

# SOUTH DAKOTA SEXUAL ASSAULT GUIDE

- Sexual assault can take many forms, but one thing remains the same: **IT'S NEVER THE SURVIVOR'S FAULT.** The term sexual assault refers to sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the consent of the survivor including penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. Attempts to commit rape are also considered sexual assault.
- **Your safety is important.** Are you in a safe place? If you're not feeling safe, consider reaching out to someone you trust for support. You don't have to go through this alone.

## What happened was not your fault.

**It's important to remember that the victim is NEVER to blame for the actions of the perpetrator. Sexual assault is an act of power and control. Sexual assault may be carried out by anyone, including family members, friends, acquaintances, or strangers. Approximately 3 out of 4 sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows. Perpetrators of sexual assault use manipulation and threats to commit their crime, and often use alcohol and drugs to incapacitate victims.**

- Immediate medical attention allows for the collection of evidence for a criminal investigation, called a sexual assault kit. Specially trained staff complete a sexual assault kit to collect evidence for use in future prosecution. Your nurse, doctor, or advocate can explain exactly what this would entail.
- A sexual assault kit is best completed within 6 hours of the assault, though evidence can be collected up to 120 hours after (5 days).

**Am I required to have a sexual assault exam completed?** *No, you are not. The hospital also cannot refuse to complete the exam if you are undecided about prosecuting your perpetrator.*

**Will I need to make a police report?** *No, you can choose to be treated in an emergency room and/or have a sexual assault exam completed without talking to police.*

- If you are currently unsure about prosecuting, having a sexual assault exam completed will help keep your options open at no cost to you. Evidence can be kept for a year as you consider these options. Hospital personnel will inform you exactly how long evidence will be stored. The sexual assault exam CANNOT be released to the police without your signature on the authorization form.
- You can also choose to get your exam completed anonymously as a "Jane Doe" kit.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

### SEEK MEDICAL TREATMENT

- Getting immediate medical attention is important if you have been sexually assaulted. You may have physical injuries or may want testing and medication to rule out or prevent STIs, as well as an oral contraceptive to prevent pregnancy. You do not have to go alone. A friend, relative, or your advocate can accompany you to the hospital.

**Will I have to pay for the medical exam?** *No, you won't. The county in which the crime was committed will pay for the exam. Other charges may be covered by victim compensation.*



Together, we are  
**The Network.**  
The South Dakota Network Against  
Family Violence and Sexual Assault

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Sign up for SAVIN to receive arrest notices and updates at <http://savin.sd.gov/>

## LEGAL CONCERNS

**"I am concerned about talking to the police if I was using drugs and/or drinking alcohol."** *It is critical that you are truthful with the police, so they can understand the full extent of the crime, such as if it was alcohol or drug facilitated.*

**South Dakota law defines sexual assault by the action of the perpetrator, not the victim. There is a specific law that states the victim does NOT have to resist for it to be considered rape. As a sexual assault victim, you have rights in South Dakota, both Constitutional Rights (Marsy's Law) and Statutory Rights.**

## THINGS YOU MAY BE FEELING

**Survivors of sexual assault experience a wide range of reactions. It is important for you to know that your thoughts and emotions are okay. Your reactions are your own way of coping with the crime that has been committed against you.**

- Anger
- Anxiety
- Denial
- Depression
- Embarrassment
- Fear
- Grief
- Guilt or self-blame
- Isolation
- Irritability
- Relief
- Shame
- Vulnerability
- Crying
- Inability to cry
- Indecision
- Feeling stuck
- Shock and numbness
- Loss of control
- Loss of trust
- Suicidal thoughts
- Preoccupation with safety
- Changes in perception of the world
- Sexual fears
- Disrupted routine
- Muscle tension
- Pain
- Fatigue
- Changes in sleeping and eating patterns
- Flashbacks
- Nightmares
- Shortness of breath
- Injury
- Involuntary shaking
- Sexual dysfunction
- Vaginal discomfort

Advocates are trained to help you with a variety of these issues.

**Available services include counseling and clothing and household assistance.**

**Free legal service for sexual assault survivors, contact Jennifer Hynek at [jennifer@thecompasscenter.org](mailto:jennifer@thecompasscenter.org) or (605) 339-0116.**

## WHERE TO SEEK SUPPORT

**Victim Service Providers are trained to support and assist sexual assault survivors.**

### **Aberdeen** - SAFE HARBOR

Crisis Line: 605.226.1212 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.888.290.2935

### **Brookings** - BROOKINGS DOMESTIC ABUSE SHELTER

Crisis Line: 605.692.7233 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.888.643.5400

### **Brookings County State's Attorney Office**

Susie Rennich, Victim Witness Assistant | [srennich@brookingscountysd.gov](mailto:srennich@brookingscountysd.gov)

### **Burke** - GREGORY COUNTY SHELTER

Crisis Line: 1.800.658.3486

### **Chamberlain** - MISSOURI VALLEY CRISIS CENTER

Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.888.643.5400

### **Custer** - WOMEN ESCAPING A VIOLENT ENVIRONMENT (W.E.A.V.E)

Crisis Line: 605.673.4357 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.800.424.3574

### **Eagle Butte** - SACRED HEART CENTER

Crisis Line: 605.964.7233 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.800.390.9298

### **Flandreau** - WHOLENESS CENTER

Crisis Line: 605.997.5594 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.866.643.3379

### **Fort Thompson** - WICONI WAWOKIYA, INC.

Crisis Line: 605.245.2471 or 605.730.2471 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.800.723.3039

### **Huron** - JAN MANOLIS FAMILY SAFE CENTER

Crisis Line: 605.350.6663 and 605.350.6690

### **Lake Andes** - NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY BOARD WOMEN'S LODGE

Crisis Line: 605.487.7130

### **Lemmon** - COMMUNITIES AGAINST VIOLENCE AND ABUSE (CAVA)

Crisis Line: 605.244.7233

### **Madison** - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NETWORK OF THE LAKES REGION

Crisis Line: 605.480.2721

### **Martin** - SACRED SHAWL SOCIETY

Crisis Line: 605.685.1168

### **McLaughlin** - PRETTY BIRD WOMEN HOUSE

Crisis Line: 605.823.7233

### **Mission** - WHITE BUFFALO CALF WOMAN SOCIETY, INC. (WBCWS)

Crisis Line: Domestic Violence: 605.856.2317 | Sexual Assault: 605.828.0200

### **Mitchell** - MITCHELL AREA SAFEHOUSE

Crisis Line: 605.996.4440 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.888.996.8909

### **Mobridge** - BRIDGES AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Crisis Line: 605.845.2110

### **Pierre** - MISSOURI SHORES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER

Crisis Line: 605.224.7187 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.800.696.7187

### **Pine Ridge** - OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM

Crisis Line: 605.899.0084 or 605.899.0085

### **Rapid City** - WORKING AGAINST VIOLENCE, INC. (WAVI)

Crisis Line: Domestic Violence: 605.341.4808

Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.888.716.9284 | Sexual Assault: 605.341.2046

### **Redfield** - FAMILY CRISIS CENTER, INC.

Crisis Line: 605.472.0508

### **Sioux Falls** - CHILDREN'S INN

Crisis Line: 605.338.4880 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.888.378.7398

### **Sioux Falls** - THE COMPASS CENTER

Crisis Line: 605.339.0116 or 605.274.1442 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.877.462.7474

### **Sisseton** - WAC'ANG'A INC. (SWEETGRASS)

Crisis Line: 605.698.4129 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.888.200.4492

### **Spearfish** - VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

Crisis Line: 605.642.7825 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.800.999.2348

### **Sturgis** - CRISIS INTERVENTION SHELTER SERVICES, INC. (CISS)

Crisis Line: 605.347.0050 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.800.755.8432

### **Vermillion** - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFE OPTION SERVICES (DVSOS)

Crisis Line: 605.624.5311

### **Watertown** - BEACON CENTER

Crisis Line: 605.886.4300 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.800.660.8014

### **Winner** - WINNER RESOURCE CENTER FOR FAMILIES

Crisis Line: 605.842.2763 | Toll Free Crisis Line: 1.877.695.0558

### **Yankton** - RIVER CITY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER

Crisis Line: 605.665.1448

### **South Dakota Attorney General's Office Division of Criminal Investigation Victim Witness Program**

Cindy Schmit, Victim Witness Specialist | [cindy.schmit@state.sd.us](mailto:cindy.schmit@state.sd.us)

Gretchen Slate, Victim Witness Specialist | [gretchen.slate@state.sd.us](mailto:gretchen.slate@state.sd.us)