

Sexual Assault Victim Information Guide

- Approach victims calmly. Showing your outrage at the crime may cause victims even more trauma.
- Ask victims whether they would like you to contact a family member or friend.
- Offer to contact a sexual assault crisis counselor. In addition, ask the victims whether they would prefer talking with you or a law enforcement officer of the opposite sex.
- Be careful not to appear overprotective or patronizing.
- Remember that it is normal for victims to want to forget, or to actually forget, details of the crime that are difficult for them to accept.
- Encourage victims to get medical attention, especially to check for possible internal injuries. In addition, a medical forensic examination can provide evidence for the apprehension and prosecution of the victim's assailant. However, keep in mind that victims may feel humiliated and embarrassed that their bodies were exposed during the sexual assault and must be exposed again during a medical examination. Explain what will take place forensically during the examination and why these procedures are essential.
- Preserve evidence on the victim (i.e., not taking a shower, nothing to eat or drink, not brushing teeth, and removing any clothes.)
- Notify the hospital of the incoming victim/patient and request a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE). Escort victims to the hospital. If no crisis intervention counselor or SANE is available, wait at the hospital until victims are released and escort them to their destination.

Kansas Coalition against Sexual and Domestic Violence

<https://www.kcsdv.org/about-kcsdv/>

For 24/7 confidential support, contact the following:

Kansas Crisis Hotline

1-888-END-ABUSE (1-888-363-2287)

Crime Victims Compensation Board

(785) 296-2359 Telephone

(785) 296-0652 Fax

<http://ag.ks.gov/victim-services/victim-compensation>



Kansas VINE

Kansas Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) is a service provided through the collaboration of the Kansas Department of Labor, the Office of the Attorney General and the Kansas Sheriffs' Association. The VINE system allows victims of crime to use the telephone or Internet to search for information regarding the custody status of their offender and to register to receive telephone and email notification when the offender's custody status changes.

Kansas VINE is a service specific to offenders in county custody.

The VINE toll-free number is **(866) 574-8463**.