

1 STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CIVIL ACTIONS

2 2015 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 Chief Sponsor: Ken Ivory

5 Senate Sponsor: Aaron Osmond

6

7 LONG TITLE

8 General Description:

9 This bill eliminates the statute of limitations for civil actions for child sexual abuse.

10 Highlighted Provisions:

11 This bill:

- 12 ► provides that a victim of child sexual abuse may file a civil action at any time.

13 Money Appropriated in this Bill:

14 None

15 Other Special Clauses:

16 None

17 Utah Code Sections Affected:

18 AMENDS:

19 78B-2-308, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3

20

21 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

22 Section 1. Section 78B-2-308 is amended to read:

23 78B-2-308. Civil actions for sexual abuse of a child.

24 (1) As used in this section:

25 (a) "Child" means a person under 18 years of age.

26 (b) "Discovery" means when a person knows or reasonably should know that the injury
27 or illness was caused by the intentional or negligent sexual abuse.



28 (c) "Injury or illness" means either a physical injury or illness or a psychological injury
29 or illness. A psychological injury or illness need not be accompanied by physical injury or
30 illness.

31 (d) "Molestation" means touching the anus, buttocks, or genitalia of any child, the
32 breast of a female child younger than 14 years of age, or otherwise taking indecent liberties
33 with a child, or causing a child to take indecent liberties with the perpetrator or another, with
34 the intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person.

35 (e) "Negligently" means a failure to act to prevent the child sexual abuse from further
36 occurring or to report the child sexual abuse to law enforcement when the adult who could act
37 knows or reasonably should know of the child sexual abuse and is the victim's parent,
38 stepparent, adoptive parent, foster parent, legal guardian, ancestor, descendant, brother, sister,
39 uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, grandparent, stepgrandparent, or any person cohabiting
40 in the child's home.

41 (f) "Person" means an individual who was intentionally or negligently sexually abused.
42 It does not include individuals whose claims are derived through another individual who was
43 sexually abused.

44 (g) "Sexual abuse" means acts or attempted acts of sexual intercourse, sodomy, or
45 molestation directed towards a child.

46 (2) A person [staff] may file a civil action for intentional or negligent sexual abuse
47 suffered as a child[?] at any time, subject to the constraints in this section.

48 [~~(a) within four years after the person attains the age of 18 years; or~~]

49 [~~(b) if a person discovers sexual abuse only after attaining the age of 18 years, that~~
50 ~~person may bring a civil action for such sexual abuse within four years after discovery of the~~
51 ~~sexual abuse, whichever period expires later.]~~

52 (3) The victim need not establish which act in a series of continuing sexual abuse
53 incidents caused the injury complained of, but may compute the date of discovery from the date
54 of discovery of the last act by the same perpetrator which is part of a common scheme or plan
55 of sexual abuse.

56 (4) The knowledge of a custodial parent or guardian may not be imputed to a person
57 under the age of 18 years.

58 (5) A civil action may be brought only against a living person who intentionally

59 perpetrated the sexual abuse or negligently permitted the sexual abuse to occur.

Legislative Review Note
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Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel