

What is Sexual Assault?



Sexual assault is any sexual contact that occurs without consent. Sexual assault is the expression of aggression through sex. Aggressors use sexual violence as a weapon to control, humiliate, dominate and abuse their victims. Sexual assault is not about opportunity, sexual desire, intimacy or passion.

Sexual assault includes forced and non-consensual rape and sodomy, as well as sexual harassment, sexual molestation, and any other non-consensual sexual contact between strangers, acquaintances and partners.

Anybody can be sexually assaulted, regardless of gender, age, race, appearance, sexual orientation, education, socioeconomic status, marital or relationship status or religious beliefs.

Sexual assault is a devastating crime and the effects are shared by victims and those who love them.

Sexual assault of any type is never the victim's fault. No one ever asks or deserves to be sexually assaulted.

Common Reactions to Sexual Assault

The psychological trauma caused by sexual assault can be severe and long lasting. Because people react to trauma in very different ways, it is not possible to predict exactly how you will feel. It may be helpful, however, to know some common responses of sexual assault victims.

Possible Emotional/Psychological Effects of Sexual Assault

- Shock and disbelief
- Anger
- Depression
- Grief
- Guilt and shame
- Fear
- Intense emotions or withdrawal

Possible Physical Effects of Sexual Assault

- Headaches/stomachaches
- Sleep disturbances
- Immediate, short, or long-term injuries
- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV infection
- Pregnancy/sterility

Sexual assault-related hospital expenses

You do not need to worry about paying for a sexual assault exam. In the state of Oregon, the Sexual Assault Victim Emergency Medical Response (SAVE) fund, administered by the Oregon

Department of Justice, pays for a "Complete" Medical Assessment, which includes the collection of forensic evidence and must be conducted within 84 hours of the assault; and for a "Partial" Medical Assessment which does not include the collection of forensic evidence and must be conducted within 7 days of the assault.

Additionally, survivors DO NOT need to report the assault to law enforcement in order to access the fund.

Crime Victims' Compensation

Sexual assault victims may suffer emotional trauma, medical costs and loss of income. The Crime Victims' Compensation Program (CVCP) may be able to help you with mental health counseling expenses, medical expenses and loss of earnings related to the assault.

CVCP funds are not guaranteed and come with requirements such as using insurance benefits first. Applications may be denied in part or in full based on the circumstances of the crime. Please talk to your advocate to see what other resources may be available to you.

Applications for CVCP may be obtained through our office at (503) 846-8671, or by contacting the Department of Justice at (800) 503-7983. The application can also be downloaded at <http://www.doj.state.or.us/victims/pages/compensation.aspx>.

Myths and Facts about Sexual Assault

MYTH:

It can't happen to me.

FACT:

One in three women and one in six men in the United States will experience some form of contact sexual violence, and one in five women and one in 71 men will be raped during their lifetime. It can happen to anyone.

MYTH:

Strangers commit most sexual assaults.

FACT:

80% of victims know their attacker.

MYTH:

Sexual assault is a crime of passion.

FACT:

Sexual assault is a crime of power, control, and violence, it is not a crime of passion.

MYTH:

The majority of sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement.

FACT:

Rape is the most under-reported crime; 63% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police.

Sexual Violence Resource Center

Support and Resources



Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC) - Washington County

- Crisis Hotline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: **503-640-5311**
- Advocates are available to provide information, support, and resources to survivors of sexual assault. Peer support groups are available for both teen and adult survivors.

<http://www.sarcoregon.org/>

Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)

- National Sexual Assault Hotline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: **1-800-656-HOPE (4673)**
- Crisis intervention and support
- Links to local resources
- Online messaging also available

<http://www.rainn.org/>

Washington County Family Justice Center

- Phone: **503-430-8300**
- Restraining & Stalking Orders
- Information, Resources & Support

<http://www.fjwc.org>

INFORMATION FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT



Washington County District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Program

Kevin Barton
District Attorney

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Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

503-846-8671

www.WashingtonCountyDA.org