

THE VICTIM ASSISTANCE UNIT

PROVIDES:

Crisis Intervention

24 hour on-scene crisis intervention for victims and witnesses of violent crime, incidents relating to sudden death or serious injury to which the Denver Police Department has been called.

A Victim Specialist will respond to scenes, hospitals, police stations, or to other designated areas.

Support and Referral

Immediate support for a victim or witnesses: listening to the account of victimization, exploring options, notifying family and friends to build a strong support network for the victim or witness and initiating community resources, if needed, including victim compensation, counseling and/or safe shelter.

Follow-up support is always provided to help victims and witnesses after a crime or traumatic event.

Advocacy

The Victim Assistance Unit can provide updated case information and act as a liaison with law enforcement, criminal justice and community agencies.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESOURCES

Denver City Jail
720-913-0400

Denver County Jail
720-913-3642

Denver District Attorney's Office
720-913-9000

Sex Crimes Unit - Denver Police Department
720-913-6050

Victim Compensation Program
720-913-9253

COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCES

Asian Pacific Development Center
303-393-0304

Colorado Anti-Violence Program (CAVP)
303-852-5094 (24-hour availability) 1-888-557-4441 (Toll Free)

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault
303-839-9999 (Statewide referrals)

Denver Center for Crime Victims (DCCV)
303-894-8000 (24-hour availability)

Denver Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC)
303-825-3850 (Victims under 18 years of age)

Rape Assistance and Awareness Program (RAAP)
303-322-7273 (24-hour availability)

Servicios De La Raza
303-458-5851

Please feel free to contact the Victim Assistance Unit if you need any support or assistance.

720-913-6035

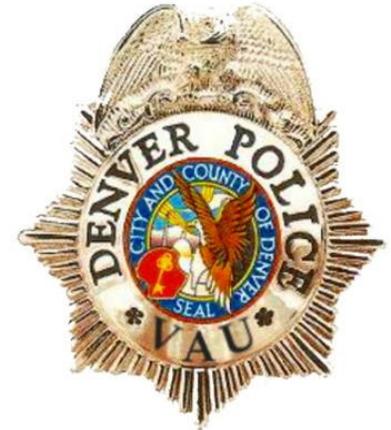
Office Hours are:

Weekdays 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Weekends and Holidays 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

Office is Open 365 days a year

A Guide for Victims of Sexual Assault



Victim Assistance Unit

**Denver Police Department
1331 Cherokee Street
Denver, Colorado 80204
(720) 913- 6035**



A Guide for Victim's of Sexual Assault

What is Sexual Assault...

Sexual Assault is any unwanted/ non- consensual sexual activity .

This can include:

- forced intercourse or penetration with any object
- sexual touching
- observation or photography
- electronic distribution

Sexual Assault is about power and control and is for the perpetrator's own sexual gratification, arousal or abuse.

Sexual Assault has nothing to do with how you identify sexually nor does it change your preferences in intimate relationship.

Sexual Assault is a crime even if you are married or in an intimate relationship with the perpetrator.

The Truth Is....

Sexual Assault is NEVER the victim's fault. Sexual assault is a violent crime that removes the victims control.

Anyone can be sexually assaulted.

Victims Include:

- All age ranges
- Males and females
- LGBTQ
- Persons with disabilities
- People from every racial, ethnic, religious, economic and social background.

On average, one in four females and one in six males will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. As many as 80 % of these assault will be committed by someone they know.*

According to the National Women's Survey, over 70% of rape victims reported no injury; only 4 % sustained serious injury.

- National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010.

Common Reactions ...

Common reactions to sexual assault:

- Self blame
- Poor recall of the assault or other memories
- Fear
- Anger
- Denial
- Agitation
- Increased Anxiety

Long term affects can be:

- Appetite disturbance
- Nightmares or insomnia
- Hesitation in forming new relationships
- Persistent fear or depression
- Sense of helplessness
- Problems with sexual intimacy
- Withdrawal from friends and or relatives
- Substance use or abuse

Victims who seek professional assistance immediately after a sexual assault are less likely to suffer from long term negative affects.

Tips For Victims of Sexual Assault...

- You are not to blame for the assault
- You did everything right during the assault You survived!
- Ask for help
- Recovering is a moment-by-moment, day-by-day process
- Honor your feelings

If you take one thing with you from this brochure, let it be the fact that the assault was not your fault!