

## You Have a Right to Know...

### You can:

- Have a 24-hour confidential sexual assault counselor (victim advocate) or other support person(s) with you during any exam or interview.
- Ask for a Court Order to protect you.
  - » For protection from the attacker right away, ask a law enforcement officer for an Emergency Protective Order.
  - » Learn about Civil Protection Orders here: [www.courts.ca.gov/1260.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/1260.htm).
- Ask about test results and evidence from the assault.
- Ask the officer for a case number and how to find out what happens next.
- If you need help to pay for your costs related to the assault, learn more and apply at: [www.victims.ca.gov/victims/howtoapply.aspx](http://www.victims.ca.gov/victims/howtoapply.aspx)
- **Note: You may have to take part in the criminal case to qualify for CalVCB.**

Agency: [Agency Name]  
Contact Name: [Contact Name]  
Phone: [Phone Number]  
Police Report / Case No.: [Report/Case No.]  
Notes: [Notes]  
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Funded by the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Victims of Crime Act,  
2017-VA-GX-0084

VSU Rev 10/2018



Plain English

# Sexual Assault Survivor's Bill of Rights

You have rights. You have the right to get answers, the right to information, and a right to know. This card explains key rights, options, and helpful resources.

## You Decide

It's your choice to:

- Get a physical exam,
- Be part of a criminal case, or
- Report the assault.

No matter what you choose, you keep your rights.



## Questions?

Ask a health care provider, law enforcement officer, or contact your local rape crisis center.

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## You Have a Right to Get Answers

- Was your evidence analyzed within 18 months?
  - Was the evidence used to make a DNA profile of your attacker?
  - Was a DNA profile entered into the law enforcement database? Did they find matches to the profiles?
- You Have a Right to Information, Including:**
- A free copy of the crime reports. (Ask in writing to your local law enforcement agency.)
  - The attacker's sex offender registry information, if convicted.
  - Evidence from the rape kit. The rape kit must be:
    - » Taken to the lab and analyzed within 24 months, and
    - » Kept for 20 years, or until you turn 40, if you were under 18 when the assault happened.

## Facts:

- DNA evidence on the body can last from 12 hours up to 7 days.
- DNA and other kinds of evidence may break down if exposed to heat, water, or other materials.

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## Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Tracking (SAFE-T)

Contact the California Attorney General's Victims' Services Unit for a general location and status of rape kit based on data entered into the SAFE-T database. Or contact the local law enforcement agency that handled your case.

## Resources\*

### Local Rape Crisis Center

Contact your local rape crisis center for support, advocacy, and information about their services.

[Agency Name]

[Phone • Website]

### California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) –

Helps reimburse victims for mental health

counseling, loss of income, crime scene cleanup, relocation, medical and dental bills, and other costs related to the assault.

800-777-9229 • [www.victims.ca.gov](http://www.victims.ca.gov)

**California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CalCASA) –** Working to end sexual violence through prevention, intervention, education, research, advocacy and public policy. 916-446-2520 • [www.calcasa.org](http://www.calcasa.org)

**Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) –** The nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. 800-656-HOPE • [www.centers.rainn.org](http://www.centers.rainn.org)

**National Domestic Violence Hotline –** 800-799-7233 • [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

**National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline –** 24-Hour Hotline: 888-373-7888 • [www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)

**California Attorney General's Office - Victims' Services Unit –** Connects victims to local victim support and information resources. Provides information and updates on the appeals process. 877-433-9069 • [www.oag.ca.gov/victimservices](http://www.oag.ca.gov/victimservices)

**For more information, contact:** [www.oag.ca.gov/sexual-violence](http://www.oag.ca.gov/sexual-violence)

\* The CA Attorney General's Office does not control, support, or have responsibility for the organizations and agencies listed above.

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