

Ritual abuse and Civil Statutes of Limitations.

HB196 defines ritual abuse and establishes the crime of ritualistic abuse. Current laws on child sexual abuse do not address the depth and detail of these heinous crimes, nor do current laws act as a deterrent for abusers who perpetrate this unspeakable abuse of children. As a State that stands for the protection of children, it's time to protect victims and send a message to perpetrators of ritual abuse that there is no place for this horrific abuse in Utah; just as we did with human trafficking in 2008 and female genital mutilation in 2022.

This Bill also conforms the various Statutes of Limitations for offenses amounting to sexual abuse of children.

➔ Definition of Ritual Abuse

"Ritual" means an event or act or a series of procedures for a religious or other rite.

"Ritual abuse" occurs when gestures, or words, designed to commemorate, celebrate, or solemnize a particular occasion or significance in a religious, cultural, social, institutional, or other context are implemented to coerce, manipulate, and intimidate a child to condition the child for acts and practices of sexual abuse.

➔ How Perpetrators Avoid Detection:

- Threatening the victim that their family, friends, pets will be killed if they disclose the abuse.
- Perpetrators trust that authorities will not believe the horrific and outlandish reports.
- Victims are shamed from reporting.
- Perpetrators abscond within our institutions and religions and borrow the associated rituals.
- Victims are psychologically conditioned to believe they are worthless.

➔ Why Don't Victims Come Forward?

- Victims are silenced through threat and intimidation.
- Victims are often not believed and are often labeled insane.
- They live with poor mental health and chronic health issues.
- Many become addicts, enter prostitution or become incarcerated.
- Victims lose the ability to self-advocate due to severe trauma.
- Victims desire to forget or deny their past and live with tremendous shame and guilt.

➔ Effects on Survivors (Stats)

- 80% had birth family involved in their abuse
- 37% of the abused become adults with predatory intentions
- 87% had Depressive Disorder
- 85% had Complex PTSD
- 42% had Borderline Personality Disorder
- 62% had Eating Disorders
- 84% had Dissociative Identity Disorder
- 19% had full or part-time employment

Citations

Psychiatric Impact of Organized and Ritual Child Sexual Abuse: Cross-Sectional Findings from Individuals Who Report Being Victimized Johanna Schröder *, Susanne Nick, Hertha Richter-Appelt and Peer Briken Institute for Sex Research and Forensic Psychiatry, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, 20246 Hamburg, Germany; s.nick@uke.de (S.N.); hrichter@uke.de (H.R.-A.); briken@uke.de (P.B.) * Correspondence: jo.schroeder@uke.de; Tel.: +49-40-7410-57763 Received: 2 August 2018; Accepted: 25 October 2018; Published: 31 October 2018