

Help to Prevent, Report, or Talk About Sexual Abuse or Attack

You have a right to get help.

When you are in jail or prison, you have a right to be free of sexual abuse or attack. If you fear an attack or if it has happened, ask to speak to a sexual assault advocate. This is a trained person from an outside agency, not staff on the inside.

The jail or prison staff must give you:

- The hotline number to call an advocate
- A mailing address to reach an advocate

What the advocate can do:

- Listen and understand, even about sexual abuse that took place long ago
- Help you decide whether to report an attack
- Talk about ways to take care of yourself and stay as safe as you can

The jail or prison must tell you if your talk with an advocate will not be kept private.

The law gives you these other rights (the Prison Rape Elimination Act):

- To be searched by someone of your same gender except in an emergency.
- To be kept safe from a sexual attack. Staff must think about whether you could be abused and must find ways to safely house you with other inmates.
- To get free mental health and medical care if you are attacked, even if you don't help staff look into it further.
- To know how to report sexual abuse or have another person report it. You have the right to know what happens after you report, to not have anyone "get even" with you, and to know the outcome of your case.

If you feel the law is not followed, you can file a grievance. An advocate can help you with this.

To call or write to an advocate, ask any correctional facility staff member for their contact information.