



Rape Crisis Center of Milford, Inc. • 70 West River Street, Milford, Connecticut 06460

STATEMENT
House Bill 5215, an Act Concerning Sexual Assault by Hypnotists

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I am one of the Sexual Assault Counselors who have been working for over three years with three brave women who disclosed that their “Doctor of Clinical Hypnotherapy,” complete with framed certificate and degrees proudly displayed on the walls of his professional office suite, had been hypnotizing and engaging in sexual relations on the couch in his office during and after “therapy” sessions.

After a police investigation, it was found that some of these activities were even taped surreptitiously. Following public disclosure and arrest, many more victims of this “Doctor” came forward.

But that is not why we are here today. We’re here in an effort to protect and provide legal recourse for future victims of this unscrupulous crime, and to ask that Connecticut Statutes include the term “hypnotist” in the language for Sexual Assault 2nd Degree.

Decades of research has shown that up to 15% of the adult population is highly hypnotizable.

Hypnosis in the right hands can be an incredible instrument for healing. In the wrong hands can reach right into your subconscious, disarm you with a “touch” or a “word” and leave you highly vulnerable to suggestion – good or bad.

*With the power should come the responsibility to not harm,
Not an opportunity to take advantage of vulnerable clients seeking and paying for professional help.*

The public should not have concern that the hypnotist they hired to stop smoking or to lose weight might end up taking advantage of them sexually.



Currently there are no specific legal or educational requirements to obtain a certificate in hypnosis. You can take a short-term class, hang up a shingle, and you're in business. A contractor needs a license to put a roof on your home, but a hypnotherapist may have access to your most private and disturbing fears and memories, and is not accountable to anyone.

Again, hypnosis is a wonderful healing modality when used properly; it can also be an extremely dangerous tool in the wrong hands. Those who practice should be held to the highest degree of excellence, and people who avail themselves of this great hope for healing should be safe in doing so.

We are asking the legislators of the State of Connecticut to recognize the power of hypnosis and the need to protect the citizens of this state by including the word "hypnotist" in the language for Sexual Assault 2nd Degree.