



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A **SEXUAL ASSAULT** SURVIVOR

The State of Missouri is committed to protecting survivors of sexual assault. Understand your rights and access resources, including:

- Rights of sexual assault survivors
- Rights of crime victims
- Seeking medical attention
- Contacting law enforcement
- Orders of protection
- Available resources and support
- Automated notifications
- Financial assistance

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR RIGHTS

In addition to the rights that all crime victims have under Missouri law, sexual assault survivors have the right to:

Consult with an employee or volunteer of a rape crisis center, who can provide support and advocacy.

1

A sexual assault forensic examination or, if available, a telehealth examination.

2

A shower and change of clothes after the exam, as reasonably available, at no cost to the survivor.

3

Be examined or interviewed by an appropriate medical provider or law enforcement officer of the gender of the survivor's choosing, when available.

4

An interpreter who can communicate in the language of the sexual assault survivor's choice, as is reasonably available, in a timely manner.

5

Choose whether to consent to a sexual assault forensic examination to collect evidence, and how the evidence collected will be used. A victim's choices about the evidence collection kit are:

6

- **REPORTED** - The sexual offense is reported to law enforcement for investigation and the kit is sent to the crime lab for testing.
- **ANONYMOUS** - The kit is sent to law enforcement and to the crime lab for testing without identifying you. No investigation will occur.
- **UNREPORTED** - The kit is collected and stored but not tested. No investigation will occur.

7
If you have a sexual assault forensic examination kit collected, you can track the evidence by going to: **<https://safetrack.mo.gov>** and entering your kit's bar code number and your authentication code. If you do not remember those two numbers provided when your kit was collected, you can obtain them by contacting the medical provider that collected the evidence or the assigned law enforcement agency.

8
Obtain complete copies of the police reports regarding your case. These reports may be requested from the investigating law enforcement agency.

9
Be free from intimidation, harassment, and abuse in any related court proceeding, and reasonable protection from the offender or any person acting on the offender's behalf following the survivor's disclosure of the sexual assault.

CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS

All victims of crime have rights. Under Missouri law those rights include:

- To be present at all criminal justice proceedings at which the defendant has such right.
- To be informed of and heard at guilty pleas, bail hearings, sentencings, probation revocation hearings and parole hearings.
- To be informed of trials and preliminary hearings.
- Restitution.
- Reasonable protection from the defendant or any person acting on behalf of the defendant.
- Information concerning the release, escape, recapture or death of the accused while in custody or confinement.
- Information about how the criminal justice system works, the rights and availability of services and information about the crime.

SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION



If you have been sexually assaulted, seeking medical attention is important. Visit a hospital emergency room as soon as possible for treatment of injuries and a medical forensic examination. You have a right to a forensic medical examination at no charge within five days of an assault, whether or not you choose to file a police report. The forensic medical examination will assist with the investigation and potential prosecution if you choose to file a police report. Even if more than five days has passed since the assault, a survivor is encouraged to seek medical attention.



HELP AND SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE

There are 24-hour Crisis Lines that are open to anyone who has questions or issues related to sexual violence. Trained advocates are available to provide emotional support, crisis intervention, information, referrals, and problem solving to victims of sexual violence as well as their friends and family members.

VICTIM RESOURCES:

**National Sexual
Assault Hotline:**
(800) 656-4673

**Missouri Suicide and
Crisis Lifeline:**
Dial 988

**National Domestic
Violence Hotline:**
(800) 799-7233

**Deaf Crisis Line
Videophone:**
Call (321) 800-3323 or
Text Hand to 939683

KANSAS CITY METRO AREA:
**Metropolitan Organization to
Counter Sexual Assault**
24-hour Crisis Line: (816) 531-0233
Relay Services: 711



ST. LOUIS METRO AREA:
YWCA Metropolitan St. Louis
24-Hour Help Line: (314) 531-7273



**Missouri Coalition Against Domestic
and Sexual Violence**
www.mocadsv.org/how-to-get-help
Locate Assistance in Your Area



CONTACT LAW ENFORCEMENT

It is always a survivor's right to choose whether to report a sexual assault. If you wish to make a report, it is recommended that a report be made as soon as possible after the incident. You may contact law enforcement at any time. Filing a report as soon as possible after the incident may aid in an investigation. However, even if you did not make a report immediately after the assault, you still have the right to report it to law enforcement later.



ORDERS OF PROTECTION

An order of protection is a form signed by a judge that orders a person to stop abusing, stalking, sexually assaulting, or harassing another person.

- There is no cost to a survivor to obtain an order of protection.
- You do not need a lawyer to get an order of protection.
- You must file for an order of protection in the county where you live, where the alleged abuse occurred, or where the Respondent can be served (i.e., where they live or work).
- A judge decides whether to grant an order of protection

Visit your local Circuit Clerk's office to request a form or visit www.courts.mo.gov. For assistance in completing the form, reach out to a local rape crisis or domestic violence agency advocate or an advocate associated with the prosecutor's office.

AUTOMATED VICTIM NOTIFICATIONS

The Missouri Automated Victim Notification System (MOVANS) is a free service that offers registered users the option to receive updates on the status of an offender, such as incarceration and release information, court events and orders of protection. Registrants have the option to receive notifications by text, phone call or email.



REGISTER:

www.dps.mo.gov/dir/programs/cvsu/movans.php



CALL:

(866) 566-8267 or
(573) 526-1929

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Victims of sexual assault may be eligible for financial assistance from the Missouri Crime Victims' Compensation Program for out of pocket medical and/or counseling expenses. Eligibility can only be determined by submitting a completed application. Minimum eligibility requirements must be met:

- Applications must be submitted within two years of the crime date or discovery of the crime.
- The crime must have occurred in Missouri; if the crime occurred in another state, the victim must be a Missouri resident.
- The sexual assault must be reported to a proper authority, including: a law enforcement agency, a prosecuting attorney, an appropriate licensed medical provider, a sexual assault forensic examiner, a court for purposes of securing an order of protection.

CVC is a payor of last resort and will only consider crime-related losses not covered by other collateral sources such as health insurance, Medicaid, Workers' Compensation, crowd-sourced funds and Medicare. If a victim is gainfully employed on the crime date and the employer provides paid leave, the leave must be exhausted before CVC may consider lost wages.



Missouri Department of Public Safety Crime Victims' Compensation Program



**P.O. Box 1589
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1589**



Phone: 573-526-6006



Email: CVC@dps.mo.gov



www.dps.mo.gov/dir/programs/cvc

This document is provided by the Missouri Department of Public Safety, pursuant to RSMo 595.201.

Revised March 2023