

TENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

PUBLIC LAW NO. 10-70
H.B. NO. 10-77, SD1

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1996

AN ACT

To strengthen laws prohibiting the release of the names of minor victims of violent or abusive crimes by amending 1 CMC § 9918(a)(12); and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Findings. The Legislature finds that minors who are the victims of violent and abusive crimes such as rape, sexual molestation, and assault and battery, among others, should be protected from the release of their names and identifying information from the public record, due to the sensitivity of the issues involved and the serious potential to further traumatize or publicly stigmatize the juvenile.

Section 2. Amendment. 1 CMC § 9918(a)(12) is hereby amended to read:

"(12) Juvenile, delinquency or dependency records, and any personal information which discloses or could be used to disclose the identity of, or otherwise could identify to the public, a juvenile who is the victim or alleged victim of a violent or abusive crime, including but not limited to rape, sexual molestation of any degree, or assault and battery."

Section 3. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes effective.

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Section 5. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Diego T. Benavente

DIEGO T. BENAVENTE
Speaker
House of Representatives

/s/ Evelyn C. Fleming

EVELYN C. FLEMING
House Clerk

Approved this 4th day of September, 1997

/s/ Froilan C. Tenorio

FROILAN C. TENORIO
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Marian Islands