

# YOU ARE NOT ALONE

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32,101

Among adult women, an estimated **32,101 pregnancies** result from rape each year.  
(*PubMed.gov*)

## REMEMBER:

- What happened to you was NOT your fault.
- You decide who you want to talk to about what happened to you.
- Free and confidential support is available to you.
- You decide what kind of help and support is best for you.

Find out more at  
[www.iowacasa.org/help](http://www.iowacasa.org/help)

## Rape Survivor Child Custody Act

In 2016, Iowa adopted the Rape Survivor Child Custody Act. Under Iowa Code 232.116, a survivor whose child was conceived through rape and who would like to parent the child without interference from their rapist, can petition the courts to terminate the rapist's parental rights to the child.

**FOR IMMEDIATE 24/7 ASSISTANCE:**

**Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline:  
1-800-284-7821**

**Iowa Victim Service Call Center:  
1-800-770-1650  
or text "IOWAHELP" to 20121**

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### Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault

3030 Merle Hay Road  
Des Moines, IA 50310  
[www.iowacasa.org](http://www.iowacasa.org)  
Phone: (515) 244-7424  
Fax: (515) 850-1900

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## What You Need to Know About the Rape Survivor Child Custody Act



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**IowaCASA**  
Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Are you a survivor of rape, unwanted sex, or other sexual violence that is a biological parent of a child conceived through that violence?

Is it in the best interest of the child to terminate the parental rights of the perpetrator?

**Help is available.**



## Protect yourself. Protect your child.

### ***Terminating a Perpetrator's Rights***

A biological parent whose child was conceived through rape may ask the court to end the parental rights of the person who committed that rape.



You may file a petition with the court by yourself or with the assistance of an advocate or by hiring an attorney.

### ***How does the court determine whether termination is appropriate?***

The court will determine whether there is **clear and convincing evidence** that the child was conceived as the result of the abuse. This is a civil standard of proof, not beyond a reasonable doubt.

**A criminal conviction for the rape is not required.** You as the survivor must request to terminate the parental rights of the biological parent who committed the rape.

### ***Obtaining protection***

Survivors of sexual assault may file for a protective order under Iowa Code 236A.

## The primary concern is for the safety of the child.

The Court will also consider:

- The best placement for furthering the long-term nurturing and growth of the child
- The physical, mental, and emotional condition and needs of the child

### ***Advocates Can Help***

Survivors in Iowa are entitled to a sexual assault advocate. Under Iowa law, you are entitled to have your advocate present with you during the entire investigatory process—including medical examinations, police interviews, school interviews, meetings with a county attorney, and during court appearances.