

# Massachusetts Bill of Rights for Survivors of Sexual Assault



You have rights and this document explains those rights and how to get the information and assistance you may need.

## **All survivors of sexual assault shall have the right to:**

### ***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 your decision.
- 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 must be tested at the relevant crime lab.
- If you choose not to report the sexual assault to a law enforcement agency, your kit will not be tested but will be stored appropriately by the law enforcement agency. Your kit can only be tested if you report the sexual assault to a law enforcement agent.
- You have the right to receive information about how to file a report with the appropriate law enforcement agency, which will result in the testing of your sexual assault evidence collection kit by a crime laboratory.
- Each law enforcement agency that is located 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 location, testing date, results of the kit, and when the kit may be destroyed.
- The location and testing date of your kit is available through <https://ma.track-kit.us> or the District Attorney or law enforcement agency can provide you with this information.
- Either the District Attorney's Office or law enforcement agency can provide you with the testing results from your kit.

- All kits must be held for at least 15 years, either 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 handling the case or the law enforcement agency that is located in the city or town where the sexual assault occurred 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), [mass.gov/mova](http://mass.gov/mova), the District Attorney’s Office that is handling your case, or the liaison at the law enforcement agency that is located in the city or town where the sexual assault took place 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:**

<b>Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)</b>	Hotline (800) 841-8371
99 Bishop Allen Drive	TTY (617) 492-6434
Cambridge* MA 02139-3428	office (617) 492-8306

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

**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS:**

<b>Pathways for Change</b>	Hotline (800) 870-5905
588 Main Street	TTY (888) 887-7130
Worcester MA 01608-2014	office (508) 852-7600
	fax (508) 852-7870

**Deaf Survivors’ Program**                      **VideoPhone** (508) 502-7681

<b>Wayside Trauma Intervention Services</b>	Hotline (800) 511-5070
<b>Valley Rape Crisis Program</b>	TTY (508) 478-4205
10 Asylum Street	office (508) 478-6888
Milford MA 01757	fax (508) 478-9042

<b>Voices Against Violence</b>	Hotline/TTY (800) 593-1125
South Middlesex Opportunity Council	Hotline/TTY (508) 626-8686
7 Bishop Street	office (508) 820-0834
Framingham MA 01702-8313	fax (508) 872-4264

## **NORTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS:**

**The Center for Hope and Healing** Hotline (800) 542-5212  
TTY (978) 452-8723  
21 George Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor office (978) 452-7721  
Lowell MA 01852-1710 fax (978) 458-2822

**YWCA Northeastern Massachusetts** Hotline (877) 509-9922  
TTY (978) 686-8840  
38 Lawrence Street office (978) 682-3039 x 2123  
Lawrence MA 01840-1409 fax (978) 691-5286

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

**Lynn Office:** 20 Central Avenue, Suite 510, Lynn, MA 01901

*Lynn office: 781-477-2313*

## **SOUTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS:**

**A Safe Place** Hotline (508) 228-2111  
5B Windy Way office (508) 228-0561  
Nantucket MA 02554 fax (508) 228-8825

**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 fax (508) 999-7139

**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 fax (508) 588-0034

**Independence House** Hotline (800) 439-6507  
160 Basset Lane office (508) 771-6507  
Hyannis MA 02601 fax (508) 778-0143

**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 fax (774) 549-6908

**New Hope** Hotline (800) 323-4673  
247 Maple Street office (508) 226-4015  
Attleboro MA 02703 fax (508) 226-6917

## **WESTERN REGION:**

**Elizabeth Freeman Center** Hotline (866) 401-2425  
TTY (413) 499-2425  
43 Francis Avenue office (413) 499-2425  
Pittsfield MA 01201-5053 fax (413) 443-3016

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

**New England Learning Center for Women in Transition (NELCWIT)** Hotline (413) 772-0806  
479 Main Street TTY (413) 772-0815  
Greenfield MA 01301 office (413) 772-0871  
[additional site: **Orange**] fax (413) 772-2743

**Center for Women and Community University of Massachusetts – Amherst** Hotline (413) 545-0800  
TTY (413) 577-0940  
New Africa House, 180 Infirmary Way office (413) 545-0883  
Amherst MA 01003 fax (413) 545-3649

**YWCA of Western Massachusetts** Hotline (800) 796-8711  
TTY (413) 733-7100

1 Clough Street office (413) 732-3121  
Springfield MA 01118-2213 fax (413) 747-0542  
Statewide Spanish Rape Crisis Hotline (Llámanos) (800) 223-5001

**STATEWIDE:**

Llámanos: Spanish Rape Crisis Hotline (YWCA West) (800) 223-5001  
Deaf Survivors Program (Pathways) VideoPhone (508) 502-7681

**The District Attorney's Office in each county, and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office have victim witness assistance programs to help crime victims during the prosecution of a case. To seek assistance, call the victim witness assistance program in the county where the sexual assault occurred.**

**Attorney General's Criminal Bureau: (617) 727-2200**

**Berkshire County: (413) 443-5951**

**Bristol County: (508) 997-0711**

**Cape & Islands, Barnstable & Nantucket Counties: (508) 362-8113**

**Essex County: (978) 745-6610**

**Hampden County: (413) 747-1000**

**Middlesex County: (781) 897-8300**

**Norfolk County: (781) 830-4800**

**Northwestern Franklin County: (413) 774-3186**

**Hampshire County: (413) 586-9225**

**Plymouth County: (508) 584-8120**

**Suffolk County: (617) 619-4000**

**Worcester County: (508) 755-8601**

**MOVA: (617) 586-1340**