



**OFFICE OF THE HUDSON COUNTY PROSECUTOR**  
**595 NEWARK AVENUE**  
**JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07306**

**ESTHER SUAREZ**  
**PROSECUTOR**

**TELEPHONE: (201) 795-6400**  
**FAX: (201) 369-5211**

Sexual Assault is considered a serious crime in the State of New Jersey and there is help available. The Hudson County Office of Victim Witness Advocacy provides assistance to victims to help lessen the loss, and inconvenience suffered as a result of this crime.

The Office of Victim Witness Advocacy can help you apply for reimbursement of medical expenses and/or loss of earnings through the New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Office. Our advocates can also act as a liaison, assisting with social service agencies and employer and school intervention.

If you feel that you are in need of immediate support or counseling services please contact Hudson SPEAKS for free and confidential services on their 24 hour bilingual helpline at **(201) 795-5757**.

If you'd like to file for a Sexual Assault Survivors Protection Order (S.A.S.P.A), please complete the attached form and email it to the Hudson County Family Court Division at [HudEmergent.Mailbox@njcourts.gov](mailto:HudEmergent.Mailbox@njcourts.gov), and a member of the Family Division staff will promptly review the submitted paperwork and will contact you (the victim/plaintiff) to coordinate a time for a telephonic or video hearing on the application before a Superior Court judge.

For statewide information on additional resources you can visit <https://njcasa.org/our-work/resources/>.

If you have questions about the status of the criminal prosecution, please contact either Assistant Prosecutors John Mulkeen at (201) 795-6400, 1, x6564 or Jane Weiner at (201) 795-6400, 1, x6570. A.P. Mulkeen and A.P. Weiner can also provide guidance on no contact orders in any criminal prosecutions or information on where to apply for a Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act (S.A.S.P.A.) restraining order, particularly in cases without criminal charges.

If you would like further information, or have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy in the strictest of confidence, at **(201) 795-6508**.

# Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights

N.J. Stat. Ann. § 52:4B-60.1 et seq.

## In New Jersey, victims of sexual violence are afforded the following rights:

- (1) To have any allegation of sexual assault treated seriously; to be treated with dignity and compassion; and to be notified of existing medical, counseling, mental health, or other services available for victims of sexual assault, whether or not the crime is reported to law enforcement;
- (2) To be free, to the extent consistent with the New Jersey or United States Constitution, from any suggestion that victims are responsible for the commission of crimes against them or any suggestion that victims were contributorily negligent or assumed the risk of being assaulted;
- (3) To be free from any suggestion that victims are to report the crimes to be assured of any other guaranteed right and that victims should refrain from reporting crimes in order to avoid unwanted personal publicity;
- (4) When applicable, to no-cost access to the services of a sexual assault response team comprised of: a certified forensic nurse examiner, a confidential sexual violence advocate, and a law enforcement official as provided in accordance with the Attorney General's Standards for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault, and the choice to opt into or out of any of the team's services;
- (5) To be informed of, and assisted in exercising, the right to be confidentially or anonymously tested for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or any other related virus identified as a probable causative agent of AIDS; and to be informed of, and assisted in exercising, any rights that may be provided by law to compel and disclose the results of testing of a sexual assault suspect for communicable diseases;
- (6) To have forensic medical evidence, if collected, retained for a minimum of five years, and to receive information about the status of the evidence upon request;
- (7) To choose whether to participate in any investigation of the assault;
- (8) To reasonable efforts to provide treatment and interviews in a language in which the victim is fluent and the right to be given access to appropriate assistive devices to accommodate disabilities that the victim may have, whether temporary or long term;
- (9) To information and assistance in accessing specialized mental health services; protection from further violence; other appropriate community or governmental services, including services provided by the Victims of Crime Compensation Office; and all other assistance available to crime victims under current law;
- (10) To be apprised of the availability and process by which a court may order the taking of testimony from a victim via closed circuit television in accordance with section 1 of P.L.1985, c.126 (C.2A:84A-32.4); and
- (11) To be apprised of the availability and process by which to seek protections through a temporary or final protective order under the "Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act of 2015," P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et seq.), if the victim believes that the victim is at risk for re-victimization or further harm by the perpetrator.



# Declaración de Derechos de La Víctima de Agresión Sexual

N.J. Stat. Ann. § 52:4B-60.1 et seq.

En Nueva Jersey a las víctimas de violencia sexual se les otorgan los siguientes derechos:

- (1) Que toda denuncia de agresión sexual sea tratada con seriedad; ser tratada/o con dignidad y compasión; y de ser notificada/o de servicios disponibles ya sean médicos, de consejería y asesoramiento, de salud mental, o de otros tipos disponibles para las víctimas de agresión sexual ya sea que se haya reportada el delito a las agencias del orden público o no.
- (2) De estar libres, en la medida compatible con la Constitución de Nueva Jersey o de Los Estados Unidos, de cualquier inferencia que las víctimas son las responsables por los delitos que se cometen en su contra o de alguna inferencia que las víctimas contribuyeron al delito por su negligencia o que asumido el riesgo de ser agredidas/os.
- (3) De estar libres de cualquier inferencia que las víctimas deben reportar los delitos para que se les asegure algún otro derecho garantizado y que las víctimas deben evitar reportar los delitos para evitar publicidad personal no deseada.
- (4) Cuando aplique, al acceso sin costo a los servicios de un equipo de respuesta a la agresión sexual comprendido por una enfermera examinadora forense certificada, un asesor confidencial de violencia sexual, y un oficial del orden público como lo indican los Estándares de la Oficina del Fiscal General para proveer servicios a las Víctimas de Agresión Sexual, y de tener la opción de participar o no con los servicios que provee el equipo y que usted escoja.
- (5) De que se le informe y que se le ayude a ejercer su derecho a obtener pruebas confidenciales para detectar el Síndrome de Inmunodeficiencia Adquirida (SIDA) o la infección con el Virus de Inmunodeficiencia Humana (VIH) o de cualquier otro virus relacionado e identificado como probable agente causante del SIDA; y de permanecer informada/o y recibir asistencia al ejercer cualquier derecho que le otorgue la ley para requerir y divulgar los resultados de pruebas que se le hayan hecho a un sospechoso de agresión sexual para detectar enfermedades transmisibles;
- (6) Que se guarden los resultados de las pruebas médicas forenses, si es que se han colectado, por un mínimo de cinco años, y de recibir información sobre la condición/estatus de las evidencias cuando la solicite.
- (7) Decidir si participar o no en la investigación de la agresión.
- (8) Que se hagan esfuerzos razonables para proveer tratamiento y entrevistas en el idioma en el que la víctima hable con fluidez y dar acceso a dispositivos de asistencia adecuados en relación a cualquier incapacidad que pueda tener la víctima ya sea temporal o a largo plazo;
- (9) A tener información y ayuda para poder tener acceso a servicios especializados de salud mental; a protección contra nuevos actos de violencia; a otros servicios apropiados ya sean comunitarios o gubernamentales, incluyendo los servicios provistos por la Oficina de Compensación para Víctimas del Crimen; y toda otra ayuda disponible a víctimas de delitos conforme a las leyes vigentes.
- (10) De ser informada/o de la disponibilidad y el proceso por el cual un tribunal puede ordenar testimonio de una víctima a través de circuito cerrado de televisión conforme a la sección 1 de P.L. 1985, c.126 (C.2A:84A-32.4); y
- (11) De ser informada/o sobre la disponibilidad y el proceso para solicitar protección mediante una orden de alejamiento temporal o permanente conforme a “la Ley de protección a sobrevivientes de agresiones sexuales del 2015,” P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et seq.), si la víctima cree que corre el riesgo de ser víctima de nuevo o de daño adicional por parte del autor.

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE



## REFERRALS

### Christ Hospital Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

179 Palisade Avenue, Jersey City, NJ  
(201) 795-8375

Hudson S.P.E.A.K.S. (formerly Rape Crisis)  
24 hour Hotline  
(201) 795-5757

Jersey City Medical Center  
355 Grand Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302  
(201) 915-2000

Hoboken University Medical Center  
Community of Mental Health  
506 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Hoboken, NJ  
(201) 792-8200

Hackensack -Palisades Medical Center  
Counseling Center  
7101 Kennedy Blvd., North Bergen, NJ  
(201) 854-0500

North Hudson Community Action Corporation

5301 Broadway, West New York, NJ  
(201) 866-9320

714 31st Street, Union City, NJ  
(201) 863-7077

1116 43rd Street, North Bergen, NJ  
(201) 330-2632  
324 Palisade Avenue, Jersey City, NJ  
(201) 459-8888

### WomenRising Inc.

Programs for Women and Families  
(Domestic Violence)  
270 Fairmount Avenue, Jersey City, NJ  
(201) 333-5700

New Jersey Superior Court  
Chancery Division—Family Part  
Hudson Vichage  
595 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, NJ  
(201) 748-4400

Department of Child Protection and  
Permanency  
(DCP&P)

1-877-NJ-ABUSE

Hudson County Department of  
Families Services  
Division of Welfare  
257 Cornelison Avenue, Jersey City, NJ  
(201) 420-3000

Garden State Episcopal Office of  
Community Services  
(201) 604-2600

Health and Human Services  
(Also known as 2-1-1)  
1-800-435-7555

## PERSONAL CASE INFORMATION

Prosecutor file number:

Prosecutor/Phone Number:

## Helpful Resources

Trauma Recovery Center (TRC)  
Jersey City Medical Center  
(201) 839-2644

New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women  
[www.njcbw.org](http://www.njcbw.org)  
24/7 Hotline: 1-800-572-SAFE (7233)

New Jersey Coalition Against  
Sexual Assault  
[www.njcasa.org](http://www.njcasa.org)  
24/7 Hotline: 1-800-601-7200

New Jersey Coalition Against  
Human Trafficking  
[www.njhumantrafficking.org](http://www.njhumantrafficking.org)  
24/7 Hotline: 1-888-373-7888

Behavioral Health Care Point Health  
[www.carepointhealth.org/behavioral-health](http://www.carepointhealth.org/behavioral-health)  
1-877-791-7000

Hudson County Assistance Programs  
[www.needhelp-paying-bills.com/html/hudson\\_county\\_public\\_assistance.html](http://www.needhelp-paying-bills.com/html/hudson_county_public_assistance.html)  
(website only)

## HUDSON COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

ESTHER SUAREZ  
County Prosecutor

Wayne Mello  
First Assistant Prosecutor



## OFFICE OF VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY

595 Newark Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Telephone: (201) 795-6508  
Fax: (201) 369-5211

Silena R. Shuta  
Victim Witness Coordinator

## MESSAGE FROM THE PROSECUTOR

Everyday, in our country innocent people become victims of senseless acts of violence. Peoples' lives are forever changed due to these crimes. The Office of Victim/Witness Advocacy is a supportive resource during these difficult times. The advocates and staff members assist victims and their families through the criminal justice process.

The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office believes that the voices of victims and witnesses are an important part of the Criminal Justice System. The cooperation of every victim and witness is vital to the prosecution of offenders.

The goal of the Office of Victim/Witness Advocacy is to ensure that the rights of victims of crime and witnesses are protected and that their needs receive our full attention.

Sincerely,



ESTHER SUAREZ  
County Prosecutor

### The Office of Victim Witness Advocacy...

- ◆ Provides information on the disposition and status of criminal and domestic violence cases.
- ◆ Informs the victim/next of kin if the defendant is released on parole.
- ◆ Provides referrals to social service agencies and other counseling services.
- ◆ Provides assistance in obtaining Restraining Orders.
- ◆ Provides crisis intervention.
- ◆ Provides assistance in filling out applications with VCCO (Victims of Crime Compensation Office) for reimbursement of medical bills, funeral expenses, relocation, etc.
- ◆ Provides communication and intervention services with employers and/or schools.
- ◆ Assists with property/evidence return.
- ◆ Provides orientation of the criminal justice system for the victim to be familiar with.
- ◆ Provides referral information on available medical testing for those victims of criminal acts involving disease transmission.
- ◆ Has a bilingual staff available. (Spanish)
- ◆ Provides assistance with Victim Impact Statements.
- ◆ Provides a safe area for victims/surviving family members next of kin to await Superior Court proceedings.

To find out if a defendant in your case is in custody at the Hudson County Jail, please call the computer operated VINELink system at 1-877-846-3465 or go to [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com). Both are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The New Jersey State Constitution includes guaranteed rights for crime victims. Article 1, Paragraph 22 reads:

A victim of a crime shall be treated with fairness, compassion and respect by the criminal justice system. A victim of a crime shall not be denied the right to be present at public judicial proceedings except when, prior to completing testimony as a witness, the victim is properly sequestered in accordance with law or the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey. A victim of a crime shall be entitled to those rights and remedies as may be provided by the Legislature.

### CRIME VICTIMS BILL OF RIGHTS

N. J. S. 52-4B-36

- To be treated with dignity and compassion by the criminal justice system;
- To be informed about the criminal justice process;
- To be free from intimidation;
- To have inconveniences associated with participation in the criminal justice system process minimized;
- To make at least one telephone call provided the call is reasonable in both length and location;
- To provide medical assistance reasonably related to the incident;
- To be notified in a timely manner if presence in court is not needed;
- To be informed about available remedies, financial assistance and social services;
- To be compensated for loss sustained by the victim whenever possible;
- To be provided a secure waiting area during court proceedings;
- To be advised of case progress and final disposition;
- To prompt return of property when no longer needed as evidence;
- To submit a written statement about the impact of the crime to a representative of the Prosecutor's Office;
- To make, prior to sentencing, an in person statement directly to the sentencing court;
- To be notified of any release or escape of the defendant.



## How to File a New Jersey Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act (SASPA) Complaint Superior Court of New Jersey - Chancery Division - Family Part

**\*\*Please be advised this packet is intended to only be used during the COVID-19 crisis.\*\***

### Who Should Use This Packet?

This packet should only be used the **first time** you file for a Sexual Assault Survivor Protective Order.

#### **Use this packet if you are:**

A victim of nonconsensual sexual contact, sexual penetration, or lewdness, (see definitions on page 3) or any attempt at such conduct, and who does **not** meet the definition of a “domestic violence victim” in the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (PDVA).

- A victim's parent or guardian may file on behalf of the victim in any case in which the victim:
  - is less than 18 years of age; or
  - has a developmental disability or a mental disease or defect that renders the victim temporarily or permanently incapable of understanding the nature of the victim’s conduct, including, but not limited to, being incapable of providing consent

#### **Do NOT use this packet if:**

- You meet the definition of a “victim” under the PDVA - N.J.S.A. 2C:25-19 (d)(a) which is as follows:
  - A person protected by the PDVA includes any person:
    - **Who** is 18 years of age or older, **or** who is an emancipated minor, and who has been subjected to domestic violence by:
      - ❖ Spouse
      - ❖ Former spouse
      - ❖ Any other person who is a present household member or was at any time a household member, or
    - **Who, regardless of age**, has been subjected to domestic violence by a person:
      - ❖ With whom the victim has a child in common, or
      - ❖ With whom the victim anticipates having a child in common, if one of the parties is pregnant, or has been subjected to domestic violence by a person with whom the victim has had a dating relationship.

**NOTE:** If you are a victim of domestic violence and want to file for a domestic violence restraining order, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

- If you are filing on behalf of a minor child and the person you are filing against is a parent or guardian of the minor child, you cannot file under the Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act. You must call the Division of Permanency and Protection at: 1-877 NJ ABUSE (1-877-652-2873); TTY/TDD 1-800-835-5510

Note: These materials have been prepared by the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts for use by self-represented litigants. The guides, instructions, and forms will be periodically updated as necessary to reflect current New Jersey statutes and court rules. The most recent version of the forms will be available at the county courthouse or on the Judiciary’s Internet site [njcourts.gov](http://njcourts.gov). However, you are ultimately responsible for the content of your court papers.

**Completed forms are to be submitted to your local Family Division. A list of Family Division Offices can be found on [njcourts.gov](http://njcourts.gov)**

## Things to Think About Before You Represent Yourself in Court

### Try to Get a Lawyer

The law, the proofs necessary to present your case, and the procedural rules governing cases in the Family Division are complex. It is recommended that you make every effort to obtain the assistance of a lawyer. If you cannot afford a lawyer, you may contact the legal services program in your county to see if you qualify for free legal services. Their telephone number can be found online under “Legal Aid” or “[Legal Services](#).”

If you do not qualify for free legal services and need help in locating an attorney, you can contact the bar association in your county. The telephone number can also be found in your local yellow pages. Most county bar associations have a [Lawyer Referral Service](#).

The County Bar Lawyer Referral Service can supply you with the names of attorneys in your area willing to handle your particular type of case and will sometimes consult with you at a reduced fee.

There are a variety of organizations of minority lawyers throughout New Jersey, as well as organizations of lawyers who handle specialized types of cases. Ask the Family court staff in your county for a list of lawyer referral services that include these organizations.

### What You Should Expect If You Represent Yourself

While you have the right to represent yourself in court, you should not expect special treatment, help or attention from the court. The following is a list of some things court staff can and cannot do for you. Please read it carefully before asking court staff for help.

- We *can* explain and answer questions about how the court works.
- We *can* tell you what the requirements are to have your case considered by the court.
- We *can* give you some information from your case file.
- We *can* provide you with samples of court forms that are available.
- We *can* provide you with guidance on how to fill out forms.
- We *can* usually answer questions about court deadlines.
- We *cannot* give you legal advice. Only your lawyer can give you legal advice.
- We *cannot* tell you whether or not you should bring your case to court.
- We *cannot* give you an opinion about what will happen if you bring your case to court.
- We *cannot* recommend a lawyer, but we can provide you with the telephone number of a local lawyer referral service.
- We *cannot* talk to the judge for you about what will happen in your case.
- We *cannot* let you talk to the judge outside of court.
- We *cannot* change an order issued by a judge.

### Keep Copies of All Papers

Make and keep copies for yourself, written agreements, Case Information Statements, and other important papers that relate to your case

## Definitions of Court Terms Used in SASPA Cases

**Certification** - A *certification* is a written statement made to the court when you file papers with the court, swearing that the information contained in the filed papers is true subject to penalty if any statement is willfully false.

**Complaint** - A *complaint* is a formal document filed in court that starts a case. It typically includes the names of the parties and the issues you are asking the court to decide.

**Court Order** - A *court order* is the written decision issued by a court of law. For example, a child support court order sets forth how often, how much, and what kind of support is to be paid.

**Defendant** - the party sued in a civil lawsuit or the party charged with a crime in a criminal prosecution. In some types of cases (such as divorce) a defendant may be called a respondent.

**Docket Number** - The *docket number* is the identifying number assigned to every case filed in the court.

**File** - To *file* means to give the appropriate forms to the court to begin the court's consideration of your request.

**Intimate Parts** - Means the following body parts: sexual organs, genital area, anal area, inner thigh, groin, buttock, or breast of a person.

**Lewdness** - Means the exposing of the genitals for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual of the actor.

**Party** - A *party* is a person, business, or governmental agency involved in a court action.

**Petitioner** - *Petitioner* is another name for the person starting the court action by filing the appropriate papers the court will consider.

**Respondent** - *Respondent* is the person who is named as the other party in the court action filed by the petitioner. This person can respond to the complaint or application filed by the petitioner by filing a cross application or written response with the court.

**Sexual Conduct** - Means an intentional touching by the victim or actor, either directly or through clothing, of the victim's or actor's intimate parts for the purpose of degrading or humiliating the victim or sexually arousing or sexually gratifying the actor.

**Sexual Penetration** - Means vaginal intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, or anal intercourse between persons or insertion of the hand, finger, or object into the anus or vagina either by the actor or upon the actor's instruction.



The numbered steps listed below tell you what forms you will need to fill out and what to do with them. Each form should be typed or printed clearly on 8 ½ “x 11” white paper only. Forms cannot be filed on a different size or color paper. Use only the forms included in this packet. Be sure to keep a copy for your records.

## **Steps for Filing a Complaint**

### **STEP 1: Fill out the Intake Form (Form A)**

The Intake form provides your and/or the minor child’s demographic information. This information will be kept confidential and will not be shared with the defendant.

### **STEP 2: Fill out the *Verified Complaint* (Form B)**

The *Verified Complaint* is a written request in which you ask the court to establish a court order on your behalf or on a minor child’s behalf. The court will establish an order based on testimony of the parties and written documentation submitted.

### **STEP 3: Additional Information Sheet (FORM C)**

This form is provided if you need additional space to type the details of the incident for which you are filing for a protective order.

### **STEP 4: Provide the court with the most recent address of the other party**

If the court grants a temporary order of protection, the court will send a Notice to Appear to the plaintiff and the defendant and any attorney(s) connected to your case when the case is scheduled for a final hearing. Your appearance is **mandatory**.

**Note:** The other party will receive copies of all the papers you attach (except for the Intake Form) to your complaint with the Notice to Appear, unless court rules prohibit this information from being shared.

You must provide the court with the most current address (that you know of) for the other party and the name of their attorney (if you know it) when you file your complaint.

### **STEP 5: Check your completed forms and make copies**

Check your forms and make sure they are complete. Remove all instruction sheets. Make sure you have signed all the forms wherever necessary.

### **STEP 6: Submit your completed paperwork**

Submit your completed packet through the Judiciary Electronic Document System (JEDS). You may find the link to JEDS here <https://www.njcourts.gov/selfhelp/jeds.html>. In JEDS please select the county where you would like to file your application. You may file your complaint in the county where the conduct or attempted conduct occurred, where the defendant resides, or where you reside or are sheltered.

### **NOTE:**

These applications may only be filed in the Family Division of the Superior Court during normal business hours.

These applications may only be taken at the Superior Court and are not to be accepted at Municipal Courts and/or police departments.

All courthouse addresses can be found on [njcourts.gov](http://njcourts.gov).

## Instructions for Completing the SASPA Intake Form (Form A)

1. Part I of the SASPA Intake form is for the Plaintiff/Victim information. If you are the victim, enter your own information or if you are a parent or guardian enter the minor child's information for the following fields:
  - a. Name
  - b. Social security number
  - c. Date of birth
  - d. Address
  - e. Telephone number
  - f. Cell phone number
  - g. Email Address
  - h. Employer name
  - i. Employer address
  - j. Employer telephone number
  - k. Emergency Contact
  - l. Emergency Contact telephone number
  
2. If you are filing on behalf of a minor child, enter complete the following fields on the second portion of the intake form under Parent/Guardian section.
  - a. Name
  - b. Relation to the child
  - c. Social security number
  - d. Date of birth
  - e. Address
  - f. Telephone number
  - g. Cell phone number
  - h. Email Address
  - i. Employer name
  - j. Employer address
  - k. Employer telephone number

**NOTE:** The Intake Form (FORM A) will be kept confidential and will not be given to the other party/defendant.

## Instructions for Completing a Verified Complaint (Form B)

- A. Leave the *Docket Number* blank. The court will provide this number for you.
- B. On the right side of the form, enter the *County* where you are filing the application.
- C. Enter your name or the minor's name, if you are filing a complaint on the behalf of a minor child, in the space marked "*Plaintiff/Victim*".
- D. If you are filing on behalf of a minor child, enter your name in the space marked "*Plaintiff/Parent/Guardian*".
- E. Enter your date of birth or the minor's date of birth in the space marked "*Plaintiff/Victim's Date of Birth*".
- F. Enter your date of birth if you are filing on behalf of a minor child in the space marked "*Plaintiff/Parent/Guardian Date of Birth*".
- G. On the right side of the form, enter the defendant's description if known in the following fields:
  - a. Defendant's sex
  - b. Defendant's race
  - c. Defendant's date of birth
  - d. Defendant's height
  - e. Defendant's weight
  - f. Defendant's eye color
  - g. Defendant's hair color
  - h. Any distinguishing features that the defendant may have such as scars, tattoos, facial hair etc.
  - i. Defendant's driver's license number and the state it was issued if known.
- H. Enter the Defendant's name in the space marked "*Defendant Information: Name:*".
- I. Enter the Defendant's "*home and cell phone number*", "*work phone number*", "*social security number*" "*e-mail address*" and "*home and work address*" in the appropriately marked spaces on the form.
- J. Enter the date the defendant committed the act in the space marked "*ON (Date)*".
- K. Enter the time the defendant committed the act in the space marked "*AT (Time)*".
- L. Enter the details of the act(s) the defendant committed in the space marked "*BY (Details)*". You can continue to use as many lines as necessary to state the exact details of the act(s) the defendant committed against you or minor child.
- M. Check off the act or acts the defendant committed: "*Sexual Contact, Sexual Penetration, Lewdness*". See definitions of each act in the definitions section of this packet.
- N. Answer "*Yes*" or "*No*" on Question 1 regarding prior or pending court proceedings involving yourself, if

you are the plaintiff/victim, or the minor plaintiff/victim, and the defendant in this complaint. If you select "Yes", enter the title of the case, the docket number and the county and state where the case is being heard.

- O. Answer "Yes" or "No" on Question 2 regarding whether a criminal complaint has been filed in this matter. If you select "Yes", enter the date, docket number and the county and state where the case is being.
- P. The form must have the signature of the party filing the complaint. If you cannot scan a signed copy of this document, please type your name in the signature line.



New Jersey Judiciary

# Sexual Assault Survivors Protection Act (SASPA) Intake Form

To assure accuracy of court records – To be filled out by the Plaintiff or Attorney  
**Confidentiality of this information must be maintained**

Please complete the entire form, leaving no blank spaces. If something does not apply to you, enter "N/A". This form is confidential and will not be shared with the other party.

## I. Victim Information

Name: Last	First	Middle Initial
Social Security Number	Date of Birth	
Address: Street	City	State Zip Code
Telephone Number	Cell Phone Number	
Email Address		
Employer Name		
Employer Address: Street	City	State Zip Code
Employer Telephone Number		
Emergency Contact Name	Emergency Contact Telephone Number	

## II. Parent/Guardian Information

Name: Last	First	Middle Initial
Relation to the Child	Social Security Number	Date of Birth
Address: Street	City	State Zip Code
Telephone Number	Cell Phone Number	
Email Address		
Employer Name		
Employer Address: Street	City	State Zip Code
Employer Telephone Number		
Emergency Contact Name	Emergency Contact Telephone Number	

## III. Hearing Information

Will an interpreter be required?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, indicate language: _____		
Will an accommodation for a disability be required?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, indicate requested accommodation: _____		

**New Jersey Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act Complaint**

\_\_\_\_\_ County, Superior Court,  
Chancery Division, Family Part

Docket Number  
**FV -**

Plaintiff/Victim \_\_\_\_\_ Plaintiff/Victim's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff/Parent/Guardian of Minor Plaintiff/Victim \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff/Parent/Guardian of Minor Plaintiff/Victim Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

**Defendant Information: Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Defendant's Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant's Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Defendant's Race \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_

Eye Color \_\_\_\_\_ Hair Color \_\_\_\_\_

Distinguishing Features (Scars, Facial Hair, Etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License Number \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned complains that said defendant did commit the following act(s):

ON (Date)	AT (Time)	BY (Details)

The above constitute(s) the following criminal offenses(s): (Check all applicable boxes – see page 3 of instructions ):

Sexual Contact                       Sexual Penetration                       Lewdness  
 Attempted Sexual Contact                       Attempted Sexual Penetration                       Attempted Lewdness

1. Any prior or pending court proceedings involving this plaintiff/victim and defendant? (If Yes, enter docket number, court, county, state)  Yes  No

2. Has a criminal complaint been filed in this matter? (If Yes, enter date, docket number, court, county, state)  Yes  No

If yes, was a Restraining Order granted?  Yes  No

**Certification by Parent/Guardian**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am the parent or legal guardian of minor victim, \_\_\_\_\_ and am filing this complaint on their behalf. The minor victim is not present for the following reason(s):

**Certification by Plaintiff/Victim**

I certify that the foregoing responses made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing responses made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature



New Jersey Judiciary  
Family Practice Division  
**Additional Information Sheet**

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

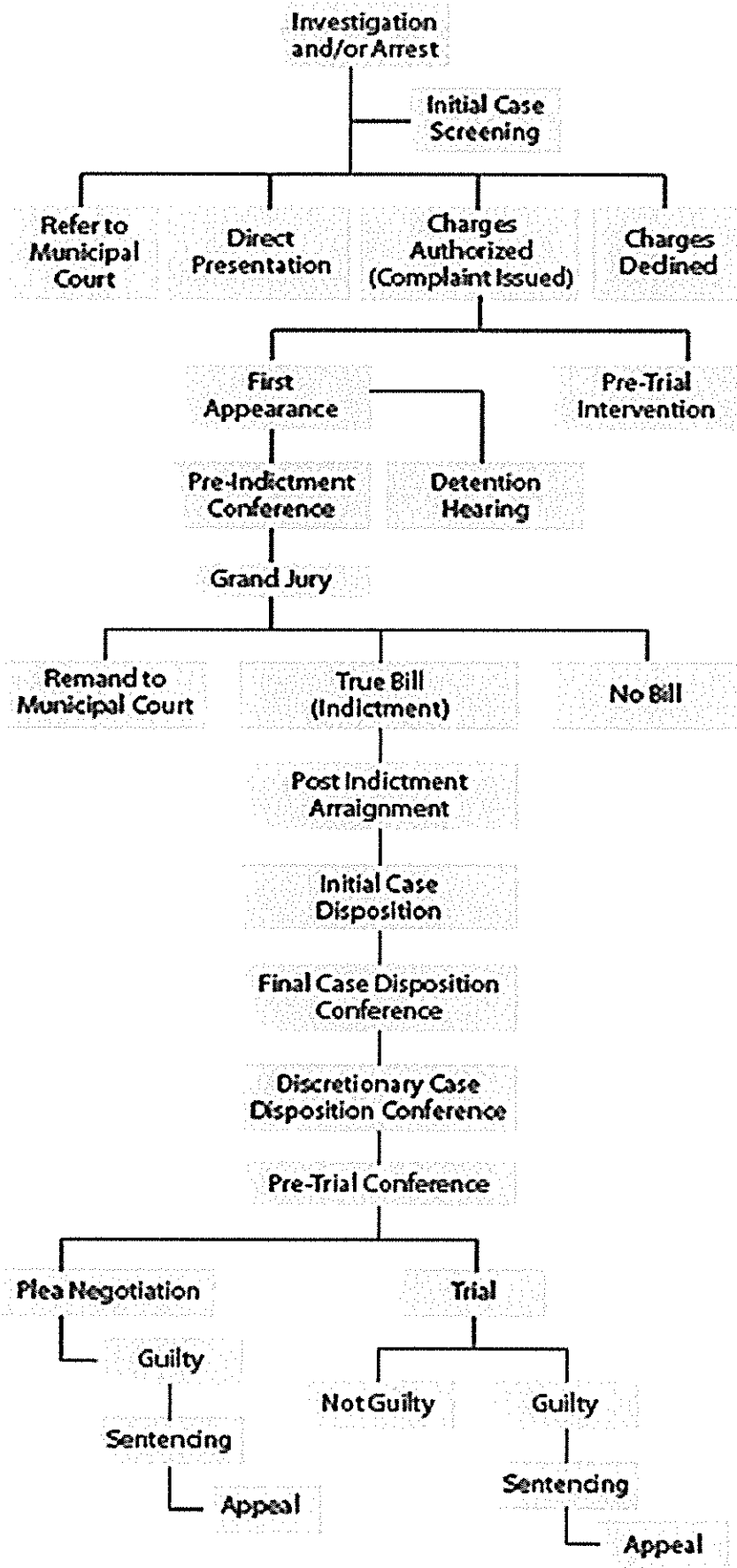
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment

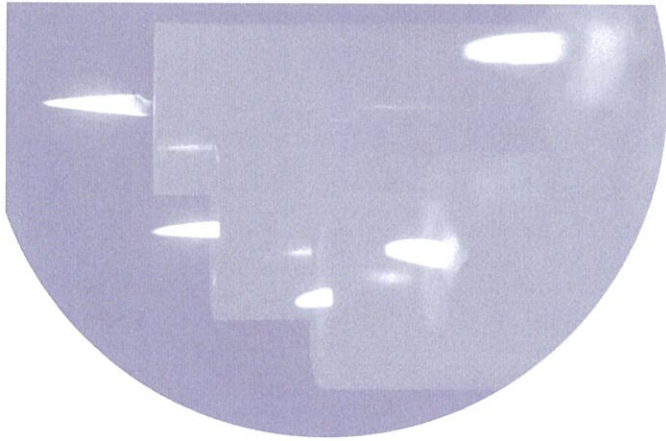
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Plaintiff/Counterclaimant

# The Criminal Case Process







*We help put the pieces back together*



## our mission

The New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) reimburses certain victims of crime for some of the expenses they suffer as a result of a crime. The VCCO is mindful of the special needs of victims and their right to be treated with fairness, compassion and respect.

## eligible crimes

This is a list of the types of crimes that may qualify. Certain conditions may apply. For more information, please contact the VCCO:

- Assault
- Arson
- Bias crime
- Burglary\*
- Disorderly conduct offenses
- Domestic violence
- Human trafficking
- Indecent acts with children
- Kidnapping
- Lewd, indecent or obscene acts
- Manslaughter
- Motor vehicle offenses
- Murder
- Robbery
- Sexual assault
- Stalking
- Threats to do bodily harm

\*Must be in structure during burglary.

**caring**  
**support**  
**dignity**  
**help**  
**respect**

*effective: 8.1.20*



**NEW JERSEY**  
**VICTIMS OF CRIME**  
**COMPENSATION OFFICE**

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General  
Victims of Crime Compensation Office  
50 Park Place • 5th Floor • Newark, NJ 07102



## conditions

- The crime must have occurred in New Jersey or to a New Jersey resident
- The victim must have reported the crime to police
- The victim should cooperate with the investigation and prosecution of the crime, if reasonable
- The claim must be filed within 5 years of the date of the crime in most cases

*effective: 8.1.20*

*apply online at...*

[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)

Toll Free **877-658-2221**

## If I qualify, what can the VCCO pay?

- Expenses that may be eligible for reimbursement include:
- Hospital, physician and medical expenses
  - Mental health counseling expenses up to \$20,000
  - Loss of earnings up to \$600 per week
    - Temporary disability, not to exceed 24 months
    - Permanent disability, maximum 60 months
  - Loss of earning for dependants or family members
  - Bereavement, maximum two weeks
  - Loss of wages due to court attendance
  - Loss of financial support up to \$600 per week, maximum 48 months
  - Funeral expenses maximum \$7,500
  - Attorney fees:
    - Victims' rights attorney fees up to \$275 per hour, maximum \$10,000
    - Representation with the VCCO claim up to 15% of award at \$275 per hour
  - Relocation expenses up to \$3,000
  - Crime scene clean up to \$4,000
  - Child care/day care/domestic help services up to \$6,500

### The VCCO is a payer of last resort

- Victims must first utilize and exhaust other resources including State benefits and insurance.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Crime Victims' Compensation?

The Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) reimburses victims of a crime for some of the expenses they incur as a result of a crime.

### Do all crime victims get paid?

Not always. The law sets forth the types of crimes that can be covered by the VCCO. Further, if victims participated in the crime or contributed to their injuries, they may be denied compensation.

### Who is eligible to file?

- Victims may file their own applications.
- Family members, and dependents of victims or the estate of the victims
- A person who paid for some of the services for the victim
- The guardian, guardian ad litem, estate representative, authorized agent of the victim or the victim's dependents

### Can the VCCO reimburse me directly for expenses?

Yes. Victims or claimants can be reimbursed for some expenses.

### Can I still file a claim if the suspect has not been arrested or if the accused is acquitted at trial?

Yes. Compensation may be made whether or not a person is prosecuted or found guilty.

### Can the VCCO pay providers directly?

Yes. Once a claim is approved, payment can be made directly to providers.

### I have received additional bills that were not considered in my initial award. Can I still submit them?

Yes. Crime related bills can be considered for additional reimbursement after the initial payment award has been made.

## How do I apply?

Complete the online VCCO claim form at [www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org). Include police reports and any documentation showing financial loss or need if possible. Once an application is received, a claims specialist will contact you.

Applications are also available from any of the 21 County Prosecutors' Offices through their Victim Witness Coordinators.

For more information or for a claim application, please contact us by phone, mail, fax, or visit our web site.

NJ Office of the Attorney General  
Victims of Crime Compensation Office  
50 Park Place, 5th Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Walk-in Clients: Please visit our web site, or call our toll free number for details.

Toll Free: 877-658-2221

Phone: 973-648-2107

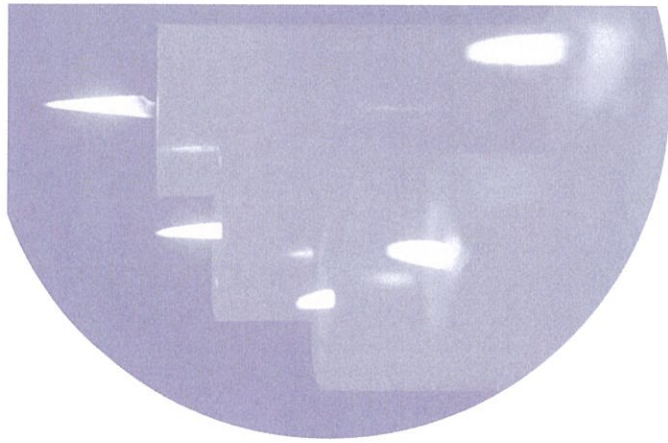
Fax: 973-648-3937

Web site: [www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)



NJ OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
VICTIMS OF CRIME COMPENSATION OFFICE  
[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org) • Toll Free 877-658-2221

*We help put the pieces back together.*



Los ayudamos a normalizar su vida



## nuestra misión

La Oficina de Compensación para Víctimas del Crimen de Nueva Jersey (VCCO) reembolsa a ciertas víctimas del crimen por algunos de los gastos que incurrirán a causa de un crimen. La VCCO reconoce las necesidades especiales de las víctimas y el derecho que tienen de ser tratadas con justicia, compasión y respeto.

## Crímenes elegibles

Esta es una lista de los tipos de crímenes que pueden calificar. Pueden aplicar ciertas condiciones. Para mayor información, favor contactar a la VCCO:

- Agresión
- Incendio provocado
- Discriminación
- Allanamamiento\*
- Ofensas de comportamiento escandaloso
- Violencia Doméstica
- Trata de personas
- Actos indecentes con menores
- Secuestro
- Actos lascivos, obscenos o indecentes
- Homicidio Culposo
- Ofensas de vehículos motorizados
- Asesinato
- Robo con violencia
- Agresión Sexual
- Acecho
- Amenazas de lesión corporal

\*Debe encontrarse en el edificio durante la comisión del crimen

cuidado  
apoyo  
dignidad  
ayuda  
respeto

vigente.1.8.20



NEW JERSEY

OFICINA DE COMPENSACIÓN  
PARA VÍCTIMAS DEL CRIMEN

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General  
Victims of Crime Compensation Office  
50 Park Place • 5th Floor • Newark, NJ 07102



## requisitos

- El crimen tiene que haber ocurrido en Nueva Jersey o a un residente de Nueva Jersey
- La víctima debe haber reportado el crimen a la policía
- La víctima debe cooperar con la investigación y el procesamiento del crimen, si es factible
- El reclamo debe ser presentado dentro de un plazo de 5 años de la fecha del crimen en la mayoría de los casos

aplique en línea en:

[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)

Número de llamada gratuita  
877-658-2221

vigente.1.8.20

## ¿Si califico, que puede pagar la VCCO?

Gastos que pueden ser elegibles para reembolso incluyen:

- Gastos de Hospital, de médicos y gastos médicos
- Asesoría de Salud Mental gastos de hasta \$20,000
- Pérdida de ingresos de hasta \$600 a la semana
  - Discapacidad Temporal, a no exceder 24 meses
  - Discapacidad Permanente, máximo 60 meses
- Pérdida de ingresos de dependientes o miembros de familia
- Duelo, máximo dos semanas
- Pérdida de ingresos por asistir al tribunal
- Pérdida de apoyo económico de \$600 semanales, máximo 48 meses
- Gastos de funeral hasta \$7,500
- Honorarios de Abogados:
  - Honorarios de abogados de derechos de las víctimas hasta \$275 por hora, máximo \$10,000
  - Representación con el reclamo VCCO de hasta el 15% de la compensación en \$275 por hora
- Gastos de Reubicación de hasta \$3,000
- Limpieza lugar del crimen hasta \$4,000
- Cuidado Infantil/Guardería servicios domésticos hasta \$6,500

### La VCCO es pagador de último recurso

- Las víctimas primero deberán utilizar y agotar otros recursos incluyendo el seguro y los beneficios del estado.

## Preguntas frecuentes

### ¿Qué es la Compensación para víctimas del crimen?

La Oficina para compensación para víctimas del crimen (VCCO) reembolsa a las víctimas de un crimen por algunos de los gastos que tuvieron como resultado de un crimen.

### ¿Se le paga a todas las víctimas del crimen?

No siempre. La ley establece los tipos de crímenes que cubre la VCCO. Además, si las víctimas participaron en el crimen o contribuyeron a sus lesiones, se le puede negar la compensación.

### ¿Quién es elegible para solicitar?

- Las víctimas pueden presentar sus propias solicitudes.
- Miembros de familia y dependientes de las víctimas o el causal hereditario de la víctima
- Una persona que haya pagado por algunos de los servicios que recibió la víctima
- El tutor, tutor legal, representante del causal hereditario, agente autorizado de la víctima o de los dependientes de la víctima

### ¿Puede la VCCO reembolsarme directamente por gastos?

Sí. A las víctimas o reclamantes de les puede reembolsar por algunos gastos.

### ¿Puedo presentar un reclamo si el sospechoso aún no ha sido arrestado o si queda absuelto luego de un juicio?

Sí. La compensación puede otorgarse ya sea que la persona sea enjuiciada o determinada culpable o no.

### ¿La VCCO puede Pagarles directamente a los proveedores de servicios?

Sí. Una vez sea aprobado el reclamo, el pago puede hacerse directamente a los proveedores de servicios.

### He recibido facturas adicionales que no se consideraron en mi otorgamiento inicial.

#### ¿Aún puedo presentarlas?

Sí. Se pueden considerar cuentas relacionadas con el crimen para reembolso adicional luego del otorgamiento inicial

## ¿Cómo presento la solicitud?

Llene el formulario VCCO en línea en [www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org). Incluya informes de la policía y cualquier prueba que muestre pérdidas económicas o necesidad si es posible. Una vez recibamos su solicitud, un especialista en reclamos le atenderá.

También hay solicitudes disponibles en cada una de las 21 Oficinas del Procurador del Condado a través de su Coordinador Víctima/Testigo.

Para más información o para pedir una solicitud de reclamo, favor contactarnos por teléfono, correo, fax, o visite nuestro sitio web.

NJ Office of the Attorney General  
Victims of Crime Compensation Office  
50 Park Place, 5th Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

Horario: 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.

Atención sin cita: Por favor visite nuestro sitio web, o llame a nuestro número sin cobros para más detalles.

Sin cobros: 877-658-2221

Teléfono: 973-648-2107

Fax: 973-648-3937

Sitio Web: [www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)



OFICINA DEL FISCAL GENERAL DE NJ

OFICINA DE COMPENSACIÓN A VÍCTIMAS DEL CRIMEN

[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org) • Gratis 877-658-2221

Los ayudamos a normalizar su vida

## Office of Victim Witness Advocacy

Sexual Assault is considered a serious crime in the state of New Jersey. The office of Victim Witness Advocacy provides assistance to victims to help lessen the loss and inconvenience suffered as a result of the crime. Our office provides information to the following social service agencies and other counseling services

### Hudson S.P.E.A.K.S. — Assisting Survivors in Hudson County

Location: 179 Palisade Avenue

Jersey City NJ, 0706

Website: [www.hudsonspeaks.org](http://www.hudsonspeaks.org)

24-Hour Bilingual helpline: 201-795-5757

Office Number: 201-795-8375 Ext. 4703

### Jersey City Medical Center Trauma Recovery Center

Location: 355 Grand Street

Jersey City NJ, 07302

Email: [Deborah.Almonte@rwjbh.org](mailto:Deborah.Almonte@rwjbh.org)

Office Number: 201-839-2644

### Victim of Crime Compensation Office

Location: 50 Park Place, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Newark, NJ 07102

Website: [www.NJVictims.org](http://www.NJVictims.org)

Office Number: 973-648-3937

For statewide information on additional resources you can visit

The New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Location: 3150 Brunswick Pike, # 160

Lawrence Township, NJ 08648

Website: <https://njcasa.org/our-work/resources/>

24-Hour State Hotline: 1-800-601-7200

Office Number 609-631-4450

### Northeast New Jersey Legal Services

Hudson County

Location: 574 Summit Avenue, 2nd Floor

Jersey City, NJ 07306

Website: <https://www.northeastnjlegalservices.org/>

Phone Number: 201-792-6363

### Sexual Assault Survivors Protection Act (SASPA)

File with NJ Family Court

Location: 595 Newark Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Email Forms to: [HudEmergent.Mailbox@njcourts.gov](mailto:HudEmergent.Mailbox@njcourts.gov)

Phone Number: 201-748-4400 Ext. 60810

### VINE/ New Jersey

Website: <https://vinelink.vineapps.com/state/NJ/ENGLISH>

24-Hour Helpline: 1-877-846-3465

VINE is a free service that allows you to anonymously check on an offender's custody status by phone, website, or mobile app. You can also register to receive automated notifications about changes in custody status by phone, email, text or mobile app. TTY (hearing impaired) service is also available.

**Write down the following information, remove this panel, and keep it in a safe place:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Offender Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Offender Number**

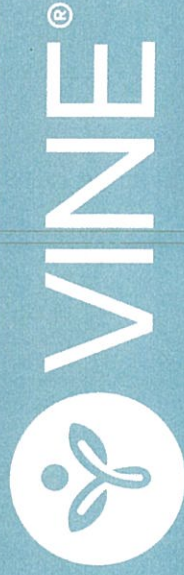
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Your four-digit PIN**

## VINE Facts

- If you feel you are in danger, call 911 immediately.
- VINE is confidential. The offender will not know you are registered with this service.
- VINE only provides information on offenders in custody.
- Since VINE calls automatically when an offender's custody status changes, you may get a call from VINE in the middle of the night.
- Write down your PIN and keep it in a safe place. For safety reasons, do not share this information with others.
- If you do not answer a notification call, VINE will leave a message and will continue calling back until you enter your PIN or until up to 24 hours have passed.
- Do not register a phone number that rings to a switchboard.
- You can register multiple phone numbers and email addresses for notifications.
- If you forget your PIN, call the toll-free number and press zero. You will be transferred to an operator who can help you reset your PIN or cancel notification.
- Operators are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist you.

## IMPORTANT!

**IF YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL CHANGES, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to call VINE at 1-877-846-3465 or go to [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com) and follow the instructions on how to change your phone, text or email registration. Unless you make such changes, VINE will be unable to contact you when necessary.



## New Jersey VINE Service

**Offender Custody Status Information  
Victim Notification Services  
Victim Resource Directory**

A service provided by  
State of New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

**1-877-846-3465**

**TTY: 1-866-847-1298**

**[WWW.VINELINK.COM](http://WWW.VINELINK.COM)**

**Do not rely solely on VINE for your safety. If you feel you are in danger, call 911.**



**APPRISS**  
SAFETY

REV 2018



**Download the VINElink mobile app.**  
Search for "VINELink" on your mobile device app store or scan this QR code.



## New Jersey

### Information

VINE is a service that lets victims of crime and other concerned citizens access timely and reliable information regarding offenders. It is offered free of charge to registrants, is completely confidential, and features multiple language support.

### Registration

If the offender is in custody, you can register to be notified about the following events:

- Offender custody status

To access offender custody information and register to be notified:

- Call **1-877-846-3465**
- Visit [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)
- Download the **VINELink mobile app**
- TTY users, call **1-866-847-1298**

### Notification

The VINE service allows you to select your preferred notification method:

- Phone
- Text
- Mobile App
- Email
- TTY

You must register separately for each type of notification.

### Phone Notifications

If registering a phone number, you will be asked to create a four-digit personal identification number (PIN) that will be used to confirm that the call or text was received. Make sure your PIN is easy to remember.



When VINE calls, listen to the message, and enter your PIN followed by the # key. Entering your PIN lets VINE know that you received the call and will stop the service from calling you again until there is another change in custody status.

### Notification Events

Once you are registered, VINE will notify you of offender status changes, such as:

- Release
- Transfer
- Escape
- Return from Escape
- Unsupervised Custody
- Out to Court
- DOC Parole Actions
- Death

### Notes



### New Jersey VINE Service

**1-877-846-3465**

**TTY: 1-866-847-1298**

[www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)

## Victim Resources

**V.I.N.E. Website - New Jersey Office of the Attorney General**  
[www.victimwitness.nj.gov/vine](http://www.victimwitness.nj.gov/vine)

**Division of Criminal Justice**  
[www.njdcj.org](http://www.njdcj.org)

**New Jersey State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy (SOVWA)**  
1-866-326-7206

**New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO)**  
1-877-658-2221  
[www.nj.gov/victims](http://www.nj.gov/victims)

**New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence**  
1-609-584-8107

**Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline**  
1-800-572-SAFE (7233)

**New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault**  
1-609-631-4450

**Statewide Sexual Violence Hotline**  
1-800-401-7200

**NJ Human Trafficking Hotline**  
1-855-END-NJ-HT (363-6548)

**Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline**  
1-877-NJ-ABUSE (652-2873)

**NJ State Parole Board's Office of Victim Services**  
1-609-292-4582

**NJ Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services**  
1-609-292-4036 x5299

**New Jersey Adult Protective Services**  
1-800-792-8820

**New Jersey Sex Offender Registry**  
[www.nj.gov/oag/njsp](http://www.nj.gov/oag/njsp)

**Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)**  
1-877-MADD-HELP (623-3435)

### VINE Service Provider Directory

Connect with local, regional and national victim service providers through the VINE Service Provider Directory. The directory is a comprehensive listing of support services, such as victim assistance, crisis support, basic needs, healthcare, counseling, legal assistance, financial assistance, and children's services. Access the directory by visiting [VINELink.com](http://VINELink.com) or using the VINELink mobile app. Click on SEARCH and select Service Provider to begin.

### Learn About VINE

To learn how to use VINE and take advantage of its features, visit [www.apprissafety.com/training](http://www.apprissafety.com/training) to view video tutorials, download reference guides, and register for upcoming training webinars.

### What is Sexual Assault?

- Any sexual contact that is unwanted or forced, without consent. This includes: touching someone in intimate areas on top of or underneath clothes, or being forced to touch someone in intimate areas.
- Unwanted vaginal, oral, or anal penetration by any object, no matter how slight.
- Consensual sex with a victim who is mentally disabled or under the age of 16.
- Sex with a victim who is incapacitated (drunk, drugged, or under the influence of a substance).

### If you are Sexually Assaulted

- Call our 24-hour Helpline. A confidential sexual violence advocate will listen without blaming you, offer information and options and support your choices. At your request, the advocate will accompany you during all medical and legal processes.
- Seek medical attention for possible injuries, and to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.
- If you are considering pressing criminal charges, medical staff will utilize a "Tape kit" to collect forensic evidence. If possible, DO NOT shower, bathe, douche, eat, drink, urinate, or change clothing, as crime evidence may be destroyed. If you have done any of the above forensic evidence can still be collected.
- Consider notifying the police.
- Consider getting counseling right away. Research indicates that rape victims who receive therapy right after their assault are less likely to develop symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

# Hudson S.P.E.A.K.S.

Hudson S.P.E.A.K.S Against Sexual Violence is a county-wide non-profit sexual assault program which provides victim-centric services for individuals of all gender ages 13 and up. Services are provided without regards to race or socioeconomic status to victims of sexual abuse, assault, and/or harassment. These services are extended to family members, marital/dating partners, and friends as well.



### Services at a Glance

Hudson S.P.E.A.K.S Against Sexual Violence provides free and confidential services such as:

- 24-hour sexual assault bilingual helpline: **201.795.5757**
- 24-hour accompaniments to hospitals, courts, and law enforcement agencies
- Individual and group counseling for survivors and their significant others
- Community education on issues pertaining to sexual assault, such as awareness and prevention
- Recruitment and training of confidential sexual violence advocates who work with survivors and their families



**24-Hour Helpline:  
201.795.5757**

### Hudson S.P.E.A.K.S Against Sexual Violence

179 Palisade Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**Main Office:**  
201-795-8375 Ext. 4703

**Prevention Education & Outreach:**  
201-795-8375 Ext. 5292

**Crisis Response & Advocacy:**  
201-795-8375 Ext. 5269

**Sunshine Project  
& Case Management:**  
201-217-4723

**Bolo Behen Initiative:**  
201-795-8375 Ext. 5866

[www.hudsonspeaks.org](http://www.hudsonspeaks.org)





## OUR SERVICES AT A GLANCE

Hudson S.P.E.A.K.S Against Sexual Violence provides free and confidential services such as:

- 24-hour sexual assault/bilingual Helpline 201.795.5757
- 24-hour accompaniments to hospitals, courts, and law enforcement agencies
- Individual and group counseling for survivors and their significant others
- Community education on issues pertaining to sexual assault, such as awareness and prevention
- Recruitment and training of confidential sexual violence advocates who work with survivors and their families

### Individual Counseling and Support Group

Harmful and lasting psychological impacts of sexual violence can be prevented or minimized with structured interventions and support post sexual violence. We have trained counselors who can help process trauma and start the healing journey. *Voices of Strength* is a free and confidential support group for individuals who have experienced sexual assault.

### Outreach

Outreach services include general awareness presentations and participating in events throughout the community to ensure people are aware of sexual assault and available resources. We welcome invitations to Community Health Fairs, Resource Fairs, Volunteer Expos and any event where we can set up a table and inform the community about the services we offer.

### Bolo Behen (Speak Sister):

#### South Asian/Indo Caribbean Initiative

Project Bolo Behen was conceptualized in January of 2010 urging women in Hudson County to break the silence and actively engage in a dialogue about issues like domestic and sexual violence. The project's mission is to create a safe space with a full range of culturally-sensitive, language-specific information, support, services and advocacy for South Asia/Indo-Caribbean women living in Hudson County who are experiencing domestic and sexual violence.

### VOLUNTEER WITH US

Confidential sexual violence advocates have a pivotal role in Hudson S.P.E.A.K.S Against Sexual Violence. All volunteers / advocates are required to attend our annual 40-hour training.

Requirements to be a Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate:

- Advocate must be 18 years old or older
- Complete 40 hour training
- Access to dependable transportation
- Ability to deal with confidential information
- Pass criminal background check

## DIRECT SERVICES

### 24-Hour Bilingual Helpline

We operate the countywide 24-hour bilingual sexual assault Helpline which is staffed 24/7 by trained confidential sexual violence advocates. The advocates assist in crisis intervention, information and referrals, and to support anyone who has questions or is looking for information related to sexual violence.

### Case Management and Advocacy

We advocate for individuals who have experienced sexual violence and help them access services such as housing, provides referrals, accompaniments to police precincts, court, medical appointments, interviews with Special Victim Unit and other emergency assistance.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### Prevention and Education

Youth are one of the high risk groups for both perpetration and victimization, so reaching them is vital. We use a comprehensive approach to preventing and ultimately, end sexual violence in our community through the provision of interpersonal violence prevention curriculum for youth and their parents. The project uses research-based prevention strategies to increase knowledge of interpersonal violence; increase participant's skills to connect bystander intervention, power structures and media literacy to interpersonal violence.



## ¿Qué es la Agresión Sexual?

- Cualquier contacto sexual no deseado o forzado, sin consentimiento. Esto incluye tocar a alguien en áreas íntimas aun cuando tenga ropa interior o ser obligado a tocar a alguien en áreas íntimas.
- Penetración vaginal, oral o anal no deseada mediante cualquier objeto, sin importar el grado de penetración.
- Sexo con consentimiento con una víctima que tenga una discapacidad mental o sea menor de 16 años.
- Sexo con una víctima que se encuentra incapacitada (ebria, drogada o bajo los efectos de una sustancia).

## Si Sufre Agresión Sexual

- Llame a nuestra Línea de ayuda las 24 horas del día. Un defensor confidencial contra la violencia sexual lo escuchará sin culparlo, le ofrecerá información y opciones, y apoyará sus decisiones. Si lo solicita, el defensor lo acompañará durante todos los procesos médicos y legales.
- Busque atención médica para tratar posibles lesiones, y para prevenir enfermedades de transmisión sexual y embarazo.
- Si considera presentar cargos penales, el equipo médico utilizará un "kit de violación" para recoger pruebas forenses. Si es posible, NO se duche, bañe, lave ni coma, beba, orine o se cambie la ropa, ya que podría arruinar las pruebas del delito. Si usted realizó alguna de las actividades que se mencionaron antes, aún se pueden recoger pruebas forenses.
- Considere dar aviso a la policía.
- Considere recibir asesoramiento de inmediato. Las investigaciones indican que las víctimas de violación que reciben terapia justo después de la agresión tienen menos probabilidades de desarrollar síntomas de trastorno por estrés posttraumático (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD).

Línea de ayuda las  
24 horas del día:  
201.795.5757



## Hudson S.P.E.A.K.S (Habla)

### Contra la Violencia Sexual

179 Palisade Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07306

#### Main Office:

201-795-8375 Ext. 4703

### Prevention Education & Outreach:

201-795-8375 Ext. 5292

### Crisis Response & Advocacy:

201-795-8375 Ext. 5269

### Sunshine Project & Case Management:

201-217-4723

[www.hudsonspeaks.org](http://www.hudsonspeaks.org)



**Hudson S.P.E.A.K.S (Habla) Contra la Violencia** sexual es un programa contra la agresión sexual sin fines de lucro que abarca todo el condado y brinda servicios orientados a las víctimas para personas mayores de 13 años, de todos los géneros. Los servicios se brindan a las víctimas de abuso, agresión o acoso sexual independientemente de la raza o el nivel socioeconómico. Estos servicios se extienden a otros integrantes de la familia, el cónyuge o la pareja y también a amigos. A través de una Línea de ayuda las 24 horas del día, defensa, educación y asesoramiento, luchamos para alcanzar nuestro objetivo de un día "detener la violencia".

## UN RESUMEN DE NUESTROS SERVICIOS

### Violencia Sexual Brinda Los Sigüientes Servicios Gratuitos y Confidenciales:

- Línea de ayuda bilingüe contra la agresión sexual las 24 horas del día: **201.795.5757**
- Acompañamientos a hospitales, tribunales y organismos de orden público las 24 horas del día
- Asesoramiento individual y grupal para los sobrevivientes y sus seres queridos
- Educación orientada a la comunidad sobre temas relacionados con la agresión sexual, como concientización y prevención
- Contratación y capacitación de defensores confidenciales contra la violencia sexual que trabajen con los sobrevivientes y sus familias

## SERVICIOS DIRECTOS

### Línea de Ayuda Bilingüe las 24 Horas Del Día

Nuestra Línea de ayuda bilingüe contra la agresión sexual funciona las 24 horas del día en todo el condado. Cuenta con defensores confidenciales contra la violencia sexual capacitados que se encuentran disponibles las 24 horas del día los 7 días de la semana. Los defensores asisten en la intervención de crisis, brindan información / referencias, y apoyan a cualquier persona que tenga preguntas o busque información relacionada con la violencia sexual.

### Manejo de Casos y Defensoría

Defendemos a personas que han sufrido violencia sexual y las ayudamos a acceder a servicios, tales como vivienda, además, brindamos referencias, acompañamientos a las delegaciones policiales, a los tribunales, a las consultas médicas, a las entrevistas con a Unidad de Víctimas Especiales y a otras asistencias de emergencia.

### Asesoramiento Individual y Grupo de Apoyo

Los efectos psicológicos perjudiciales y duraderos provocados por la violencia sexual pueden evitarse o minimizarse mediante intervenciones estructuradas y apoyo luego del hecho de violencia sexual. Hemos capacitado a asesores que pueden colaborar a la hora de procesar el trauma y comenzar con el camino de sanación. Voces Sin fronteras es una iniciativa que incluye consejería y grupos de apoyo gratuito y confidencial para personas que hayan sufrido aggression sexual.. Las personas aprenden diversas aptitudes para lidiar con la situación y se proyectan a partir de la comprensión de la agresión sexual.

## EDUCACIÓN Y CAPACITACIÓN

### Prevención y Educación

Los jóvenes son uno de los grupos de alto riesgo tanto de la perpetración como de la victimización, de manera que llegar a ellos es fundamental. Empleamos un enfoque integral para prevenir y, finalmente, terminar con la violencia sexual en nuestra comunidad mediante un programa de estudios sobre la prevención de la violencia interpersonal para los jóvenes y sus padres. El proyecto utiliza estrategias de prevención basadas en la investigación para ampliar el conocimiento sobre la violencia interpersonal, aumentar las aptitudes del participante para conectar la intervención de testigos, las estructuras de poder y la alfabetización de los medios con la violencia interpersonal.

### Difusión

Los servicios de difusión incluyen presentaciones generales de concientización y participación en eventos dentro de la comunidad para garantizar que las personas sean conscientes de la agresión sexual y los recursos disponibles. Agradecemos invitaciones a ferias comunitarias de salud, ferias de recursos, exposiciones voluntarias y cualquier otro evento donde podamos sentarnos e informar a la comunidad acerca de los servicios que ofrecemos.

## SEA VOLUNTARIO JUNTO CON NOSOTROS

Los defensores confidenciales contra la violencia sexual cumplen una función esencial dentro de Hudson S.P.E.A.K.S (habla) contra la violencia sexual. Todos los defensores o voluntarios deben asistir a nuestra capacitación anual de 40 horas.

Requisitos para ser un defensor confidencial contra la violencia sexual:

- Los defensores deben tener 18 años o más.
- Deben completar la capacitación de 40 horas.
- Deben tener acceso a un medio de transporte confiable.
- Deben tener la capacidad para tratar información confidencial.
- Deben aprobar un control de antecedentes penales.





Jersey City Medical Center

# Trauma Recovery Center

The Jersey City Medical Center Trauma Recovery Center facilitates and removes barriers for survivors of violence and trauma to heal, using a clinically-proven model of comprehensive care, advocacy, and outreach.

## Are you a survivor of a violent crime?

JCMC's Trauma Recovery Center serves survivors of a range of violent crimes, including:

- sexual assault
- domestic violence and battery
- LGBTQ+ intimate partner violence
- crimes of violence (shootings, gang violence, and other forms of community violence)
- racial violence
- vehicular assault
- human trafficking

*We also serve family members of survivors of violence.*

## How can JCMC Trauma Recovery Center serve survivors of violence and trauma?

JCMC's Trauma Recovery Center utilizes trauma-informed, evidence-based practices in providing comprehensive mental health and support services.

- on-call crisis intervention
- individual and group counseling
- clinical case management and assistance in linking to community resources

## Who is eligible to receive assistance?

- Hudson County Resident
- Ages 5 and up
- Survivor of a violent crime that occurred within the last five year
- Must not have any other mental health services at the time of enrollment.

All services are confidential and provided free of charge, and are available remotely or in the home, office or community. For more information or to schedule a phone or virtual screening to determine eligibility, please contact:

**Deborah Almonte, LCSW-Program Coordinator**

Phone: 201-839-2644

Cell: 551-655-4056

[Deborah.Almonte@rwjbh.org](mailto:Deborah.Almonte@rwjbh.org)

**Jersey City  
Medical Center**

**RWJBarnabas  
HEALTH**

Let's be healthy together.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU NEED AN ATTORNEY?

Contact us! We will determine if you are financially eligible for our services and also whether you have the type of legal problem we handle. If eligible, one of our case handlers will discuss with you the best course of action. We also will make special arrangements for the homebound and people with disabilities.



Even if you are not eligible, we will make sure you are referred to an agency that may be able to help you.

## WHAT IS THE PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT (PAI) PROGRAM?

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services maintains a list of private attorneys who have agreed to represent needy residents free of charge. The PAI Program allows us to provide services to more people while assuring participating attorneys that they are providing free services only to truly needy individuals. We first evaluate the case to determine if it is appropriate for referral to the PAI Program. The case is then referred to a private attorney who will provide the same quality representation that can be expected from our staff.

## DO YOU HAVE A LEGAL PROBLEM?

If so, please contact your local county office at:

### NNJLS

**Bergen County Division**  
190 Moore Street, Suite 100  
Hackensack, NJ 07601  
Telephone: 201-487-2166  
Fax: 201-487-3513

### NNJLS

**Hudson County Division**  
574 Summit Ave.  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Telephone: 201-792-6363  
Fax: 201-798-8780

### NNJLS

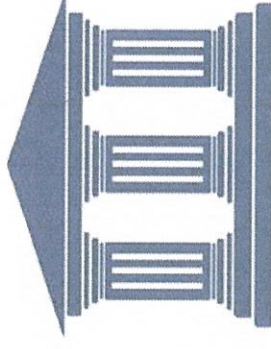
**Passaic County Division**  
152 Market Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
Telephone: 973-523-2900  
Fax: 973-523-9002

[www.northeastnjlegalservices.org](http://www.northeastnjlegalservices.org)

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services is an equal opportunity affirmative action agency and provides services without regard to race, color, gender, age, disability, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation.

NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY  
**LEGAL SERVICES**

*Equal Justice for All*



*Celebrating 50 Years*

PROGRAM BROCHURE

Providing free legal services to low-income Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic County residents in housing, public benefits, family, consumer, immigration, veterans, reentry, tax, and senior law matters.

[www.northeastnjlegalservices.org](http://www.northeastnjlegalservices.org)



## Did You Know?

Bergen, Hudson and Passaic counties have over 200,000 children, seniors and adults living in poverty.

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Every year over 40,000 tenants are evicted from their homes in Bergen, Hudson and Passaic counties.

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Every year 13,000 Bergen, Hudson and Passaic county residents are the victims of domestic violence and seek restraining orders.

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Northeast New Jersey Legal Services provides assistance to over 10,000 low income Bergen, Hudson and Passaic county residents with serious legal problems each year.

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**If you are a Bergen, Hudson or Passaic County resident with a civil legal problem and you cannot afford an attorney please call NNJLS.**

## Who Are We?

We are a non-profit corporation supported with public and private funds. We provide free legal services to low-income Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic County residents in a variety of civil law matters. Our attorneys, paralegals, and support staff are dedicated to providing the highest quality legal services. We seek to assure that access to the civil justice system is not denied to our clients simply because they cannot afford a private attorney.

## What Types of Service Do We Provide?

We provide a broad array of legal services, including legal representation and advice, legal advocacy, community education, and information and referrals.

In addition, we have special programs providing services for senior citizens, the disabled, tenants, and victims of domestic violence.

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services also provides speakers for community groups. If you would like us to talk to your group, please give us a call.

## In What Areas of Law Do We Provide Services?

**HOUSING:** Representation and Advice in landlord/tenant, foreclosure, rent assistance, public housing, community economic development and other housing matters.

**FAMILY:** Assistance in obtaining domestic violence restraining orders, and advice and representation in child support, child custody, divorce, and other family law matters.

**PUBLIC BENEFITS:** Advice and representation in matters involving eligibility for public benefits, such as Social Security Retirement and Disability, SSI, Medicaid, Medicare, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Food Stamps, General Assistance and other benefits.

**IMMIGRATION:** Advice and representation in naturalization and other immigration matters.

**CONSUMER:** Advice and representation in matters involving collection, unfair and deceptive practices, credit, and bankruptcy.

**TAX:** Advice and representation in federal tax matters as part of our Low Income Taxpayer Clinic Program.

**SENIOR CITIZENS:** Advice and representation for senior citizens in housing, Social Security, consumer, health and other legal matters affecting seniors.

# know your rights as a survivor of sexual violence



The **Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights** was enacted in 2019 to outline basic protections and fundamental rights for survivors. As a survivor of sexual violence, the time immediately following an assault can seem confusing and overwhelming. Next steps in the aftermath of an assault should be led by the survivor.

**No matter what a survivor chooses to do in the aftermath of an assault, they should know their rights are guaranteed, even if the assault is not reported to law enforcement.** The Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights declares all survivors of sexual violence have the right to be treated with dignity and compassion and the right to be free from blame. The Bill of Rights also affirms that the survivor should be free from any suggestion that they contributed to the risk of being assaulted. *Sexual violence is never the fault of the survivor.*

## SURVIVORS HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Choose whether to report to law enforcement.
- Be free from any suggestion that they must report the crime to have their rights guaranteed.
- Be free from any suggestion that victims should refrain from reporting crimes in order to avoid unwanted personal publicity.
- Have their report of sexual assault treated seriously.



## SURVIVORS HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED OF AND ACCESS:

- Existing medical, counseling, mental health, or other services available for victims of sexual assault, whether or not the crime is reported to law enforcement.
- Treatment and interviews provided in a language in which the victim is fluent.
- Assistive devices to accommodate disabilities that the victim may have.
- Testing for HIV or any other sexually transmitted infections and assistance with compelling and disclosing the results of testing for a communicable disease from the person who caused harm.

## SURVIVORS HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED OF AND ACCESS:

- **Evidence collection and preservation.** Evidence collection is time sensitive and should occur within five days of the assault. Survivors can choose to have evidence collected whether or not they pursue a criminal case. All forensic evidence is retained for a minimum of five years. If the survivor chooses to report to police, either at the time of collection or later, they can request information on the status of the evidence.
- **Financial compensation.** The Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) offers assistance with accessing compensation for expenses that occurred as a result of an assault, including the cost of mental health counseling, medical bills, relocation, and loss of earnings. Survivors can reach the VCCO at (877) 658-2221 or [www.NJVictims.org](http://www.NJVictims.org).
- **A civil protective order.** Under the Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act of 2015, survivors can seek a civil protective order against the person who caused them harm if there is risk of further harm.
- **The no-cost services of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), if the survivor is over the age of 13.** A SART is comprised of a Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate (CSVA), a Law Enforcement Officer (LEO), and a Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE).
  - The **CSVA** is a confidential resource who can support the survivor through the SART process. The CSVA provides emotional support and can help the survivor explore their rights, options, and available resources.
  - The **LEO** can provide thorough and objective assistance in responding to and conducting a criminal investigation of sexual assault.
  - If the assault occurred within the last five days, the **FNE** can tend to the medical needs of the survivor and perform a Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Kit to collect forensic evidence. **The survivor can choose to work with one, two, or all three of the SART members.**

The support of a **Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate** is always available, **24 hours a day**. To learn more about survivors' rights and options or to speak with an advocate, contact your **local sexual violence service provider**.

*If you are in immediate danger, call 911.*

New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
[www.njcasa.org](http://www.njcasa.org)  
24-hour Statewide Hotline:  
(800) 601-7200



## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Attorney General Standards for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault. (2018, November). Retrieved from <https://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases18/AG-SART-Standards.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> N.J. Ct. R. 5:7B. Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights. (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/PL19/103\\_.PDF](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/PL19/103_.PDF)

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The New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA) is the statewide organization representing 21 county-based rape crisis centers and Rutgers University's Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance. NJCASA elevates the voice of survivors and service providers through advocacy, training, and support for efforts to create safer communities for all people.

**nj coalition**  
against sexual assault