

Pennsylvania Sex Offense Statute of Limitations

CRIMINAL CHARGES

Criminal cases are filed by the state and must be proven **beyond a reasonable doubt**. Convicted offenders may face incarceration, fines, or both.

How old was the victim at the time of the abuse?

Over 18 years old

Adult victims of sexual assault have

12 YEARS

to report sexual assault in Pennsylvania

Under 18 years old

A child victim whose 18th birthday is on or before

August 27, 2002

Charges may be filed **12 years** after their 18th birthday. The last day to file charges is on their

30TH BIRTHDAY regardless of when the abuse occurred.

A child victim whose 18th birthday is after **August 28, 2002**

Charges may be filed **32 years** after their 18th birthday. The last day to file charges is on their

50TH BIRTHDAY regardless of when the abuse occurred.

However, some factors may extend the statute of limitations. Always consult a legal professional.

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CIVIL CASES

Civil cases are filed by individuals and must be proven by a preponderance of the evidence, or **more likely to have occurred than not**. Civil law is designed to make the victim "whole," usually in the form of monetary damages.

How old was the victim at the time of the abuse?

Over 18 years old

Adult victims of sexual assault have

2 YEARS

to file civil cases regarding sexual violence in PA.

Under 18 years old

These victims have **12 years** after their 18th birthday to file civil charges. The last day to file charges is on their

30TH BIRTHDAY

regardless of when the abuse occurred.

For more information on the statute of limitations in Pennsylvania or to find your local rape crisis center visit www.pcar.org.

