

Your Rights as a Survivor of Sexual Assault

You have rights as a survivor of sexual assault. You have choices about whether to report a sexual assault to law enforcement. You may be eligible for a medical exam to collect evidence and/or for related medical care. You should be aware that DNA and other evidence may degrade within hours to days. You are not required to participate in the criminal justice system or receive a medical exam in order to keep your rights.

You HAVE THE RIGHT to have a confidential Sexual Assault Counselor or other person of your choosing present during any exam or investigative interview.

Rape Trauma Services (RTS) is San Mateo County's rape crisis center. RTS has confidential Sexual Assault Counselors and Advocates who are trained to provide support, local referrals, and to help you understand law enforcement and other government processes. To contact a Sexual Assault Counselor call the RTS Crisis Line, 24 hours a day:



(650) 692-7273
www.rapetraumaservices.org

You HAVE THE RIGHT TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT:

- an **Emergency Protective Order** for immediate safety concerns.
Ask a law enforcement officer.
- a **Civil Harassment Order** for ongoing safety concerns.
<http://www.courts.ca.gov/1260.htm>
- possible **Financial Assistance** for costs arising from your assault.



Contact:

San Mateo County Victim Services:
650-599-7479

<https://da.smcgov.org/victim-services>



IF YOU CHOOSE TO HAVE EVIDENCE COLLECTED, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED:

- whether or not the evidence is analyzed within 18 months of your assault.
- whether or not a DNA profile of your assailant was developed from the evidence.
- whether or not the DNA profile of your assailant has been entered into the law enforcement database.
- whether or not the DNA profile of your assailant matches a DNA profile contained in the law enforcement database.
- if the evidence related to your assault will be tested, it should be transported to the lab and analyzed within 24 MONTHS.
- that evidence related to your assault must be kept for 20 YEARS, or for victims under age 18 at the time of the offense, until your 40th birthday.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTACT YOUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO:

- know of the status and results of all evidence related to your assault.
- get your case number and evidence tracking information.

Agency/Report # _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Law Enforcement

Medical Provider

You HAVE THE RIGHT to request in writing and receive a free copy of the initial crime report related to your assault.

If your assailant is convicted and required to register as a sex offender, you have the right to request their sex offender registry information from the prosecutor.

This card outlines some of the rights and resources that may be available to you under California law. A more complete description of your rights can be found in California Penal Code [S] 680.2. If you have questions, or for help in understanding your rights, contact your medical provider, law enforcement officer, or RTS Sexual Assault Counselor.