

Frequently Asked Questions

What can I expect from the phone call?

Confidentiality is very important to us, so case-related information will not be provided over the phone. We will be asking for your name, case number, and best contact phone number and/or email address to reach you. An investigator will follow up with you to discuss your case.

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 at what hospital you were seen, but this is not always necessary.

What if I am not sure if the Houston 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.

Houston Police Department Sexual Assault Information Line

Phone: (713) 308-1400

Email: SAinfo@houstonpolice.org

Sexual Assault Kits (SAKs)

Law enforcement agencies across the country are experiencing a backlog of untested sexual assault kits (SAKs). In 2013 the Houston Police Department, in conjunction with the City of Houston, initiated a proactive response to seek the necessary resources to test all SAKs held in evidence.

Partnered with the City of Houston, as well as other community agencies, the Houston Police Department has been devoted to addressing the issue of untested sexual assault kits and preventing it from developing again in the future. At this stage, all of the untested kits have been sent to an accredited lab to be processed.

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

The Houston 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.

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.

As time passes, evidence can be destroyed. It is important to go to the hospital as soon as possible. Try not to shower or bathe, brush teeth, eat or drink, before going to the hospital.

In Houston, hospitals that provide sexual assault nurse examiners are the hospitals with **Memorial Hermann** (Texas Medical Center, Children's Memorial Hermann, Southwest, Northwest, Southeast, Northeast, Memorial City, Katy, Sugar Land, The Woodlands), **Harris Health System** (Ben Taub, LBJ), **Texas Children's** and **Methodist Willowbrook**.

Make a police report. A report can be made by dialing 911, going to a police station, or going to a hospital. 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 either:

Houston Area Women's Center
(713) 528-7273

National Sexual Assault Hotline
1(800) 656-HOPE (4673)