2020 Legislative Policy Work Plan



Proactive Agenda

Sexual Assault Forensic Kits (SAKs)

MNCASA continues a multi-year process towards comprehensive reform of Minnesota's forensic exam services. Extensive efforts in 2018 created a right for survivors of sexual violence to access information such as the date their SAK was sent to the lab and whether a DNA profile was obtained. However, in large part due to lack of centralized storage, that bill did not create a tracking system or retention period. This year's focus is on tracking and storing SAKs to meet <u>national best practices</u>.

2020 Legislative Session Priorities:

- A tracking system that allows survivors to know where their SAK is in the process, and documents law enforcement/prosecution rationale for choosing not to test a SAK.
- Centralized storage of SAKs, including a retention period of at least 30 months.

Supportive Agenda

Sexual Assault Forensic Kits

MNCASA supports the testing of all unrestricted SAKs, but due to the cost during a supplemental budget year, has prioritized centralized storage and testing. Testing all unrestricted SAKs is a federally recognized best practice, sends a powerful message of support to victims, identifies repeat offenders, connects otherwise disparate crimes, and saves communities money. Testing all unrestricted SAKs would additionally remove potential bias from the system as testing would no longer be a decision point.

Eliminate the Statute of Limitations for Criminal Sexual Conduct.

MNCASA supports this important survivor led work.

ARC Minnesota prevention bill

MNCASA supports ARC Minnesota's work to prevent sexual violence by incorporating mandatory caregiver education about sexual violence.

Ongoing work

Criminal Sexual Conduct Statutory Reform Work group

Extensive, ongoing multi-disciplinary work to improve MN's criminal sexual conduct statutes.

Sexual Violence Prevention

MNCASA supports local community work to expand healthy relationships and sexual violence prevention education for children and youth.

Technical assistance

Monitor and respond to efforts to introduce and advance legislation impacting victims/survivors.