CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault is one of the most complex types of child abuse cases to investigate. False reports of sexual abuse against children are rare. It is much more common for children reporting sexual abuse to minimize or deny that the crime ever occurred.

A child who has been sexually assaulted and is 12 years or older may legally give consent to medical care (diagnosis, treatment, and collection of evidence).

A child victim may be interviewed during school hours and on school premises. The child has the option of selecting any adult who is a member of the school staff to be present at the interview. The school staff member is bound by confidentiality laws.

Each child will react differently. Their behavior and demeanor may range from traumatized to cheerful, depending on the child. Just because a child is acting normal, does not mean that the child is not being affected in some traumatic way.

If your child has been assaulted, some of the best things you can do are listen, reassure your child he/she is safe, and that no part of the crime was their fault. Also, praise them for disclosing what occurred.

FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND PARTNERS OF SURVIVORS

It is hard to witness someone in emotional pain. Take care of yourself as you help the survivor talk to a counselor or call a rape crisis hotline.

HOTLINES

Sexual Assault Hotlines:

Antelope Valley: 661-723-7273
Center for Pacific Asian Family: 800-339-3940
REA Rape Hotline: 910-546-2722
Long Beach: 562-377-3002
National Aids Hotline: 800-342-2437
Peace Over Violence: 310-393-8181
213-656-3393
Project Safe: 626-763-3363
Rosa Parks Sexual Assault Crisis Center: 310-854-4319
Santa Monica Hospital Rape Treatment Center: 310-398-4099 Ext. 0
Valley Trauma Center: 818-686-0453

For further information regarding counseling services and shelters, you may contact:

California Victims’ Compensation Program: 800-777-9229
L.A. District Attorney’s Victim/Witness Assistance Program: 800-773-1751
L.A. County Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-978-3600
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)
Department of Children and Family Services: 800-540-4000
Adult Protective Services: 800-550-4455
1736 Family Crisis Center: 213-747-9414
1736 Family Crisis: 213-735-7562
1736 Family Crisis Center: 213-730-5002
2110 Fellowship: 1-800-339-9307
Angels Step Inn: 562-944-6144
Angel Step Inn: 323-769-4357
Free Spirit: 323-937-1312
Haven Hills: 818-857-6389
Haven House: 213-487-2520
House of Ruth: 800-568-5559
Innervate House: 562-564-5555
Jameson Center: 800-479-7726
Peace and Jobs Career Center: 310-398-3117
Rainbow Services: 310-444-9143
Santa Clarita Domestic Violence Center: 661-259-1175
Sapphire: 310-264-6644
Su Casa: 562-492-4958
Sunrise Village: 818-242-1106

Tamar House: 618-505-0900
Valley Oasis: 661-945-6736
Women’s & Children’s Crisis Center: 562-945-3939
Women’s Shelter of Long Beach: 562-497-8665
YWCA-WINGS San Gabriel: 626-967-6558

SHERRIFF’S STATIONS

In an emergency call 9-1-1

For non-emergency services call:

Altadena Station: 626-798-1131
Avalon Station: 310-510-0717
Carson Station: 310-830-1121
Century Station: 323-508-4800
Cerritos Station: 562-941-0644
Compton Station: 310-605-6500
Crescenta Valley Station: 818-248-2549
East Los Angeles Station: 323-204-4151
Hawthorne Station: 310-639-332
Lakeview Station: 562-623-5300
Lincoln Station: 661-946-8490
Lomita Station: 310-397-7331
Luna Station: 310-539-1681
Lust Hills Station: 818-676-1688
Marina Del Rey Station: 310-492-6449
Norwalk Station: 562-863-6771
Palmie Station: 661-272-2400
Pico Rivera Station: 562-949-2421
San Dimas Station: 909-450-2700
Santa Clarita Valley Station: 661-295-1121
Temple Station: 626-385-7177
Walnut/Diamond Bar Station: 909-555-2246
West Hollywood Station: 310-855-8599

What Happens After Sexual Assault

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department
Field Operations Support Services
www.lasd.org
E-MAIL
LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

PHONE NUMBER

FLY668

DETECTIVE
By reporting your assault, you have taken the first step to bring your attacker to justice and begin your healing process. Most attackers are repeat offenders. Reporting the crime may prevent a sexual assault from happening to someone else.

The time after the assault can be very confusing and terrifying. The psychological and physical impact can be devastating and life changing. This pamphlet will give you information on what happens after the crime is reported. Knowing the legal process will hopefully ease some of your fears.

Once the detective has completed their investigation and identified or arrested your attacker, the detective will submit their case to the District Attorney’s Office for filing review. The District Attorney’s Office will determine if there is sufficient evidence to prosecute a case.

If your attacker cannot be identified or there is insufficient evidence for prosecution, your case can still be reopened at any time within the statute of limitations. Future advances in technology or possibly another victim may provide additional evidence. Even if the statute of limitations expires in your case, your testimony may be used to assist another victim.

Detectives will be available to answer your questions and assist you throughout the investigation and trial.

The District Attorney’s Office also has a staff of victim services advocates. Victim advocates guide survivors through the court process, help survivors receive restitution, provide crisis intervention, and provide referrals to counseling and community services. Their main telephone number is listed on the back of this brochure.

TESTIFYING

Your testimony will be necessary in court during the preliminary hearing and at trial. The deputy district attorney will discuss the courtroom process with you prior to your testimony.

You are allowed to have a support person with you any time you are required to testify in court.

SURVIVOR’S RIGHTS

As a survivor of a sexual assault, some of your rights include:

You may request (through the court) that your attacker be tested for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus); you will be advised of the test results.

You have the right to know if a DNA profile of your attacker was obtained, developed, and/or matched from the evidence in your case. If releasing this information would impede or compromise an ongoing investigation, it may be withheld.

You have the right to know if the Sheriff’s Department elects not to analyze the DNA evidence in your case and if the Sheriff’s Department intends to destroy or dispose of the DNA evidence in your case.

You may be eligible for compensation from the state’s fund for victims of violent crimes (California Victim’s Compensation Program) and free counseling.

Although, if subpoenaed, you must appear in court, you will not be charged with contempt of court if you refuse to testify about the sexual assault.

With few exceptions, you have the right to keep your name and address confidential from the public and to keep your past sexual history out of court.

You may have a support person of your choice and/or a sexual assault counselor with you during interviews by detectives, deputy district attorneys, defense attorneys, etc. If your chosen support person becomes detrimental to the interview, they may be excluded.

You may have two support persons of your choice at all court proceedings.

You have the right to be present during court proceedings and during sentencing with a few exceptions. You have the right to make a statement to the court at the time of sentencing.

While your attacker is in the Los Angeles County jail system, you may be notified of their release or transfer by registering with the VINE (Victim Information Notification Everyday) program at 1-877-VINE-4-LA or www.vine.line.com.

If your attacker is sentenced to state prison, you may request notification of a hearing to review or consider eligibility for parole. You may also request notification as to when your attacker receives a parole date or is released from prison.