

It is common for people who have experienced a sexual assault and the people around them to believe that they are required to report a sexual assault to the police and/or, that they will not be believed or taken seriously. People are also often concerned about what their options are if they have not reported the crime immediately. Some also have concerns about what the process will be like if they do report to the police and what will be expected of them.

FAQ

Do I have to report this to the police?

No. You are not required to report what has happened to you and those assisting you are not required to report either.

How do I report sexual assault?

Phone the Calgary City Police at 403-266-1234 or the RCMP in the area where the sexual assault occurred. The officer will take an initial account of what happened and depending upon the situation, will refer your case to officers at a district office or to the Major Crimes Unit (Sexual Assault Investigative Unit, Child Abuse Unit, Domestic Conflict Unit).

What will happen when I report?

Officers will phone you to set up a time for you to make a statement. They may come to your home, or you can meet them at the Police Station. They may choose to video record this interview. If you are working with the Police and Court Support program, you may request that a Police and Court Support Counsellor to accompany you to this meeting. The officers will ask you many questions about the situation that you are reporting in order to better understand what happened and how to investigate. If you remember more information that you would like to tell the officers, write it down and phone them. Afterwards you may remember more information that you would like to tell the officers. If this happens, you can contact the investigating officer again to let them know of any additional information. Once you report, the Police will investigate the allegations and decide whether there is enough evidence to charge the accused.

What if I need some time to decide what to do?

You can take as much time as you like to think about and explore your options. It is never too late to report a crime.

**Often survivors have many factors to consider when reporting a sexual assault including fear of not being believed, the impact on themselves and their lives, impact on family members, job, and social situations, and when the perpetrator is known to the survivor, they are often considering the impact to the perpetrator.*

Will the police ask lots of questions?

Yes, it is the job of the police to collect all of the evidence they can so even small details count. Sometimes the questions may seem hard, like they are questioning you personally, or they may ask the same thing more than once. It is their job to make sure they have all of the important facts about what happened.

Can I talk to a female (or male) officer?

Yes, you can request to speak to a female officer or detective. Sometimes that is not always possible at the time that you report, so you may need to wait for that be arranged.

Will they take my clothes?

Yes, that is a possibility. Each case is different, so it is hard to predict what the investigating officers might require for evidence from you and/or the scene of the crime.

Do I have to go to the police station?

Yes, at some point, you will likely be asked by the investigating officers or Sex Crimes detectives to come to the police station and give a written or video-taped statement which is simply a record of your complaint. If you are anxious about doing this on your own, a support worker can go with you.



Ultimately the choices belong to the individual around if, when, and how to report what has happened to them. Survivors need to know they have rights and options and that what they are doing is providing information about a crime or possible crime...laying a complaint. The investigation from that point may, or may not, result in charges being laid against the perpetrator(s) of the sexual assault.

Call us if you need more information
403-237-5888

