

Reporting Sexual Assault



Easy English



VICTORIA POLICE

This book has some hard words. Hard words are in **blue**. Read what the hard words mean on pages 25 to 30.

The police wrote this book.

In this book we use pictures of police in



- uniforms



- suits.

This book tells you what happens when you **report** a **sexual assault** to the police.



To report means to tell someone that something has happened.



A sexual assault is when someone

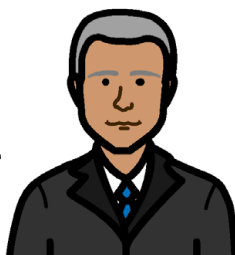
- does sexual things to you that you do **not** want

or

- tries to do sexual things to you that you do **not** want.



The police you talk to might wear a uniform.



You will talk a lot to police in suits.

We call the police in suits **detectives**.

Detectives are special police.

Some examples of sexual assault



Sexual assault can be more than 1 thing.
So it can be hard to know if someone has done a sexual assault. It is okay if you do **not** know.

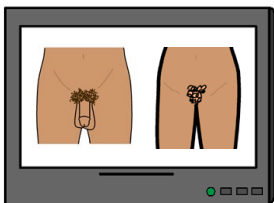


Detectives work out if someone has done a sexual assault. That is their job.



Sexual assault can be when someone

- tries to put something in your **private parts**

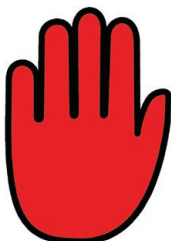


- shows you pictures of someone's private parts that make you feel bad



- touches your private parts

- asks you to touch their private parts.



You do **not** want the person to do any of these things.

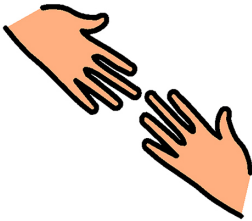


Why you should report a sexual assault to the police



Sometimes the person who did the sexual assault tells you **not** to tell anyone what they did.

Do **not** listen to them. You **can** tell someone.



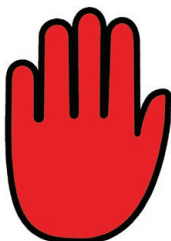
When you tell the police, they can

- help you
- make sure you are safe
- tell you who you can talk to for support.

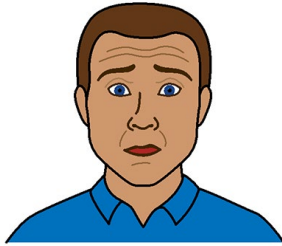


When you tell the police, this can help them

- find the person who did other sexual assaults
- stop the person doing more sexual assaults.



How you might feel when you report a sexual assault



When you report a sexual assault, you might

- feel embarrassed



- be scared

- think that you did something wrong



- think that nobody will believe you.



The police want you to know that they will

- listen to you

- not laugh at you

- take you seriously

- help you.



The police will make sure

- you are safe



- a doctor or nurse helps you if you are hurt



- you can see a **counsellor**.

It is okay to tell the police if the sexual assault happened a long time ago.

It is **never** too late to tell the police.



The investigation

After you tell the police about the sexual assault they might start an **investigation**.

The police will do 3 things. They will



1. write down or video record your **statement**



2. get **evidence**



3. talk to the **suspect**.



1. Your statement

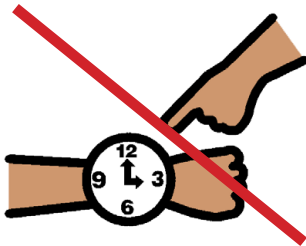
The police will ask you to make a statement.



Tell the police as much as possible

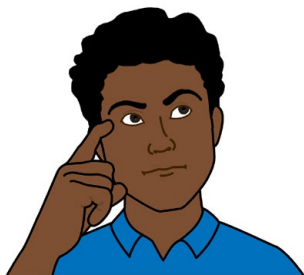
It is important to tell the police as much as possible.

Even small things can help the police do their job.



There is no need to rush

You might need time to think of everything that happened.



It might be hard to remember things that happened a long time ago.

You do **not** need to rush.



2. Evidence

The police must get evidence.

Evidence might be harder to get if the sexual assault happened a long time ago.



How the police get evidence

To get evidence the police will talk to

- you
- people who know what happened
- **witnesses.**





To get evidence the police might also need to

- take photos



- look for fingerprints



- keep things you had with you when the sexual assault happened. For example,
 - the shirt that you wore
 - the bag that you had.



You can ask the police to give your things back to you.

If the assault happened a long time ago, the police might **not** be able to do things like

- take photos
- look for fingerprints.



A medical exam

If the assault happened in the last 3 days the police might ask you to have a **medical exam**.

A medical exam might help the police get more evidence.

A doctor or nurse does the medical exam.



The doctor or nurse looks for things like

- semen



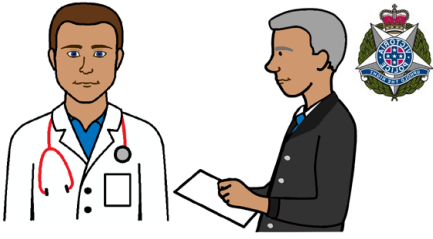
- bruises



- blood



- spit.



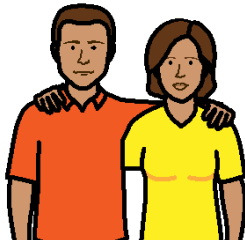
The doctor or nurse tells the police what they find.

Someone can be with you during the medical exam.



For example,

- counsellor



- family member



- friend.

A witness can **not** be with you during the medical exam.



You can say **no** to a medical exam.



3. The police talk to the suspect

When the police find the suspect, they must talk to the suspect.

This is called a police **interview**.

The police might interview the suspect **more** than once.



There might be **more** than 1 suspect.

You might **already** know the suspect.



What happens after the police interview the suspect?

The police will check

- how much evidence they have
- how good the evidence is
- how dangerous the suspect might be.



For example, the police might

- have a lot of good evidence
and
- think the suspect might be dangerous to
 - you
 - other people.



Then the police might put the suspect in jail.

The suspect will stay in jail until they have to go to court.

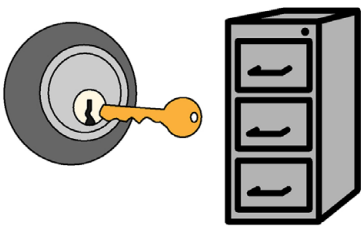


Sometimes, there is **not** enough evidence to prove what happened.

The police might

- not keep the investigation going
and
- let the suspect go.

This does **not** mean the police think you lied.



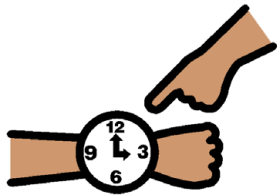
If the police have any evidence, they will keep the evidence in a safe place.



Later the police

- might find more evidence

- can use the evidence to prove what happened.



The investigation can take time

The investigation can take a long time.



The police should

- tell you new information
- tell you what they are going to do next.



You can ask the police questions about the investigation.



The police might need to talk to you **more** than once. It might upset you to talk about the sexual assault more than once.



Remember – the police are there to

- help you
- make sure you are safe.



Support during the investigation

You can ask for help any time. Ask

- the police



- your counsellor.

For example, they can tell you who can help you

- find a safe place to live



- get more help from a doctor

- know what happens during the investigation

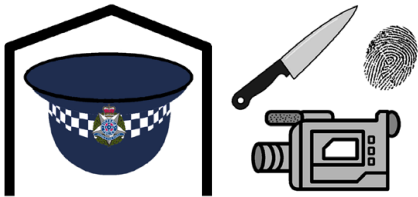


- understand what happens when you go to court.



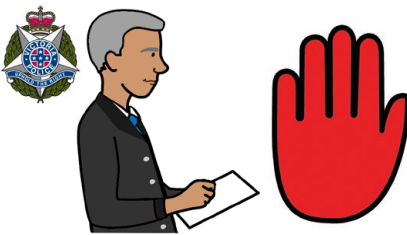
You want to stop the investigation

You can ask the police to **stop** the investigation.



The police will keep the evidence they found.

It is okay to ask the police to start the investigation again at any time.



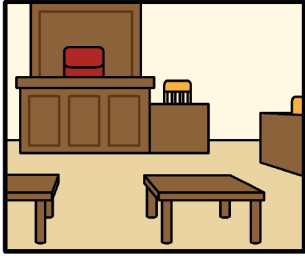
Why the police might not stop the investigation



The police might keep the investigation going if a **suspect**

- is a dangerous person
- might have hurt other people before
- might hurt someone else.

The police will let you know.



Going to court

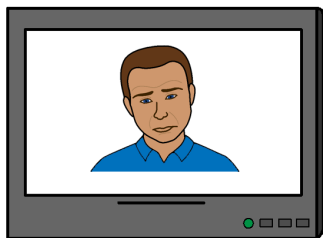
If the police charge the suspect, you might need to go to court.

At court

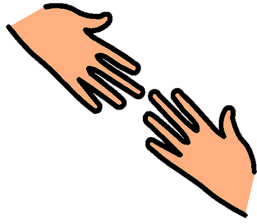
- you might have to talk about what happened to you
- the suspect might talk about what happened.

You do **not** have to see the suspect in court.

You can talk about what happened in another room.



People in court will see you on a screen.

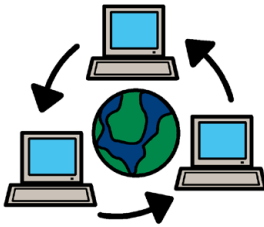


Support when you go to court

You can get special help in court for

- you
- your family.

This help is called **witness support**.



- Go to www.opp.vic.gov.au/witnesses-and-victims

or



- Call 1800 641 927



What to do in an emergency

In an **emergency**, call 000 **fast**.

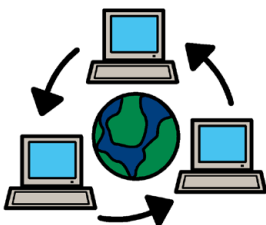
Who else can help you?

Centres Against Sexual Assault - CASA



- Call 1800 806 292

- Email ahcasa@thewomens.org.au



- Go to www.casa.org.au

After Hours Sexual Assault Crisis Line

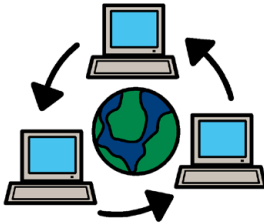


- Call 1800 806 292

National Sexual Assault, Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service



- Call 1800 737 732

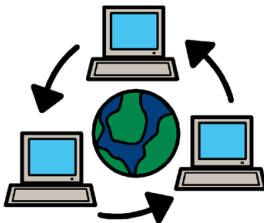


- Go to www.1800RESPECT.org.au

Department of Justice and Regulation Victims of Crime



- Call 1800 819 817

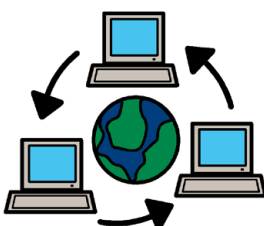


- Go to www.victimsofcrime.vic.gov.au

Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre



- Call 1800 015 188



- Go to www.safesteps.org.au

Women's Legal Service Victoria



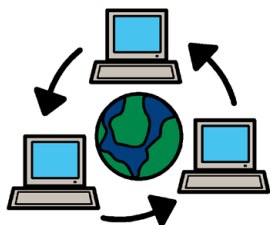
In Melbourne

- Call 03 8622 0600



In country Victoria

- Call 1800 133 302



- Go to www.womenslegal.org.au

Hard words



Counsellor

A counsellor is someone you can talk to about your problems.

Detective

Detectives are special police.



They wear suits.

When you report a sexual assault, you will talk to detectives a lot.

Detectives work out

- what happened
- if someone has done a sexual assault.



Emergency

An emergency is when something bad

- happens now
- or
- just happened.

For example, the suspect



- hurts you
- hurts someone you know
- phones you and scares you



- comes to your house, and you do **not** feel safe.



Evidence

Evidence is something that helps the police

- find out what happened
- prove to other people what happened.



Interview

An interview is when the police talk to someone.



Investigation

Investigation means the police work out

- what happened

- if someone did a sexual assault.

Detectives do the investigation.



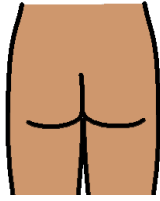
Medical exam

A medical exam is a special health check.

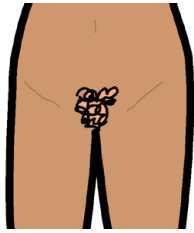
It is sometimes called a forensic exam.

Private parts

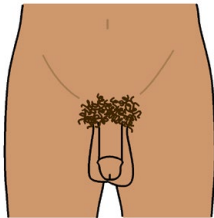
Private parts are a person's



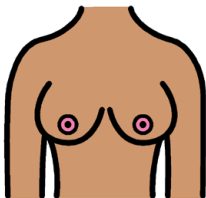
- bottom



- vagina



- penis



- breasts.

You might use other words for your private parts. That is okay.



Report

To report means to tell someone that something has happened.

Sexual assault

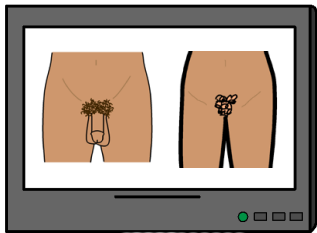
A sexual assault is when someone

- does sexual things to you that you do **not** want
or
- tries to do sexual things to you that you do **not** want.



Sexual things can be when someone

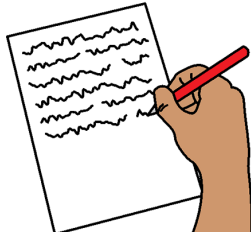
- puts something in your private parts



- shows you pictures of someone's private parts



- touches your private parts
- asks you to touch their private parts.

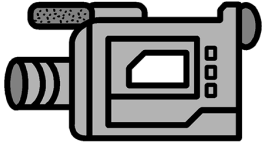


Statement

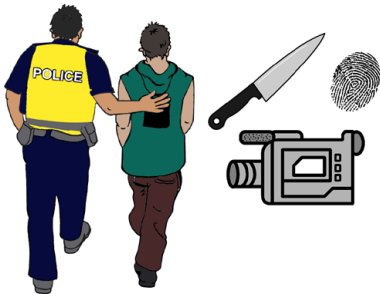
A statement is what you said happened to you.

The police

- usually write down the statement with you



- sometimes might video tape the statement.



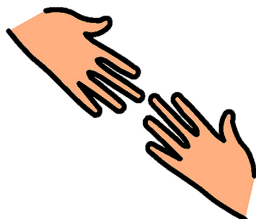
Suspect

The suspect is the person who you say sexually assaulted you.



Witness

A witness is a person who saw what happened.



Witness support

This is special help in court for

- you

- your family.

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Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre
wrote the Easy English. July 2015 www.scopevic.org.au
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