

COUNSELING

Sexual assault can have a traumatic impact on victims. Counseling can help you cope with the aftermath of an assault. For more information and resources contact:

Community Information and Referral Services

24-Hour Information and Referral

2-1-1

Maricopa County Sexual Assault Hotline

(480) 736-4949

RAINN Rape Crisis Hotline

(800) 656-HOPE (4673)



AZ Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

2120 N. Central Ave., Ste. 1570

Phoenix, AZ 85004

(602) 279-2900

1-800-782-6400

City of Phoenix Family Advocacy Center

2120 N. Central Ave., Suite 250

Phoenix, AZ 85004

(602) 534-2120

Glendale Family Advocacy Center

6830 N. 57th Dr.

Glendale, AZ 85301

(623) 930-3720

Mesa Family Advocacy Center

225 E. 1st St.

Mesa, AZ 85201

(480) 644-4075

Scottsdale Family Advocacy Center

10225 E. Via Linda

Scottsdale, AZ 85258

(480) 312-6300

Southwest Family Advocacy Center

2333 N. Pebble Creek Pkwy., Suite A-200

Goodyear, AZ 85395

(623) 333-7900

Sexual Assault



Maricopa County
Attorney's Office



- What is it?
- What to do if you or someone you know is a victim
- Where to get help



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 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

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual assault is sexual intercourse, including the use of objects or oral sexual contact with another person without their consent. It is a serious, frightening and often violent crime that can take many forms including date rape, spousal rape, stranger rape, and/or incest. A majority of sexual assault victims are female and a large percentage are assaulted by someone they know, not strangers. It is estimated that more than 60% of sexual assaults go unreported.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ASSAULTED

- Immediately report the incident to police.
- Do not shower, bathe or otherwise clean your body, eat, drink, chew gum, or brush your teeth until you have been medically examined.
- Police can direct you to a safe center where a sexual assault medical exam can be conducted by specially trained medical professionals. This exam will not cost you anything.
- Do not change clothes or sheets or touch anything the assailant might have touched, as these actions may destroy important evidence.
- When deciding on a counselor, seek a qualified professional.

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

VICTIM RIGHTS

Under Arizona law, victims have the right to be informed of and present at criminal proceedings and to be notified if a suspect or assailant is released. Before a negotiated plea is accepted, it must be conferred to the victim. The victim has the right to be present at any proceeding involving a change of plea. At the time of sentencing the victim also has the right to provide the court with a victim impact statement. For more information on how sexual assault victims can exercise these and other rights, contact the MCAO Victim Services Division at:

(602) 506-8522

or

MaricopaCountyAttorney.org

VICTIM SERVICES

Victim Advocates are well-trained professionals who provide assistance to victims throughout the entire criminal justice system. They provide information, emotional support, and community resource referrals to help meet a victim's individual needs. An advocate has a good understanding of the legal system, and is well versed in victim rights and crisis intervention. Advocates serve as a liaison with the prosecutor handling the case and provide case related updates and criminal justice information.

VICTIM COMPENSATION

If you have been the victim of a sexual assault in Maricopa County, you may be eligible for victim compensation to assist you with financial expenses incurred because of the sexual assault. Covered costs include medical expenses, mental health counseling, and lost wages.

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