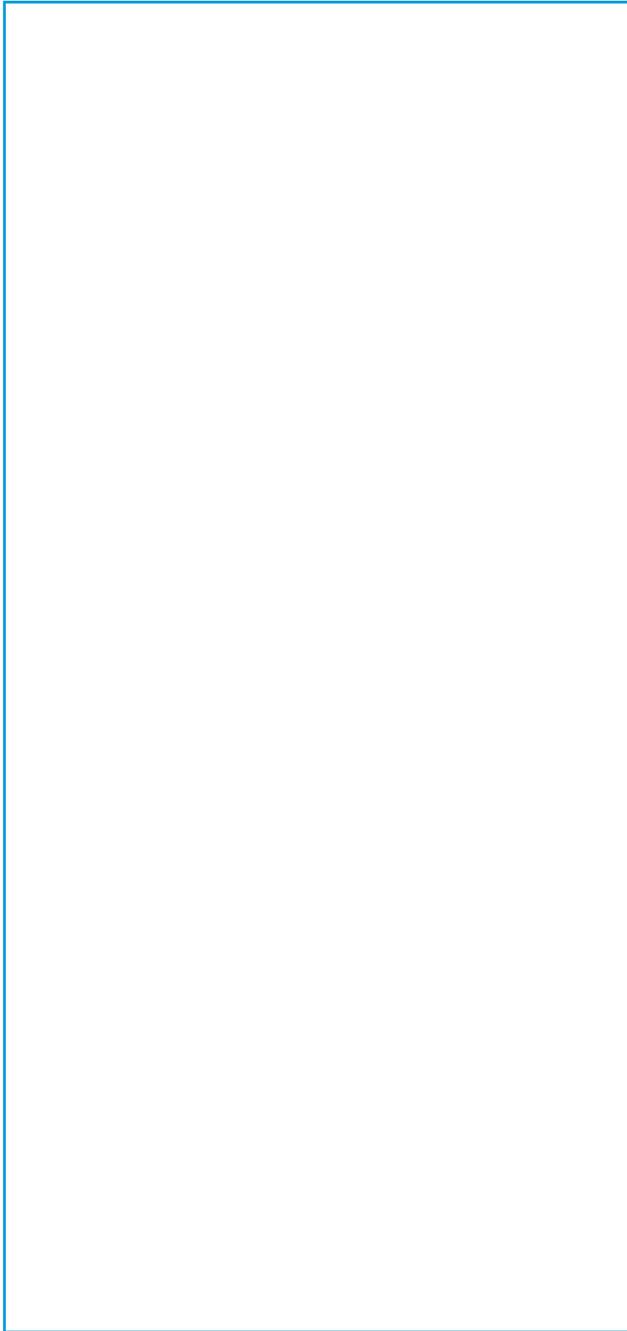
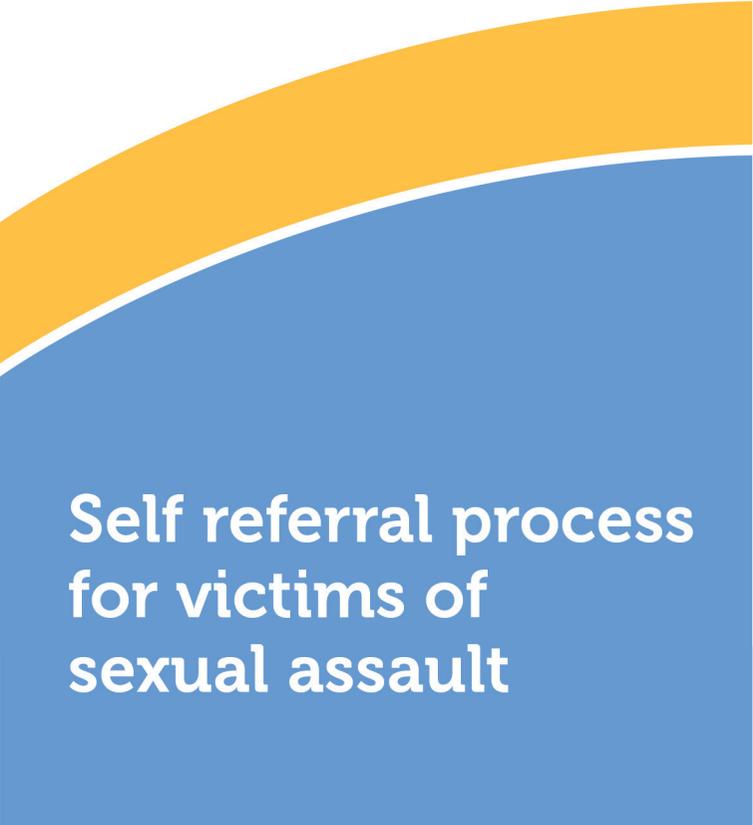


Useful Contacts:



Crime can be reported to Police Scotland by dialling 101 or 999 if an urgent response is required.



**Self referral process
for victims of
sexual assault**

Self referral process for victims of sexual assault

The main priority of support agencies and the Police when dealing with a report of a serious sexual assault is to protect you and any other persons who may also be at risk.

Do not feel guilty or ashamed – we are all here to help you.

Help and Support

There are choices available to you. Details of local health and support agencies have been included in this leaflet.

We know and understand that not everyone may be ready or able to report a sexual assault to the Police straight after the incident.

Further advice and guidance can be found on the 'Survivors Guide to the Criminal Justice System' video using the following link :
<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/advice-for-victims-of-crime/sexual-crimes/>

Self Referral Process

If you are not ready to report to the Police, you can contact:

for medical advice, care and support.

In some cases, samples can be collected and forwarded for forensic testing anonymously. This can give you time to think about reporting to Police when you are ready.

If you consent to a medical examination, a specially trained Doctor will examine you for any injuries and may take samples for laboratory

testing. They will write a report of their findings and some information may be forwarded to your GP for your medical file to make sure that you get the best ongoing care.

Your identity will be protected throughout the full process and the Police will not be provided with your details.

You can choose whether any clothing or samples taken should be passed to the forensic laboratory for testing anonymously or stored until you feel ready for this to be done. You can also choose for any information about what happened to you to be passed anonymously to the Police. Your identity will be protected throughout the full process.

Please don't be embarrassed but you might be asked about any other sexual activity you have had before or after the assault. This is purely for forensic reasons.

Your support worker will only be able to tell you if DNA has been found or not. If DNA is found that is not yours, the support worker and the police cannot tell you where the DNA was found. This is for legal reasons and to protect your case if it went to court.

When the result of the forensic testing is known, your support worker will contact you.

Your Support Worker is:

Based at:

Contact number:

Email:

How Can You Help an Investigation?

Evidence can be preserved by you before a medical examination by:

- Not eating, drinking, smoking or brushing your teeth
- Keeping toilet tissue / sanitary products after use in a clean plastic bag
- Not washing yourself or the clothes that were worn at the time of the assault.

Police Involvement

If you choose to speak to the Police, they will appoint a Sexual Offences Liaison Officer (SOLO) who is specially trained to speak to victims of serious sexual assaults who will have an informal chat with you to talk you through the police investigation and criminal justice process.

You will not be asked any specific details of what happened to you and you won't be asked to provide your details

You will be given the option of whether you want a male or female SOLO and every effort will be taken to accommodate your request.

The SOLO will be your one point of contact should, in the future, you decide to tell Police what has happened to you and make a statement.

Police Scotland's priority throughout is your welfare and wellbeing.

Whenever you decide that you are ready to make that report, Police Scotland will listen to you and carry out a thorough and robust investigation. All complaints of sexual assault will be fully investigated and where there is sufficient evidence, will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.