

A Booklet for New Hampshire Sexual Assault Survivors

About this Booklet

Anyone can be the victim of sexual violence.

This booklet provides information about resources, self-care, and the criminal justice system for victim/survivors of sexual assault. It includes an introduction to the people and agencies available to you with a description of their roles and services. These resources are designed to help you navigate different strategies for your own healing after your experience.

You can use this booklet to help guide you with making decisions about what options are best for you. Not everyone decides to enter the criminal justice system; that is a personal decision only you can make. If you are already involved in the criminal justice system, you can use this booklet to help you understand the process.

You do not have to read this information all at once. You can refer to sections as needed, and discuss more details with the professionals listed in the booklet. You may also wish to review it with a trusted family member or friend.

You will notice the terms ‘victim’ and ‘survivor’ both used throughout this booklet. How you choose to identify is highly personal and can change over time.

Both terms are used here to honor and acknowledge the role that each term may have in your healing process.

"This was the scariest thing I've ever had to go through. I didn't feel strong enough at first. After I pushed through and had a great support team to guide me along the way, I was so proud of myself. I realized just how strong I actually was."

~Autumn River, NH Survivor

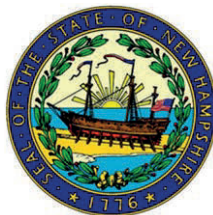
Acknowledgements

The New Hampshire Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART) Program began in 2010. It is part of the Office of Victim/Witness Assistance (OVWA) at the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office. The mission of OVWA is to ensure that all victims are treated with dignity and respect and provided with the services and support they need, throughout their involvement with the criminal justice system. The focus of SART is on the continuous improvement of the criminal justice system's response to adult sexual assault cases.

Inspiration for this booklet came from discussions between participants on several county-based New Hampshire SARTs and a resource created by the Philly Survivor Support Collective in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Content areas of this booklet are the result of collaborative efforts between participants in New Hampshire's SART Program and other statewide partners. Professionals in the fields of advocacy, medicine, law enforcement, prosecution, mental health, and higher education, among others, have all contributed discipline-specific content in order to make this guide as informative and useful as possible. Special acknowledgement is also extended to Ashley Hichborn for creating the featured graphics.

In addition, we express our grateful appreciation to the survivors of sexual assault who took the time to review this booklet and offer their feedback.



This project was supported by Grant no. 2019-WF-AX-0015 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

This resource created in 2020.

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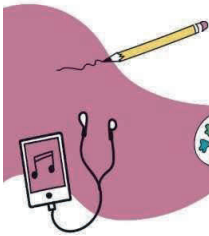
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Taking Care of Yourself



Be Gentle With Yourself

- What happened is not your fault
- Healing takes time, so be patient with yourself
- You deserve to feel safe and respected
- You are not alone



Reconnect With Who You Are

- Keep up with hobbies (games, cooking, etc.)
- Express yourself through art, music, or dance
- Listen to a favorite song or read a great book
- Try a new walk, activity, or sport
- Journal about your day



Reclaim Your Body

- Allow yourself to express your emotions
- Take deep breaths to clear your mind
- Eat a variety of nutritious foods and drink plenty of water
- Get enough sleep and make time for yourself to relax



**Your local crisis center can help you to access resources related to basic needs to help you take care of yourself.*

People You Might Meet

You are not alone. Depending on how you choose to proceed, there are a number of professionals and resources you may encounter. Below is a list of roles, responsibilities, and some common terms used by that resource. Each role is different and serves a specific purpose.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE): A registered nurse with specialized training to provide no cost, non-judgmental comprehensive medical care including lab work, testing and medications to anyone who has been sexually assaulted. The SANE may be involved early in the process. With your consent, the SANE may collect evidence from your body during the examination if you seek medical care within five days after the assault. *You can still seek comprehensive medical care even if it has been more than five days since the assault.*

Crisis Center Advocate: Trained professional advocates provide **free and confidential** services including support, referrals, accompaniment to the hospital, police station and court as needed and assistance navigating other systems for those who have experienced sexual assault. They can help you process your options and provide support to you so you can determine the best path forward for you. *An advocate can be available throughout the whole process and beyond, whether or not you choose to report to police or criminal charges are filed.*

You may not know what you need at first, and that is okay!

Everyone responds and heals differently.
Find what works for you over time.

Law Enforcement First Responders & Investigators: Officers are sworn to protect and serve their communities, be neutral fact-finders and enforce criminal laws. They conduct interviews, locate and process evidence, work to identify a suspect, and assist with the prosecution of all known suspects. It is possible that you may speak with several officers during the course of an investigation.

Victim/Witness Advocate or Coordinator: A trained professional who works with the prosecutor to help bridge the gap between you and the criminal justice process by providing emotional support, information, and updates on what is happening with the case. This advocate is involved shortly after a case is referred for prosecution, stays involved throughout the court process, and possibly after trial. Victim/witness advocates are available at county attorneys' offices and at some local police departments. *Unlike the crisis center advocate, information you share with them is not privileged or confidential and will be shared with the prosecutor.*

Prosecutor: A lawyer who reviews the information collected by law enforcement to determine if criminal charges will be filed against a suspect. A prosecutor appears in court for hearings, may engage in plea negotiations, or present the case at trial. *Charges, if filed, will be brought by the State of New Hampshire on your behalf.*

Public Defender/Defense Attorney: A lawyer who represents the offender/defendant in a criminal proceeding. They also have investigators who work for them who may try to contact you. You are not required to speak to them, but nothing prevents you from doing so. *It is your choice; the victim/witness advocate can explain your options.*

You may also choose to seek support from a **mental health clinician, therapist or counselor, or faith-based leader.**

There are other professionals who may assist in some, but not all cases, for example:

The **Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)** is a federal initiative establishing Zero Tolerance for any sexual assault involving inmates, contractors, civilians or staff members. Under NH law, **an inmate can not consent to sexual contact with anyone** while incarcerated. Reports of sexual assault may be filed with the facility or PREA advocate by inmates, family members or friends without retaliation against the inmate/victim.

A **Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services (BEAS)** adult protective caseworker may contact you or your caregiver if you are 60 years of age or older or a vulnerable adult due to a physical, intellectual or cognitive disability. Abuse reports are investigated, protective service needs are determined and assistance is provided as appropriate.

The professionals involved in your case may ask you to be interviewed by a **forensic interviewer** at an independent location. While the organization might be called a “child advocacy center” in some counties, they are used to provide culturally competent, victim-centered, trauma-informed interviewing services for adults as well.

If needed, **interpretation services** will be obtained for you by the professionals assisting you and at no cost to you.

If you are a **student**, you might also work with your campus or school officials, such as the **Title IX coordinator**, **Title IX investigator**, or an advisor. For more information on campus response, see **pages 18-19**.

If you are **active duty or a military veteran**, you may work with a **Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)** or with professionals associated with support programs at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers or other Vet Centers.



What Happens at the Hospital?

Medical care following a sexual assault is always encouraged. The main goal is to ensure your health and well-being. Treatment is crucial to make sure there are no physical injuries requiring immediate attention. If you seek this care within five days, you may opt to have evidence collected, and to remain anonymous to law enforcement.

Medical/forensic exam within 5 days, *with your consent*, includes:

- Medical/forensic history, for purpose of diagnosis and treatment
- Head-to-toe physical exam, including a detailed genital exam, looking for signs of injury
- Collection of photos and forensic evidence (evidence that can be used for legal purposes ***if you choose to report to law enforcement***)
- Testing for and medication to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, if appropriate

If you are 18 years of age or older, and have not sustained a gunshot wound or serious bodily injury, it is your decision whether or not to report the crime to law enforcement.

Medical care beyond 5 days, *with your consent*, includes:

- Medical/forensic history related to the assault will be taken
- Physical exam, looking for possible signs of injury or disease
- Collection of photos of injuries, if appropriate
- Testing for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections

Assistance with expenses related to a medical/forensic examination, and follow-up care can be submitted to the NH Victims' Compensation Program (**see page 36**).

If you sought medical care and an evidence collection kit was completed anonymously, you may still decide to report to law enforcement at a later date.

What Can the Crisis Center Offer?

New Hampshire has a network of 13 crisis centers that provide services to people whose lives have been affected by sexual and domestic violence and stalking. *You do not need to be in crisis to call.* Services are free, confidential, and available to everyone regardless of gender, age, health status (including HIV-positive), physical, mental or emotional ability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, socio-economic status, race, national origin, immigration status or religious or political affiliation.

Services offered often include:

- Support, advocacy and crisis intervention available in person and through a 24-hour hotline
- 24-hour accompaniment and advocacy at the hospital during the sexual assault forensic exam
- Support and accompaniment to local police departments or sites for interviews and follow-up
- Safety planning
- Court advocacy, assistance with applying for a protective order, and referrals to legal services when appropriate
- Information and referrals to community programs and services
- Ongoing one-to-one support and advocacy
- Support groups
- Emergency shelter when needed

NH crisis centers utilize an empowerment model; it is up to you how much you want to engage with a crisis center advocate.

Crisis centers are listed in the resources by county section of this booklet, **pages 26-35.**

You can talk with an advocate through the 24-hour statewide hotline at **1-800-277-5570.** **More information is also available at www.nhcadv.org**



What Happens If You Report to Law Enforcement?

First Response: An officer will take your initial report and see to your immediate safety needs. You may have met this officer if you went to the hospital or if you went directly to the police department to make your report. Depending on the size of the department, this officer may communicate the information learned to another investigating officer/detective for follow-up.

Investigation: Interviews with you and other possible witnesses will be done, evidence located and collected, the suspect(s) identified and attempts to interview them will be made, and suspect evidence collection may be done, if appropriate. All officers involved during the investigation will write a report documenting their involvement, observations and actions. Sometimes, in consultation with a prosecutor, the determination will be made whether to make an arrest or to refer the case to the prosecutor's office for review and further action. Officers will participate in court proceedings as needed.

Prosecution Review: The prosecutor or county attorney receives and reviews the investigative file from law enforcement. In some cases, the prosecutor may identify and request additional investigation. The prosecutor decides what charges, if any, are appropriate. They prepare for initial court hearings if an arrest has already been made or for a presentation to the grand jury to obtain an indictment.

During this time, it is okay for you to contact the investigating officer, victim/witness advocate or prosecutor to ask about the status of your case.

This process takes time. Each case is unique and may include circumstances that take longer to investigate than you might think or expect. Examples might be:

- Scientific analysis of evidence sent to the Forensic Laboratory
- Evaluation of electronic evidence

What Does the Criminal Justice Process Look Like?

NH has two court systems. Circuit court hears misdemeanor crimes. Superior court hears misdemeanor appeal cases, and cases with felony level charges. Court processes begin once a person is arrested or formally charged. Close to the time of the **defendant's** arrest, arraignment or other specified times, a decision will be made by the court or its officer, whether the defendant will be held in jail pending trial or be released with certain conditions.



Bail: Money, property or personal recognizance determined by a court officer or judge to ensure the defendant's appearance at court hearings and compliance with certain conditions (i.e.: remain of good behavior, no contact with you or witnesses).

Arraignment: Generally, the first hearing in court for someone charged with a criminal offense. Its purpose is to formally notify the defendant of the charge(s) and for them to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty; appoint an attorney if the defendant cannot afford one; and establish bail pending trial. A not guilty plea is common at this stage.

Plea Agreement: An agreement between the State and defendant resulting in a plea of guilty. Plea offers are discussed with victims. Prosecutors make final decisions on the offer and they are subject to approval by the court. In cases with a guilty plea, there is no trial.

Subpoena: Court order mandating a person be present at a certain time and place at the court to testify. This could include: you, law enforcement, the nurse or doctor who conducted your exam, family members, friends, other professionals, and expert witnesses.

Trial: Held in the county where the crime was committed. The prosecutor presents evidence to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The defendant or their attorney may present evidence on their own behalf.

What Does the Circuit Court Process Look Like?

Misdemeanor level crimes carry a possible sentence of a fine, probation and jail up to 12 months if convicted of a Class A misdemeanor. Class B crimes carry a possible sentence of a fine.

Trial management conference: Attorneys from both sides meet with the judge to discuss legal issues including plea offers, hearing schedules, trial dates and to set deadlines for filing motions. If a plea agreement is reached, the case may be resolved.

Bench trial: A trial that takes place in front of the judge, without a jury present. The judge decides whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty based on the evidence presented.

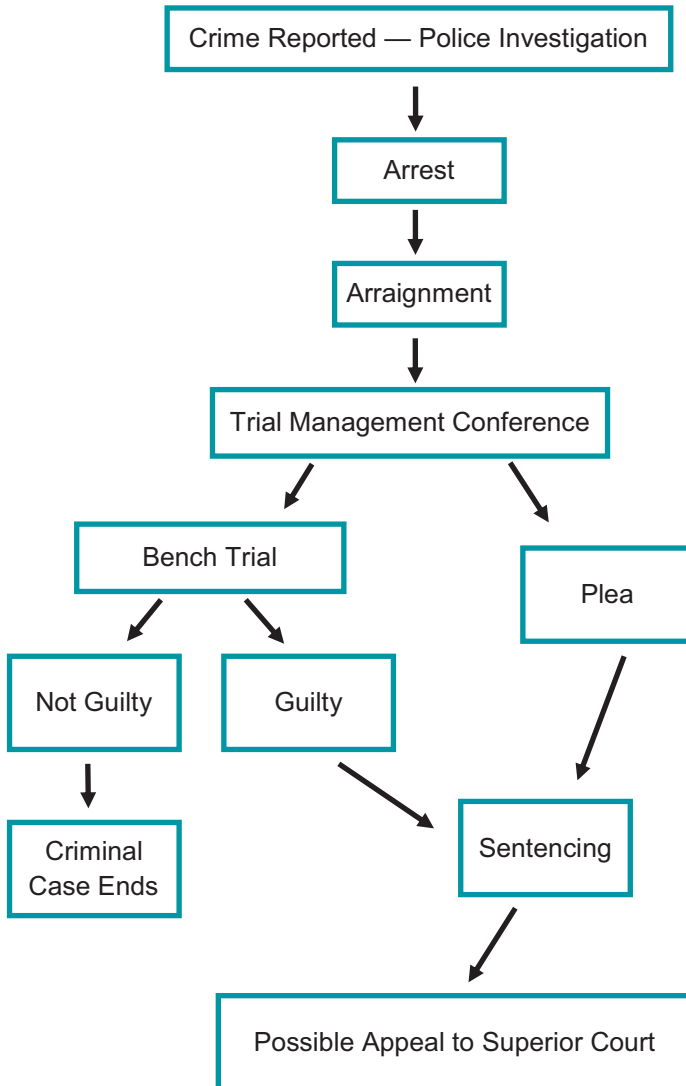
Appeal: A defendant found guilty in a circuit court trial on a Class A misdemeanor can appeal the conviction to superior court where they are entitled to a jury trial.

Any day there is a hearing or trial, please be prepared to wait.

You might want to bring a snack or something to help pass the time. The victim/witness advocate can advise you on what is allowed in the court.

Notes, quotes, doodles or ideas:

Circuit Court Process Flow Chart



What Does the Superior Court Process Look Like?

Felony crimes are more serious in nature and conviction could result in fines, restitution, probation, and/or incarceration at the NH State Prison with parole after time served.

Grand Jury: A confidential proceeding where a prosecutor and law enforcement officer present evidence and specific charges to a panel of between 12 and 23 people who determine whether there is enough evidence to issue a formal indictment of the defendant. You, the defendant, and their attorney are not present.

Dispositional Pre-Trial Conferences: Attorneys from both sides meet with the judge to discuss legal issues including plea offers, hearing schedules, trial dates, and to set deadlines for filing motions.

Felony Settlement Conference: A meeting to find a meaningful resolution to the case without the need for a trial. You can choose to participate in this process.

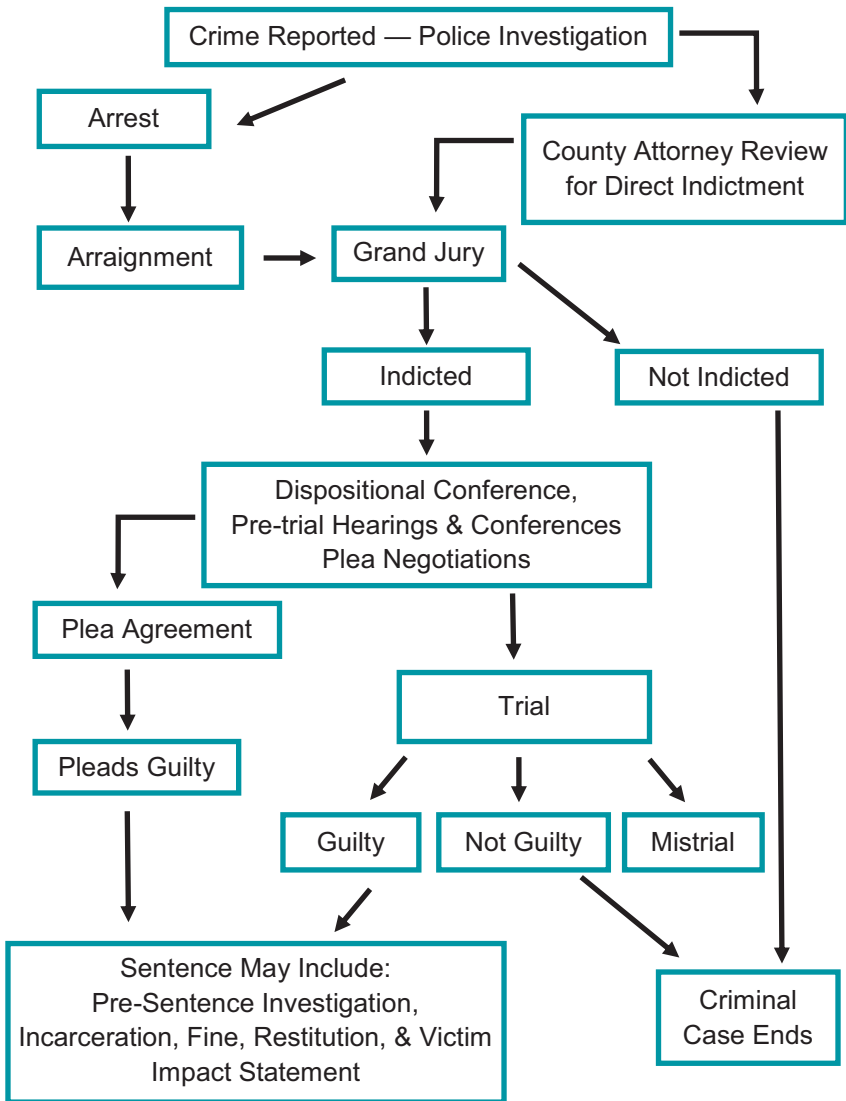
Trial: Held in the county where the crime was committed. The **prosecutor** presents evidence to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The defendant or their attorney may present evidence on their own behalf. The **jury** consists of 12 people who must weigh the evidence (deliberate) to unanimously decide if the defendant is **guilty or not guilty**. If agreement is not reached, a **mistrial** may be declared by the judge and a new trial may be ordered.

Pre-Sentence Investigation: To assist the judge with sentencing, a probation officer may conduct an investigation into the defendant's background and ask you for input.

Victim Impact Statement: A statement about the crime's impact on your life for the court's consideration at sentencing. It can be delivered by you or someone you choose. The victim/witness advocate can help you prepare this statement.

Appeal: A defendant found guilty in a superior court trial can appeal the conviction to the NH Supreme Court based only on legal issues.

Superior Court Process Flow Chart



****This is a general outline of how a case progresses, but is subject to change based on the needs and progress of each individual case.***

What If You Report to Your Campus?

In addition to the criminal justice process and community-based resources that are available to you, campuses and schools provide options for students who have experienced sexual assault. How your school will respond and what options they can offer you will depend on a number of things including school policies and procedures, whether or not the offender is a student at the same school, and whether or not the assault happened on school property or at a school-sponsored event. The response often includes the following options:

- **Reporting:** You can choose to report the assault to the Title IX Coordinator or other campus official. If you tell another campus employee, they may also need to make a report to the Title IX Coordinator.
- **Investigation and adjudication:** This is the process the school uses to determine if the school's policies were violated, and, if so, what the disciplinary sanctions will be. If this process is initiated, you are entitled to an advisor of your choice to support you through the process.
- **Supportive measures:** These changes are designed to help you continue your education with a sense of safety, including but not limited to: changes to residence hall, class schedule, campus job/work study, and academic measures like extensions on assignments or even withdrawing from a class. Another option could be a campus "no contact" order.
- **Resources:** Your campus may have a counseling center or counselor, a health or wellness center, or chaplain services. Most campuses will also help connect you to the local crisis center.

Want to find out more about your school's policies and contact information for resources and key staff members? You can download the [*uSafeUS*](#) mobile app to access your school's campus-specific information, local community services, and much more. [*uSafeUS*](#) is available for free in your app store.



What If You Report to Your Campus?

Some things to keep in mind about a school or campus response:

- Your campus has a duty to investigate formal complaints of sexual harassment and violence and provide supportive measures, but *you have the right* to choose whether or not to make a formal complaint.
- While “report” and “investigation” may sound a lot like the criminal justice process, it is important to know that *these are separate processes* with different investigators. *You can decide whether to report to law enforcement, campus officials, both or neither.*
- An adjudication may involve campus hearings that bear some resemblance to court, *but it is not a court*. The campus can offer remedies and sanctions under its control.
- People on campus will offer varying levels of confidentiality. Many will be obligated to report some or all of the information you share to the Title IX Coordinator. Some may be able to keep certain details private, while others may be able to offer confidential communication. *If you don’t know someone’s reporting obligations, it is okay to ask before you tell them what happened.*
- Even if the offender is not affiliated with the campus and the assault did not happen on campus or during a school trip, *your campus should offer you supportive measures to help you to stay safe.*

Campus processes usually use different language

While this may be frustrating, it is not meant to signal that campus officials do not believe you or want to minimize the harm.

Criminal Justice System	Campus Response
<i>Sexual assault</i>	<i>Sexual misconduct or harassment</i>
<i>Victim or survivor</i>	<i>Reporting party or complainant</i>
<i>Suspect or defendant</i>	<i>Responding party or respondent</i>
<i>Criminal offense</i>	<i>Violation of a policy</i>
<i>Trial determines outcome: guilty or not guilty</i>	<i>Hearing makes finding of: responsible or not responsible</i>

Safety Planning

What is safety planning?

Your safety is important. Safety planning is making a plan for dangerous or threatening situations before they happen. Safety plans can be as simple or as elaborate as you need them to be. They can address physical or emotional safety concerns, or both.

Do I need a safety plan?

Your need for a safety plan might change throughout the course of your healing journey, your involvement with the criminal justice system or your campus proceeding. These processes are often emotionally intense and some survivors find that as the trial takes its course, it can give rise to new or different safety concerns. Some safety plans focus primarily or solely on emotional safety. You might also want to consider factors like work, school, needs of minor children, lack of transportation, physical or intellectual disability, communication barriers, and other concerns.

If you feel that you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Who can help me with safety planning?

Safety planning is highly individualized and can be complex. A crisis center can assist you with this. While you are the expert on your own situation, an advocate can work with you to develop something just right for you. It is a collaborative process. They can ask you questions, share resources or strategies that may be options, and help you think through items that you may not have already considered.

If you are involved with the court, a victim witness advocate or coordinator involved with your case may also help you with a safety plan.

My Safety Plan

While advocates can help you develop a comprehensive safety plan, here is a good way to start:

In an **emergency**, I can call **911** or go to _____

In a **non-emergency** but **upsetting** situation, I can call or go to:

My self-care and emotional support plan:

What can I do when I see the person who caused harm?	
Where can I go that is safe?	
Who can I call for support if I get anxious?	
What can help calm me or relax me?	
What can boost my confidence and make me feel good?	

New Hampshire Victims' Bill of Rights RSA 21-M:8-k

Under The NH Crime Victims' Bill of Rights, victims of a felony level crime, misdemeanor sexual offense, domestic violence, or violation of a protective order are entitled the following:

- To be treated with fairness and respect.
- To be informed as to the status of the case.
- To be free from intimidation and to be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process.
- To confidentiality of your address, place of employment, and other personal information.
- To be notified of any change of custody of the accused.
- To speak with the prosecutor.
- To be informed about the criminal justice process and how it progresses.
- To be notified and attend all court hearings the accused has the right to attend.
- To be notified if your presence in court is not required.
- To have your employer notified if your attendance in court is required (if requested).
- To provide a victim impact statement at any sentencing hearing regarding your case.

New Hampshire Victims' Bill of Rights RSA 21-M:8-k

- To the prompt return of property when it is no longer needed as evidence.
- To receive restitution, as granted under applicable state law for losses related to the crime.

For a full list of victim's rights, please go to:

<https://www.doj.nh.gov/criminal/victim-assistance/bill-of-rights.htm>

“

“I would not have been here fighting in this process if it weren't for [my advocate]”

~Anonymous, NH Survivor

”

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“[My advocate] never once made me feel as if I was being judged. She reaffirmed my positive beliefs and attitudes and gave me tidbits of advice to help maintain positivity. She seemed honestly interested in everything I had to say. Over all, it was comforting to know that there is more support out there when I need it.”

~Anonymous, NH Survivor

”

Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights RSA 21-M:18

- The right not to be prevented from, or charged for, receiving a forensic medical exam.
- The right to have a sexual assault evidence collection kit or its probative contents preserved, without charge, for the duration of the maximum applicable statute of limitations or 20 years, whichever is shorter.
- The right to be informed of any result of a sexual assault evidence collection kit, including a DNA profile match, toxicology report, or other information collected as part of a medical forensic examination, if such disclosure would not impede or compromise an ongoing investigation.
- The right to be informed in writing of policies governing the collection and preservation of a sexual assault evidence collection kit.
- The right, if the state intends to destroy or dispose of a sexual assault evidence collection kit or its probative contents before the expiration date of the maximum applicable statute of limitations to:
 - Upon written request, receive written notification from the prosecutor or appropriate state official with custody, not later than 60 days before the date of the intended destruction or disposal;
 - And upon written request, be granted further preservation of the kit or its probative contents.
- The right to be informed of the rights under this section.

Tips for Family and Friends

Use Supportive Language

- Support the victim/survivor sharing their story

- Let the victim/survivor know they are not alone

- Acknowledge that the experience has affected their life

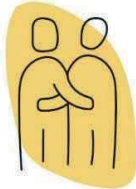
- I believe you. It took a lot of courage to open up about this.

- I care about you. I am here to listen or help in any way I can.

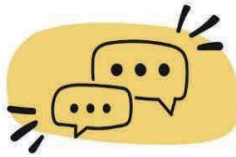
- I am sorry this happened to you. This should never happen to anyone.

Avoid judgment

Avoid phrases that would make the victim/survivor feel self conscious, like: **"You've been acting like this for a while now."** or **"How much longer will you feel this way?"**



Check in periodically



Hear their experience on their terms. The event may have happened a long time ago, but that doesn't mean the pain is gone. **Let the victim/survivor know you are still there for them.**

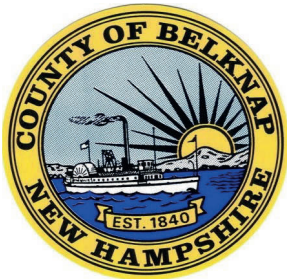
Know your resources

You are a strong supporter, but that doesn't mean you have to help alone. **Become familiar with resources so you can recommend to a survivor.**



Resources by County

Belknap County



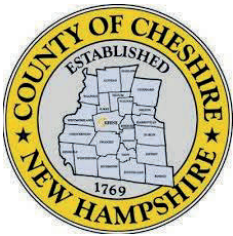
Crisis Center: New Beginnings	603-528-6511
Hospital Emergency Department: Lakes Region General Hospital	603-527-2819
Law Enforcement: Circuit Court Prosecutor: 	
County Attorney's Office: Victim/Witness Program:	603-527-5440 603-527-5440
For college campuses, please see the resources section of the uSafeUS app	

Carroll County



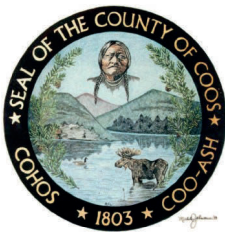
Crisis Center: Starting Point	1-800-336-3795
Hospital Emergency Departments: Huggins Hospital Memorial Hospital	603-569-7575 603-356-5461
Law Enforcement: Circuit Court Prosecutor: 	
County Attorney’s Office: Victim/Witness Program: vsa@carrollcountynh.net	603-539-7769 603-539-7476
For college campuses, please see the resources section of the <i>uSafeUS</i> app	

Cheshire County



Crisis Center: Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention	603-352-3782 1-888-511-3782
Hospital Emergency Departments: Cheshire Medical Center Monadnock Community Hospital	603-354-5400 603-924-4656
Law Enforcement: Circuit Court Prosecutor: 	
County Attorney's Office: Victim/Witness Program:	603-355-3010 603-355-3011
For college campuses, please see the resources section of the <i>uSafeUS</i> app	

Coos County



Crisis Center: RESPONSE to Domestic & Sexual Violence	1-866-662-4220
Hospital Emergency Departments: Androscoggin Valley Hospital Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital Weeks Medical Center	603-752-2200 603-237-4971 603-788-4911
Law Enforcement: Circuit Court Prosecutor: 	
County Attorney's Office: Victim/Witness Program:	603-788-5559 603-788-3812
For college campuses, please see the resources section of the uSafeUS app	

Grafton County



Crisis Centers: Support Center at Burch House Voices Against Violence WISE	1-800-774-0544 603-536-1659 1-866-348-9473
Hospital Emergency Departments: Alice Peck Day Memorial Cottage Hospital Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center Littleton Regional Healthcare Speare Memorial Hospital	603-448-7448 603-747-9128 603-650-7001 603-259-7500 603-238-2239
Law Enforcement: Circuit Court Prosecutor: 	
County Attorney's Office: Victim/Witness Program: victimwitness@co.grafton.nh.us	603-787-6968 603-787-2040
For college campuses, please see the resources section of the <i>uSafeUS</i> app	The logo for the uSafeUS app, featuring a stylized white 'U' shape with a person icon inside, set against a teal background.

Hillsborough County



Crisis Centers: YWCA-Manchester Bridges Crisis Services Monadnock Center for Violence Prev.	603-668-2299 603-883-3044 603-352-3782
Hospital Emergency Departments: Catholic Medical Center Elliot Hospital Monadnock Community Hospital Southern NH Medical Center St. Joseph Hospital	603-663-6478 603-669-5300 603-924-7191 603-577-2000 603-882-3000
Law Enforcement: Circuit Court Prosecutor: 	
County Attorney's Office: North Victim/Witness Program: North County Attorney's Office: South Victim/Witness Program: South	603-627-5605 603-627-5605 603-594-3255 603-594-3255
For college campuses, please see the resources section of the <i>uSafeUS</i> app	

Merrimack County



Crisis Centers: Crisis Center of Central NH	1-866-841-6229
Hospital Emergency Departments: Concord Hospital Franklin Regional Hospital New London Hospital	603-225-2711 603-934-2060 603-526-2911
Law Enforcement: Circuit Court Prosecutor: 	
County Attorney’s Office: Victim/Witness Program:	603-228-0529 603-228-0529
For college campuses, please see the resources section of the <i>uSafeUS</i> app	The logo for the uSafeUS app, featuring a stylized 'U' with a person icon inside, and the text "uSafeUS" below it.

Rockingham County



Crisis Centers: HAVEN Bridges (Windham & Salem) YWCA (Candia, Auburn, Derry & Londonderry)	603-994-7233 603-883-3044 603-668-2299
Hospital Emergency Departments: Exeter Hospital Parkland Medical Center Portsmouth Hospital	603-580-6110 603-421-2220 603-433-4042
Law Enforcement: Circuit Court Prosecutor: 	
County Attorney's Office: Victim/Witness Program: victiminfo@rcao.net	603-642-4249 603-642-4249
For college campuses, please see the resources section of the <i>uSafeUS</i> app	

Strafford County



Crisis Centers: HAVEN *Call SHARPP if a student, staff or faculty member of UNH	603-994-7233 1-888-271-7233 603-862-7233
Hospital Emergency Departments: Frisbee Memorial Hospital Wentworth-Douglass Hospital	603-332-5211 603-742-5252
Law Enforcement: Circuit Court Prosecutor: 	
County Attorney’s Office: Victim/Witness Program:	603-749-2808 603-749-4215
For college campuses, please see the resources section of the <i>uSafeUS</i> app	

Sullivan County



Crisis Centers: Turning Points	1-800-639-3130
Hospital Emergency Departments: Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center Valley Regional Hospital	603-650-7001 603-542-7771
Law Enforcement: Circuit Court Prosecutor: 	
County Attorney's Office: Victim/Witness Program:	603-863-7950 603-863-8345
For college campuses, please see the resources section of the <i>uSafeUS</i> app	

Victims' Compensation

New Hampshire Victims' Compensation Program Helps victims of misdemeanor and felony crimes with costs directly connected to the crime. Family members and/or legal guardians of crime victims are also eligible under this program. Crime-related costs are covered on approved claims, if these costs are not covered by another financial source. The crime must be reported to police in order to be considered for the following crime-related expenses:

- Medical including hospital; vision; hearing; doctor; dental; medications; medically assistive devices
- Counseling; crime-related mileage; loss of income
- Relocation costs; security systems; locks or repairs to exterior doors and windows
- Reimbursement of clothing and bedding held as evidence by police as a result of a sexual assault
- Up to 10 days of emergency funds through a local crisis center

Sexual Assault: A hospital or physician should not bill you for a sexual assault exam. If you opt to remain anonymous or do not want to use your insurance, the cost will be submitted directly to the program. You do not have to report the crime to law enforcement to receive assistance with expenses related to a medical/forensic examination, including: STD testing and treatment, HIV testing and preventive treatment, and follow-up care with a physician.



To apply for assistance with crime-related expenses, please contact the NH Victim's Compensation Program at **1-800-300-4500** or victimcomp@doj.nh.gov to request an application or apply online at <https://ccvcnh.org/>.

Additional New Hampshire Programs

Address Confidentiality Program: Helps prevent victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking from being located by their abusers through public record. This program allows victims who move to a new location the opportunity to keep that address confidential. Services that accept the substitute address include drivers' license, motor vehicle titles and registrations; voting/voter registration, registration of children in school; state and local assistance; courts and utility companies.

Participants will receive an ACP Authorization ID card. ACP assigns a legal substitute address to use in place of your physical address. This address can be used whenever an address is required by a public agency.

In order to apply for the ACP, you must contact the NH crisis center nearest you. A crisis center advocate will assist you with the ACP application process. To find your local crisis center, call the **Statewide Sexual Assault Hotline** at **1(800) 277-5570**.

Victim Information and Notification Every Day (VINE) is a system where victims of crime, their support network, and other community members can access the custody status of an offender. It is a free service for those who sign up for notifications or go to the VINE portal whenever you want. *It is completely confidential and features multiple language support.*

To access offender custody information (held, released, transferred or escaped) and register to be notified:

Call **1-800-542-9904**

Visit **www.vinelink.com** or

Download the **VINELink** mobile app

TTY users, call **1-866-847-1298**



My Notes:

Questions I Have:

Case Name: State of NH v _____

Court Docket Number: _____

Police Department: _____

Investigating Officer: _____

Victim/Witness Advocate: _____

Prosecutor: _____

