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 may take time.**
- **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.**

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.

A local confidential victim advocacy organization may offer help in a crisis, 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:

Boulder County Sheriff's Office
Victim Assistance
5600 Flatiron Pkwy, Boulder, CO 80301
303-441-3656

Moving to End Sexual Assault (MESA)
2336 Canyon Blvd, Ste 103, Boulder, CO 80302
303-443-7300 (24 Hour Crisis and Information Hotline)
www.movingtoendsexualassault.org

This project was supported by grant no. 2013-VW-14-003301-00, awarded by the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice – administering office for the S.T.O.P. Formula Grant Program. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the state or the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

2015 Edition

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

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault

FCEP Forensic Compliance Evaluation Project

State of Colorado Division of Criminal Justice

Your Reporting Options

For Victims of Unwanted Sexual Experiences

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 offender 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**.

Requirements to Report

If you are under the age of 18 or 70 years or older, there are legal requirements for medical providers to contact law enforcement or the Department of Human Services. These laws are in place to help protect minors and at-risk persons. What you share is always up to you.

If you are between the ages of 18-69 and receive sexual assault medical care (no evidence collection), the medical provider is not mandated to notify law enforcement about the sexual assault. If you have other injuries that are believed to have been caused by a crime, the medical provider may be required to report the other injuries to law enforcement.

If evidence is collected, a report to law enforcement will be made because law enforcement stores the evidence. There are three types of reports and which one is made is up to you. A victim advocate can provide you with more information about your reporting options, and maintaining your safety throughout the process.

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.

Three Types of Reports

Law Enforcement Report

A victim reports the sexual assault to law enforcement and engages in the criminal justice system.

Medical Report

A victim chooses to obtain a medical forensic exam, but at that time chooses not to participate in the criminal justice system. Evidence and information is released to law enforcement **with** the victim's name and contact information. A medical reporting victim can choose to have evidence tested. If evidence was collected during your medical forensic exam and was not sent for testing, it will be stored for at least 2 years by local law enforcement. At any time after initially deciding not to report to law enforcement, you can change your mind and file a law enforcement report.

Anonymous Report

A victim chooses to obtain a medical forensic exam, but at that time chooses not to participate in the criminal justice system. Evidence and information is released to law enforcement **without** the victim's name and contact information, but with a unique tracking number. An anonymous reporting victim cannot choose to have evidence tested, but it will be stored for at least 2 years by local law enforcement. At any time after initially deciding not to report to law enforcement, you can change your mind and file a law enforcement report.

Covering the Costs of Care

The SAVE Program for Medical and Anonymous 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 303-239-5719.

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

Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) funds are available to victims who report to law enforcement and stay engaged in the criminal justice system. Regardless of the outcome of the case, you have the right to apply to CVC for financial assistance for costs related to the crime. Some 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, and property damage to exterior windows, locks, and doors. CVC can pay up to $30,000 per person. You can also apply for CVC funds if you are a medical or anonymous reporting victim who later decides to report to law enforcement. For more 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.