

Criminal Justice System Options for Adults* After Sexual Assault

Not report through the criminal justice system

OR

Report directly to police (no time limit)

OR

Make a third-party report to police (no time limit)

You can get practical and emotional support from a victim services worker whether or not you report. Contact VictimLINK at 1-800-563-0808 or by text at 604-836-6381.

How does it work to make a...

Direct report?

Police decide whether there's enough evidence to recommend to Crown (government lawyers) that charges be laid. Crown decides whether there will be charges. Once you have reported an assault to police, you do not control whether the person who assaulted you will be charged with a criminal offense.

Third-party report?

A third-party report is an anonymous report to police (without giving your name). It can be sent through a **community-based victim services worker**. If police later receive information that fits with your report and want to investigate, they can contact you through the victim services worker. It is your choice whether to work directly with police.

The 3 choices above can be combined with other options. Turn over the page for ideas.

*Youth under 19 might not always have these same choices. This is because all people in BC are legally required to report to the Ministry of Children and Family Development if they believe that a youth under 19 is experiencing abuse and needs protection.

Other Steps You Can Consider

Talk to someone you trust.

Access support services.

The Resource List has a few ideas.

Find out your reporting and support options on campus.

By law, all post-secondary institutions in BC must have a policy on sexual violence and publish it online.

Explore community-based or restorative justice options.

Access health care services.

Research other legal options (like filing a human rights complaint, seeking a protection order or peace bond, or suing someone through civil law) .