

# Austin Police Department

## Sexual Assault Information Line

### Reaching Out to Survivors



### Austin Police Department Sexual Assault Information Line

**Phone: (512) 974-5555**

**Email:**

**[sexcrimesdna@austintexas.gov](mailto:sexcrimesdna@austintexas.gov)**

## Resources

Sometimes a reminder of a past assault can trigger strong emotions, such as fear, anger, or anxiety. These reactions are normal, but it can be beneficial to seek extra support. Below is a list of resources that may be helpful:

**Center for Child Protection:**

(512) 472-1164

**SafePlace:** (512) 267-7233

**National Sexual Assault Hotline:**

1-(800) 656-HOPE

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## Information Line Goal

The purpose of the Information Line is to give survivors of sexual assault – who reported to the Austin Police Department any time from the 1990s to the present and received a sexual assault examination from a hospital or certified sexual assault nurse examiner – a resource to contact APD about their case. As testing progresses through all of the backlogged sexual assault kits, we want to provide survivors with an opportunity to contact the Austin Police Department on their own terms.

## How to Respond to a Sexual Assault

If you or someone you know has been a victim of a sexual assault please consider these options:

Get to a safe place; maybe with a friend, family member, neighbor, or go to a 24-hour location, such as a police station or public place.

Seek medical attention for treatment of injuries, medication to help prevent pregnancy and the most common sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and to collect evidence.

In Austin, SafePlace provides sexual assault nurse examiners for ages 17 and above. Dell Children's Hospital provides sexual assault nurse examiners for children ages 0 – 17.

As time passes, evidence can be destroyed. Therefore, it is important to go to SafePlace, Dell Children's Hospital or any medical facility as soon as possible. Try not to shower or bathe, brush teeth, eat or drink, before getting an exam.

Make a police report. A report can be made by dialing 911, going to a police station, or going to SafePlace. For investigative purposes, it is best to report as soon as possible.

Speak to a safe person. It is important to speak with a trusted person about the assault. You can call a sexual assault 24-hour crisis hotline to speak with a trained advocate at

**24/7 HOTLINE: (512) 267-SAFE**

## **Untested Sexual Assault Kits (SAK's)**

Law enforcement agencies across the country are experiencing a backlog of untested sexual assault kits (SAKs). The Austin Police Department has received funding for the forensic testing of untested or backlogged SAKs.

Once processed, all cases will be reviewed by personnel assigned to the Sex Crimes Unit. By using the Sexual Assault Information Line, the Austin Police Department has another way to inform survivors of the status of the testing.

The Austin Police Department is committed to assisting the survivors of sexual assault by using a victim-centered approach to investigations. This dedication extends to survivors with current open cases, along with the survivors whose sexual assault kits were part of the backlog. We are dedicated to seeking justice for the survivors as well as the community.

## **Sexual Assault Information Phone Line and Email**

The purpose of the Information Line and Email is to give survivors of sexual assault a resource to contact the Austin Police Department about the status of the evidence in their case.

## **Who should contact the Information Line or Email?**

Any survivor of a sexual assault who received an evidence examination from a hospital or clinic and made a report to the Austin Police Department dating back to the 1990's.

## **When can I call or email?**

You will be able to leave a voice message with your information and an investigator will get back with you. The email address will be checked by the same phone line responders.

## **What information should I Provide?**

- ☐ Name
- ☐ Date of birth
- ☐ Report number (if known)
- ☐ Date or year of the assault
- ☐ Pseudonym name if you had one
- ☐ Contact information (Phone and/or email)

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What if I am the parent of a child survivor?**

If your child is still under your care, you can contact the Information Line on behalf of your child. If your child is now an adult, it would be best to have her/him contact us to discuss the case directly. If you are unsure, please contact us to discuss the matter.

### **What if I don't know my case number?**

One of the reasons we need to gather information from you is to look up the case number in our databases. We should be able to find your report by your name and date of birth, but sometimes we might need additional information, such as where the incident occurred or what hospital you were seen, but this is not always necessary.

What if I am not sure if the Austin Police Department handled my case? Please contact us and we will look into the matter. If another agency is responsible, we will provide you with that agency's contact information.