

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Under the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act, you are entitled to be treated with fairness and with respect for your dignity and privacy. You are also entitled to receive certain rights and services, including:

- Reasonable protection from the perpetrator and his or her associates.
- Information on available financial assistance and where you can receive emergency medical and social services, counseling, treatment and other support services.
- Information on the status of the investigation and the arrest or filing of charges against a suspected offender.
- Return of any property held as evidence as soon as it is no longer needed for evidence.

In addition to the rights and services described above, the Survivors' Bill of Rights Act (18 USC 3772) provides the following rights:

- To have a sexual assault evidence collection kit completed as part of a medical/forensic exam at no cost to you.
- To be notified in writing before the kit is destroyed.
- To request that the kit be preserved.
- To be informed of important results from the sexual assault forensic examination.

If someone is charged and indicted with the crime, you may have additional rights related to the prosecution and any sentencing and incarceration of the individual. The prosecutor's office will inform you of those rights.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP:

Resources, Web-links, and Phone Numbers

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network
RAINN, offers prevention programs and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673) and a confidential online chat. www.rainn.org.

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
NCMEC offers information, technical assistance, and a CyberTipline to report Internet-related child victimization at www.missingkids.com.

National Runaway Switchboard
This 24-hour hotline can be reached by TEXT:66008 or call 1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929) or www.1800runaway.org.

National Center for Victims of Crime
NCVC provides both a Teen Victim Project as well as a Dating Violence Center. Contact NCVC for help at 1-800-394-2255, TTY 1-800-211-7966 or www.ncvc.org.

National Suicide Hotline Prevention Line
Provides a 24/7, toll-free hotline 1-800-273-TALK

LGBTQ National Youth Talk Line
Provides teens and young adults up to age 25 support with coming-out issues, gender identity, relationship concerns, parent issues, school problems, and HIV/AIDS awareness | 1-800-246-7743

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline
Services are available 24/7/365
www.loveisrespect.org Text loveis to 22522 or call 1-866-331-9474

National Human Trafficking Hotline
Provides human trafficking victims and survivors with access to critical support and services to get help and stay safe.
Text: 233733 or call 1-888-3737-888

YOUR FBI VICTIM SPECIALIST

The FBI Victim Specialist assigned to your case is there to make sure you have information and support to help you get through this process. She or he will explain the criminal justice process, listen to your concerns, help you find counseling and other forms of assistance, and keep you updated on the status of the case. The Victim Specialist works for the FBI but is not an Agent. Instead, the Victim Specialist is often someone with a social work or counseling degree and experience working with young people and adults who have been victims of violent crime.

The Victim Specialist works as part of a team with the FBI Agent and employees from the U.S. Attorney's Office. While most of the discussions that you have with your Victim Specialist are confidential, there may be times when the Victim Specialist will need to share information you provide with other team members. If you have questions about limited confidentiality, you may contact your Victim Specialist for clarification. Generally, the Victim Specialist and the Agent will make every effort to protect your privacy.

IMPORTANT FBI CONTACTS

FBI Victim Specialist: _____

Phone: _____

FBI Special Agent: _____

Phone: _____



Federal Bureau of Investigation
Victim Services Division
J. Edgar Hoover Building
935 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington D.C. 20535
(202) 324-3000

www.fbi.gov/resources/victim-services

The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this brochure are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Victim Services Division



Your Rights After Abuse

A Young Person's Guide



WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT/ ABUSE?

Sexual assault is unwanted sexual activity, force, threats, coercion, or taking advantage of someone who may not give consent. The term sexual assault can apply to different types of unwanted behavior: rape, touching, fondling of genitals, and/or indecent exposure. When the victim is young, sexual assault may also be called sexual abuse.

Child pornography is when the sexual assault or abuse of a child is photographed or video recorded and may be sold or distributed.

Sex trafficking is the commercial sexual exploitation of any person age 17 years or younger. Commercial sex is the exchange of something of value for sex, including money, food, drugs, or shelter. Traffickers can include family members, boyfriends, or other adults. They target young people online or in-person, often with promises of love and belonging.

Sextortion is sexual exploitation that occurs primarily online. Perpetrators coerce or blackmail victims to provide sexual content, such as photos or videos, of the victim, or to obtain money from the victim or force the victim to have sex with them.



Sexting is sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit messages, photographs, or video images. This happens mostly using mobile phones but can also include the use of a computer or any digital device.



WHO CAN BECOME A VICTIM OF A SEX CRIME?

Anyone can be a victim of a sex crime at any age of their lives. This includes boys, girls, and LGBTQ youth. Perpetrators target victims for a variety of reasons.

Sexual assault can be a one-time occurrence or it can continue over a period of time. Children and adolescents are often abused by people they know and trust, such as a parent or other relative, family friend, boyfriend, girlfriend, neighbor, teacher/coach, etc.

It is important for survivors of sexual assault/abuse to understand that it is not their fault. Sexual assault is something that happens to people – it is not who they are. Victims of sexual assault are survivors who can heal and move forward with hope and purpose.

REACTIONS TO SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault can affect people in different ways but it is not uncommon to experience a wide range of emotions. Survivors may feel:

- Angry, sad, lonely, depressed
- Nervous, confused, or fearful
- Badly about themselves and their bodies
- Anxious all the time
- Guilty, even though the assault was not their fault
- Unable to concentrate or enjoy activities they took pleasure in before the assault

Some survivors may feel like they want to hurt themselves or others. If the abuse is ongoing, they may feel helpless to stop the abuser or feel hopeless that anything can be done.

Help is available. No one has to cope with the impact of sexual assault/abuse alone. It can help to talk with a rape crisis center or victims' advocate, counselor, or other trained professional. If the abuse continues to happen, *it is important to report it to the police or an abuse hotline.*

WHO INVESTIGATES SEX CRIMES?

All law enforcement agencies take sex crimes very seriously. Some forms of sexual assault and abuse are primarily investigated by local police departments. The FBI is a federal/national law enforcement agency that investigates certain types of sex crimes, such as sex trafficking, sex-tortion, and sexting.

Often, the FBI and local police departments will work together to identify and stop perpetrators and ensure that victims receive help to cope with what has happened.

WHO WILL KNOW?

Unless you are an emancipated minor (free from control by parent or guardian), your parents will be informed about what happened to you at some point in the criminal justice process. If you have concerns about notifying your parents, please talk to the FBI Agent or the Victim Specialist.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Once a report or disclosure of abuse or an assault has been made, you will most likely be asked some questions by a local law enforcement officer or an FBI Agent. You will then be interviewed by a person who is trained to talk to people your age about sexual abuse or assault. The interview may take place in a variety of locations including a child advocacy center, hospital, or police department. Since the information you share with us is so important and we want to make sure we remember it correctly, we may audio or video-tape the conversation. The FBI Agent or Victim Specialist will coordinate with a trusted parent or legal guardian to schedule a time to talk more about the assault/abuse you survived and provide referrals for services.

In many cases, it will be helpful to have a medical/forensic exam conducted by a doctor or nurse with special training. The exam may help with collection of forensic evidence but it is also for your physical wellbeing. This is a good time to discuss any concerns you may have about sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection, or pregnancy.

If your case goes to court, you may be asked to testify. The prosecuting attorney handling your case and the victim/witness coordinator can help you prepare for court.