

Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

Sexual Assault

It is a crime for anyone to rape or sexually assault you, whether they are a stranger, boyfriend, a lover, a husband, a domestic partner or an acquaintance. You deserve help. If someone has sexually assaulted you and you want to report the crime, call 911. The evidence of the crime is on your body. In Santa Cruz County there is a program in which a nurse will examine you for physical injury and collect evidence for a possible criminal prosecution. You can call a crisis line to get more information and support whether or not you choose to report.

Domestic Violence

It is a crime for anyone to hit or hurt you. Domestic Violence can occur between people of any sexual orientation who are married, separated, dating, have dated, are living together, have lived together or have children together.

You need to know

Even when suspects are arrested, they may be released from jail at any time. If you feel that the suspect may return to hurt you or your family, ask the officer for an Emergency Protective Order, which will order the suspect to stay away for five working days. The officer can protect your name from public record.

For information about shelter, filing a Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Order or other services in the community, you may contact Women's Crisis Support or Defensa de Mujeres. You have the right to request an order that restrains the abuser from hurting you or other family members, orders the abuser to leave the household, and restrains the abuser from entering your school, place of employment or residence. An order can also determine custody of minor children, child support payment, debit payments, and counseling.

You may ask the district attorney to file a criminal complaint. Contact Victim Services for assistance. You also have the right to file a civil suit for losses suffered as a result of the abuse.

Online resources:

Walnut Avenue Women's Center www.wawc.org

Women's Crisis Support-Defensa de Mujeres www.wcs-ddm.org