



Dear fellow citizen,

Sexual assault is a serious violent crime which can produce severe and lasting trauma for victims. Sadly, many of these victims are children as well as adults. A team of experienced attorneys in the Sex Crimes Bureau of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office is dedicated to ensuring that the perpetrators of these crimes are prosecuted aggressively.

Despite the large number of cases our office reviews and prosecutes, too many of these incidents go unreported. We have created this brochure to assist you in reporting sexual assault and to inform you of the other steps you should take to ensure that sex offenders are brought to justice. You will also find information on counseling services, victim services, victim compensation and prevention.

Whether you are a victim or someone with knowledge of one of these crimes, it is important for you to report any sexual assault as soon as possible. By working together we can bring these criminals to justice and make our community safer and stronger.

Sincerely,

*Bill Montgomery*

Bill Montgomery  
Maricopa County Attorney

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# SEXUAL ASSAULT



- **What Is Sexual Assault?**
- **What To Do If You Are Assaulted**
- **Counseling**
- **Victim Assistance**
- **Victim Compensation**
- **Prevention**



**BILL MONTGOMERY**  
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## WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual assaults are serious, violent and frightening crimes directed against women, men and children. Sexual assault is the act of having non-consensual sex with another person. This takes many forms including date rape, spousal rape, stranger rape, unwanted touching or any sexual behavior exhibited toward a child under the age of 15. A majority of sexual assault victims are female and a large percentage are assaulted by someone they know, not strangers. Despite the large number of cases that are reported, it is believed that more than 60% of sexual assaults go unreported.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ASSAULTED

Cooperation with police and prosecutors will bring sexual offenders to justice, and legal proceedings may prevent others from becoming future victims of sexual assault. The Maricopa County Attorney needs help to successfully prosecute offenders. If you or someone you know are the victim of a sexual assault, you (or the victim) should:

- Immediately call the police.
- Do not shower, bathe, douche, or change clothes until you have been medically examined.
- As soon as possible, receive a medical examination, which will allow evidence to be recorded by a professional.
- Do not touch any evidence. Do not change the sheets or touch anything the assailant might have touched, as these actions will destroy medical and legal evidence.
- Write down a description of the person who assaulted you with as much detail as possible, including the assailant's age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, and any other noticeable physical characteristics, such as birthmarks, tattoos, piercings, etc.

- Seek counseling. You are not alone and trained specialists are available to help.

Remember, if someone sexually assaults you, it is not your fault. You are never to blame for someone else's actions. If your child is the victim of sexual assault, the same procedures outlined above apply.

For a toll-free rape crisis hotline, call (800) 656-HOPE (4673).

## COUNSELING

Sexual assault is a traumatic violation of a person. Many victims of this crime find consolation through professional counseling. Counseling is recommended as a way to relieve the feelings of isolation and fault. Listed below are the numbers of several programs and crisis centers designed to specifically help sexual assault survivors:

**Community Information and Referral Service**  
24-Hour Information and Referral  
(602) 263-8856

**Childhelp Hotline**  
1-800-422-4453

**EMPACT**  
(480) 784-1514  
www.empact-spc.com  
Sexual Assault Hotline  
(480) 736-4949

## VICTIM ASSISTANCE

As a victim you have certain rights. When a case is filed by the Maricopa County Attorney, victims are contacted by the Victim Services Division so your rights can be explained. A separate pamphlet explaining these rights is available on our website:

[www.maricopacountyattorney.org](http://www.maricopacountyattorney.org)

## VICTIM COMPENSATION

If you have been the victim of a sexual assault committed in Maricopa County, you may be eligible for victim compensation. Victim compensation is designed to assist you with financial expenses incurred because of the sexual assault. You can apply for victim compensation to cover costs such as medical expenses, mental health counseling, and lost wages. You may be eligible for victim compensation if you:

- are victimized in Maricopa County;
- report the crime to a police agency within 72 hours;
- have suffered physical injury or mental distress as a direct result of the crime;
- have incurred an economic loss as a direct result of the crime which is not covered by another source (e.g., insurance policy);
- willingly cooperate with appropriate law enforcement agencies; and
- file an Application for Crime Victim Compensation within two years of the date of the crime.

To file a victim compensation claim, contact:

**Maricopa County Attorney's Office**  
**Victim Services Division**  
301 W. Jefferson Street, Suite 900  
Phoenix, Arizona 85003-2151  
(602) 506-8522

## PREVENTION

Area police departments are a good source of information on sexual assault. Police departments offer self-defense classes and provide information and presentations about preventing sexual assault. Knowledge is often the best weapon for preventing sexual assault. Call your local police agency for information and help regarding sexual assault.