

# SEXUAL VIOLENCE



IT'S OKAY TO TALK ABOUT IT

VICTIM SERVICES  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
NORTHERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
KRISTIE CROSS  
DIRECTOR OF VICTIM SERVICES

## If you are assaulted:

- Get to a safe place
- Call 911 if you want to report your assault
- Call your local rape crisis center
- Do not shower, change clothes, or apply medication
- Do not wash or destroy clothing or bedding
- Do not disturb anything at the crime scene
- Try to remember everything you can

- Seek medical attention
- Get counseling
- Take time to heal

## If you know someone is assaulted:

- Believe the victim
- Provide protection
- Be available
- Listen. Do not judge
- Give comfort and support
- Stand by the victim's decision to call the police, to contact a sexual assault center, to go to the hospital, or to not report the assault at all
- Be supportive
- Encourage counseling
- Learn about PTSD
- Acknowledge your own feelings about the assault

## NATIONAL HELP LINES

National Sexual Violence Resource Center  
877.739.3895

Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN) 800.656.HOPE (4673)

National Center for Victims of Crime  
800.FYI.CALL (394.2255)

National Organization for Victim Assistance  
800.TRY.NOVA (879.6682)

## RAPE CRISIS SERVICES/CENTERS

The Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Centers around Georgia provide to victims of rape as well as their families, all or some of the following services:

- 24hr Rape Crisis Line
- Courtroom Accompaniment
- Medical Accompaniment
- Prevention Programs
- Police Accompaniment
- Professional Counseling for Survivors, Family, and Friends
- Community Education
- Support Groups for Rape Survivors
- Legal Advocacy
- Referrals

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# RAPE CRISIS CENTERS



82% OF RAPE SURVIVORS SAY THE RAPE PERMANENTLY CHANGED THEM

## Shatter the myths about sexual assault

**MYTH:** Rape is about sexual desire and driven by the perpetrator's desire to have sex

**REALITY:** Rape is about power and control

**MYTH:** Most rapes occur by someone who is a stranger

**REALITY:** 73% of sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows

**THE MYTH:** Boys don't get raped

**THE REALITY:** 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually assaulted before the age of 18.

## VICTIM'S LEGAL RIGHTS

### Free Forensic Medical Exam

A victim shall have the right to a forensic medical examination regardless of whether the victim participates in the criminal justice system or cooperates with law enforcement in pursuing prosecution of the underlying crime.

A victim shall not be required to pay directly or indirectly, for the cost of a forensic medical examination. The cost of a forensic medical examination shall be paid for by the investigating law enforcement agency or through the Georgia Crime Victim's Compensation Program.

### Right to Refuse a Polygraph Examination

No prosecuting attorney, investigation law enforcement agency, or governmental official shall ask or require any victim of a sexual assault to submit to a polygraph examination or any other truth-telling device as a condition precedent to investigating such alleged crime. The refusal of a victim to submit to a polygraph examination or any other truth-telling device shall not prevent an investigation or prosecution of any sexual assault.

### Crime Victims' Bill of

Under the crime victim's bill of rights, victims of sexual violence must be advised by law enforcement and court personnel of the following:

- ❖ Victim may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses due to their victimization
- ❖ Victim has the right to participate in a community services program
- ❖ Victim may request to be notified of any or all stages in the judicial process which may include pretrial hearings, bond, arraignment, motion hearings, pleas, trial, sentencing and appeals
- ❖ Victim may request access to a private waiting area during court proceedings
- ❖ Victim may give opinions regarding release from custody or bond issues
- ❖ Victim may offer input on plea negotiations, sentence hearings or conditions
- ❖ Victim may request to be notified of any or all arrest, release, possibility of release, or escape of the accused, or any change in custodial status
- ❖ Victim has the right to protection from intimidation and harm