

Reporting sexual assault

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What happens next?



Easy
words and
pictures



www.dorset.police.uk

If you are in danger right now,
call **999** and ask for the police.

If you have been assaulted at some
time in the past, and are not in danger
right now, please call us as soon as you
can on **101**.





**There are
people who
can help you.**

A special team
of people work
for the sexual
offences
teams in
Dorset.

If you report a sexual assault, someone from the team will support you. They will be there to help, from the moment you report to us.



You may want to tell someone.

If you have been assaulted you might want to tell someone what has happened:

- friend
- family
- social worker
- care worker
- police officer
- doctor
- ... or someone else who you trust

What is sexual assault?

- Someone having sex with you or touching your body in a private place when you do not want them to.
- This could happen with your clothes on or off.



Did the assault happen very recently?

If you were assaulted less than 1 week ago, **do not** have a shower, a bath, or wash the clothes that you were wearing.

We may be able to find **evidence** of the crime, which will help us to investigate it.





**We will ask you to come in
for an examination as soon
as possible.**

It is very, very important that you come
in quickly.

A nurse will need to examine you.



The examination room will look like this.

It has to be kept very clean, and the people who work in this room have to wear special clothing.

If you are female, you will not be left alone with a male nurse. A female member of staff will be there with you.

A nurse will examine you.

The nurse is looking for:

- evidence of body contact
- cuts and bruises on your body
- any other injuries or signs of the assault



Someone from the team will talk to you about what happened and what will happen next.

Someone from Social Services or the Mental Health Team might be there too.

You can have breaks, food and drink when you want to.





The interview will be filmed.

This is so that you only have to say things once. The film may then be used in court.

You can have someone there to help you to communicate if you need to. For example, a sign language interpreter.

Some cases will then go to **court**.



After a few months, the story about what happened to you may be heard in court.

A **judge** or the **magistrates** will be told all of the **evidence** about what happened.



**You do not
have to be in the
court room.**

You can be in a room somewhere else
to answer any questions.

You do not have to see the person who
is accused of assaulting you.

Someone from the team will be there to
help and support you.

The **court** will then decide what
happens to the accused.

More about our team

We can help and support you through the whole experience.

From the time you report the crime, to a court case if it happens, and beyond.

You can phone us, meet with us, ask us questions, and talk things over.



Difficult words explained

accused: the person who is **accused** is the person who you say has hurt you.

court: the room where the judge or the magistrates listen to the evidence and make their decisions

evidence: information and facts about your story; such as things you have said and things the doctor has found during an examination.

judge: the person who hears the evidence in court and decides whether someone is guilty or not.

magistrates: in a case which is not too complicated or serious, **magistrates** will listen to evidence instead of a judge.

Useful phone numbers

Dorset Police
101

The Shores (Dorset SARC)
01202 552056

Dorset Rape Crisis
Helpline
01202 308855

