

of appetite or difficulty remembering things when previously able to do so

- Eyewitness reports or disclosures of the sexual violence
- Observing suspicious behavior of perpetrators by others (Ramsey-Klawnsnik, 2010)

Barriers to Reporting

Reporting a sexual assault is very difficult—for anyone. Sexual violence is highly underreported across the lifespan. Here are a few examples of the many barriers victims may encounter when reporting sexual violence, especially if the violence occurs in later life.

- Social stigma, related to discussing sexual activities or sexual violence
- Disabling conditions that interfere with disclosing or making reports
- Fear of further harm from the perpetrator
- Reluctance to report, especially if the perpetrator is a family member or caregiver
- Misinterpretation by others that a disclosure is part of dementia or age-related memory problem
- Attributing physical injuries and marks as “normal” markings on an older body (Burgess & Clements, 2008)
- Lack of specific services for older victims of sexual violence

If A Person You Know Is A Victim of Sexual Violence

Listen and Believe - Listen without judgment, believe what the victim tells you, and acknowledge feelings. Confusion, anger, sadness, guilt, numbness, helplessness, hopelessness, and self-blame are all common reactions to sexual violence and trauma.

Offer Your Support - Let the victim know you are there for support now and in the future. Keep the victim’s information private unless the victim tells you otherwise.

Make a Referral - Refer to the Kansas Crisis Hotline, 1-888-END-ABUSE (1-888-363-2287), and the community-based sexual assault advocacy program in your area (see phone number list).

Speak Out - Speak out when you hear someone blaming any victim for the violence. Remind others that the responsibility for the violence lies with the perpetrator and that nobody deserves to be sexually violated, regardless of the victim’s age or medical condition.

Advocacy Support Services

Getting in touch with the community-based sexual assault advocacy program can provide a victim of sexual violence with the support and assistance they

need for the safety and healing process. These programs offer services 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Services include crisis hotlines, safety planning, information and referrals, personal advocacy, criminal justice advocacy, civil court advocacy, hospital and medical advocacy, support groups, assistance with crime victims’ compensation, assistance with protection orders, and more. Victims can access these resources anonymously.

All of these services are free and confidential. Any information shared with an advocacy program listed in this brochure is private and cannot be shared with anyone outside the organization, unless:

- The program is required to disclose the information by law; or
- The victim signs an informed, written, time-limited release permitting them to disclose the information.

For support, contact the sexual assault advocacy program nearest you (see phone number list).

For more information about services and resources for older adults in Kansas, visit: www.kdads.ks.gov

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SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST OLDER ADULTS

We have a right to be safe at all stages of our life.

Sexual Violence in Later Life

Sexual violence can affect individuals across the lifespan. Sexual violence includes sexual actions and words that coerce, manipulate or are force upon someone with the intent to intimidate, humiliate or control. Sexual violence can include unwanted touching or fondling; forced sexual contact; rape; humiliating or objectifying the victim's body; forcing the victim to engage in unwanted sex; sexualized kissing; sexual harassment and threats; forced viewing of pornography; using the victim to produce pornography; exhibitionism or exposing the victim's body as a form of humiliation. An additional form of sexual violence is the unnecessary, obsessive or painful touching of the genital area that is not part of a prescribed care plan (Ramsey-Klawnsnik, 2010). Many victims of sexual violence have survived multiple victimizations over the course of their lives (NSVRC, 2010).

As with any form of sexual violence, it is important to remember that it can occur to anyone, regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status or ability. However, most identified older victims of sexual violence are female (Burgess, Ramsey-Klawnsnik, & Gregorian, 2008). Sexual violence in later life is often perpetrated by those who

have special and trusted relationships with the older adult. These relationships often include caregivers, intimate partners, fellow residents, and family members, including adult children.

Signs of Sexual Violence

Victims of sexual violence may show a wide range of signs or no signs at all. No one victim will have the same reaction following a sexual assault, rape or unwanted sexual contact. However, due to age-related changes in the body, victims who are older tend to suffer more serious physical injuries during an assault than younger victims. The emotional and social effects of sexual violence may also greatly impact someone who is victimized later in life.

Here are a few possible signs of sexual violence that has occurred in later life. These may also be signs of other health issues, as well.

- Genital injuries, human bite marks, imprint injuries or bruising on thighs, buttocks, breast, face, neck, and other areas
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)
- HIV/Aids
- Fear, anxiety, agitation, mistrust or dramatic changes in behavior
- Trouble sleeping, incontinence, lack

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Kansas Sexual and Domestic Violence Programs Kansas Crisis Hotline: 1-888-END-ABUSE (1-888-363-2287)

DV= domestic violence services only SV= sexual violence services only

Dodge City	866-270-2270 or 620-225-6510
El Dorado	800-870-6967 or 316-321-7104
Emporia	800-825-1295 or 620-342-1870
Garden City	620-275-5911
Great Bend	866-792-1885 or 620-792-1885
Hays	800-794-4624 or 785-625-3055
Hutchinson	800-701-3630 or 620-663-2522
Iola	620-365-7566
KC Metro	
Friends of Yates (dv - Wyandotte Cnty)	913-321-0951
Safehome (dv - Johnson Cnty)	888-432-4300 or 913-262-2868
MOCSA (sv)	913-642-0233 or 816-531-0233
Mattie Rhodes Center ¡Si Se Puede! (dv)	816-241-3780 (not a crisis line)
KCAVP (LGBT services)	816-561-0550
Lawrence	
The Sexual Trauma and Abuse Care Center (sv)	785-843-8985
The Willow Domestic Violence Center (dv)	800-770-3030 or 785-843-3333
Leavenworth	800-644-1441 or 913-682-9131
Liberal	620-624-8818
Manhattan	800-727-2785 or 785-539-2785
Mayetta	866-966-0173
Newton	800-487-0510 or 316-283-0350
Pittsburg	800-794-9148 or 620-231-8251
Salina	800-874-1499 or 785-827-5862
Topeka	888-822-2983 or 785-354-7927
Wichita	
Catholic Charities Harbor House (dv)	866-899-5522 or 316-263-6000
StepStone (dv)	316-265-1611
Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (sv)	877-927-2248 or 316-263-3002
Wichita Family Crisis Center (dv)	316-267-7233

If you are in need of advocacy services and do not find your community listed above, call the 24/7 Kansas Crisis Hotline at 1-888-363-2287.