



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

Newsom signs child sexual assault survivor bill

CAOC-supported AB 218 expands statute of limitations for claims

SACRAMENTO (October 13, 2019) – Victims of childhood sexual abuse will have a greater opportunity to seek justice and hold an assailant accountable under a bill supported by Consumer Attorneys of California that Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed.

Assembly Bill 218 by Asm. Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) will give survivors of sexual assault in their childhood more time to bring an action against those responsible.

Previously, California allowed victims to file claims until the age of 26. AB 218 extends that limit to age 40, or within five years of the time it is discovered they suffered damages as a result of the assault, whichever comes later.

In addition, AB 218 will allow a three-year window in which claims that may have expired due to the statute of limitations under current law can be revived. In cases where a child becomes a victim of sexual assault as the result of an effort to cover up previous assaults, AB 218 will also allow a court to award recovery of up to treble damages from the defendant who engaged in the cover-up.

AB 218 becomes law Jan. 1, 2020.

Consumer Attorneys of California is a professional organization of plaintiffs' attorneys representing consumers seeking accountability against wrongdoers in cases involving personal injury, product liability, environmental degradation and other causes.

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