

# YOUR RIGHTS

Your Rights as a Survivor of Sexual Assault

**CALCASA**  
CALIFORNIA COALITION  
AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

You are never required to participate in the criminal justice system or receive a physical exam in order to keep your rights. You get to choose whether you get an exam, whether and how you report the assault, and how much you participate in the process.

## YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL RAPE CRISIS CENTER, AT:

For more information and support. Rape crisis centers have confidential advocates that keep conversations private.

Law Enforcement

Medical Provider

can be contacted at:

This card is an outline of your rights and resources and may not include all the rights/options that may be available to you. Under California law (Cal. Penal Code § 680.2) any law enforcement officer or medical provider must provide you with a card that clearly spells out your rights. If you have further questions, please contact your rape crisis center, medical provider, and/or law enforcement officer.

## YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- **Seek a Civil Protection Order**  
More information on the process here:  
<http://www.courts.ca.gov/1260.htm>
- **Seek an Emergency Protective Order**  
To help keep you safe.  
(ask a law enforcement officer)
- **Seek Financial Assistance**  
For covering the costs arising from your assault (through Victim Compensation in California), and the process for applying can be found here:  
<http://victims.ca.gov/victims/howtoapply.aspx>
- **Have a 24-Hour Confidential Sexual Assault Counselor (victim advocate) Or at Least One Other Person of Your Choosing**  
Present during any exam or investigative interview

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## YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- **Ask for the Status and Results** of the analysis of all evidence related to your assault.
- **Ask the law enforcement officer for a tracking number** and steps to get follow up information.
- **Know that DNA and other types of evidence can degrade/break down overtime due to exposure to heat, water, and other materials.** In general, DNA evidence on the body last from 12 hours to 7 days.

## YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Whether or not the evidence is analyzed within 18 months of your assault.
- Whether or not a DNA profile of your assailant was developed from the evidence.
- Whether or not the DNA profile of your assailant has been entered into the law enforcement database.
- Whether or not the DNA profile of your assailant matches a DNA profile contained in the law enforcement database.

If the evidence related to your assault will be tested, it should be transported to the lab and analyzed within **24 MONTHS**

The evidence related to your assault must be kept for **20 YEARS**, or for victims under age 18 at the time of the offense, until your 40th birthday

You have the right to request in writing and receive a **FREE COPY OF THE INITIAL CRIME REPORT** related to your assault.

If your assailant is convicted and required to register as a sex offender, you have the right to **REQUEST THEIR SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY INFORMATION** from the prosecutor.

Any questions related to your rights as a survivor of sexual assault can be answered by your rape crisis center confidential advocate.

Advocates are trained in support services, local referrals, and law enforcement and other government processes.

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