



Making a Statement to Police



Making Rights Reality Program

This is a SECASA program that gives extra help to adults who have been sexually assaulted and who have an intellectual disability or Acquired Brain Injury, or use aids to communicate. It is called 'Making Rights Reality'. It can help you with seeing a counsellor.

It can help you with things you might need when you have appointments with the police, or if you go to court. For example, you may need a Communication Support Worker or an Attendant Carer to be with you or help you with transport.

It can also help you ask for help to pay for things you might need to help you recover and feel better. A Counsellor can help you to work out what you might need. Springvale Monash Legal Service is working with SECASA Counsellors to help people with this.

Brokerage assistance is available for CASA clients in all regions. To find out more about Making Rights Reality call SECASA on 03 9594 2289.

Booklets in this Series

Crisis Care After Sexual Assault
Having a Health Check After Sexual Assault
Making a Statement to Police
Counselling After Sexual Assault
Going to Court
Money to Help You After Sexual Assault
Sexual Assault and Family Violence- Getting Help
Sexual Assault: When Sex is Not Ok

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Images from CHANGE: www.changepeople.co.uk

For help phone the Sexual Assault Crisis Line: 1800 806 292 any time

If you have been sexually assaulted



Sexual Assault is when someone gets you to do sexual things that you do not want to do.

- It is not your fault and you are never to blame.



- It may hurt.
- It can happen to girls, boys, women and men.



- It is never OK.
- It is against the law.



Who can help you?

- A counsellor can help you.
- They have special training to help you talk about what has happened.



- They will help you decide what to do.

For help phone the Sexual Assault Crisis Line: 1800 806 292 any time



- They will work out what other help you might need.



What should you do first?

- Call 000 if you are unsafe right now.
- If you know you want to report what happened to you to the police, call your closest Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT).

These police men and women have had special training to help people who have been sexually assaulted.



- Talk to a counsellor if you are not sure what to do and want to find out more information.

The counsellor can help you call the police or see a doctor.



- Tell someone from your family, a friend or a carer.

You can choose what to do



You can choose to:

- See a hospital doctor to have a health check, if you don't want to call the police but want to make sure your body is okay.

Or

- Tell the police what happened.

The police can also call a special doctor who can do a health check and a "forensic medical examination".

The doctor can tell the police if the person who hurt you left anything on your body (such as blood or a bruise).

This helps the police catch the person who hurt you.



The counsellor can help you decide what to do.

What is a Police Statement?



A police statement is your story about what happened to you.

When you talk to the police, they will ask you questions to help you remember things.

What you say is video recorded.

Why give a Statement to Police?



If you have been sexually assaulted and you want the police to find the person who hurt you, you must give the police a statement.



The police need to hear about what happened to you so they have enough information to do their job.



People might make a statement to police because:

- They want to feel safe
- They want to stop the person hurting anyone else
- They want to stand up for their rights
- Family or friends want them to.

You can decide if you want to make a police statement.

Who will take your Statement?



Some police men and women have had special training to help people who have been sexually assaulted. One of them will take your statement.

These police men and women work in special units, called SOCIT units. They don't wear uniforms, so you can feel more comfortable talking to them.

You can choose to talk to a policewoman or a policeman.

Where will you make your Statement?



You will go to a police station unless you are in hospital.

A police officer can come to the hospital if you need this.

Who can be with you?



Someone can be with you who is trained to help you talk with police.

This person is called an Independent Third Person, or ITP. ITPs help people with a cognitive disability or a mental illness talk with police.

The ITP will:

- Make sure you know your rights
- Make sure you understand the questions that the police ask you
- Sit with you in the interview and help you.



Usually, the police will call a volunteer ITP from the Office of the Public Advocate.

Some CASA Counsellors have also been trained to be the ITP.



A Communication Support Worker or an Attendant Carer can be with you, if you need this.



A friend or family member can also be with you if you want this.

How long does it take?



It can take a few hours to make a statement. You need time to think about what happened and to talk about it.

No-one will rush you. You can take a break when you want.



Why does it take so long?

You need to say everything you can remember about what happened. The police officer will ask you questions to help you remember.



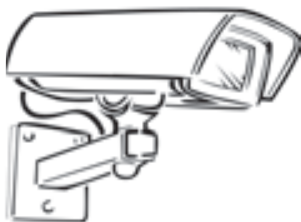
The police need to be sure that what happened to you was a crime.

And they need enough information to look for the person who hurt you.

What is it like at the police station?



You will sit in a special room with comfy chairs and couches.



There will be a video camera, and what you say will be recorded.



You can have a drink if you want. You will need to bring some food with you if you think you might get hungry.

How is the statement done?



The police officer will ask you to talk about what happened.



It is important that you tell the truth when the police ask you about what happened.

This is so the police have the right information to help them catch the person who hurt you.



If you get confused or make a mistake, it is important to tell the police so they understand what happened to you.

What happens next?



When the statement is done, the counsellor or the police will help you get home.

The police will start looking for the person who hurt you.



You might be scared that the person who hurt you might hurt you again.

If the police know who the person is, they can ask the court for a special order. This is called an interim intervention order.



It tells the person that they are not allowed to do certain things.

For example, not to come near you or your home, or to phone you.



If the person does something that the order tells them not to do, they can get in trouble with the police and even go to jail.



This order is for a short time, to keep you safe until a magistrate can hear more evidence in court. The magistrate will decide if the order should go for a longer time.

Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCITs) telephone numbers

North-West Metropolitan

Brimbank: (03) 9313 3460

Diamond Creek: (03) 9438 8320

Epping: (03) 9409 8100

Fawkner: (03) 9355 6100

Footscray: (03) 8398 9860

Melbourne: (03) 9247 5538

Southern Metropolitan

Dandenong: (03) 9767 7469

Frankston: (03) 8770 1000

Moorabbin: (03) 9556 6124

Western Victoria

Ballarat: (03) 5336 6055

Bendigo: (03) 5448 1425

Colac: (03) 5230 0043

Geelong: (03) 5223 7a22 2

Horsham: (03) 5382 9241

Kyneton: (03) 5421 2927

Mildura: (03) 5023 5980

Swan Hill: (03) 5036 1600

Warrnambool: (03) 5560 1189

Eastern Victoria

Bairnsdale: (03) 5150 2675

Benalla: (03) 5762 1811

Box Hill: (03) 8892 3292

Knox: (03) 9881 7939

Morwell: (03) 5131 5090

Sale: (03) 5143 5000

Seymour: (03) 5735 0208

Shepparton: (03) 5820 5878

Wangaratta: (03) 5723 0895

Wodonga: (02) 6049 2600

About SECASA

The South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (SECASA) provides services within the Southern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne to children and adults, both female and male, who have been sexually or physically assaulted. The Centre also works with non-offending family members, partners, caregivers and support workers.

The Southern Metropolitan Region encompasses the south east suburbs and covers the Mornington Peninsula, Westernport, Dandenong, Berwick, Cranbourne and Pakenham growth corridors.

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www.secasa.com.au

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