

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SSB 6188

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C 156 L 96  
Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Establishing a conditional privilege for communications between victims of sexual assaults and their personal representatives.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Sheldon, Prentice, Wojahn, Thibaudeau, Fairley, Kohl, Rinehart, Spanel, Snyder, Winsley and Rasmussen).

**Senate Committee on Law & Justice**  
**House Committee on Law & Justice**

**Background:** Privileged communications are those statements made by certain persons within a protected relationship such as attorney-client, doctor-patient, priest-penitent, which the law protects from forced disclosure at the option of the person making the confidential communication.

A personal representative is a friend, relative, attorney, or employee from a rape crisis center who accompanies a victim during treatment and to proceedings relating to the alleged assault, including police and prosecution interviews and court proceedings. Communication between a personal representative and a victim of sexual assault is not privileged.

**Summary:** Communication between a victim of sexual assault and his or her sexual assault advocate is privileged. Therefore, a sexual assault advocate may not be examined to provide testimony for or against the victim without the victim's consent.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	46	0
House	94	0

**Effective:** June 6, 1996