

- Reporting the assault to law enforcement is your choice. Many factors may weigh into your decision to report or not to report the assault. There is no right way to handle the effects of a sexual assault. If you decide to report the assault, call 911.

If You Decide to Report

Reporting a sexual assault to law enforcement is a very individualized decision that victims will need to make for themselves. Remember, if you decide not to report, you are still fully entitled to support services and medical care. If you do decide to report, you will need to know what to expect from the criminal justice system. Below is a brief overview of what to expect. Your local sexual assault program advocate will be able to more fully help you understand the process in your area and to support you through it.

Hospital Response

A sexual assault evidence kit, sometimes called a “rape kit,” is performed by medical personnel to collect evidence at the request of law enforcement. Although medical personnel who collect the evidence are well-trained, the process may be uncomfortable for you. Support is important. The cost of collection of the evidence will be assessed to the county. However, there may be other costs incurred at the hospital for medical treatment that are not considered part of the evidence kit. If you have reported the assault to law enforcement, you may be eligible for Crime Victims’ Compensation benefits that can help you pay for financial losses such as medical expenses, lost wages, counseling/therapy and other costs related to the assault.

Law Enforcement Response

Law enforcement will need to ask you questions about the assault. Some questions may be very difficult to answer and may not make sense at the time they are asked, but there is a reason for them. It is not unusual for law enforcement to visit with the victim numerous times during the course of an investigation. Once law enforcement has investigated and has been able to identify the offender, they will send the information to the prosecutor.

Prosecutor Response

The prosecutor determines if there is enough evidence to move forward with prosecution. The system sometimes moves slowly. It sometimes seems that just as you begin to feel OK, you are thrown back into the middle of the trauma because of a court hearing or trial. Sometimes victims find it very important to have information about the court case and proceedings. Most prosecutors have Victim Witness Coordinators who can help get this information. Victims have a legal right to certain information about the case.

Advocate Response

Advocates from your local sexual assault program can be accessed whether or not you choose to report. Advocates can be an invaluable help to you during the process of reporting. Advocates are trained to be with you at the hospital, go with you to the law enforcement station, provide individual and group counseling, and provide you with specific information about sexual assault. Whether you decide to report or not, getting in touch with your local sexual assault program can be a very important and helpful step in your healing.

For support, contact the following:

Kansas Crisis Hotline

1-888-END-ABUSE (1-888-363-2287)

National Sexual Assault Hotline

1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673)

For more information:

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

634 SW Harrison
Topeka, KS 66603
785-232-9784
www.kcsdv.org

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Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence



SAFETY, ACCOUNTABILITY & JUSTICE
for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence and their children

What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is any sexual act a person is coerced or forced into without consent. Sexual assault is a broad term referring to acts of violence that involve a sexual component. Perpetrators of sexual assault use sexual contact to inflict humiliation or exert power and control over a victim. Sexual assault includes several different types of acts, many of which are crimes. Sexual assault may include rape, child molestation or incest. Most often these acts are perpetrated by someone the victim already knows such as a friend, relative or intimate partner.

Sex offenders use many methods to intimidate the victim. They might use trickery, manipulation, coercion, bribery, blackmail, or threats. Offenders often take advantage of people they perceive as vulnerable or less powerful.

Effects of Sexual Assault

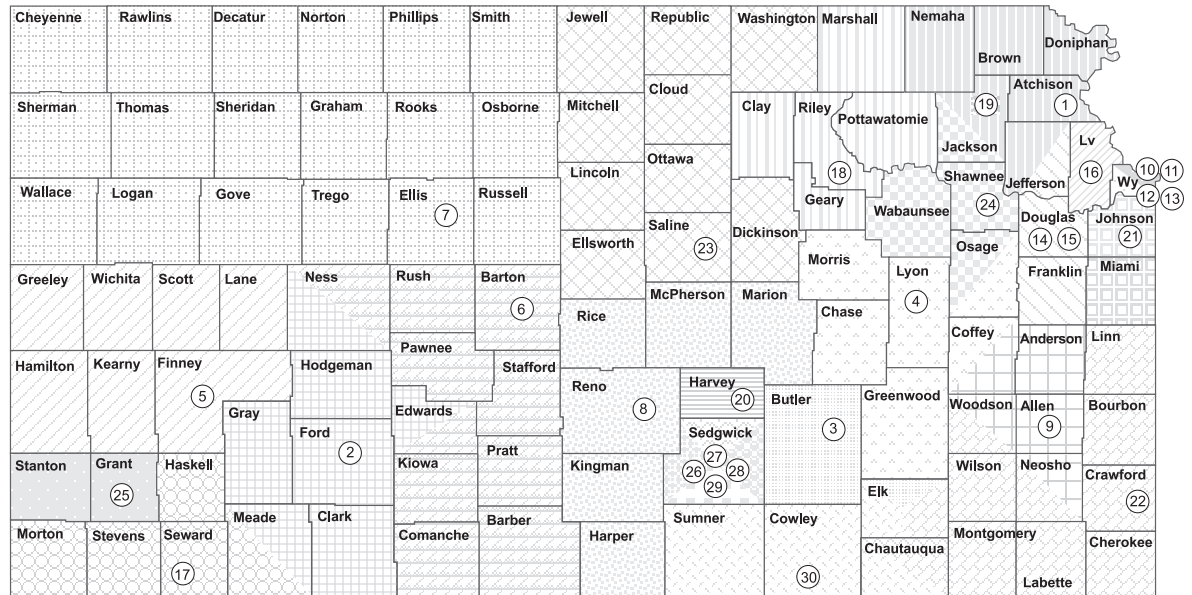
The experience of sexual assault has different meanings for each person. No one knows precisely how an individual will react. There is no "right" way to act after an assault. Some victims are very emotional and some are numb initially following an assault. However, sexual assault advocates have found that many people experience sexual assaults as a severe emotional and physical violation. The effects of an assault can be seen in victims directly after an assault or many days later. Trauma can produce pronounced feelings of helplessness and powerlessness, as well as physical symptoms such as breathing problems, vomiting, nightmares, and the inability to remember events.

If You Are a Victim of Sexual Assault

- Your immediate safety is important. Go to a safe place such as a friend's or family member's home.
- Get support. Local sexual assault programs can provide individual and group support for you and your friends and family.
- Protect your health. Whether or not you report the assault to law enforcement, it is best to be treated for sexually transmitted diseases within the first 72 hours after being assaulted. Medical care is important. Consult your health care provider.

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Kansas Sexual and Domestic Violence Programs



1. Atchison	DoVES	800-367-7075 or 913-367-0363
2. Dodge City	Crisis Center of Dodge City	620-225-6510
3. El Dorado	Family Life Center of Butler County	800-870-6967 or 316-321-7104
4. Emporia	SOS, Inc.	800-825-1295 or 620-342-1870
5. Garden City	Family Crisis Services	620-275-5911
6. Great Bend	Family Crisis Center	866-792-1885 or 620-792-1885
7. Hays	NW KS Domestic and Sexual Violence Svcs.	800-794-4624 or 785-625-3055
8. Hutchinson	Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center	800-701-3630 or 620-663-2522
9. Iola	Hope Unlimited	620-365-7566
10. Kansas City, KS	El Centro, Inc. ¡Si Se Puede! (<i>domestic violence</i>)	913-677-0177
11. Kansas City, KS	Friends of Yates /Joyce H.Williams Center (<i>domestic violence</i>)	913-321-0951
12. Kansas City, MO	KCAVP	816-561-0550
13. Kansas City, MO	MOCSA (<i>sexual assault</i>)	816-531-0233
14. Lawrence	GaDuGi Safe Center (<i>sexual assault</i>)	785-841-2345
15. Lawrence	Women's Transitional Care Services (<i>domestic violence</i>)	800-770-3030 or 785-843-3333
16. Leavenworth	Alliance Against Family Violence	800-644-1441 or 913-682-9131
17. Liberal	Liberal Area Rape Crisis and DV Services	620-624-8818
18. Manhattan	The Crisis Center, Inc.	800-727-2785 or 785-539-2785
19. Mayetta	Prairie Band Potawatomi Family Violence Prevention Program	866-966-0173 or 785-966-0173
20. Newton	Harvey County DV/SA Task Force	800-487-0510 or 316-283-0350
21. Overland Park	Safehome, Inc.	888-432-4300 or 913-262-2868
22. Pittsburg	Crisis Resource Center of Southeast Kansas, Inc.	800-794-9148 or 620-231-8251
23. Salina	Domestic Violence Assoc. of Central Kansas	800-874-1499 or 785-827-5862
24. Topeka	YWCA Battered Women Task Force	888-822-2983 or <i>daytime</i> 785-354-7927 <i>evening</i> 785-234-3300
25. Ulysses	DoVES of Grant County	620-356-2608
26. Wichita	Catholic Charities Harbor House (<i>domestic violence</i>)	866-899-5522 or 316-263-6000
27. Wichita	StepStone (<i>domestic violence</i>)	316-265-1611
28. Wichita	Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (<i>sexual assault</i>)	316-263-3002 or <i>por español:</i> 316-263-2044
29. Wichita	YWCA Women's Crisis Center (<i>domestic violence</i>)	316-267-7233
30. Winfield	Safe Homes, Inc.	800-794-7672 or 620-221-4357