

with your local sexual assault program can be a very important and helpful step in your healing.

Hospital Response

A sexual assault medical forensic examination may be performed by a physician, a specially trained nurse, or a specially trained physician's assistant. Some hospitals have a certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) who will perform the exam. However, any emergency department can provide emergency medical services or treatment.

The medical professional will address your health care concerns and provide treatment. They can provide medication to help prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and pregnancy. They will also collect samples and other evidence related to the sexual assault from your body and clothing. Although not required, it is recommended that you do not bathe, shower or do anything that may remove evidence from your body or clothing in order to keep evidence from being damaged. You can decline any portion of the exam.

The sexual assault forensic exam is conducted using a kit provided to the health care provider by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI). The cost of the exam conducted using this kit is free to you. The county where the assault occurred is responsible for the costs of the exam. You may be responsible for healthcare costs such as medication or treatment for injuries that are not covered under the sexual assault forensic examination process.

You do not have to report the sexual assault to law enforcement to get an exam. The hospital should not contact law enforcement without your written permission and consent. However, health care providers are still required to comply with mandatory reporting requirements. This means that health care providers must report child abuse, abuse of vulnerable adults, and certain wounds regardless of whether you give consent or not. If you have questions or concerns about the exam, a sexual assault advocate can provide more information.

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. Some 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. Advocates from your local sexual assault program can also help you with the court process.

REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

Sexual assault can affect your life in many different ways. There is no "right" way to act after experiencing sexual violence. Some people become very emotional and some are numb initially. This experience can be overwhelming, causing feelings of fear, anger, shame, or anxiety. Remember that your feelings and experiences are not unusual. You are not alone, and there is help available. Your advocate can help you through this process, and can help you find the resources you need.

For support, contact the following:

The sexual and domestic violence program nearest you (see map)

Kansas Crisis Hotline

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

This project was supported by Grant No. 2011-WL-AX-0059 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

2016



IF YOU HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

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If You Have Been Sexually Assaulted

If you have been sexually assaulted, you may feel alone and confused. You can get support, assistance, and information from a local sexual assault program. The sexual assault program responds immediately through its 24-hour hotline and 24-hour response to hospital emergency rooms and police stations. The program also provides ongoing advocacy and support services. Services are free and can help you to clarify information and explore the feelings that may surface after sexual assault. If you choose to report the sexual assault, you don't need to go through any of the procedures alone. A friend, relative, or sexual assault advocate can accompany you and give you support.

If, at any point during the medical or law enforcement procedures, you don't understand what is happening—just ask. The nurse, doctor, officer, district attorney, and sexual assault advocate are available to explain things to you.

Remember that rape and sexual assault are serious, violent crimes. They are crimes that could happen to anyone. No matter the circumstances, the assault was not your fault.

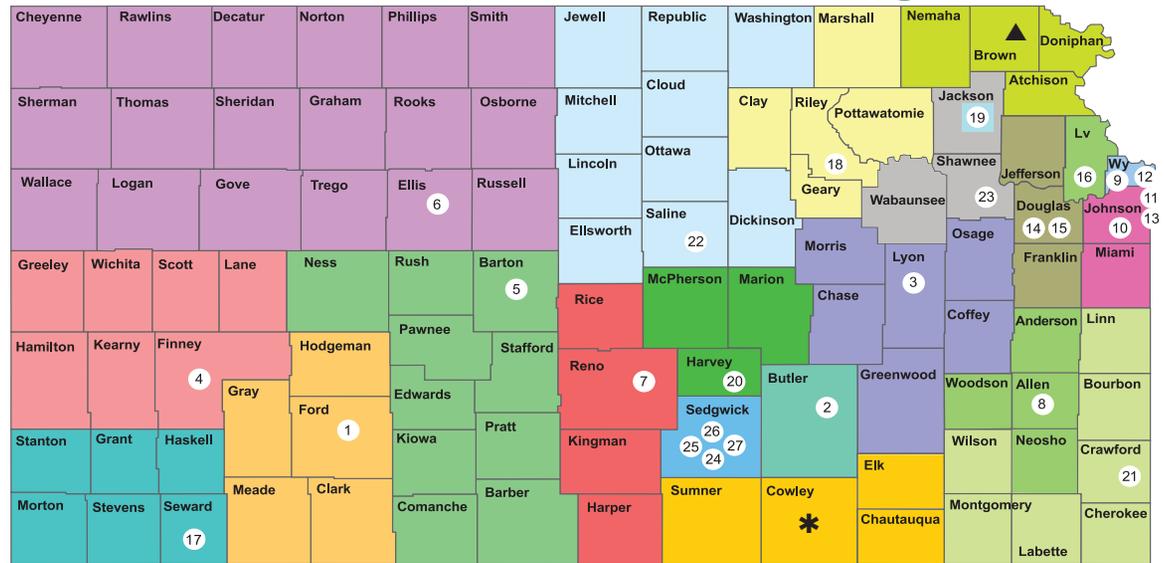
To Report or To Not Report

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 different systems you may encounter. 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.

Advocate Response

Advocates from your local sexual assault program can be accessed, regardless of whether you choose to report. Advocates are trained to be with you at the hospital, go with you to the police station, provide individual and group counseling, and provide you with specific information about sexual assault. Regardless of whether you decide to report, getting in touch

Kansas Sexual and Domestic Violence Programs



CITY	SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS	CRISIS HOTLINE NUMBER
1. Dodge City	Crisis Center of Dodge City	866-270-2270 or 620-225-6510
2. El Dorado	Family Life Center of Butler County	800-870-6967 or 316-321-7104
3. Emporia	SOS, Inc.	800-825-1295 or 620-342-1870
4. Garden City	Family Crisis Services	620-275-5911
5. Great Bend	Family Crisis Center, Inc.	866-792-1885 or 620-792-1885
6. Hays	Options: Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, Inc.	800-794-4624 or 785-625-3055
7. Hutchinson	Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center	800-701-3630 or 620-663-2522
8. Iola	Hope Unlimited	620-365-7566
KC METRO		
9. Wyandotte Cnty	Friends of Yates Della Gill/Joyce H. Williams Center (<i>domestic violence</i>)	913-321-0951
10. Johnson Cnty	SAFEHOME (<i>domestic violence</i>)	888-432-4300 or 913-262-2868
11. MOCSA	Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (<i>sexual assault</i>)	913-642-0233 or 816-531-0233
12. Mattie Rhodes	Mattie Rhodes Center ¡Si Se Puede! (<i>domestic violence</i>)	816-241-3780 (not a crisis line)
13. KCAVP	Kansas City Anti-Violence Project (<i>LGBT services</i>)	816-561-0550
14. Lawrence	The Sexual Trauma and Abuse Care Center (<i>sexual assault</i>)	785-843-8985
15. Lawrence	The Willow Domestic Violence Center (<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	LARC/DVS, Inc.	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
20. Newton	Safehope, Inc.	800-487-0510 or 316-283-0350
21. Pittsburg	Safehouse Crisis Center, Inc.	800-794-9148 or 620-231-8251
22. Salina	Domestic Violence Assoc. of Central Kansas	800-874-1499 or 785-827-5862
23. Topeka	YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment	888-822-2983 or 785-354-7927
24. Wichita	Catholic Charities Harbor House (<i>domestic violence</i>)	866-899-5522 or 316-263-6000
25. Wichita	StepStone (<i>domestic violence</i>)	316-265-1611
26. Wichita	Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (<i>sexual assault</i>)	877-927-2248 or 316-263-3002
27. Wichita	Wichita Family Crisis Center (<i>domestic violence</i>)	316-267-7233
▲	No accredited services in this area. If you are in need of advocacy services in Atchison, Brown, Nemaha, and Doniphan counties, call the surrounding advocacy programs or the 24/7 Kansas Crisis Hotline at 1-888-363-2287.	
*	No accredited services in this area. If you are in need of advocacy services in Cowley, Chautauqua, Elk, and Sumner counties, call the surrounding advocacy programs or the 24/7 Kansas Crisis Hotline at 1-888-363-2287.	