

PERSONAL ACCOUNTS FROM SURVIVORS
OF PRISON SEXUAL ASSAULTS

MR. NOLAN: Several corrections folks from around the country have said to me, well, we're dealing with this now, that the legislation and commission made this -- and when I've asked what is it they're doing? They said they posted signs that say this is a serious offense, please report it. I've heard from you and from others and my own experience in prison was a great reluctance to report, and so I think it's important -- it would help the commission for you to explain as a prisoner why you would be reluctant to report something and also what the impact is of having a sign up that says, prison rape is serious, report it.

MR. CAHILL: Mr. Nolan, can you think of anything more humiliating than being sexually assaulted than being raped? I'm sure there is, but I can't think of anything right now. It has got to be any kind of rape. Any kind of rape of any kind of people has got to be the ultimate humiliation.

MS. SHIRLEY: The first thing you hear when you go into the prison that I was at was if anything happens and you try to tell, they will ship you or you'll go to the shoot. They'll put you in the shoot, which is solitary confinement, and then they'll just ship you away. They don't want to talk to you any more. They don't want to deal with you. They'll ship you to another prison and you've got your kids. I had my family, you know. I couldn't take the risk of -- like I said, I couldn't take the risk of not being close enough where I was around my kids and my family.

They could have shipped me across the United States and I would have not been able to see any one, which in my case I was in witness protection and there was no places to put women prisoners and so they placed me there. The first thing that was told to me when I got put in there was don't cause any attention to yourself, you know, don't be in any groups.

MR. CAHILL: Don't even make eye contact.

MS. SHIRLEY: Right, don't make eye contact. Try not to get involved with -- we don't

even want to hear about you. All of your stuff is going through Washington, you know. This is a federal witness protection program, you know. The less we know or hear about you, the better. Yes, ma'am. So, you know -- and then I get raped by an officer and what do you think? I'm thinking, oh, my God. Don't bring attention to myself. I'm -- you know, they've got me out here. I'm under special protection. And I mean what do you do? I had seven months to go, seven months. I went through him trying to run over me. I mean with an OP truck and this is where they keep the guns, in the OP truck. He actually tried to run me down. Was there a security camera to catch that? No. There wasn't even a security camera to catch that.

He would come down to the welding shop where that was my job, being a welder. I welded. He would threaten me when there wasn't an officer around. I have a scar where I burned the top of my arm because when he came in the welding shop, he had shoved my arm down and threatened me. I had my welding gear on and I burned my arm there. There was a record of it. Could they find the records of

it? Throw it away, you know.