

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual assault occurs when a person engages in sexual contact with you, *without your consent*.

Sexual assault includes *all unwanted sexual touching* that occurs without your consent, such as kissing, hugging, groping, and penetration.

Sexual assault is a serious *criminal offence* under the Canadian *Criminal Code*, and it can carry a maximum penalty of life in prison for the accused.



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Victoria Resources

Vancouver Island 24 hour Crisis Line

Phone: 1-888-494-3888

Victim Link (24/7 Help Line)

Phone: 1-800-563-0808, toll-free, BC-wide

Victoria Sexual Assault Centre

Website: <http://www.vsac.ca>

Men's Trauma Centre

Website: <http://www.menstrauma.com/>

Island Sexual Health Society

Website: <http://www.islandsexualhealth.org>

Victoria Child Abuse

Prevention and Counselling Centre

Website: <http://www.vcapcc.com>

Spousal Assault Victim Support Program

Phone: 250-356-1201 (Victoria) 250-391-2864



Southern Gulf Islands

Lady Minto Hospital (*Salt Spring Island)

Phone: 250-538-4800

Island Women Against Violence (*Salt Spring Island)

24 Hour Crisis Line: Toll-free 1-877-435-7544

or (250) 537-0735

Website: <http://www.iwav.org/>

3rd Party Reporting Options

Outreach worker from Island Women Against Violence

Forensic Nurse Examiner

FNEs are specially trained to provide care to survivors of sexual assault. They are also trained to find and collect evidence if you choose to do so.

SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTING:

A GUIDE FOR SURVIVORS

Including community resources, options for reporting, information on the criminal process, and legal definitions of sexual assault

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WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual contact between two or more people requires **explicit, voluntary, continuing, and verbal consent to all specific sexual acts**

- *Being silent or not verbally saying "no", does NOT* mean that you consented to the sexual activity
- Being married/in a relationship with someone, going on a date, dressing in a particular way, flirting, or sending someone nude photos, *does NOT entitle someone to engage in sexual contact without your consent*
- Agreeing to or engaging in sexual contact with someone, **does NOT** mean that you cannot change your mind; *you can withdraw your consent at any point in time*
- Agreeing to or engaging in a specific sexual act with someone **does NOT** mean that you have automatically consented to all subsequent sexual activity; *you can revoke your consent at any point in time*
- Being under the influence of alcohol or any other substance **is NOT** an invitation to be sexually touched. *You cannot consent to sexual activity if you are unconscious or impaired by alcohol/drugs*



REPORTING OPTIONS

Make a Police Report

- See "*Criminal Court Procedure*"

Inform the police a crime occurred

- You may inform the police about the assault, but *ask that the police don't investigate it.*
- Police will usually honour this request, except if there are public safety concerns (like if there is a child at risk of harm).

Report via a third party

- If you are over 19, this option allows you to *remain anonymous* to the police.
- To do this, you will *fill out a form* at a third party organization, and they will send it to the police on your behalf.
- Your *report is completely anonymous*, even to the organization; your name is never attached to your incident report.
- You can fill out the form in as much or as little detail as you wish.

Report to your school or employer

- If the sexual assault *occurred at school or work*, there may be options available to you through those organizations.



CRIMINAL COURT PROCEDURE

1) Reporting the crime to police

- To do this, you will *make a statement* to the police

2) Police determine next steps

- This includes an *investigation*, where police contact those involved and collect evidence

3) Criminal charges laid

- This is done *if Crown Counsel* (the prosecution) *decides to charge the accused*
- The accused may or may not be arrested and taken into custody

4) The Court case

- You will be *called to testify* as a witness
- You also may have some aspects of your personal life, including medical records, added into evidence

5) Decision of the Court

- The judge or jury will decide if the accused is *guilty, not guilty*, or not criminally responsible
- If found guilty, you will be able to prepare and read a *Victim Impact Statement* to assist the judge in sentencing

