

Parental Rights Pennsylvania

Last Updated: April 2023

Question	Answer
Does the state allow for termination or limitation of parental rights when a child is born from rape?	Yes
Does the state require a conviction for the sexual offense to terminate or limit the rapist's parental rights?	No
May the state terminate or limit parental rights when there was a sexual assault that led to the birth of the child, but no conviction?	Yes
What parental rights can be terminated or limited?	Terminated: Custody Visitation
Are there any exceptions to the termination or limitation of a rapist's parental rights?	N/A
What other rights may be impacted by terminating a rapist's parental rights?	Consent to Adoption - rapist parent has no right to withhold consent to adoption of child
What is the procedure for termination or limitation of parental rights in these circumstances?	Victim parent, an agency or an individual acting in loco parentis must petition the court
What proof do you have to show to terminate or limit the rapist parent's parental rights?	Show by a finding of Clear and Convincing Evidence that rapist parent committed act of rape.
Are there any time limits for when a petition must be filed to terminate or limit the rapist parent's rights?	N/A
Does the law apply to both adult victims and underage victims?	Yes
Does the law have any exceptions for married or co-habiting victims?	N/A
Can a court require the rapist parent to pay child support after parental rights have been terminated?	N/A
Statutory Citations	See, 23 Pa.C.S.A. § 2511(7) and (11) Grounds for involuntary termination Pa. Cons. Stat. tit. 23, § 5329 (2019)