

If You Have Been Assaulted

You have many options about how to proceed. Some people want to report the assault to law enforcement, others prefer to seek support from family, friends, and professionals and choose not to report. Many survivors do both. No one should tell you what is the best choice for you. Women's Crisis Support~Defensa de Mujeres seeks to support and educate survivors with whatever decision they make.

Remember that the assault is not your fault and you have nothing to be ashamed of. Reaching out for help can help you to recover more quickly. We are here for you.

Immediately after a sexual assault is the best time to collect evidence of the assault if you want to report the crime. If you are unsure if you want to report, please read below for more information or call our 24 hour crisis line and speak to an advocate. 1(888)900-43232

If you do not want to report you can also call the crisis line and/or make an appointment with advocates in our office who can provide emotional support and education about the healing process. The office number is (831)425-4030 in Santa Cruz and (831)722-4532 in Watsonville.

If you want to report the assault to the police.....

If the assault took place less than 5-7 days ago or if you still have visible injuries

If you want to report a sexual assault and for law enforcement to collect as much evidence as possible, it is best to contact law enforcement as soon as possible after the assault. If possible do not take a shower, bathe, change clothes, or eat or drink.

If the assault took place less than 5 days ago or if you still have visible injuries, you can call the police and file a police report. The police will ask you some information about the assault and escort you to the nearest hospital with a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner. The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner will collect evidence that may be used to prosecute against the perpetrator. Law Enforcement will not be present for the exam, but will document the details of the assault for the police report.

In Santa Cruz County we have a Sexual Assault Response Team which means that law enforcement will contact the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and an advocate from Monarch Services (Women's Crisis Support~Defensa de Mujeres) will also be contacted to provide support throughout the exam. There is an additional room for the advocate to wait at any point that a victim needs more privacy. Monarch Services will also provide follow up advocacy, information, and counseling for victims after the examination.

1. *To report a sexual assault call the police dispatch number (831)471-1121 and an officer can take a report and possibly transport you to the hospital for a forensic examination which will serve to collect evidence.*
2. *If you are still in danger and need an immediate response call 911.*

3. You can also ask a friend to take you to the following local hospitals:

Dominican Hospital
1555 Soquel Dr
Santa Cruz, CA 95065
(831) 462-7700

Watsonville Hospital
75 Neilson St
Watsonville, CA 95076
831) 761-5613

If you are unsure about reporting the assault to the police, but want to document the physical evidence of the assault in case that you decide to report to law enforcement later...

California law provides Sexual Assault Victims the option of having a Sexual Assault Forensic (Evidence) Examination without reporting the Assault to Law Enforcement. You can go to the hospital, especially if you need to be seen by a doctor and let them know that you do not want to report to law enforcement at this time, but do want a SART exam to save the evidence. You can also call the dispatch lines above and let them know that you want a SART Exam but do not want to report to law enforcement at this time. Ask them to connect you with the SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner) on call for an Abbreviated Sexual Assault Exam. The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner will ask you questions to determine whether an exam would be appropriate based on the assault and how much time has passed. If the SAFE determines that an Abbreviated Sexual Assault Exam may be useful in collecting evidence for future prosecution s/he will contact Monarch Services and we will be present as an advocate and support person for you during the exam.

If the assault happened more than 5-7 days ago and there are no longer any physical injuries

If the assault happened more than 5 days ago, you can still contact the police department in the jurisdiction in which the assault occurred to file a police report. Explain what happened. The police will set up an appointment for you to come in and make an official statement. You can also call an advocate through Monarch Services Rape crisis line. A volunteer or advocate can help you to understand your options and/or assist you with reporting the assault if you so choose. The hotline is always answered – (888)900-4232.

Reporting Phone Numbers

Capitola Police **471-1141**

Santa Cruz Police **471-1131**

Scotts Valley Police **q 438-2326**

Watsonville Police 471-1151

Santa Cruz Sheriff 471-1121

Univ. of California Police 459-2231

If you want to talk to someone about the assault, your options, and/or how to proceed, we will support whatever decision you make .

Please call our 24 hour confidential, crisis line

(888) 900-4232.

An advocate is available 24hours a day 365 days a year and someone is waiting just for you to make the call

Or make an appointment with an advocate in one of our Santa Cruz County Offices

Santa Cruz Office

(831)425-4030

1685 Commercial Way

Santa Cruz, CA 95065

Or the

Watsonville Office

(831)722-4532

233 East Lake Avenue

Watsonville, CA 95076