

The Columbus Dispatch

62 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

January 11, 2022

Dear Judges,

It was hard for Chris Graham to put words to what it felt like to realize at age 38 that he'd suffered sexual abuse at the hands of a trusted local priest as a child.

But, after spending several months with Graham and taking the time to learn not only about his experience, but the experience of other survivors of priest sexual abuse as well as state laws impacting survivors, Danae King described the complicated, multifaceted topic to readers.

Through two stories, she centered Graham's perspective and experiences and used adept storytelling to show readers what his experience and healing journey was like, why many survivors of child abuse don't remember their abuse until later in life and why advocates say current laws regarding victims are problematic.

In order to be able to explain Graham's experience, King interviewed him many times, allowing him to slowly process his painful memories. She also spoke with several people close to him, including his brother, mother, pastor, yoga teacher and the detective who investigated his case.

When it came to explaining Ohio's laws regarding statutes of limitations for child sexual abuse, King turned to several attorneys, advocates and Ohio lawmakers to help illustrate the difficult road to justice survivors face.

She held state lawmakers accountable by explaining why Ohio hasn't changed its laws when several other states have and used examples of survivors and cases in other states to show how people in Ohio could be impacted if its laws were changed.

This explanation of the complicated justice system, and the healing journey of a survivor, allowed readers a peek inside the struggle for survivors of childhood sexual abuse and exposed deep cracks in Ohio law.

Thank you for considering this entry in the Explanatory Reporting category.

Sincerely,

Kelly Lecker, Interim Editor