



**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY
CENTERS**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

Senate Human Services Committee
Testimony In Support of Senate Bill 2387
2-4-25

Chairman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

My name is Greg Kasowski, Director of the Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota. I am here in support of the bill sponsor's proposed amendments to Senate Bill 2387.

The proposed bill amendments would afford sexual assault victims these rights:

1. **To consult with a victim advocate during a forensic medical examination.** (2a)
2. **To have privately retained counsel when speaking with law enforcement about the alleged assault, except during forensic interviews with law enforcement.** (2b) Adding child forensic interviews as an exemption is important because having a third person (e.g., privately retained counsel) in the forensic interview room opens the door to [multiple issues, as noted in this white paper from the National Children's Advocacy Center](#).

(It's important to note that trained and experienced forensic interviewers from North Dakota Children's Advocacy Centers conduct a majority of forensic interviews in our state. In 2024, our Children's Advocacy Centers interviewed 1,109 children. However, there are times when law enforcement may need to conduct a forensic interview. In these situations, our hope is that the law enforcement officer conducting the child forensic interview is trained in the foundational concepts of child forensic interviewing

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- from a [curricula approved by the National Children's Alliance](#), conducts forensic interviews on a consistent basis, and participates in on-going training in the practice of forensic interviewing.)
3. **To access the law enforcement report about the case, with exceptions for hindrances to an investigation and for minors.**
(2c) It can also be noted that 12.1-34-02-20 already allows child sexual abuse victims over the age of 18 to be provided a copy of the law enforcement report.
 4. **To receive a document explaining sexual assault survivor rights.**
(2d) This section details how victims must be afforded a document with a list of rights. It's unclear whether these rights would be wrapped into the already existing required victim's rights card noted under 12.1-34-08, commonly known as [Marsy's Card](#), or if a separate card ("document") would be required.

In conclusion, we believe more amendments may be needed to this bill as we further consider all aspects of this possible legislation.

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today, and I am happy to try and answer any of your questions.

Sincerely,

Greg Kasowski
Executive Director

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