

Each Protection Order is different but can prohibit someone from contacting you, being near you and engaging in personal violence towards you or members of your family.

### It is important to understand:

- You can decide if you want the matter investigated
- You can also change your mind
- You can ask questions and express your opinion
- It is our job to make sure that you understand what's going on, and we will explain things as many times as you need
- Your case will be investigated by an appropriately trained police officer
- Nobody, under any circumstances, deserves to be sexually assaulted
- There is no acceptable explanation for sexually assaulting someone
- There is no normal or typical response to being sexually assaulted
- Sexual assault is a crime

### You are not alone

Sexual assault can happen to anyone regardless of age, ability, social class, gender, ethnic background or sexual orientation.

Sexual assault can be committed by anyone regardless of their relationship to you. The offender could be a family member, friend, acquaintance, stranger, work colleague, partner or ex-partner.

It doesn't matter who they are or how you know them, sexual assault is a crime.

Sexual assault can happen with or without violence or threat of violence.

### The investigator in charge of your case is:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please contact us if you have any questions or need further information.

#### Support Services

- Canberra Rape Crisis Centre (including Service Assisting Male Survivors of Sexual Assault (SAMSSA) and The Nguru Program):  
**6247 2525**
- Domestic Violence Crisis Centre (DVCS):  
**6280 0900**
- Victim Support ACT:  
**1800 822 272**
- Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS):  
**1300 556 729**

For more information see:

<https://www.police.act.gov.au/safety-and-security/sexual-assault>



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# You have reported a sexual assault to the police.

We acknowledge that it has likely taken a great deal of strength and courage to report your assault, and we assure you that the response you receive from us will be respectful, non-judgmental, supportive, and understanding.

## What happened to you is a crime. It is not your fault.

This brochure is for people who have experienced sexual assault and contains information about:

- Making a statement to police
- What is a Medical Examination Kit (MEK)?
- Police investigation
- How long will the investigation take?
- What are Protection Orders?
- Police contact details
- Support services

## Making a statement to police

**Police will likely conduct an audio-video recorded interview, which will be your formal statement about what has happened (what you saw, heard and/or felt).**

It involves an investigator asking open questions to assist you in recounting, as best as possible, the assault in detail. If you cannot remember all the information, or do not know the answers, this is okay.

Making a statement can often take several hours. You might want to get it all over and done with at once, or you might want to do it in several sessions over time – that is up to you.

We usually take your statement in a private room at the police station, but we can go to your home or another location where you feel comfortable.

During the statement, we will ask you lots of questions in order to collect as much information as possible.

Some questions might make you feel embarrassed or uncomfortable. There is no need to feel this way - we are people, we are professionals, and this is our job. Nothing you say will embarrass or offend us, and it is important that we gather as much information about what happened to you.

Some questions might make you feel like we doubt you or judge you, but this is definitely not the case. We know that you are not responsible for what happened to you.

We may ask you about things like what you were wearing or what you were drinking because we need to know as much as possible about what happened to help us do our job. There is no excuse for sexual assault, no matter what you were wearing or how much you were drinking.

Making a statement could be healing, or it could be traumatic, or it could be a bit of both. Every single person has a different experience, and we will do everything we can to make it as safe and positive as possible.

You can have a support person with you if you want one, but it is best if that person is not a witness to the incident or who you have disclosed the incident to. We can also arrange a support person for you.

If you do not want to make a statement you do not have

to, however a formal statement is required for a police to investigate.

## What is a MEK?

**A MEK stands for Medical Examination Kit.**

You may be asked if you want to participate in a MEK if you have recently been sexually assaulted (i.e. in the last 7 days).

A MEK takes place at a hospital and involves a specialist doctor and nurse medically examining you. It may involve taking photographs of injuries, or samples (swabs) of possible evidence from your body.

You are in control of the examination and can stop at any time.

A MEK may provide evidence of the crime that was committed against you and assist the police investigation.

## Police investigation

We will investigate your case by gathering evidence. This may include:

- Obtaining witness statements;
- Collecting forensic evidence, such as clothing and bedding;
- Obtaining medical records, CCTV and phone records; and
- Approaching and interviewing the offender.

Once we have sufficient evidence, we may charge the offender and bring them before Court.

We will ask you what you would like to happen as a result of the investigation.

If you do not want us to continue the investigation, that is ok, just let us know. You can change your mind at any time, contact us and we will resume the investigation.

Many types of evidence, like forensic evidence, CCTV, and even someone's memory of what happened, will degrade or get lost over time. Even if you don't want us to charge

the offender, we would like to gather all of the available evidence now and preserve it in case you change your mind in future.

Sexual assault is a serious crime and there is no time limit on reporting it or prosecuting it.

## How long will the investigation take?

The length of an investigation varies. The investigator in charge of your case will keep in contact with you and make sure you are up to date with the progress of the investigation every step of the way. If the matter proceeds to Court:

- The investigator will talk to you about what to expect during the Court process
- The length of the Court process is different in every case for a range of reasons
- Some cases can take a long time to finalise at Court
- There will likely be a number of Court dates where you are not required to attend
- If your case proceeds to a trial, you may be required to attend Court while the trial is held and talk about what happened to you (the investigator will discuss protective measures that are available to you during the trial)
- We will ensure you have counselling and/or support through the Court process if you want it

## What are Protection Orders?

You may apply for a Protection Order at a Court.

Protection Orders include:

- Personal Protection Orders
- Workplace Protection Orders
- Family Violence Orders