



Legislative Accomplishments

- 2012** Virginia passes legislation that makes strangulation a felony.
- 2011** Virginia passes legislation to provide equal access and equal levels of protection for victims of dating violence, sexual assault and stalking through civil protective orders that historically offered greater protection for victims of family abuse.
- Virginia's Address Confidentiality Program goes statewide. Prior to passage of this legislation, the program was limited to 18 jurisdictions.
- 2011** Virginia passes legislation to provide equal access and equal levels of protection for victims of dating violence, sexual assault and stalking through civil protective orders that historically offered greater protection for victims of family abuse.
- 2009** Virginia passes legislation requiring Commonwealth Attorneys to coordinate the establishment of a multidisciplinary response to criminal sexual assault.
- 2008** Virginia passes legislation to ensure that sexual assault victims will not be responsible for the payment of Physical Evidence Recovery Kits (PERKs).
- 2006** Virginia passes legislation to protect the confidentiality and privacy of persons receiving services.
- 2007-08** Virginia Commission on Sexual Violence is established. The Commission accomplished many important tasks including a comprehensive study of the direct service and prevention efforts throughout Virginia that led to subsequent improvements in sexual assault laws and policies and funding for sexual assault crisis centers.

2000 Marital exemptions removed from Virginia's rape statute.

1994-2000 The Virginia Commission on Family Violence Prevention is established and introduced omnibus legislation to standardize and improve the response of law enforcement in family violence situations by instituting mandatory arrest and the use of protective orders in cases of family abuse.

1992 Virginia became one of the first states in the country to enact a stalking statute. Amended in 1994 to amended, requiring (i) repetitive conduct (ii) directed at another person (iii) intended to place other person in reasonable fear of death, criminal sexual assault, or bodily injury to that other person or to that other person's spouse or child.