

Advocacy Services

You have the right to talk to a victim advocate from a rape crisis center. Rape crisis centers help victims of sexual abuse and harassment. They can also help victims' families. Victim advocates do not work for DPSCS. Services are free and can include:

- **Crisis Intervention:** Someone to talk with when you are feeling stressed or anxious
- **Safety Planning:** Someone to help you make a plan to stay as safe as possible
- Individual and group counseling
- Information about other services

Your facility must give you a reasonable chance to talk or write to a victim advocate. Talk to a victim advocate by:

- Writing them a letter
- Calling the crisis hotline
- In some facilities, you can ask for an in-person counseling visit

Confidentiality

Your facility must let you contact a victim advocate "in as confidential a manner as possible." You can ask a staff member or a victim advocate if calls or letters to a rape crisis center will be listened to or read by staff.

Victim advocates do not have to report to your facility if you tell them you were sexually assaulted. However, victim advocates are required by law to report certain types of abuse, like child abuse. This is called mandatory reporting. A victim advocate will tell you what they must legally report when you talk with them.

Rape Crisis Centers

ALLEGANY

Family Crisis
Resource Center
P.O. Box 3072
Lavale, MD 21504
Hotline: (240) 803-7372

CARROLL

Rape Crisis
Intervention Service
224 N. Center St. #102
Westminster, MD 21157
Hotline: (410) 857-7322

BALTIMORE CITY

TurnAround, Inc.
1800 North Charles St.,
Suite 404,
Baltimore, MD 21218
Hotline: (410) 828-6390

CAROLINE, DORCHESTER, KENT, QUEEN ANNE'S TALBOT

For All Seasons, Inc.
300 Talbot Street
Easton, MD 21601
Hotline: (410) 820-5600

ST. MARY'S

Certification in progress:
Southern Maryland Center
for Family Advocacy
23918 Mervell Dean Road
Hollywood, MD 20636
Hotline: (240) 925-0084

SOMERSET, WICOMICO, WORCESTER

Life Crisis Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 387,
Salisbury, MD 21803
Hotline: (410) 749-4357

WASHINGTON

CASA, Inc.
116 West Baltimore St.,
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Hotline: (301) 739-8975

ANNE ARUNDEL

Sexual Assault
Crisis Center
1517 Ritchie Hwy.
Suite 101,
Arnold, MD 21012
Hotline: (410) 222-6800

LEGAL SERVICES

Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI)
(301) 565-2277
P.O. box 8782
Silver Spring, MD 20907

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You Have the Right to be Free From Sexual Violence

The Prison Rape Elimination Act: A Guide for Prisoners

MCASA
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

What to Do if You Have Been Sexually Abused or Harassed

Sexual Assault Forensic Examination

You have the right to get medical care. A sexual assault forensic exam (SAFE) is free. It is performed by specially trained medical staff.

- You have the right to refuse the exam. You can stop the exam at any time.
- Physical evidence disappears quickly. SAFEs must be done within five days of the assault.
- Try not to eat, drink, brush your teeth, or use the bathroom before a SAFE. This may destroy evidence.
- If you need it, you have the right to emergency contraception and sexually transmitted infection (STI) medicine. You have a right to this medicine even if you do not name the person who assaulted you.

You have the right to talk to a victim advocate during a SAFE. A victim advocate can be there to support you and answer any questions you have.

Reporting Options

Reporting sexual abuse, harassment, or retaliation is your choice. You can report by telling a staff member. You can also make a written report.

You have the right to report to someone outside your facility. You can call the PREA Hotline **(410-585-3177)**. Reports to this number can be made without giving your name. These reports will be sent directly to the Intelligence & Investigative Division (IID).

Another person can report for you by:

- Telling a staff member or making a written report.
- Calling the IID **(410-724-5742)**
- Calling the PREA Hotline **(410-585-3177)**

If you are at risk of imminent sexual abuse, staff must act to protect you immediately.

All reports will be investigated.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT

to be free from sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and retaliation for making a report.

Sexual abuse includes any unwanted or forced sexual contact, display of private parts, or voyeurism, by a staff member, volunteer or other inmate.

Sexual harassment includes repeated and unwanted sexual comments, gestures, or actions.

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) follows the **Prison Rape Elimination Act** (PREA) standards. You can find the PREA standards at 28 C.F.R Part 115.

PREA Investigations

A PREA complaint is treated differently than other reports or grievances.

- Your facility cannot make you informally resolve a PREA complaint.
- You can immediately file an Inmate Grievance without filing a complaint for Administrative Remedy first.
- If you file an ARP about sexual abuse, it will be treated as a PREA report and sent to IID.

You have the right to ask for a victim advocate for emotional support during an interview with investigators.

Your facility must inform you about the outcome of the investigation. During the investigation, the facility will use a **preponderance of the evidence** standard to determine whether the evidence shows it is **more likely than not** that the incident happened.

Administrative investigations result in one of three outcomes:

- **Substantiated:** there is evidence the incident happened
- **Unsubstantiated:** there is not enough evidence to make a final decision as to whether or not the incident happened
- **Unfounded:** there is evidence the incident did not happen

If your report is **substantiated**, there may be a criminal investigation.

- A criminal investigation is done by Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Intelligence and Investigative division.
- A criminal investigation may eventually lead to the person who harmed you being charged and convicted of a crime.
- Criminal investigations use **beyond a reasonable doubt**, a higher standard of evidence.

Unless the complaint is unfounded, your facility will monitor your treatment for 90 days after you report sexual abuse. This is to protect you from further harm.