

What is sexual violence?

Sexual violence is generally defined as any type of sex act committed upon a person without that person's consent. Sexual violence includes a continuum of different types of acts and contexts, such as: Acquaintance Rape, Stranger Rape, Marital Rape, Statutory Rape, Child Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment.

Sexual Violence consists of a range of behaviors and acts including but not limited to: Unwanted or forced vaginal, oral, or anal penetration, Unwanted fondling, Exhibitionism, and Voyeurism

Common Responses to Sexual Violence:

There is no one typical response to sexual violence but many survivors experience a range of responses such as:

- Fear and anxiety
- Sadness and depression
- Intrusive memories of the assault
- Emotional numbing
- Difficulty concentrating
- Guilt and shame
- Anger
- Negative thoughts or beliefs
- Relationship difficulties
- Physical health problems

For more information or to speak with a victim advocate, please call SAVS at: (321) 617-7533
24-hour Rape Hotline (321) 784-HELP (4357)

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM SERVICES
Office of the State Attorney
18th Judicial Circuit



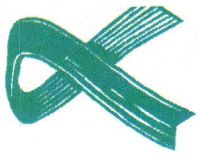
Sexual
Assault
Victim
Services

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building D
Viera, FL 32940

(321) 617-7533

Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. -5:00 p.m.

24-hour Rape Hotline (321) 784-HELP (4357)



You are not alone... We are here to help

Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) is a certified rape crisis program working in cooperation with the State Attorney's Office to provide free and confidential support and advocacy services to sexual assault victims and their loved ones.

SAVS is staffed with victim advocates who provide victims with emotional support and assistance in making informed decisions. SAVS advocates are specially trained to assist victims with options about reporting the crime and obtaining health care after the assault, as well as assist with coordination of services, information and referrals. Victim advocates also provide criminal justice information, assistance with Crime Victim Compensation, and referrals to appropriate community resources.

SAVS advocates are available 24 hours a day to provide crisis intervention and advocacy services. SAVS has a rape crisis center staffed with sexual assault nurse examiners and advocates readily available at any time. Advocates can provide support throughout the sexual assault forensic examination as well as accompany victims to interviews with law enforcement and courtroom appearances.

SAVS offers a free and confidential support group for female victims of sexual assault 18 years of age or older. Please call (321) 617-7533 for more information.

SAVS SERVICES INCLUDE:

- **Advocacy for all victims of sexual assault, primary and secondary**
- **Services for reporting and non-reporting victims**
- **24-hour Rape Hotline: (321) 784-HELP (4357)**
- **24-hour Crisis Intervention and Supportive Counseling**
- **24-hour Advocacy and Accompaniment**
- **24-hour Information and Referral Assistance**
- **Guidance through the criminal justice system; case status information and system coordination**
- **Crime Victim Compensation Assistance**
- **Victim Support Groups, free and confidential**
- **Special advocacy for child victims and their families**
- **Rape prevention awareness and community education programs**
- **Other individualized services as needed**

IF YOU ARE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED:

Get to a safe place. If you do not feel safe and feel you are in danger, call 911. After an assault, your first instinct will be to clean yourself. It is extremely important that you do not shower, bathe, douche, brush your teeth, wash your hands or change clothes. If you can avoid it, do not go to the bathroom. Do not eat, drink or take any medication including Tylenol or aspirin, unless life sustaining.

Seek medical attention. To ensure your health and to help with proper evidence collection, you should be examined immediately after the assault by medical personnel. It is your right to have a forensic sexual assault exam regardless of your decision to report the crime to the police. There is no fee to a victim for having this exam. SAVS has a Rape Crisis Center staffed with sexual assault nurse examiners and victims advocates ready to assist you. If you are injured or feel that you may have been drugged, you should go to the Emergency Room.

Remember, sexual assault is a crime of violence and **IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT!**

If you want to report the crime, the police should be called as soon as possible. Reporting attacks is an important part of ending violence and the first step at holding offenders accountable. There are many programs and services that may be available to you once you report the assault, such as applying for Crime Victim Compensation, Sexual Violence Injunctions, and assistance with the Criminal Justice System.