

# HARNESSING THIRD-PARTY CIVIL LAWSUITS TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR CRIME SURVIVORS



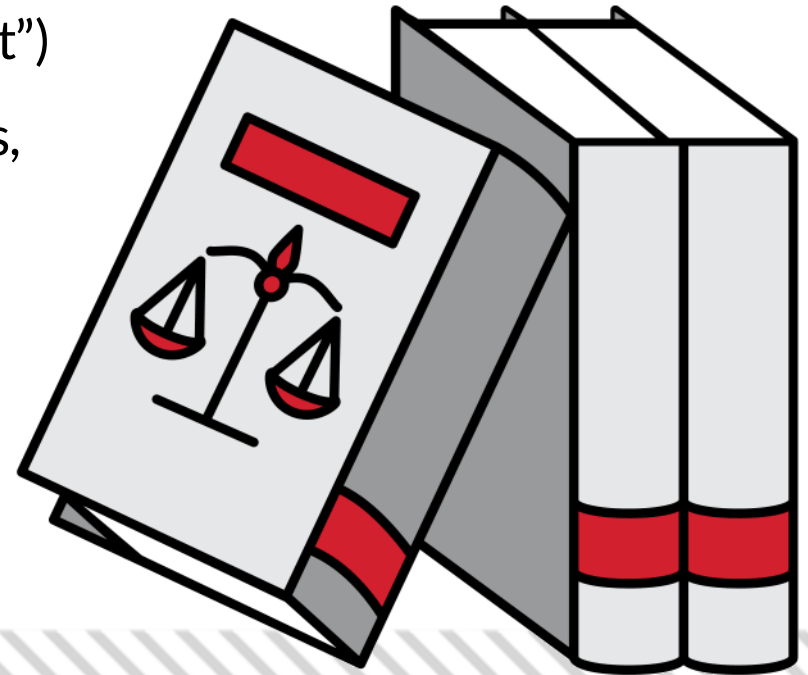
PRESENTED BY

ROXANNE CONLIN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

# Why The Criminal Justice System Falls Short

Crime survivors face many challenges on their journey to justice. Unfortunately, the criminal justice system often falls short:

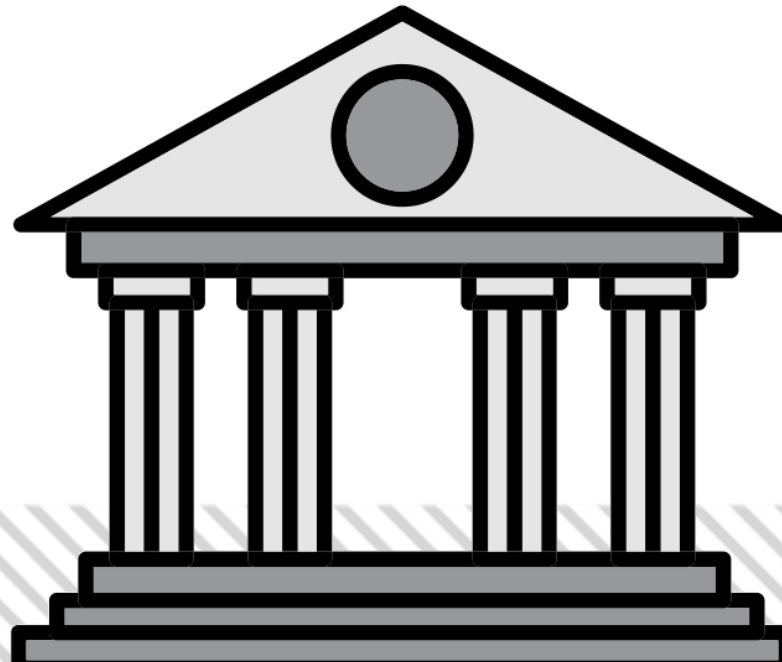
- Requires high burden of proof (proof “beyond a reasonable doubt”)
- Focuses on individual perpetrators, not negligent third parties
- Doesn’t address significant financial and emotional burdens that survivors bear



# The Role Of Third-Party Civil Lawsuits

These claims offer crime survivors another path to justice. They address considerations that criminal charges can't, including:

- Securing accountability from third parties who indirectly contributed to the crime
- Providing survivors with financial recovery
- Encouraging systemic change beyond individual convictions



# Case Example: Negligent Hotel Security

- Young woman was violently assaulted in her hotel room by former guest who kept room key
- Hotel's failure to change lock created conditions that made the attack possible
- Represented by attorney Roxanne Conlin, survivor sued hotel and obtained favorable confidential settlement

*Monica Samuels v. Florida Hotel*  
(1995)



# What To Know About Filing A Third-Party Criminal Claim

- Involves civil courts, not criminal
- Can be filed before, during or after criminal proceedings
- Doesn't depend on outcome or filing of criminal charges
- Requires identifying negligent third parties whose actions (or failure to act) contributed to crime conditions
- Successful claim can result in damages (compensation) as well as policy changes to prevent similar crimes from recurring
- Start by consulting with a knowledgeable attorney



# Identifying Liable Parties

- Might involve entities such as employers, property owners, schools, religious institutions
- Depends on crime circumstances and perpetrator's relationship to third parties
- Examples:



Property management company that didn't provide adequate lighting, leading to violent mugging



School that failed to act on reports of inappropriate behavior by a teacher



Landlord who didn't conduct background check on maintenance worker

# Types Of Legal Claims In Third-Party Cases

- Negligent security
- Negligent hiring, supervision or retention
- Negligent or intentional infliction of emotional distress
- Dram shop liability (DUI cases)
- Breach of contract





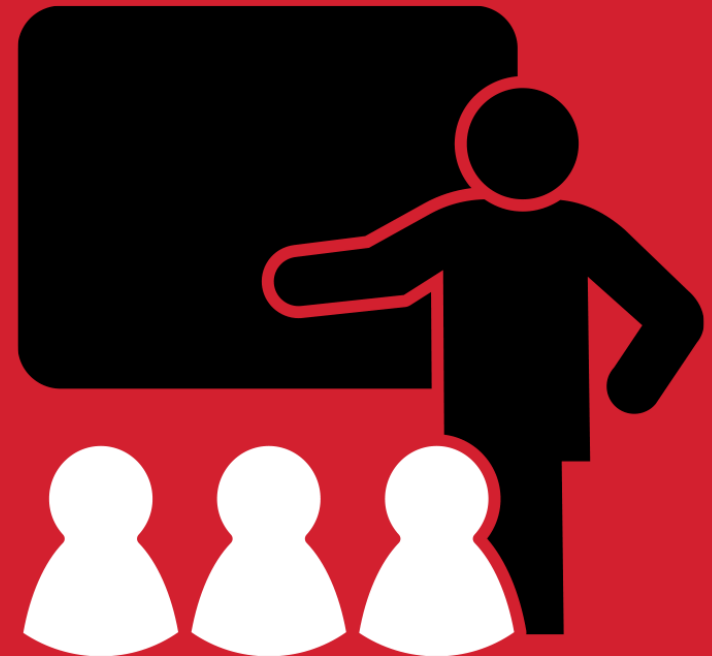
# Remedies Available In Civil Claims

- Compensatory damages for economic and non-economic losses, including:
  - Medical and therapy bills
  - Lost wages for missed work
  - Emotional distress and loss of enjoyment of life
- Punitive damages for especially egregious misconduct
- Injunctions (court orders) or settlement terms to prevent future harm

# Case Example: Meaningful Change Through A Civil Claim Settlement

- 13-year-old student was groomed and sexually exploited by predatory teacher
- Despite multiple reports of teacher's inappropriate behavior, school supervisors failed to act
- Student sued school district and obtained \$2.25 million settlement
- Settlement also imposed policy reforms and mandatory staff training to create safer conditions

*Dickinson v. The Clinton Community School District (2018)*



# Attorney Roxanne Conlin: Champion For Crime Survivors

- Strong track record of success in these cases
- Trailblazer and leader in the Iowa legal community
- Former U.S. Attorney who prosecuted complex federal crimes
- Selected for inclusion in Iowa Super Lawyer for over 15 years



*“Roxanne has made Iowa and the United States better places because of her efforts.”*

**— Paulee Lipsman,  
former client**

**ROXANNE CONLIN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**

HELPING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN HURT BY OTHERS

Learn more about the power of third-party civil claims for crime survivors. Read our [free white paper](#) on our website.

You can also [reach to us](#) for individualized guidance.

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