

This brochure summarizes important rights you have under Massachusetts law. To learn more about these rights, contact one of the rape crisis centers listed in this brochure or speak with the health care professional, law enforcement official, or victim advocate assigned to your case.

1. You have the right to consult with a sexual assault victim advocate.

- You have the right to request a consultation with a sexual assault victim advocate who shall have confidentiality and privilege **prior** to the administration of a sexual assault evidence collection kit or an interview with a law enforcement officer regarding the assault. A Sexual Assault Victim Advocate is a person employed or is a volunteer at a rape crisis center or rape crisis program
- If you choose not to speak with an advocate at first, you can always speak with an advocate at a later time.

2. You have the right to information about disclosing an assault to law enforcement and having a sexual assault evidence collection kit tested.

- The decision of whether to report a sexual assault to law enforcement is up to you.
- If you choose to report the assault to law enforcement, you do not need to write out your report or go to the law enforcement agency, although you may do so.
- If you choose to report a sexual assault, your kit will be tested at a crime lab.
- If you choose not to report a sexual assault, your kit will not be tested but will be stored appropriately by the law enforcement agency in the city or town where the assault occurred. Your kit can

only be tested if you report the sexual assault to law enforcement.

- The law enforcement agency in the city or town where the sexual assault occurred has a dedicated liaison that can assist you with this information request or any questions you may have.

3. You have the right to information regarding your sexual assault evidence collection kit.

- You have the right to know the kit's location, its testing date, the testing results, and when the kit may be destroyed.
- The location and testing date of your kit is available through <https://ma.track-kit.us>. The District Attorney or law enforcement agency handling your case can also provide you with this information.
- The District Attorney's office or law enforcement agency handling your case can provide you with the testing results from your kit.
- All kits must be held for at least 15 years. The District Attorney's Office or law enforcement agency can provide you with information on when your kit may be destroyed.

4. You have the right to information on the status of your case.

- If there is a criminal case pending, you have the right to know any change in the status of your case, and if the case has been closed or reopened at any time.
- The District Attorney's office or law enforcement agency handling your case can assist you with this information request.
- The Massachusetts Victim Bill of Rights provides additional rights pertaining to

your case.

5. You have the right to apply for victim compensation funds.

- The Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA), the District Attorney's office that is handling your case, or the liaison at the law enforcement agency handling your case can assist you with this information request.

6. You have the right to designate someone to obtain this information for you.

- You may choose another person to receive any or all of the information described in this brochure.

Massachusetts Rape Crisis Programs:

BOSTON:

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)

99 Bishop Allen Drive

*Cambridge, MA 02139-3428

Hotline: (800) 841-8371

[*additional sites in **Boston, Waltham** have full wheelchair access]

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS:

Pathways for Change

588 Main Street

Worcester, MA 01608-2014

Hotline: (800) 870-5905

TTY: (888) 887-7130

Office: (508) 852-7600

Wayside Trauma Intervention Services

Valley Rape Crisis Program

10 Asylum Street

Milford, MA 01757

Hotline: (800) 511-5070

TTY: (508) 478-4205

Office: (508) 478-6888

Voices Against Violence

South Middlesex Opportunity Council

7 Bishop Street

Framingham, MA 01702-8313

Hotline/TTY: (800) 593-1125

Hotline/TTY: (508) 626-8686

Office: (508) 820-0834

NORTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS:

The Center for Hope and Healing Hotline: (800) 542-5212
21 George Street, 4th floor TTY: (978) 452-8723
Lowell, MA 01852-1710 Office: (978) 452-7721

YWCA Northeastern Massachusetts Hotline: (877) 509-9922
38 Lawrence Street TTY: (978) 686-8840
Lawrence, MA 01840-1409 Office: (978) 682-3039 x2123
Lawrence, MA 01840-1409

[additional sites: **Lynn, Haverhill, Newburyport, Salem,**

Lynn: 20 Central Avenue, Suite 510, Lynn, MA 0190 (781) 477-2313

SOUTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS:

A Safe Place Hotline: (508) 228-2111
5B Windy Way Office: (508) 228-0561
Nantucket, MA 02554

The Women's Center Hotline: (508) 999-6636
New Bedford Women's Center TTY: (508) 996-1177
405 County Street Office: (508) 996-3343
New Bedford, MA 02740

A New Day Hotline: (508) 588-8255
Health Imperatives TTY: (508) 894-2869
942 West Chestnut Street Office: (508) 580-3964
Brockton, MA 02301-5567

Independence House Hotline: (800) 439-6507
160 Basset Lane Office: (508) 771-6507
Hyannis, MA 02601

CONNECT to end violence Hotline: (508) 696-7233
Martha's Vineyard Community Services TTY: (774) 549-9659
261 Upper Main Street Office : (774) 549-9667
Edgartown, MA 02539

New Hope Hotline: (800) 323-4673
247 Maple Street Office: (508) 226-4015
Attleboro, MA 02703

WESTERN REGION:

Elizabeth Freeman Center Hotline: (866) 401-2425
43 Francis Avenue TTY: (413) 499-2425
Pittsfield, MA 01201-5053 Office: (413) 499-2425

[additional sites: **North Adams, Great Barrington**

479 Main Street TTY: (413) 772-0815
Greenfield, MA 01301 Office: (413) 772-0871

New England Learning Center for Women in Transition (NELCWIT) Hotline: (413) 772-0806

Center for Women and Community Hotline: (413) 545-0800
University of Massachusetts – Amherst TTY: (413) 577-0940
New Africa House
180 Infirmary Way Office : (413) 545-0883
Amherst, MA 01003

YWCA of Western Massachusetts Hotline: (800) 796-8711
1 Clough Street TTY: (413) 733-7100
Springfield, MA 01118-2213 Office : (413) 732-3121

STATEWIDE:

Llámanos: Spanish Rape Crisis Hotline Hotline: (800) 223-5001

Deaf Survivors Program (Pathways) Video Phone: (508) 502-7681

Each Massachusetts district attorney and the Massachusetts Attorney General have victim witness assistance programs to help victims and survivors navigate the criminal justice system. To seek assistance, call the agency that is prosecuting your case.

Attorney General's Office Criminal Bureau 617-727-2200

Berkshire County District Attorney 413-443-5951

Bristol County District Attorney 508-997-0711

Cape & Islands District Attorney 508-362-8113

Essex County District Attorney 978-745-6610

Hampden County District Attorney 413-747-1000

Middlesex County District Attorney 781-897-8300

Norfolk County District Attorney 781-830-4800

Northwestern District Attorney
Franklin County 413-774-3186

Hampshire County 413-586-9225

Plymouth County District Attorney 508-584-8120

Suffolk County District Attorney 617-619-4000

Worcester County District Attorney 508-755-8601

Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance 617-586-1340

A Guide to Your Rights As a Survivor of Sexual Assault



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