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OFFICE OF VICTIM ADVOCATE

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Giving Crime Victims a Voice

July 24, 2018

Statement on Behalf of Victims: Cosby a Sexually Violent Predator

Harrisburg, PA – On July 24, Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele received the assessment from the Sexual Offenders Assessment Board (SOAB) pronouncing Bill Cosby to be a Sexually Violent Predator. Prosecutors are now asking the judge to concur with the findings in a hearing prior to Cosby's sentencing in September.

In Pennsylvania, a Sexually Violent Predator has “a mental abnormality or personality disorder that makes the person likely to engage in predatory sexually violent offenses.”

The Office of Victim Advocate (OVA) urges the court to accept the recommendation by SOAB that Cosby be registered as a Sexually Violent Predator, and that he be taken into custody immediately. Cosby's celebrity status and wealth have already afforded him such privilege that would not be provided to the average individual in the state of Pennsylvania.

Governor Wolf recently signed into law updates to the Sexual Offender Registration Notification Act (SORNA). These changes allow for convicted sexual offenders to remain subject to registration requirements following court decisions. SORNA mandates notifications to the victim when there is a change in their offender's status, such as change of employment, residency, or vehicle. OVA partnered with the PA State Police in 2014 to facilitate these notifications and continues to make close to 4,000 annually. We thank Governor Wolf for his sensitivity towards victims and for his support of victim safety.



“The assessment, finding that Bill Cosby is a Sexually Violent Predator, is of no surprise, given his decades of sexual abuse against women.

The Office of Victim Advocate urges the courts to accept this recommendation and take Cosby into custody immediately.

Any person deemed a Sexually Violent Predator should not be afforded the luxury of bail prior to sentencing.”

- Jennifer Storm, PA Victim Advocate



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