Kentucky's Anti-Rape Movement 1970-1985

In the early 1970s, women begin taking rape crisis calls on their home phones on a volunteer basis.

1974

Rape crisis center in Lexington is established.

1975

Rape crisis center in Louisville is established.

1976

Rape crisis center in Northern Kentucky is established.

1978

Rape crisis center in Owensboro is established.

In the 1970s and 1980s, rape was defined as an offense against someone other than a spouse.

Therefore, marital rape was legal.

1985

Rape crisis centers are established in Bowling Green and Elizabethtown.

1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1985

1974

The current Kentucky Penal (Criminal) Code is enacted, defining many sexual offenses.

1974

The Kentucky Legislature requires hospitals to provide exams to rape victims.

In the late 1970s, the Kentucky Coalition Against Rape and Sexual Assault, is formed. It was the first statewide committee to advocate for the reform of Kentucky's laws regarding rape and sexual assault.

1978

The Kentucky Legislature enacts the Rape Shield Law, preventing testimony related to a victim's sexual history.

1984

The first law allowing closed circuit testimony for child sexual abuse victims is passed.

1985

The Sexual and Domestic Violence Program is created in the Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services.