

You have the right to seek:

CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER

More information on
the process here:
courts.ca.gov/1260.htm

and/or an

EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE ORDER

To help keep you safe. A law
enforcement officer can begin
this process by request.

You have the right to request

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

For covering the costs arising from
your assault (through Victim
Compensation in California). The
process for applying can be found here:
victims.ca.gov/for-victims

You have the right to have a

SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELOR

(victim advocate) and at least one other
person of your choosing to be present
during any exam or investigative
interview.

You have the right to use the

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S
SAFE-T DATABASE**

to check your kit's status.
kitstatus.doj.ca.gov

Any questions related to your rights
as a survivor of sexual assault can be
answered by a confidential advocate
from your rape crisis center.

Advocates are trained in support
services, local referrals, and
government processes like
law enforcement.

Rape crisis centers have confidential
advocates available 24 hours a day that
keep conversations private. You have
the right to contact your local rape
crisis center, at:

For more information and support.

■ Law Enforcement
■ Medical Provider
can be contacted at:

YOUR RIGHTS

Your Rights as a Survivor of Sexual Assault

This card is an outline of your rights
and resources and may not include
all the rights/options that may be
available to you. Under California
law (Cal. Penal Code § 680.2) any
law enforcement officer or medical
provider must provide you with
a card that clearly spells out your
rights. If you have further questions,
please contact your local rape crisis
center, medical provider, and/ or law
enforcement officer.

You are **NEVER** required to participate in the criminal justice system or receive a physical exam in order to keep your rights.

You get to **CHOOSE** whether you get an exam, if and how you report the assault, and how much you participate in the process.

DNA and other types of evidence can degrade/break down overtime due to exposure to heat, water, and other materials. In general, DNA evidence on the body can last from 12 hours to 7 days.

If the evidence related to your assault will be tested, it should be transported to the lab and analyzed within 120 days. Law enforcement officers must submit evidence to a crime lab within 20 days or ensure rapid medical facility to crime lab evidence collection within five (5) days.

The evidence related to your assault must be kept for **20 YEARS**, or for victims under age 18 at the time of the offense, until your **40TH BIRTHDAY**.

You have the **RIGHT** to assign a sexual assault victim advocate or other support person to receive updates about your DNA evidence processing.

You have the right to **REQUEST** in writing and receive a free copy of the initial crime report related to your assault.

If your assailant is convicted and required to register as a sex offender, you have the right to **REQUEST THEIR SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY INFORMATION** from the prosecutor.

A survivor of sexual assault and/or domestic violence cannot be imprisoned or confined for refusing to testify about their assault, even when court ordered.

You have rights related to the evidence that is collected. You have the right to:

- Ask for the status and results of the analysis of all evidence related to your assault. (You may have to request in writing).
- Ask the law enforcement officer for a tracking number and steps to get follow up information.
- Find out whether or not a DNA profile of your assailant was developed from the evidence.
- Find out whether or not the DNA profile of your assailant has been entered into the law enforcement database.
- Find out whether or not the DNA profile of your assailant matches a DNA profile contained in the law enforcement database.
- Find out whether, after six months, your DNA evidence has not been analyzed or whether law enforcement intends to destroy the DNA evidence.