

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, 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:

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)	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:

Pathways for Change	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

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

Voices Against Violence	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, 4th 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 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 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