



Victim vs. Defense Rights: Why It Matters

When a child comes forward with courage, they deserve protection, dignity, and justice. Yet too often, the system tilts the scales in favor of the defense.

The accused has the right to remain silent, to be presumed innocent, and to have their day in court. Those rights matter. **But what about the child?**

- A child's words in a forensic interview cannot even be used in trial unless the **defense agrees**.
- Victims are asked to relive their trauma, questioned again and again, while the accused can stay silent.
- Families are told that without "proof beyond a reasonable doubt," even a child's clear testimony may not be enough.

This imbalance silences the very ones who most need to be heard. It leaves children carrying the weight of truth without the power of justice.

At Project Light, we believe victims deserve more than courage, they deserve a system that protects their voices. Every child should have the right to be heard, the right to be believed, and the right to see justice done.