

Saving Grace serves survivors of sexual and domestic violence in Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties. Our mission is to offer safety, hope, and healing to survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault and engage Central Oregon to build life free from violence. We wholeheartedly support SB766 with the firm knowledge of how absolutely critical SAPOs are for numerous survivors of sexual violence that we work with. The introduction of SAPOs as a civil legal protection for sexual violence survivors was a vital step toward protecting all survivors, particularly individuals who are assaulted by someone outside their family. I have sat in court hearings where individuals recounted being assaulted by a friend, an acquaintance, a boss, and a bartender. In each of these cases, the judge granted the petitioner a SAPO, and it allowed the survivor protection from the person who was violent toward them. It allowed them to return to work or school, know they could call the police if the offender approached them, and feel safer in their daily lives. We know that the vast majority of sexual assaults are committed by someone the survivor knows, and the SAPO allows a survivor protection from known individuals to whom they are not related. This is a crucial form of protection, and changes must take place to further protect the survivors in our communities.

Survivors of sexual violence have already endured traumatic horrors; as a community and a justice system, we must protect their privacy moving forward. For this reason, minor petitioners, already especially vulnerable to harm, should not have their date of birth included in the protective order. When serving the respondent via an alternative method, as various survivors must do in order to establish their own protection, the survivor's assault history should not be made public. It can be an agonizing process for survivors to share their trauma with strangers in a court room in order to gain protection; they should not have to publicize their assault history further in order to have the order served.