

## Sexual Abuse Attorneys



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### NEW YORK CITY GENDER-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE ACT

## NYC Reopens the Window for Sexual Abuse Lawsuits

A recent change in the [Gender-Motivated Violence Act](#) may allow certain survivors to bring civil claims they previously believed were too late to file.

If you experienced sexual abuse or gender-motivated violence in New York City, this amendment may create a renewed opportunity to pursue accountability through the civil legal system, even if the abuse occurred years ago and you believed your legal options had expired.

### Find Out If You Still Have a Claim

### What This New Law Could Mean for You

**Q: I thought it was too late to sue. Has something changed?**

Yes — a recent amendment to the Gender-Motivated Violence Act law may allow certain survivors to bring civil sexual abuse claims that were previously time-barred.

**Q: Does this apply if the abuse happened years ago?**

It may. In some cases, survivors whose abuse occurred years or even decades ago may now have a renewed opportunity to file a civil lawsuit.

**Q: Who can be held accountable?**

Depending on the facts, claims may be brought against individual abusers, employers, and institutions that enabled, ignored, or failed to prevent abuse.

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Even if you believe the deadline has passed, you may still have legal options.

# Even If You Thought It Was Too Late, You May Still Have Legal Options

The deadlines for filing civil claims involving sexual abuse in New York have changed significantly over the past several years. Laws such as the Child Victims Act, the Adult Survivors Act, and now a recent amendment to the New York City Gender-Motivated Violence Act reflect a growing recognition that survivors often do not come forward on a traditional legal timeline.

This amendment may provide a temporary pathway for certain survivors to file claims that otherwise would have been barred. For some individuals who believed the legal system had already closed the door, this may represent another opportunity to seek answers, accountability, and justice.

**Contact [John C. Luke Jr.](#) today for a confidential review of your legal options.**

## New York Sexual Abuse Lawyer

Survivors across New York often carry the impact of sexual abuse for years before ever considering whether legal action is possible. Coming forward is never easy. For many people, the barriers are not only emotional, they are also practical, cultural, and institutional. Survivors may fear retaliation, disbelief, exposure, professional harm, or reopening painful experiences they have spent years trying to survive.

But civil law can offer more than compensation. It can also provide a mechanism for truth, accountability, and institutional scrutiny. Whether the abuse occurred in a workplace, school, church, foster care setting, healthcare facility, youth organization, municipal agency, or other institutional environment, New York civil law may provide a path toward holding both perpetrators and enabling institutions responsible.

At [Abrams Fensterman, LLP](#), Partner **[John C. Luke Jr.](#)** helps survivors evaluate whether a civil claim may still be available and what legal options may exist under current law. The firm approaches these matters with discretion, seriousness, and a commitment to uncovering not only

what happened, but who failed to prevent it.

## Understanding the New Law

Hear directly from the Director of our Employment & Labor Law Practice, [Rachel Demarest Gold](#), as she explains what this amendment may mean for survivors, why timing matters, and how certain individuals may now have a renewed opportunity to explore their rights.



## You May Still Have the Right to File a Claim

If the abuse occurred in **New York City**, involved **sexual violence or other gender-motivated harm**, and took place **before 2022**, you may still be eligible to pursue a civil claim under the recent amendment to the Gender-Motivated Violence Act.

This does not necessarily mean every case will qualify. Eligibility often depends on where the abuse occurred, when it happened, the nature of the conduct, who was involved, and whether an institution, employer, or other entity may also bear legal responsibility. Even if you believed the deadline had passed, it may still be worth having your situation evaluated.

**Speak with John Luke Today. You may still have legal options.**

# What Is Considered Sexual Abuse in New York?

Sexual abuse can include a wide range of non-consensual sexual acts or conduct involving force, coercion, exploitation, manipulation, intimidation, abuse of authority, or inability to legally consent. In many cases, survivors are unsure whether what happened to them “counts” legally. That uncertainty is common, especially in situations involving power imbalance, grooming, professional authority, institutional settings, or conduct that occurred over time rather than in one isolated event.

In civil litigation, the legal analysis often goes beyond the abuse itself. Courts and attorneys also examine the harm suffered, the long-term emotional and psychological impact, and whether an institution failed in its duty to supervise, protect, intervene, or respond appropriately.

## Types of Cases We Handle

Sexual abuse can occur in many environments where trust, authority, access, or institutional control are involved. Abrams Fensterman and John C. Luke Jr. evaluate civil claims involving abuse in a wide range of settings.

### Clergy & Religious Institutions

Claims involving clergy members, religious leaders, ministry staff, or institutions that failed to investigate, report, or prevent abuse.

### Schools & Educational Settings

Claims involving teachers, administrators, staff, coaches, or educational institutions that failed to protect students.

### Foster Care & Residential Programs

Claims involving foster homes, group homes, residential facilities, caregivers, staff, or agencies responsible for oversight and protection.

### Healthcare & Medical Facilities

Claims involving physicians, nurses, providers, hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, or medical facilities where professional boundaries were violated.

### **Youth Sports & Coaching Programs**

Claims involving coaches, trainers, volunteers, athletic organizations, or youth sports programs that failed to screen, supervise, or respond.

### **Camps & Youth Programs**

Claims involving summer camps, overnight camps, youth programs, staff, counselors, or volunteers where supervision or reporting failures allowed abuse.

### **Workplaces & Employers**

Claims involving supervisors, coworkers, executives, employers, retaliation, abuse of authority, or institutional failure to address misconduct.

### **Colleges & Universities**

Claims involving professors, staff, administrators, campus programs, student organizations, or institutions that failed to act on reports of abuse.

### **Government & Public Entities**

Claims involving municipalities, public agencies, public institutions, or government-related settings where failures in oversight contributed to harm.

## **Who Can Be Held Responsible for Sexual Abuse in New York?**

Liability often extends beyond the individual perpetrator to the institutions whose negligence enabled abuse. In many cases, a civil claim may examine not only who caused the harm, but also who failed to prevent it, report it, investigate it, or protect those in their care.

### **Schools & Educational Institutions**

Schools must supervise faculty and staff, enforce child protection policies, and respond promptly to complaints or warning signs.

### **Religious Organizations**

Religious institutions may be accountable when they failed to investigate allegations, remove dangerous individuals, or protect vulnerable members.

### **Healthcare Facilities**

Hospitals and medical facilities must monitor providers, maintain reporting systems, and enforce professional boundaries.

### **Employers & Workplaces**

Employers must address misconduct, implement protective policies, respond to complaints, and prevent retaliation.

### **Foster Care & Residential Programs**

Foster care agencies and residential programs must properly screen caregivers, supervise staff, and conduct ongoing oversight.

### **Youth Programs & Camps**

Camps and youth organizations may be liable when failures in screening, supervision, reporting, or oversight allowed abuse to occur.

**Abrams Fensterman, LLP and John C. Luke Jr.** are committed to helping survivors hold powerful institutions accountable when negligence, indifference, or failures in oversight allowed sexual abuse to occur.

## Why Survivors Trust John C. Luke Jr.

**John C. Luke Jr.** is a seasoned employment and civil litigation attorney with more than **two decades of experience** representing individuals in serious, high-stakes legal matters involving workplace misconduct, abuse of power, retaliation, institutional wrongdoing, and complex civil claims.

These cases often require more than general litigation experience. They may involve sensitive facts, delayed reporting, employer liability, institutional failures, internal investigations, reputational pressure, and evolving legal standards. John's background in complex employment and civil litigation makes him particularly well-positioned to evaluate matters where misconduct occurred within a workplace, healthcare system, public entity, corporate structure, or other institutional setting.

### He has successfully litigated against and resolved claims involving:

- Pharmaceutical companies
- Hospitals and healthcare systems
- Municipalities
- Fortune 500 corporations
- Public and private entities

## Representative results include:

**\$11M**

Settlement in the **Doria/Memon Discount Stores** wage & hour litigation

**\$7M**

**Vargas v. Call-A-Head** class action settlement

**\$4M**

Settlement for more than **200 police officers in Newark**

For survivors trying to understand whether they may still have legal rights under this new law, John provides **confidential, thoughtful, and experienced legal guidance.**

**Sneak With John Luke Confidentially**

Confidential. No obligation. Speak privately with an attorney about your legal options.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What does the new NYC law mean for survivors of sexual abuse?

A recent amendment to New York City law may allow certain survivors of sexual abuse or gender-motivated violence to bring civil claims that were previously time-barred. For some individuals, this creates a renewed opportunity to seek accountability

even if the abuse occurred years ago.

### **Can I still sue if the abuse happened years ago?**

Possibly. Some survivors may still be able to bring a civil lawsuit depending on where the abuse occurred, when it happened, and whether a revival law or other legal theory applies.

### **Can I sue an institution, employer, or organization?**

In some cases, yes. Civil claims may be brought not only against an individual perpetrator, but also against an institution or entity whose negligence, failures, or inaction enabled the abuse.

### **Do I have to know for sure that I qualify before contacting a lawyer?**

No. Many survivors are uncertain whether what happened qualifies legally, whether enough time has passed, or whether an institution can be held responsible. A confidential consultation can help answer those questions.

### **What compensation may be available in a civil sexual abuse lawsuit?**

Depending on the facts, survivors may be able to pursue damages for emotional distress, counseling or treatment, lost opportunities, pain and suffering, and in some cases punitive damages.

If you believe you may still have a claim under this new law, speaking with an attorney now can help you understand your rights and preserve your legal options before this window closes.

Time matters. Contact John C. Luke Jr. today for a confidential review of your situation and your potential legal options.



Confidential. No obligation. Speak privately with an attorney about your legal options.