

## PRIMARY LAWS UTILIZED

The Justice Project Against Sexual Harm (JusticePASH) provides ***no or low-cost, customized legal services and support*** to sexual assault survivors, whether they need advocacy in support of criminal prosecution, or representation in civil court or other venues. Although we utilize a variety of legal mechanisms and laws to support our clients, the primary state provisions utilized are:

### **Illinois Gender Violence Act:**

Enacted in 2004, the “GVA” defines sexual assault as sex discrimination, and allows survivors to seek relief in state civil court—whether or not the criminal justice system ever took action against the perpetrators. The GVA has a 7-year statute of limitations, and under the law, a perpetrator can be forced to pay punitive damages and attorney’s fees to the victim, in addition to being held liable for all the other costs of their wrongdoing.

### **Civil No Contact Order:**

This law allows victims of sexual assault to seek a legal finding that a perpetrator engaged in sexual assault, and a court order prohibiting the perpetrator from any future contact with the victim. The process for obtaining a “CNCO” is similar to that used to obtain domestic violence orders of protection. While monetary remedies are not available under the CNCO, survivors can use this law to make a perpetrator stand trial. Additionally, a civil finding of guilt vindicates a survivor’s rights and can be used against a perpetrator in other venues.

### **Predator Accountability Act:**

Under this law, survivors of sexual exploitation can hold pimps, johns, and other profiteers and abusers liable for the harms they cause through prostitution and other forms of sex trafficking.

**DEPENDING ON OUR CLIENTS NEEDS, JUSTICEPASH UTILIZES OTHER CIVIL REMEDIES AND PROVISIONS AFFORDED BY ILLINOIS LAW. WE ALSO HELP OUR CLIENTS NAVIGATE THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM.**