

GUIDELINE to reporting rape or sexual assault.

Who do I report my rape or sexual assault to?

You can report whether you have been sexually assaulted or raped to the Police.

Do I have to go into a police station to report a rape or sexual assault?

You can report rape by going to the nearest police station, or you can report by telephone at the same police station. When you report over the telephone, you the police will send a van to fetch you at your location, however, due to availability, a van may take long and require you to wait.

Do I have to report at the police station nearest to where I live or nearest to where the rape/sexual assault occurred?

It is important for you to report at a police station closer to where the rape or sexual assault had occurred, but if you report at a different police station, remember that police cannot send you away and refuse to file your report. They must do the first steps of the investigation, including opening a case docket and the medical examination, and give the case to the correct police station afterwards. If you are injured, call an ambulance immediately. You can find these emergency contacts in our resource tab.

Do I have a choice in reporting?

You have the choice to report the incident, however, it cannot be investigated or prosecuted if you do not.

Do I have to give a statement if I do not feel comfortable?

When reporting, you can request to speak to a woman police official, however, a woman may not always be available. You are not required to describe the rape at the charge office when you get to the police station, after saying that you would like to report a rape, you

should be taken to a private space such as a trauma room where you will be made to feel more comfortable, being able to give as much of a detailed description as possible. This trauma room usually has trained volunteers to assist you, who are available every day, and at night too.

Will my rape or sexual assault be investigated?

The police will not deny your reporting of the rape or sexual assault; however the prosecution of the rape or sexual assault is dependent on evidence that comes out of the investigation.

How long after I am raped or assaulted can I report?

There is no time limit for reporting a rape or sexual assault case. Some other sexual offences have a 20-year time limit. Most physical evidence is more difficult to collect after 72 hours and possible witnesses are more difficult to track down. By reporting soon after occurrence, successful prosecution is more likely.

Where can I receive medical attention after reporting rape or sexual assault?

After reporting, police will take you a hospital to be treated with preventative medication for HIV/AIDS.

What do I have to say when making a statement?

Your statement is a brief explanation of what occurred, as well as giving a detailed description of the rapist, what he looks like, if he has any noticeable disabilities, scars or facial characteristics. Describe what he was wearing, where you last saw him, and if you know where he may be headed – this information will help police arrest him as soon as possible.