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Judge Cleland's decision to deny victims the ability to testify under pseudonym in the *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania vs. Gerald A. Sandusky* case does damage to these victims and to victims everywhere who may be considering coming forward to report the crime of child sexual abuse.

The judge placed a significant burden on this class of victims by stating that they have "a duty to the community to testify" about the crime, but denying them privacy protections in exchange for that testimony. By bravely coming forward, victims serve in the interest of public safety; they should be assured that their privacy will be protected as they testify about intimate details of sexual abuse.

We hope this decision does not have a chilling effect on the reporting of child sexual abuse. If victims fail to come forward because they fear media exposure, crime will go unreported and law enforcement cannot do its job of keeping society safe.

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