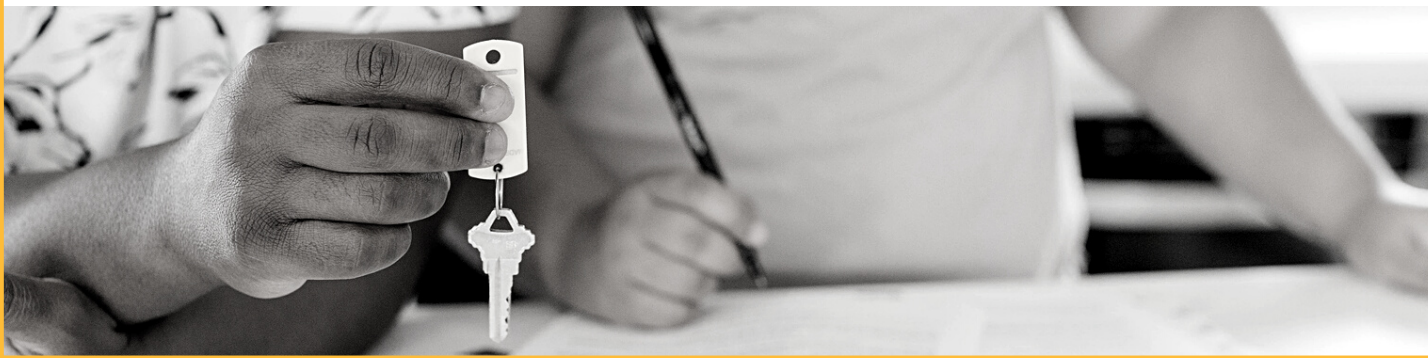
Expand ARS 33-1318: Early Termination by Tenant; Domestic Violence; Sexual Assault; Requirements; Lock Replacement; Access Refusal; Treble Damages; Immunity

Expand allowable forms of documentation to include emergency orders of protection or verification by a healthcare/mental health professional, or asexual and/or domestic violence program advocate.

DO YOU SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION?



“ I support this because the current statute is so limited that it makes it impossible for victims to get out of their lease. I also recommend the 30 day time frame to be extended. I also recommend additional communication on this to survivor. As someone who works with DV victims, post sentencing, this is one of the biggest barriers to assisting them with relocation. ”



ACCESS TO SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Prohibit Evictions of Crime Victims based on Nuisance Laws

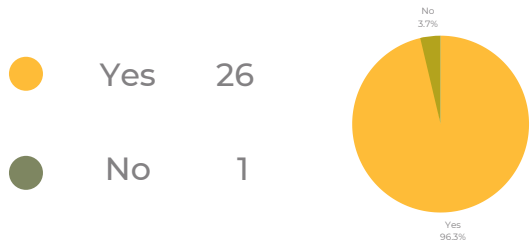
NEED:

Currently, domestic violence survivors can be evicted for violation of nuisance laws as a result of multiple calls to the police to intervene in situations of domestic violence. While some municipalities have repealed nuisance ordinances, survivors in some cities can still be evicted for making multiple calls to law enforcement. In order to protect survivors of crime, state statute related to nuisance laws should be amended to exclude domestic violence survivors calling for help from police.

SOLUTION:

Amend ARS 13-2917 to exclude crime victims.

DO YOU SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION?



“ This will enable survivors to feel safe calling the police when they need help without fearing that they will lose their home. This will allow them to put their safety first instead of having to worry about the consequences of asking for help. ”



SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES AND RESPONSE

Mandate statewide use of Arizona’s existing sexual assault kit tracking system

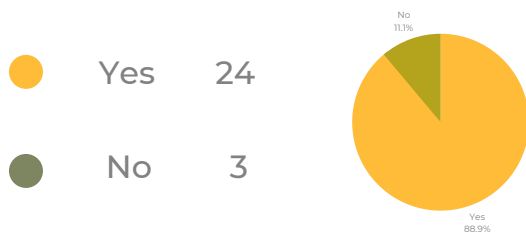
NEED:

In 2016, Governor Ducey issued Executive Order 2016-02, establishing the Arizona Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Task Force. Per Task Force recommendations, Arizona adopted a sexual assault kit tracking system. However, participation is not mandatory by law for all law enforcement agencies or jurisdictions. Mandatory statewide participation in a unified tracking system will ensure greater accountability to survivors, prevent future backlogs, and allow for consistent data collection and assessment.

SOLUTION:

Amend ARS 13-1426 to include required participation in a sexual assault kit tracking system. Mandate survivor's ability to anonymously track the location, testing date, testing results of a kit including DNA profiles or matches, and estimated destruction date of their kit. Require provision of tracking system information to all victims of sexual assault who receive a forensic exam.

DO YOU SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION?



“ The loss and misplacement of sexual assault kits in past years is a known issue and one that causes further trauma to survivors who have made the hard choice of reporting sexual violence. Offering sexual assault tracking kits to survivors help assure that the evidence tied to their report does not get lost or go missing for other reasons. ”



SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES AND RESPONSE

Establish sexual assault survivors’ right to know the status of their sexual assault kit

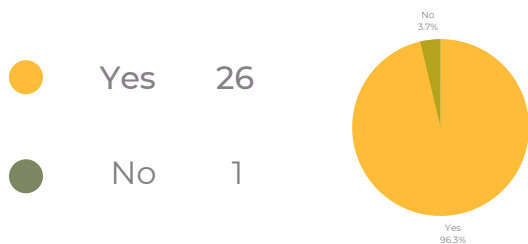
NEED:

Sexual assault survivors want and deserve information about the status of their sexual assault kits, and this knowledge can promote healing for survivors. All but two jurisdictions in Arizona utilize TrackKit, a sexual assault kit tracking system with a portal for victims to voluntarily receive updates on their kit. All victims should have the right to information about their kit and access to this portal. Currently, 24 states and Washington, D.C. have passed laws granting victims' rights to know the status of their sexual assault kit.

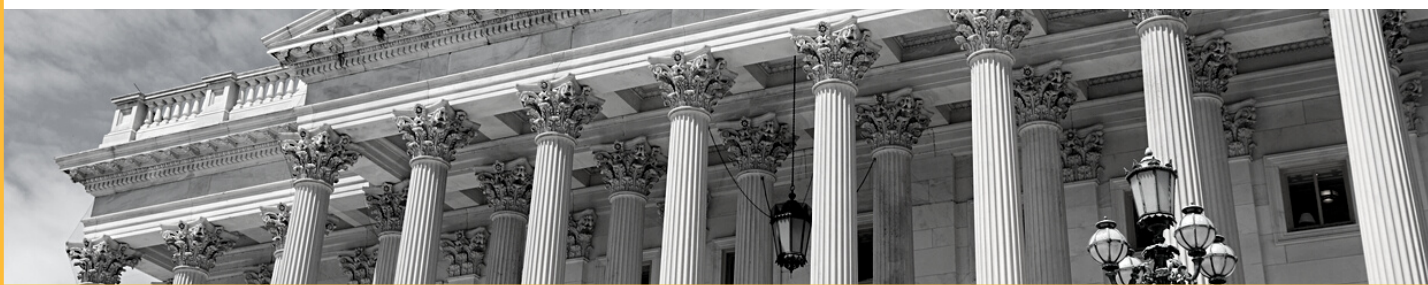
SOLUTION:

Create Sexual Assault Survivor Rights which include the right to timely notification and response regarding the status of their sexual assault kit, extending this right to legal guardians who are not the alleged perpetrator.

DO YOU SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION?



“TrackKit cards and the portal are easy to provide and offer continued information to the survivor and/or guardian.”



FIREARMS

Close gaps that give perpetrators of domestic violence easier access to guns

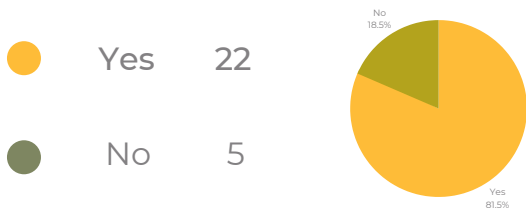
NEED:

Arizona's rates of domestic violence homicide by firearm exceed the national average, and have increased since the onset of COVID-19. In 2019, there were 62 domestic violence homicides by firearm in Arizona. Access to a gun makes it five times more likely that a woman will die at the hands of a domestic abuser. While Arizona limits access to firearms for domestic abusers, additional reform is needed to expand this limitation and to facilitate the implementation and enforcement of the initial legislation by the courts and law enforcement.

SOLUTION:

Amend ARS 12-284, Repealing § 12-284, Arizona Revised Statutes Amended by Laws 2018, Chapter 232, Section 1 - Expand the definition of prohibited possessors of firearms to domestic violence misdemeanants. Amend ARS 13-36 - Provide a strong process that ensures firearm surrender by domestic abusers to law enforcement or designated recipients. Prohibit all domestic abusers subject to active final protection orders from having guns and require abusers to relinquish their guns.

DO YOU SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION?



“ Having firearms in the home where DV takes place significantly increases the lethality risk for the victim. Having these protections is essential. ”



CONNECT WITH US

<https://www.acesdv.org/public-policy-advocacy/>

ACESDV advocates for systemic change to increase safety for victims/survivors of sexual and domestic violence and their children. We believe in accountability for people who commit harm, and work on big picture issues impacting sexual and domestic violence victims/survivors and direct service providers.

Activities of the Public Policy Department:

- Monitor policies, procedures and practices
- Advocate for systems level changes
- Educate lawmakers on needed statutory changes and sexual and domestic violence
- Work with the criminal legal system, human services, and other community partners to enhance system responses to sexual and domestic violence

Legislative Action:

- We track a number of bills relating to sexual and domestic violence victims/survivors, increasing accountability for people who commit harm, and funding for sexual and domestic violence programs and services.

The Arizona Legislative Session starts the second Monday in January every year and goes for approximately 100 days. We send out weekly Legislative Updates during the legislative session. Please visit our website for more information.

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