

FAQ's about reporting Sex Assaults

What is sexual assault?

Sexual assault is forced sexual contact without that person's consent.

Why it's important to report?

The majority of sexual assaults/rapes are not reported. Most rapists do not just commit one rape. That means offenders are not held accountable for their crimes.

What do I do if I'm raped?

Call **911** as soon as possible.

Can I be raped by my husband/partner?

Yes, rape is rape regardless of who perpetrates the crime.

It's been a long time since the sexual assault/rape; can I still make a report?

Yes, even up to 5 days, evidence can still be collected in a sexual assault forensic exam and you have three years (statute of limitations) to make the report. (Sex assault on a **child** has no statute of limitation).

I want a safe sexual assault forensic exam but don't want to report to law enforcement. (Violence Against Women Act 2005)

As of January 2009, victims of sexual assault may have a sexual assault forensic exam without reporting to law enforcement. Just go to your local hospital, ideally one with a Sex Assault Nurse Examiner, such as Denver Health or St. Anthony's.

I'm not sure if I want to prosecute

You will not have to make a decision until further along in the investigative process. You will be given all of the information you need to make an informed decision about what is best for you.

Can I be raped by someone of the same sex?

Yes

Facts

89% percent of sexual assaults/rapes are committed by non-strangers - meaning the victim knows the perpetrator in some capacity: a friend, partner, co-worker, or school mate. The drug most commonly used to facilitate sexual assault is alcohol.

Should I still report if?

I was drinking/drank

I was using drugs

I was dancing with the suspect

I was making out with the suspect

I went home/*he* came to my place

I had consensual sex previously with the suspect

Yes, the *responsibility* of sexual assault/rape lies with the *actions of the perpetrator*.

More Help: Colorado Coalition Against Sex Assault

<http://www.ccasa.org/>