

Hello, my name is Rachel Sage, I'm a clinical social worker licensed in Maryland, and I specialize in working with organized extreme abuse, complex trauma and dissociation.

The current Adult Survivor law is well intentioned, and blinded by the privilege of safety and belief in idyllic nature of our systems by those who made it. HB1005 is a step toward, not a solution for, improving Adult Survivor reporting in Maryland.

- **Release of Epstein files shows lack of caring for confidentiality and safety for adult survivors by government agencies. This law can exacerbate danger for those abused by people in government positions, police officers, attorneys, CEOs, etc. Reporting to the State's Attorney can feel like a grave violation for clients who are not consenting to have their information shared with law enforcement. What is a clinician to do if a police officer in the district where the clinician is mandated to report was involved in the abuse? Making these reports has caused both me and clients I work with to fear for our own physical safety.**
- **The burdensome and cumbersome nature of the reporting requirement for survivors of trafficking, where an adult survivor was abused in multiple states and/or countries, by sometimes hundreds of perpetrators, known and unknown, is an incredible burden to place on the clinician, whose licensure depends on following legal mandates to report each of these abuses, and on the survivor, who is often terrified at the thought of even 1 report being made. It is common in my practice to make multiple CPS reports for the same person, none of which I am aware has been investigated by CPS or the SA office.**
- **This law hovers over the therapeutic space and actively interferes with my ability to use highly effective modalities when Adult Survivors feel unable to share what they have endured due to this law.**
- **Supervisory CPS staff in Baltimore Country have told me that each Adult Survivor report takes approximately 1hr of CPS' time, which is time not helping children who are presently being abused.**
- **We are required to do both verbal and written reports - for non-urgent matters, could a written report suffice? Not all counties have the same reporting system, and not all counties appear to be following the current law. Baltimore City CPS directs these reports to be given to 911. Some counties only accept written reports.**
- **We are required to report abuse where the accused perpetrator is deceased and/or currently incarcerated (for these crimes and/or others), which seems unnecessary.**