

### **If You are Sexually Assaulted...**

Sexual assault takes many forms including attacks such as rape or attempted rape, as well as any unwanted sexual contact or threats. Usually a sexual assault occurs when someone touches any part of another person's body in a sexual way, even through clothes, without that person's consent.

#### **Some types of sexual acts which fall under the category of sexual assault include:**

- Forced sexual intercourse (rape)
- Sodomy (oral or anal sexual acts)
- Incest
- Fondling
- Attempted rape

Sexual assault in any form is often a devastating crime. Assaultants can be strangers, acquaintances, friends, or family members. Assaultants commit sexual assault by way of violence, threats, coercion, manipulation, pressure, or tricks. Whatever the circumstances, no one asks or deserves to be sexually assaulted.

#### **What to do if you are sexually assaulted:**

- Contact your local law enforcement agency or dial 911.
- Reporting the crime as a victim is not required by law, but is highly recommended to prevent future attacks by the perpetrator.
- Remember to seek medical attention as soon as possible.
- **DO NOT** shower, eat, smoke, or change clothing as these actions can destroy evidence of the attack.
- Also, Safeline is an organization which provides a 24 hour hotline to victims of domestic abuse, rape, or forcible sodomy. As a victim you have certain rights. Their number is (800) 522-7233.

*This project supported by Grant No. 2018-V3-GX-0025 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime. 2022 DAC Training and Outreach*

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