

# Connecticut General Assembly

## Statute of Limitations Regarding Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation & Sexual Assault Task Force

Sen. Mae Flexer  
Chairperson



c/o Judiciary Committee, Room 2500  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Ct 06106

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019  
1:30 PM in Room 2B of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 1:30PM by Chairperson, Sen. Flexer M. S29.

The following committee members were present:

Sen. Flexer M. S29, Judge Barbara Bellis, Lynn Laperle, Douglas P. Mahoney, Esq., Ernest Mattei, Esq., Paul Slager, Esq., Lucy Nolan

Absent were: Angelica Papastavros

Chairperson Flexer welcomed members of Statutes of Limitations Regarding Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitations and Sexual Assault Task Force to the first Task Force Meeting.

Opening remarks and introductions of members were given.

Chairperson Flexer reviewed statutory requirements, deadlines and the charge of the task force. Discussion also included the nonpartisan OLR Report of S.B. 3 and recent changes of laws concerning statutes of limitations in regards to sexual abuse and other relevant documents to the task force.

Attorney Mahoney suggested Professor Hamilton, who testified last year in front of the Judiciary Committee be invited to contribute to discussions regarding this topic and what is going on nationally. All members are in agreement.

Lucy Nolan, Director of Policy and Public Relations, CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence stated that it would be beneficial to have her join the task force. Judge Bellis asked if the transcript from the April 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing was available online.

Chairperson Flexer asked if there were any other comments or questions. She commented that there should be an opportunity for members to reach out to survivors to gain perspective and hear testimony. She mentioned one of the task force meetings should be focused on hearing from victims and hearing the impact of current laws.

Attorney Slager, President, CT Trial Lawyers Association responded to Chairperson Flexer in agreement. He stated this process cannot be completed without hearing from victims.

Lucy Nolan agreed with Attorney Slager and Chairperson Flexer adding that hearing from people from other states might be beneficial.

Judiciary Committee administrator, Deb Blanchard, reminded task force that the Judiciary committee public hearing transcript from April 1<sup>st</sup> is online and members could find it on the Judiciary Committee webpage.

Judge Bellis asked if the members should consider inviting attorneys or representatives of defendants who have been sued in cases to hear from their perspective in handling these cases. Chairperson Flexer added that she wonders how they would solicit that input.

Judge Bellis added that they might be able to express the challenges faced in cases, for example if the abuser has passed away. Attorney Mattei added he has personally experienced these cases and it is difficult. He suggested members of the Defense Bar discuss the processing of these cases. Attorney Mahoney echoes what is said by Attorney Mattei. Chairperson Flexer stated that this might be helpful for the Task Force, even if it was something in writing.

Attorney Slager stated that hearing from defendants and their attorneys would be very valuable in addition to knowing who opposes this legislation. Attorney Mahoney stated that hearing from people who oppose this legislation would be beneficial.

Chairperson Flexer added that the intent of this Task Force is to be an open process to get better insight of current law, but clarified that her hope of this Task Force is to change the current law. She added that they will reach out to people who should be involved in the Task Force to speak at the next meeting. She asked members how the meetings should be formatted.

Lucy Nolan stated she would like to have the opportunity to hear from people and give members time to process the presentations they heard. Members were in agreement.

Lynn Laperle asked about set up of task force meetings and states that victims should be heard together and defendants should be heard together. Chairperson Flexer thanked Ms. Laperle for feedback.

Attorney Mattei agreed with Ms. Laperle and suggested having Professor Hamilton and victims speak first then at the following meeting, having other folks speak.

Chairperson Flexer asked if anyone had any comments or questions.

Attorney Mahoney inquired about format of meeting and how the subsequent meeting times would work. Chairperson Flexer clarified setup and mentioned that members could email her with further questions.

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12PM