

How the Police Can Help If You Have Been Assaulted

A Resource for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic or Partner Violence, and Stalking

Do I have to talk to the police? And what are the benefits if I do?

No. You do not have to talk to the police, but you may want to. You can have an advocate with you to help you understand your choices and the process. The police can collect evidence for use in the future, even if you don't want to do anything right now. They can determine if the assailant is a known perpetrator. If you have a protection order or no-contact order, the police can help enforce it. Early identification of evidence and potential witnesses will be very helpful, if you choose to move forward with an investigation at some future date.

You have the right to a sexual assault examination performed at state expense.

According to Grinnell Chief of Police Dennis Reilly: "We encourage victims to at least have a conversation with the police officer to learn their options. The police will not move forward with an investigation or contact the assailant without the victim's cooperation. We are committed to respecting the victim's wishes. We are also committed to investigating crimes and bringing criminals to justice. If there is a weapon or perpetrator pattern, we may need to move forward for the protection of the public."

What are my options?

You have the choice:

- To participate in an investigation now, later, or never.
- To talk now, later, or never.
- To give your name now, later, or never.
- To give basic information about the incident or not.
- To give a full description (a statement) now or in the future to start an investigation.

The Value of Now: You may not feel comfortable describing the incident at this very moment, but you may change your mind. If you allow the hospital to gather evidence now, the evidence will be there for the future. Talking to the police now will allow them to identify and secure evidence while also obtaining statements of potential witnesses. Talking to the police and getting a sexual assault exam give many victims some peace of mind.

What will happen?

The role of the police is to investigate crime and protect the public. The police will ask to speak with you so that they can explain their role and your options. If you provide them your name and contact information, they will call you to set up a time to give a statement in the next few days. If no name is given, they will not contact you. They will give you their card so that you can contact them if you wish to make a statement or speak to the officer in the future. They will collect the sexual assault evidence kit for evidentiary purposes and future processing. You can have an advocate with you to help you understand your choices and the process.

Your Rights Under Iowa Law

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PURSUANT TO IOWA CODE SECTION 709.22

You have the right to ask the court for help with any of the following on a temporary basis:

- Keeping your attacker away from you, your home, and your place of work.
- The right to stay at your home without interference from your attacker.
- The right to seek a no-contact order under section 664A.3 or 915.22, if your attacker is arrested for sexual assault.

You have the right to register as a victim with the county attorney under section 915.12.

You have the right to file a complaint for threats, assaults, or other related crimes.

You have the right to seek restitution against your attacker for harm to you or your property.

You have the right to apply for victim compensation.

You have the right to a sexual assault examination performed at state expense.

You have the right to contact the county attorney or local law enforcement to determine the status of your case.

If you are in need of medical treatment, you have the right to request that the officer present assist you in obtaining transportation to the nearest hospital or otherwise assist you.

If you believe that police protection is needed for your physical safety, you have the right to request that the officer present remain at the scene until you and other affected parties can leave or until safety is otherwise ensured.

PURSUANT TO IOWA CODE SECTION 915.20

You also have the right to request the presence of an advocate at any proceeding related to the offense. This includes but is not limited to medical examinations, law enforcement investigations, pretrial court hearings, trial and sentencing proceedings.

What resources are available to help me?

Grinnell Police Department

641-236-2670 or
911 emergency response (24 hours)

Amani (African-American victim support) **Confidential**

319-232-5660

Crisis Center and

Women's Shelter (24 hours)

Confidential

800-464-8340

Crisis Intervention

Services (24 hours) **Confidential**

800-270-1620

Deaf Iowans Against Abuse

(24 hours) **Confidential**

www.diaaiowa.org

319-531-7719

515-531-7719 text only

Grinnell College Title IX Office

(employees and students)

641-269-4999

Non-Confidential

Grinnell Regional Medical

Center (24 hours) **Confidential**

641-236-2380

L.U.N.A. (Latino/a Sexual and Domestic Violence) (24 hours)

Confidential

866-256-7668

Monsoon: United Asian Women of Iowa (Asian and Pacific

Islander) (24 hours) **Confidential**

866-881-4641

Nisaa (African immigrant victim support) **Confidential**

515-288-0881

Transformative Healing

LGBTQIA (LGBTQ victim

support) **Confidential**

515-850-8081

Meskwaki Victim Services

(Native American) **Confidential**

855-840-7362 (24 hours)

This handout was created by the Poweshiek County Sexual Assault Response Team.

Grinnell College ■ Grinnell Regional Medical Center ■ Grinnell Police Department
Crisis Intervention Services ■ Crisis Center and Women's Shelter