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ERRATA

At the time the article on rape reform legislation (Note, Rape Reform Legislation: Is it the Solution?, 24 CLEVE. ST. L. REV. 463 (1975)) went to press, the official codification of Ohio's new rape law was not yet available. Thus, it was necessary to rely on the copy of Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 144 forwarded from Columbus as the "enacted" Bill. It was in fact only a penultimate. Consequently, there are some errors in the discussion of Ohio's rape reform legislation. The significance of the final amendments to the Ohio law necessitates the following clarification:

Prior Sexual Conduct of the Victim

The stipulation that the evidentiary restriction does not limit the right of the state or the defense to impeach credibility was deleted. This deletion makes the Ohio evidentiary standard as stringent as that adopted by Michigan. In addition, however, and as noted in the article, the same restrictions with regard to evidence of prior sexual conduct must also be applied to the defendant. Thus Ohio's evidentiary provision is even more comprehensive than that of Michigan in providing adequate safeguards for the victim while granting equal protection to the accused.

The section of the new Ohio rape law allowing counsel representing the victim to be present at any evidentiary hearing has been qualified by the addition of a proviso requiring court approval of such representation. Furthermore, the appointment of counsel to represent an indigent victim or one otherwise unable to obtain counsel is no longer mandatory but within the sound discretion of the court. The ramifications of these changes cannot be estimated at the present time. It is hoped, however, that the legislative reliance on judicial discretion has not been misplaced.

Medical Care

The unique provision of the Ohio rape law allowing for medical treatment for minor rape victims without parental consent has been qualified to require the attending hospital to give written notice to the parent, parents, or guardian of such a minor. This qualification may provide such a strong disincentive to minor rape victims that these victims will not take advantage of the available medical treatment; serious questions have already been raised with regard to a possible breach of the confidential relationship between doctor and patient. These objections cast doubt on the wisdom of this legislative change and mandate its reconsideration by the Ohio legislature.

Ed.