

# mecasa

**MAINE COALITION AGAINST  
SEXUAL ASSAULT**

## Our Mission

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The Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault is organized to end sexual violence and to support high quality sexual violence prevention and response within Maine communities.

### **AMHC Sexual Assault Services (AMHC)**

Serving Aroostook, Hancock, & Washington Counties • [amhcsexualassaultservices.org](http://amhcsexualassaultservices.org)

### **Immigrant Resource Center of Maine**

Serving Androscoggin & Cumberland Counties • [ircofmaine.org](http://ircofmaine.org)

### **Rape Response Services (RRS)**

Serving Penobscot & Piscataquis Counties • [rrsonline.org](http://rrsonline.org)

### **Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Services (SAPARS)**

Serving Androscoggin, Oxford & Franklin Counties and the towns of Bridgton & Harrison • [sapars.org](http://sapars.org)

### **Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center (SAC & SC)**

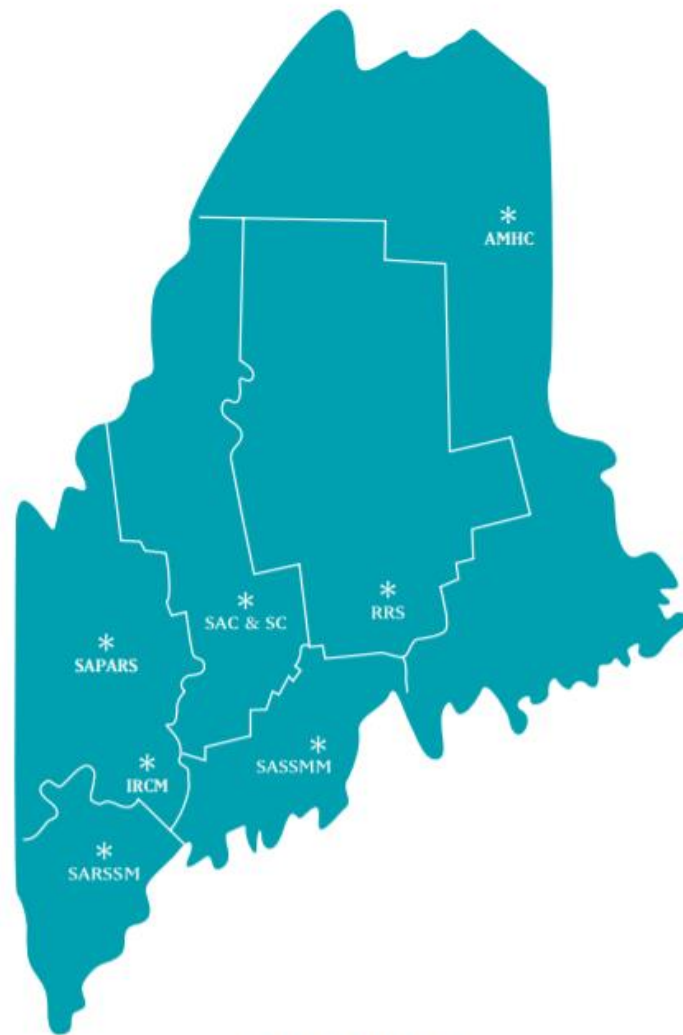
Serving Kennebec & Somerset Counties • [silentnomore.org](http://silentnomore.org)

### **Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM)**

Serving Cumberland & York Counties • [sarsonline.org](http://sarsonline.org)

### **Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine (SASSMM)**

Serving Eastern Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Knox, Waldo & Lincoln Counties • [sassmm.org](http://sassmm.org)



**STATEWIDE  
SEXUAL ASSAULT HELPLINE**

**Text/Call: 1-800-871-7741**

**Chat: [mecasa.org](http://mecasa.org)**

# Achieving the Mission: Our Work

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- Initiating and advocating for victim-centered public policy
- Funding sexual assault service providers
- Providing expert training, technical assistance, and resources for providers and partners

# Our public policy work seeks to expand, improve, and protect public policy which:

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- Meaningfully contributes to the prevention of sexual violence;
- Ensures high quality response to victims across systems;
- Promotes victims' rights, protections, and victims' access to justice;
- Increases community safety; and,
- Is responsive to the needs of marginalized and vulnerable populations.

# Program Area: Public Policy




**MECASA  
Legislative  
Report**


129th Legislature  
First Regular Session

## Maine Sexual Assault Kit Study

December 2018



Produced for the Maine Coalition  
Against Sexual Assault



## 2018 NEW MAINE LAWS Implications for Advocates

During the 2018 Legislative Session, the Maine Legislature considered many bills that have implications for your work. As always, there were many bills that did not become law, including a bill to create a named crime of female genital mutilation and one to send a Victims' Bill of Rights constitutional amendment to the ballot.

Below you will find a selection of laws resulting from this session, all of which became effective August 1, 2018 (with the exception of P.L.2017, Ch. 455, which will become effective at a later date). For a more complete list and the statutory language for each selection, please refer to our 2018 Legislative Session Review.

### Public Law Chapter 336: An Act To Increase the Penalty for Visual Sexual Aggression against a Child

**What does it do?**  
This law adds all of the Chapter 12 crimes (Sexual Exploitation of Minors) and most of the Chapter 35 crimes (Sex Trafficking, Prostitution, and Public Indecency) to the statute which allows a third offense within ten years to be charged as a class higher than the individual would otherwise be charged.

**What does it mean for your work?**  
This law was created in response to an offender who had engaged in the crime of exposure several times. The sponsor and Legislative committee hoped to ensure greater accountability when there was a pattern of criminal behavior. When working with a victim navigating the criminal justice system they should know that the perpetrator could face a higher class crime if there is a history of certain convictions.

Engaging in prostitution was excluded from the crimes that can be used to elevate the class. This crime was excluded to prevent enhanced prosecution of those engaging in prostitution due to circumstance or coercion, based on the recognition that criminalization for anyone engaging in sex work limits their options and safety.

2018 Implications for Advocates | [mecasa.org](http://mecasa.org)

# Public Policy: Statewide Policy Groups

USAO/AG Human Trafficking Workgroup

Dept. of Corrections Victim Advisory Board

MCEDV/MECASA LGBTQ+ Advisory Board

Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention

Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

Juvenile Restorative Justice Council

Maine County and Municipal Detention Facility Advisory Committee

Maine Justice for Children Task Force

Homicide Review Panel

County and Municipal Detention Facility Advisory Committee

Sex Offender Risk Assessment Advisory Commission

Judicial Branch Committee on Courts and the Media

Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees

Justice Assistance Council

Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

Maine Child Welfare Advisory Panel

# Sexual Assault Bills: Session Preview

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“An Act to Clarify and Recodify Maine’s Protection from Abuse Process”

– Rep. Bailey

“An Act to Promote Justice for Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse”

– Rep. Brennan

“An Act to Amend the Statute of Limitations for a Sexual Offense Committed against a Child”

– Rep. Gramlich

“An Act to Make Changes to the Membership of the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Board”

– Rep. O’Neil

“An Act to Facilitate Child Testimony”

– Rep. McDonald

“An Act to Ensure Ongoing Services for Victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence”

– Rep. Dunphy

# Statewide Training For:

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- Corrections Staff
- DHHS Child Protective Service Case Workers
- The Basic Law Enforcement Training Program at MJCA
- Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs)
- School Personnel



# In FY21 we helped answer questions like:

What is our obligation to protect the privacy of deceased clients?

Where can someone who has sexually harmed others go for help?

How does a human rights-based approach to human trafficking fit with an end demand intervention?

Where can I refer formerly incarcerated survivors who want support re-entering into community?

How should we be talking to schools about sexting?

What is the most effective way to engage in remote training, community ed, and prevention efforts?

How do we support survivors with suicidal thoughts and comply with Maine's duty to warn laws?

A client I'm working with has been charged with false reporting, what can I do?

How can we support survivors to find justice outside of the criminal system?

What should a survivor know before they talk to the media?

Are we required to make mandated reports on information that we only have seen in a public document?

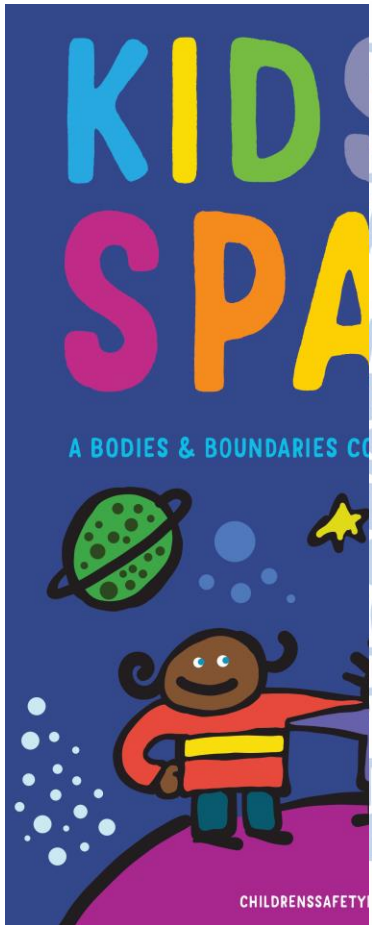
How can we talk about online safety in a way that does not vilify the internet?

How can we decrease burnout for on-call advocates?

I think my client might have experienced trafficking-can you help me?

What does my center need to know about serving survivors who are also offenders?

# Tools for Providers & Partners



How can  
kids learn  
HEALTHY  
BOUNDARIES

Have you ever  
been raped or  
sexually  
harassed?

You have the right to  
talk to a trained person  
from outside of the  
prison. They can help.

You can get free  
private help.  
Even if what happened  
was before you  
got here.

For free, private help call 1-800-871-7741.



This number is approved and  
private. It can be used anytime.  
You may need to wait to be  
connected or ask to be patched  
through to an advocate.

You can also send  
a letter to report to:  
PREA Coordinator  
York County Jail  
1 Layman Way  
Alfred, ME 04002

If it happened in this facility, you can report to the  
Dept. of Corrections. Call 1-855-279-4763.

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Guide for Maine J



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mecasa.org



A School's Guide to Implementing  
Maine's Child Sexual Abuse  
Prevention & Response Model Policy

 **CHILDREN'S SAFETY  
PARTNERSHIP**  
ending child sexual abuse together  
[childrenssafetypartnership.org](http://childrenssafetypartnership.org)



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# A Children's Advocacy Center is:

a child-focused, facility-based program where...

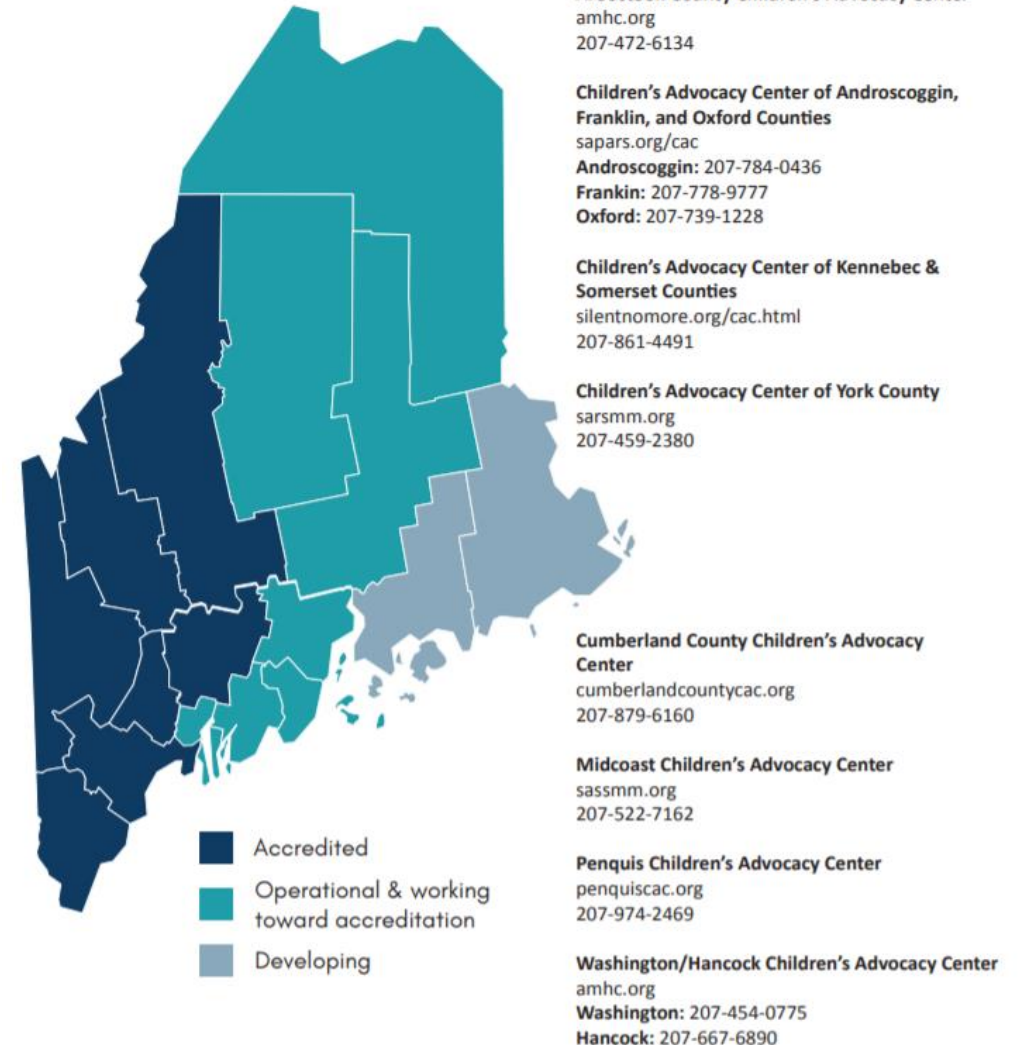
people from law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical and victim advocacy, and child advocacy work together to...

interview children who have disclosed sexual abuse and...

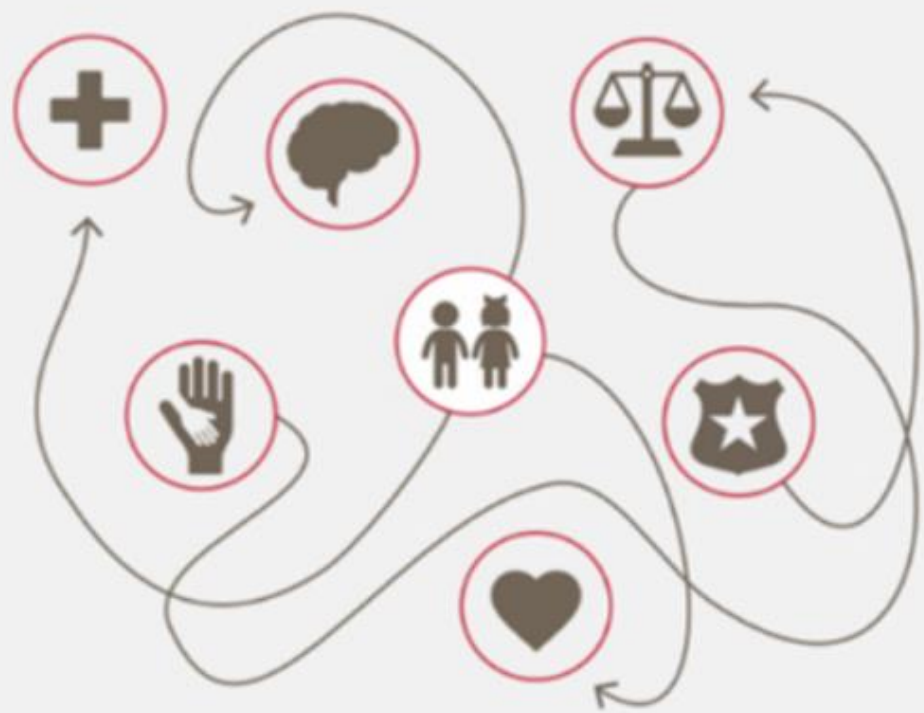
make team decisions about investigation, treatment, management, and prosecution of child sexual abuse cases.



## Maine's Children's Advocacy Centers



## Without CACs



## With CACs





HOME

ABOUT US

SERVICES & RESPONSE

DATA

LEARN MORE

SUPPORT

WATCH

CONTACT



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

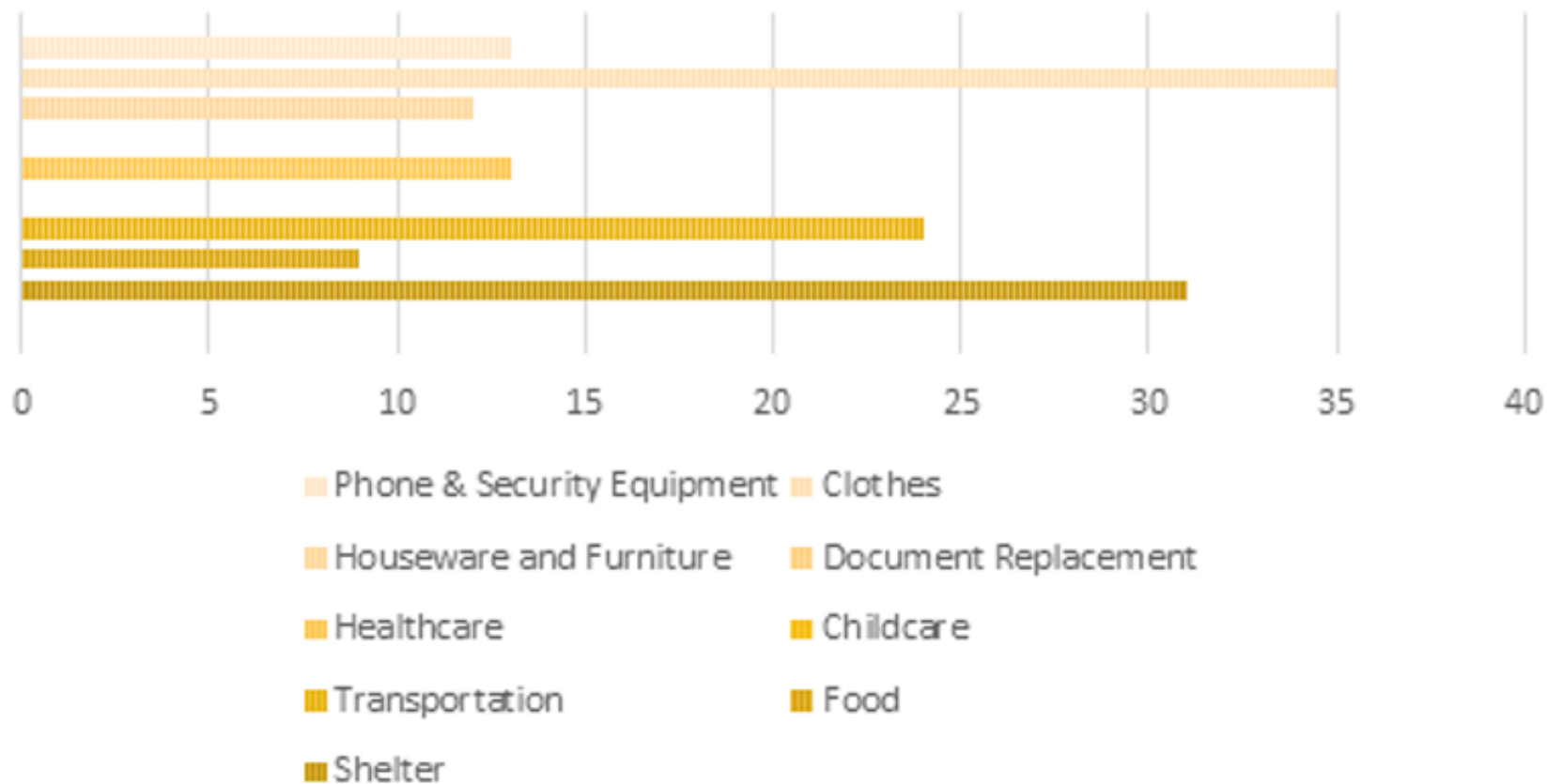
DONATE TO TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR FUND

REQUEST A TRAINING

GET HELP

A program of [The Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#).

## HT FUND NEEDS MET FFY20



# The Children's Safety Partnership

ending child sexual abuse together



Community



Schools



Your  
Questions



Elizabeth Saxl

[director@mecasa.org](mailto:director@mecasa.org)

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