



## **Your Reporting Options**

*For victims of unwanted  
Sexual Experiences*

## Support & Resources

**Sexual violence can happen to anyone, regardless of their age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, class, race, appearance, ability or any other way they might identify. Our hope is that support and resources are available for all survivors.**

**While it may be hard to seek support, it can greatly help in healing from sexual assault. You don't have to deal with this alone. A local confidential victim advocacy organization may offer crisis intervention, support in navigating your options, counseling, resources and referrals, support groups, and more.**

For more information about sexual assault reporting options, contact your local center:

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This publication is a collaboration of the following agencies. It is our hope that you will find support and healing in the aftermath of sexual assault.



## Your Reporting Options

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## Reporting Sexual Assault

You have options available to you for reporting sexual assault, seeking support, obtaining medical care and seeking financial assistance. Many victims of sexual assault may not report what happened to them right away. You have the option to not participate in the Criminal Justice system, to report to a hospital, and to report to law enforcement. If you are a college student, you have the option to report to your university or college, if the suspect is also a college student. If you are in the military, you have the option of seeking a restricted report, which helps protect your confidentiality.

The choice is up to you, and you can always decide to report at a later time. **Our hope is that coming forward in whatever way you decide is right for you will help you find safety, justice and healing.**

Victims do not decide to be victimized. Rapists decide to rape. Whether you were drinking, doing drugs, on a date, or can't remember all of the details, you have the right to get help and to decide whether or not to report the crime.

## Effects of Sexual Assault

- Whether your assault occurred recently or years ago, you have options and support available to you.
- Be patient with yourself. Dealing with this crime can be a long process.
- Understand that there are many responses to this traumatic event. You may experience anxiety, depression, panic attacks, flashbacks, memory loss, anger, trouble sleeping as well as self-blame and self-doubt.
- Seeking support can help reduce the longterm effects of sexual assault. See resources listed at the end of this brochure or online at [www.ccasa.org](http://www.ccasa.org).

## Medical Report

A **medical reporting victim** is a victim who requests and receives a medical forensic exam, and medical care, but does not want to initially pursue an investigation. At a later time, you can make the choice to file a law enforcement report in addition to the medical report, but the timeliness of your report can affect the outcome of an investigation. A **medical forensic exam** is where evidence is collected and medical care is provided. A victim never pays for the evidence collection portion of the exam. However, you may be billed for other medical expenses. The **SAVE Program** can help with these costs, and it is only for medical reporting victims. If evidence is collected, it will be stored for at least 2 years by local law enforcement. You choose whether or not you would like the evidence "tested." If you have questions about this option, talking with a victim advocate can be helpful.

## Law Enforcement Report

A **law enforcement reporting victim** is a victim who chooses to report sexual assault to a law enforcement officer. Regardless of the outcome of the case, or the time frame in which you report, you have the right to apply for financial assistance for medical and mental health costs through **Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC)**. CVC funds are only available to victims who reported to and continue to participate with law enforcement. These funds can also be accessed if you are a medical reporting victim who later decides to report to law enforcement.

## Requirements to Report

There may be legal requirements for medical providers to contact law enforcement, but you do not have to provide information to the officer or participate in the investigation if you are 18 years or older.

If you are under 18 years of age or 70 years of age or older, medical providers have the duty to report to law enforcement or Department of Human Services.

A victim advocate can provide you with options for reporting and maintaining your safety throughout the process.

## Covering the Costs of Care

### The SAVE Program for Medical Reporting Victims

The SAVE (Sexual Assault Victim Emergency) Program covers medical costs associated with the medical forensic exam and, when funds are available, medical expenses related to injuries sustained during the sexual assault. There is between \$2,000 to \$3,000 available per person, depending on available funding. The program is administered by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ).

For information about the SAVE Program, contact DCJ at 303-239-4546.

### Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) for Law Enforcement Reporting Victims

If you have been physically or emotionally injured as the result of a crime, you may be eligible for compensation for your financial losses. Losses directly related to the crime are eligible for reimbursement, and may include: medical expenses, mental health expenses, lost wages, loss of support to dependents, residential property damage to exterior windows, locks and doors, and funeral expenses. You must have reported the crime to law enforcement. CVC can pay up to \$20,000 per person.

For information about CVC, contact 1-888-282-1080 or your local district attorney's office.

We believe that survivors of sexual violence should be respected and believed. Following an assault, all survivors should have the right to make individual choices about their next steps.