

SEXUAL ASSAULT

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look out
step up
speak out
adults
network

[sexual assault] affects many people.

[anyone can be sexually assaulted]
men, women, adults, children, straight, or GLBT folks.

Sexual assault can happen within the context of a dating relationship, family, friendship, and between acquaintances or classmates.

[if you have been sexually assaulted, know that you are not to blame] No one deserves to be assaulted.

[what can i do?]

If you have been sexually assaulted, there are some immediate steps you can choose to follow.

[within 3 days]

You can be examined and cared for at an emergency room.
You do not have to file a police report to be seen at an ER.

You can choose what happens at the hospital:
You may request medications to prevent pregnancy, HIV infection and sexually transmitted infections.

You can be tested for rape drugs (within 72 hours)
If you think you have been drugged, you can request a toxicology kit

You can have evidence collected.

You can get support.

Local rape crisis centers (such as the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center- www.barcc.org) have specially trained Medical Advocates who can meet you at the ER and support you.

You can choose not to go to the ER. You can call a hotline for support (BARCC's hotline is 1.800.841.8371)

[after 3 days]

You can choose to go to the hospital for an examination, be cared for, and have evidence collected. With increased time between the assault and your visit there may be less evidence available. But, it is always important to take care of your health and visiting the ER is always an option.

[1.800.899.4000] [www.reachma.org/pavenet]



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[medical exams]

You may request a sexual assault medical exam if you choose to visit the ER.

[before you visit the ER]

Try not to bathe, shower, wash your hands, brush your teeth or hair, or go to the bathroom. *During a medical exam, the nurse or doctor may collect evidence. However, if you have already bathed, evidence collection is still an option.*

If you can, do not change your clothes. *If you have already, put your clothes in a clean paper bag and bring them with you to the ER.*

When you get to the ER, you can ask to have an Evidence Collection Kit done. *Some hospitals have specially trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) who are experts at doing this kit. If you can, try to go to a hospital that is part of this program. (For information on SANE hospitals in Massachusetts, visit www.barcc.org)*

You do not need to file a police report to have evidence collected. *Evidence Kit will be held anonymously in the crime lab for up to 6 months or until you file a police report. When you file a police report the evidence may be analyzed. If you need more than 6 months to make a decision about filing with the police you can request an extension.*

You can request a Toxicology Kit if you think you have been drugged. *If the kit is completed within 72 hours, it may be able to detect rape drugs. Results of the Toxicology Kit are available to you without reporting the assault to the police, usually within six weeks after the kit is taken.*

[after you visit the ER]

You can call a hotline and receive support. *BARCC offers a free, confidential hotline at 1.800.841.8731.*

Consider contacting a sexual assault legal advocate. *BARCC offers free legal representation to help you make decisions about filing a police report and pressing charges.*

For other sexual assault resources in Massachusetts, see our Resources guide.

[1.800.899.4000] [www.reachma.org/pavenet]

