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§ 21301. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Covered formula grant

The term “covered formula grant” means a grant under—

(A) part T of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796gg et seq.)¹ (commonly referred to as the “STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program”); or

(B) section 12511 of this title (commonly referred to as the “Sexual Assault Services Program”).

(2) Termination

(A) In general

The term “termination” means, when used with respect to parental rights, a complete and final termination of the parent’s right to custody of, guardianship of, visitation with, access to, and inheritance from a child.

(B) Rule of construction

Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require a State, in order to receive an increase in the amount provided to the State under the covered formula grants under this chapter, to have in place a law that terminates any obligation of a person who fathered a child through rape to support the child.

(Pub. L. 114–22, title IV, §402, May 29, 2015, 129 Stat. 256.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, referred to in par. (1)(A), is Pub. L. 90–351, June 19, 1968, 82 Stat. 197. Part T of title I of the Act was classified generally to subchapter XII–H (§3796gg et seq.) of chapter 46 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification as subchapter XIX (§10441 et seq.) of chapter 101 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1968 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 14043h of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

§ 21302. Findings

Congress finds the following:

(1) Men who father children through rape should be prohibited from visiting or having custody of those children.

(2) Thousands of rape-related pregnancies occur annually in the United States.

(3) A substantial number of women choose to raise their child conceived through rape and,

as a result, may face custody battles with their rapists.

(4) Rape is one of the most under-prosecuted serious crimes, with estimates of criminal conviction occurring in less than 5 percent of rapes.

(5) The clear and convincing evidence standard is the most common standard for termination of parental rights among the 50 States, territories, and the District of Columbia.

(6) The Supreme Court established that the clear and convincing evidence standard satisfies due process for allegations to terminate or restrict parental rights in *Santosky v. Kramer* (455 U.S. 745 (1982)).

(7) Currently only 10 States have statutes allowing rape survivors to petition for the termination of parental rights of the rapist based on clear and convincing evidence that the child was conceived through rape.

(8) A rapist pursuing parental or custody rights causes the survivor to have continued interaction with the rapist, which can have traumatic psychological effects on the survivor, and can make it more difficult for her to recover.

(9) These traumatic effects on the mother can severely negatively impact her ability to raise a healthy child.

(10) Rapists may use the threat of pursuing custody or parental rights to coerce survivors into not prosecuting rape, or otherwise harass, intimidate, or manipulate them.

(Pub. L. 114–22, title IV, §403, May 29, 2015, 129 Stat. 256.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 14043h–1 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

§ 21303. Increased funding for formula grants authorized

The Attorney General shall increase the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants in accordance with this chapter if the State has in place a law that allows the mother of any child that was conceived through rape to seek court-ordered termination of the parental rights of her rapist with regard to that child, which the court is authorized to grant upon clear and convincing evidence of rape.

(Pub. L. 114–22, title IV, §404, May 29, 2015, 129 Stat. 257.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 14043h–2 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

§ 21304. Application

A State seeking an increase in the amount provided to the State under the covered formula grants shall include in the application of the State for each covered formula grant such information as the Attorney General may reasonably require, including information about the law described in section 21303 of this title.

(Pub. L. 114–22, title IV, §405, May 29, 2015, 129 Stat. 257.)

¹ See References in Text note below.