

# **Know Your Rights: Sexual Assault**

*Safety Tips for you  
and Your Family  
(<http://www.andvsa.org>)*

**If you are in danger, call 911 or  
your local police emergency number**

To find out about help in your area, call  
National Sexual Assault Hotline:  
**1-800-656-HOPE (4673)**

STAR'S Sexual Assault Crisis Line  
24 Hour Crisis Line  
**1-800-478-8999**  
**1-907-276-7273**

## **D. Sexual Assault**

### **What Is Sexual Assault?**

Sexual assault is when intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, non-consensual indecent assault (unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling), or attempts to commit these acts. Sexual assault is “gender neutral” and it can happen to men and women.

*A person commits the crime of sexual assault in the first degree if:*

- A person engages in sexual penetration with another person without consent of that person;
- A person attempts to engage in sexual penetration with another person without consent of that person and causes serious physical injury to that person;
- A person engages in sexual penetration with another person:
  - who the offender knows is mentally incapable;
  - who is in the offender's care by authority of law; or
  - in a facility or program that is required by law to be licensed by the state
- A person engages in sexual penetration with a person who the offender knows is unaware that a sexual act is being committed and
  - the offender is a health care worker; and
  - the offense takes place during the course of professional treatment of the victim.

*(Alaska Statutes AS.11.41.410, 2005)*

### **What Should I Do If I Have Been Sexually Assaulted?**

You have a choice to report the sexual assault to your local police department. If you decide to report the assault they will need you to get medical examination; however, you are not required to get a medical examination. If the report is made in less than 96 hours from the time of the assault, the police will need a forensic examination to collect any evidence from your body. If a report is made there is a possibility of prosecuting the offender.

Even if you decide not to report the assault to the police, you should still make sure that you get a medical examination and sexually transmitted disease tests.

*If you have been sexually assaulted:*

- Do not change the clothes you were wearing at the time of the assault
- Do not eat or drink anything
- Do not bathe or shower, use a douche, wipe or wash your genitals
- If you have already changed your clothes, DO NOT wash them
- Let the police officer know that the clothing is available, if needed, for the police report