



What Is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is any unwanted sexual touching that occurs in circumstances of a sexual nature and violates the sexual integrity of the victim. It can include many types of touching or activity, from kissing to sexual intercourse. Sexual assault can happen to anyone, of any gender, sexual orientation, race or income level.

Sexual assault can be committed by anyone; a stranger, a friend, a partner, a

family member or a person in a position of authority.

Sexual assault can cause trauma. It can result in unpleasant feelings, thoughts, sensations and emotions both during and after the sexual assault. Responses to highly stressful situations vary from person to person and not all people will experience the same reactions at the same level of intensity, nor for the same length of time. However, it is important to recognize that whatever the reaction is, it is normal to feel overwhelmed by the process.

Where to go for help...



Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre

www.kawarthasexualassaultcentre.com

(705) 748-5901

(705) 710-5234 (24/7 text)

YWCA Peterborough/Haliburton

www.ywcapeterborough.org

(705)743-3526

Women's Health Care Centre

(705) 743-2121 ext 0 – ask for on call SA/DV Nurse

Victim Services of Peterborough & Northumberland

www.victimservicespn.ca

(705) 748-0324

Victim Witness Assistance Program

(705) 755-5150

Peterborough Youth Services

www.pysonline.ca

(705)743-1681 (AGES 10-18)

Community Counselling & Resource Centre

www.ccrcc-ptbo.com

(705)742-4258

WWW.SURVIVORTOOLKIT.CA

(Guide For Survivors in Peterborough)

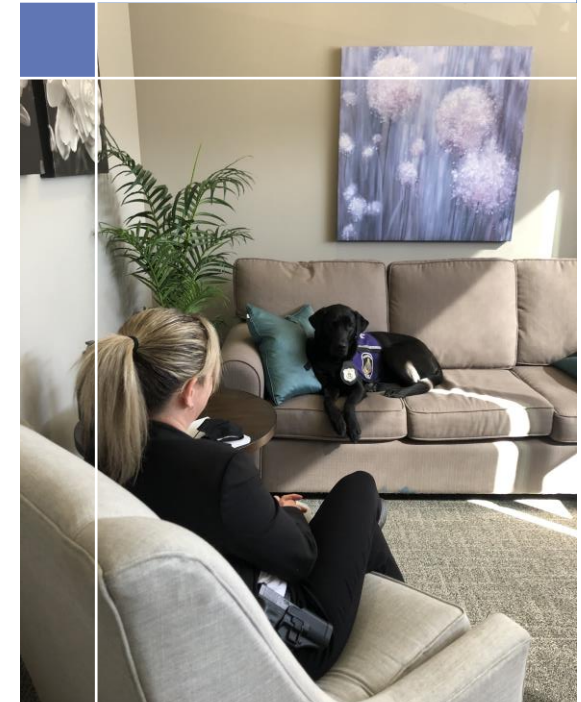
Peterborough Police Service

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GUIDE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

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Victim Services Unit



Victim Services Unit

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victimservices@peterborough.ca

YOUR OPTIONS

- 1) **REPORT** – You may choose to report the assault to Police. You will be met first by a Uniform Police Officer who will gather general information, ensure your safety & refer you to any medical services if needed.
- 2) **MEDICAL CARE** – If you require emergency medical care, STI testing, Sexual Evidence Kit, injury documentation contact **Women’s Health Care Centre**. You can choose to involve police afterwards.
- 3) **NO ACTION**- You may choose to refrain from taking any action. It is recommended that you reach out for help through your personal support network, community sexual assault resource centre, LBGTQ and community resources, trained professional counsellors, your family doctor and/or peer support group.

“When I first met with the Victim Services Unit of the Peterborough Police, I immediately felt that I was in a safe place to share my story. Each person I talked to listened with deep understanding and true compassion. I knew at that moment that I would no longer have to weather my storm alone and that was powerfully healing.” - Survivor

IF I PROCEED WITH REPORTING....

After you speak with a 911 Communicator, a Uniformed Officer will be dispatched to meet with you at a safe location. Their job is to take some basic information about what happened.

In some cases, a Detective from the Sexual Offences Unit will be assigned to your case. The Detective will schedule a formal interview with you, and you may have a support person accompany you to the Police Station.

If required for the investigation, the Detective may need to interview others who were aware of the incident, or in the vicinity. They may also ask to review cell phone or social media records. This is called corroborating evidence.

The Detective will keep you informed of the progress of the investigation in a timely manner.

If you wish to proceed and make a statement to the police, but do not wish to participate in the court process, the Police may have the option to formally caution the suspect for sexual assault. A caution may or may not prevent further incidents in the future but can be used to collect statistical data. The caution is noted in a local police occurrence.

WHAT HAPPENS IF CHARGES ARE LAID?

First you will be notified if charges are laid. Depending on the circumstances, the police can hold an accused for a bail hearing or release them on conditions.

In either event, you will be afforded protection terms where the accused person cannot have contact with you.

The local Crown Attorney’s Office becomes involved and the Victim Witness Assistance Program.

You have a right to be informed about any release orders, court dates and provide a victim impact statement.

WHEN CHARGES ARE NOT LAID

Sometimes a criminal charge cannot be laid. This does not mean that the police do not believe you or that the sexual assault did not happen. It may mean that there is not enough evidence to prove a criminal charge in court. If this does occur, the Detective can explain why this has happened in your case and can tell you of other assistance available to you, some of which are listed in this guide.

CAN I REPORT A SEXUAL ASSAULT YEARS AFTER IT OCCURRED?

In Canada, there is no statute of limitation for sexual offences, which means you can report to police no matter how long ago it happened and someone can be charged with sexual assault. The passage of time does, however, impact on the police ability to gather evidence.

WHAT IF I WORK IN THE SEX TRADE?

Anyone can be sexually assaulted at anytime, anywhere by anyone. This means a sex trade worker can be sexually assaulted by a client. Any sexual contact that was not consensually agreed to is a sexual assault. Working as a sex trade worker is not an offence, so you will not be arrested for that if you report a sexual assault to police.

WHAT IF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT INVOLVES MY CURRENT OR FORMER PARTNER (HETEROSEXUAL, GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TWO-SPIRITED, TRANSGENDER)

Anyone can be a victim/survivor of intimate partner violence, which can include sexual abuse. There is a provincial mandate that directs all police officers in Ontario to proceed with charges specifically related to domestic violence. If, it is determined a sexual assault has been committed and reasonable grounds are established police shall proceed with charges.

