



BILL NO: House Bill 450
TITLE: **Criminal Procedure – Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault or Stalking**
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
HEARING DATE: February 10, 2026
POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that works to lead diverse community partners toward the common purpose of reducing the occurrence and impact of intimate partner violence. **MNADV urges the House Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 450.**

While Maryland law provides some protections for minor victims, adult victims of stalking and sexual assault easily find their sensitive information exposed in public court records or shared during the discovery process. HB 450 addresses this by mandating the redaction of identifying information from court filings and records. This bill would expand protection for the identities of victim/survivors in criminal and juvenile cases to include adult victims/survivors of sexual assault. The bill would also create a process for victim/survivors to request redaction of information in previously filed cases.

House Bill 450 provides a simple yet powerful solution: ensuring that the names of sexual assault and stalking survivors are automatically redacted from public court records, just as other states have done to protect victims of violent crimes. Survivors should not have to petition the courts to shield their own identities—this protection should be granted as a matter of principle and policy.

One of the most powerful aspects of HB 450 is that it allows victims to protect themselves even in cases that have already begun or concluded. Upon a written request from a victim of stalking or sexual assault, the court is mandated to redact their identifying information from existing filings or records. This is crucial for survivors who may have had their information exposed in past litigation and are concerned about the long-term digital footprint that a stalker could exploit.

This legislation does not restrict any party to the case from having access to necessary information.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 450.**

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