

# Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor

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## **Resource Packet for Victims of Sexual Assault**

Sexual assault is a serious crime. Help is available whether you or a child is a victim. The Hunterdon County Office of Victim Witness Advocacy provides assistance to victims to help lessen the impact of this crime.

If you feel that you or your child is in need of immediate support or counseling services as the victim of a sexual assault, please contact SAFE in Hunterdon for free and confidential services on their 24-hour helpline at **(908) 788-4044**.

The Hunterdon County 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 also act as a liaison, assisting with social service agencies, employers, and school intervention, as needed.

If criminal charges have not been filed, and you would like to file for a Sexual Assault Survivors Protection Order (S.A.S.P.A.) for yourself or a child victim on their behalf, please complete the attached form and email it to the Hunterdon County Family Court Division at [HntEmergent.Mailbox@njcourts.gov](mailto:HntEmergent.Mailbox@njcourts.gov). A member of the Family Division staff will promptly review the submitted paperwork and will contact you to coordinate a time for a telephonic or video hearing on the application before a Superior Court judge.

If criminal charges are filed, you or the child victim may be entitled to a Sexual Offense Restraining Order (S.O.R.O.). Please contact this Office to discuss that option.

If you or your child is in a relationship with the perpetrator that triggers the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, a Domestic Violence Restraining Order may be an option. To determine eligibility, please contact the Hunterdon County Family Division at **(908) 824-9750, ext. 13830**.

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

For case updates or if you have any questions, feel free to contact the Hunterdon County Office of Victim Witness Advocacy **24-hours a day** at **(908) 788-1403**. Please leave a message and someone will return your call.

**Holly Hoff, Victim Witness Coordinator**  
**Hunterdon County Office of Victim Witness Advocacy**

*Si tiene cualquier pregunta, por favor llame a la Oficina de Víctimas y Testigos del Condado de Hunterdon al (908) 788-1403*

# 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 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 proveídos 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



# know your rights as a survivor of sexual violence

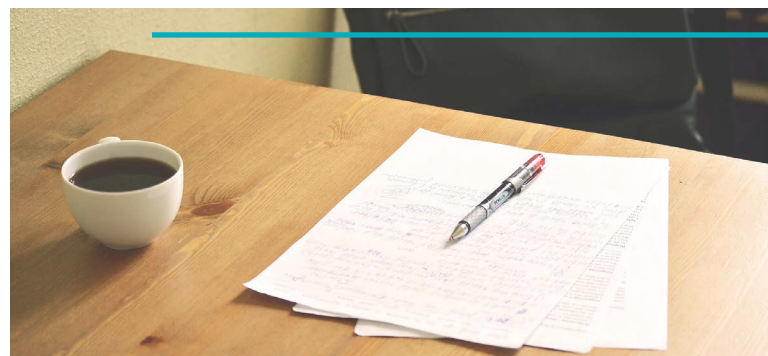


The **Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights** was enacted in 2019 to outline basic protections and fundamental rights for survivors. As a survivor of sexual violence, the time immediately following an assault can seem confusing and overwhelming. Next steps in the aftermath of an assault should be led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

**njcoalition**  
against sexual assault



## 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 Judiciary  
Family Practice Division  
**Additional Information Sheet**

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

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

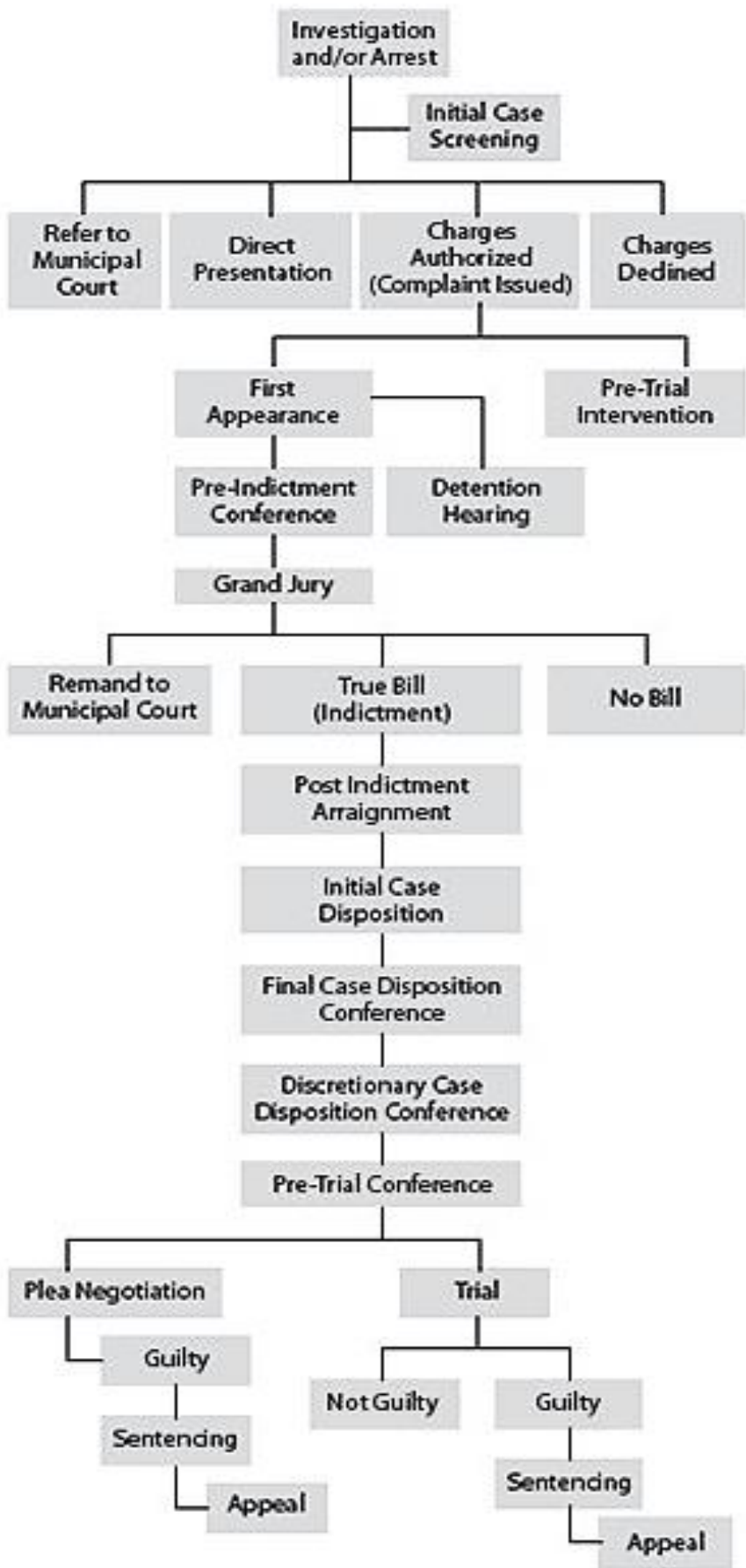
Multiple horizontal lines for writing.

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







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

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

*effective.8.1.20*

*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.*

*apply online at...*

## 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*

[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)



*We help put the pieces back together*

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



**cuidado**  
**apoyo**  
**dignidad**  
**ayuda**  
**respeto**

NEW JERSEY

OFICINA DE COMPENSACIÓN  
PARA VÍCTIMAS DEL CRIMEN

vigente.1.8.20

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 incurren 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
- Allanamiento\*
- Ofensas de comportamiento escandaloso
- Violencia Domestica
- 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

aplique en línea en:

## 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

[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
  - Perdida de ingresos de dependientes o miembros de familia
  - Duelo, máximo dos semanas
  - Perdida de ingresos por asistir al tribunal
- Perdida 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 victimas 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 victimas 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 victimas del crimen?

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

### ¿Quién es elegible para solicitar?

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

# Hunterdon County Resources

Organization	Services	Contact Information
<b>Address Confidentiality Program</b>	Safety planning and address confidentiality	1-877-218-9133
<b>Catholic Charities</b>	Housing, food, mental health, addiction services	6 Park Avenue Flemington, NJ 08822 908-782-7905
<b>Child Play Therapy with a Family Connection, LLC</b>	Mental health (children and adolescents)	1360 US HWY 22 Lebanon, NJ 08822 908-236-2763 <a href="http://www.childplaytherapy1.com/">http://www.childplaytherapy1.com/</a>
<b>Domestic Abuse &amp; Sexual Assault Center (DASACC)</b>	Emergency shelter, mental health, safety planning, legal advocacy	29C Broad Street Washington, NJ 07882 908-453-4121 <a href="https://www.dasacc.org/">https://www.dasacc.org/</a>
<b>Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU)</b>	Immediate crisis counseling	(908) 788-6401, ask for the Family Crisis Intervention Coordinator
<b>Family Promise of Hunterdon County, LLC</b>	Housing, mental health	8 Bartles Corner Road, Suite 11 Flemington, NJ 08822 (908) 782-2490
<b>Harvest Family Success Center</b>	Financial, mental health, legal assistance, child care, DV, transportation, food/clothing	(908) 237-0465 5 East Main Street Flemington, NJ 08822 <a href="https://harvestfsc.com/">https://harvestfsc.com/</a>
<b>Flemington Food Pantry</b>	Food and personal care items	154 Route 31 North Flemington, NJ 08822 (908) 788-5568
<b>Hunterdon Behavioral Health</b>	Mental health (adults, children and adolescents)	2100 Wescott Drive Flemington, NJ 08822 (908) 788-6401
<b>Hunterdon County Division of Social Services</b>	Housing, health services, job services, referrals, food	6 Gauntt Place Flemington, NJ 08822 (908) 788-1300 <a href="https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/social/socserv.htm">https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/social/socserv.htm</a>

<b>Hunterdon Helpline</b>	Mental health, homelessness, financial assistance, housing, transportation	(908) 782-4357 (24 hours a day, 365 days a year) <a href="http://www.helplinehc.org/">http://www.helplinehc.org/</a>
<b>Hunterdon Healthcare</b>	Bereavement Support Group	Flemington, New Jersey 908-788-6600
<b>Jewish Family Services of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties</b>	Job services, utilities assistance, referrals, mental health, food, housing	150-A West High Street Somerville, NJ 08876 (908) 725-7799 <a href="https://jewishfamilysvc.org/">https://jewishfamilysvc.org/</a>
<b>Legal Services of Northwest New Jersey</b>	Legal Services	82 Park Avenue Flemington, NJ 08822 (908) 782-7979
<b>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline</b>	Mental health	1-800-273-8255 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
<b>New Jersey Crime Victims' Law Center</b>	Legal Services	1 Professional Quadrangle, Suite 1 Sparta, NJ 07871 (973) 512-3246 <a href="http://www.njcvlc.org/">http://www.njcvlc.org/</a>
<b>NJ 211</b>	Mental health, child care, food, utilities, housing	<a href="https://www.nj211.org/">https://www.nj211.org/</a> Dial 2-1-1 or Text your zip 898-211
<b>Parents Inc</b>	Support Groups, Workshop & Training	1-800-843-5437 <a href="http://www.pofnj.com/">http://www.pofnj.com/</a>
<b>Perform Care (Mobile Response)</b>	Mental health (children and adolescents)	1-877-652-7624 <a href="http://www.performcarenj.org/">http://www.performcarenj.org/</a>
<b>Safe Harbor</b>	Trauma Sensitive Counseling	(908) 268-4284 <a href="https://gosafeharbor.org/">https://gosafeharbor.org/</a>
<b>SAFE in Hunterdon</b>	Emergency shelter, mental health, legal advocacy	(908) 788-4044 PO Box 63 Flemington, NJ 08822 <a href="https://safeinhunterdon.org/">https://safeinhunterdon.org/</a>
<b>V.I.N.E.</b>	Inmate custody status	1-877-846-3465
<b>1in6</b>	Support for men who experienced sexual abuse. 24/7 chat line, Weekly chat groups	<a href="https://1in6.org/">https://1in6.org/</a>

## How Can You Help?

Community members can get involved with our organization in a variety of ways, including:

- volunteering for our Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Response Teams
- attending agency events in the community
- requesting a presentation for their local organizations or places of employment
- following SAFE on social media and sharing our content
- donating supplies for our emergency shelter
- making a monetary donation to our organization
- telling friends and family members about our services

SAFE relies on community support and engagement to serve Hunterdon County survivors.

No action of support is too small, and all support is appreciated!



## Contact Us

### 24/7 Emergency Hotline

908.788.4044

### Main Office Line

908.806.0019

## Follow Us



SAFE in Hunterdon



@safeinhunterdon



@SAFE\_Hunterdon



Scan this QR code to visit our website!



**SAFE in Hunterdon is dedicated to offering safety, hope, supportive services, and advocacy to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Hunterdon County.**

**We envision a community with the strength and knowledge to support all individuals in their journey to maintain physical and emotional safety.**



*All SAFE services are free and confidential. Services are offered in both English and Spanish.*

# What is Domestic Violence?

SAFE in Hunterdon recognizes domestic violence as any behavior or action that makes an individual feel threatened, controlled, or unsafe.

## **Domestic violence behaviors may include:**

- Physical or sexual violence
- Intimidation and coercion
- Forced isolation from friends/family
- Verbal abuse or harassment
- Threats against you, your family, or your pets
- Economic control and abuse
- Destruction of property
- Spying or stalking

# What is Sexual Violence?

SAFE in Hunterdon recognizes sexual violence as the manipulation, coercion, or use of threat or force to engage in unwanted sexual activity.

## **Sexual violence behaviors may include:**

- Unwanted touching
- Any non-consensual sexual activity
- Any drug-facilitated sexual assault
- Sexual abuse against a child
- Sexual harassment

# Services for Survivors

## **COUNSELING**

SAFE in Hunterdon offers confidential, trauma-informed counseling to both children and adults who have experienced domestic violence and sexual assault.

Our counselors provide clients with options, resources, emotional support, and safety planning.

## **LEGAL ADVOCACY**

SAFE's legal advocates provide free and confidential assistance to survivors (plaintiffs) in the restraining order and protective order processes.

Legal advocates can provide court accompaniment, advocacy, and referrals to both SAFE resources and community services.

## **24/7 HOTLINE ASSISTANCE**

The SAFE emergency hotline is staffed 24/7 by Advocates ready to provide information, emotional support, referrals, crisis counseling, and safety planning to callers.

## **EMERGENCY SHELTER**

SAFE provides emergency shelter to survivors and their families fleeing from abuse for up to 30 days.

Our agency Safe House is a communal living environment. Shelter residents may access all SAFE services during their stay.

# Community Services

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PREVENTION EFFORTS**

As part of its mission, SAFE in Hunterdon provides education and training to those seeking to learn how to prevent or respond to domestic and sexual violence in their community.

SAFE provides customized workshops on a variety of topics for:

- individuals
- neighborhoods
- community organizations
- schools, colleges and universities
- religious and civic groups
- small businesses
- service providers
- and more!

Our educators use a variety of techniques to engage participants, including lectures, guided discussion, technology, interactive lessons and other materials.

## **CRISIS INTERVENTION**

The Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) provide emotional support, safety planning, advocacy, and information regarding legal options and community resources to survivors at all Hunterdon County police stations, State Police barracks and at Hunterdon Medical Center.



## ¿Como puedes ayudar?

Los miembros de la comunidad pueden involucrarse con nuestra organización de varias maneras, incluyendo:

- voluntariado para nuestros equipos de respuesta a violencia doméstica y agresión sexual
- asistir a eventos de agencias en la comunidad
- solicitar una presentación para sus organizaciones locales o lugares de empleo
- seguir a SAFE en las redes sociales y compartir nuestro contenido
- donar suministros para nuestro refugio de emergencia
- hacer una donación monetaria a nuestra organización
- contarle a amigos y familiares sobre nuestros servicios

SAFE depende del apoyo y la participación de la comunidad para servir a los sobrevivientes del Condado de Hunterdon.

Ninguna acción de apoyo es demasiado pequeña, y todo el apoyo es apreciado!

## Contáctanos

### 24/7 Línea de Emergencia

908.788.4044

### Línea de oficina principal

908.806.0019

## Síguenos



SAFE in Hunterdon



@safeinhunterdon



@SAFE\_Hunterdon



¡Escanee este código QR para visitar nuestro sitio web!



**SAFE en Hunterdon se dedica a ofrecer seguridad, esperanza, servicios de apoyo y defensa a los sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica y agresión sexual en el Condado de Hunterdon.**

**Imaginamos una comunidad con la fuerza y el conocimiento para apoyar a todas las personas en su viaje para mantener la seguridad física y emocional.**



*Todos los servicios de SAFE son gratuitos y confidenciales.*

*Servicios se ofrecen en Inglés y Español.*



# ¿Qué es Violencia Doméstica?

SAFE in Hunterdon reconoce la violencia doméstica como cualquier comportamiento o acción que hace que un individuo se sienta amenazado, controlado o inseguro.

## Los comportamientos de violencia doméstica pueden incluir:

- Violencia física o sexual
- Intimidación y coerción
- Aislamiento forzado de amigos/familiares
- Abuso verbal o acoso
- Amenazas contra usted, su familia o sus mascotas
- Control económico y abuso
- Destrucción de propiedad
- Espionaje o acoso

# ¿Qué es Violencia Sexual?

SAFE in Hunterdon reconoce la violencia sexual como la manipulación, coerción o uso de amenazas o fuerza para participar en actividades sexuales no deseadas.

## Los comportamientos de violencia sexual pueden incluir:

- Tocamientos no deseados
- Cualquier actividad sexual no consentida
- Cualquier agresión sexual facilitada por drogas
- Abuso sexual contra un niño
- Acoso sexual

# Servicios para Sobrevivientes

## TERAPIA/ ASESORAMIENTO

SAFE en Hunterdon ofrece consejería confidencial, informada sobre el trauma, tanto para niños como para adultos que han experimentado violencia doméstica y agresión sexual. Nuestros consejeros brindan a los clientes opciones, recursos, apoyo emocional y planificación de seguridad.

## ABOGACÍA LEGAL

Los defensores legales de SAFE brindan asistencia gratuita y confidencial a los sobrevivientes (demandantes) en los procesos de órdenes de restricción y órdenes de protección.

Los defensores legales de SAFE brindan asistencia gratuita y confidencial a los sobrevivientes (demandantes) en los procesos de órdenes de restricción y órdenes de protección.

## 24/7 LINEA DE EMERGENCIA

La línea directa de emergencia SAFE está atendida las 24/7 días de la semana, por defensores dispuestos a proporcionar información, apoyo emocional, referencias, asesoramiento en caso de crisis y planificación de seguridad a las personas que llaman.

## REFUGIO DE EMERGENCIA

SAFE proporciona refugio de emergencia a sobrevivientes y sus familias que huyen del abuso por hasta 30 días. Nuestra agencia de refugio es un entorno de vida comunal. Los residentes del refugio pueden acceder a todos los servicios seguros durante su estancia.

# Servicios Comunitarios

## ESFUERZOS DE PARTICIPACIÓN COMUNITARIA

Como parte de su misión, SAFE in Hunterdon proporciona educación y capacitación a aquellos que buscan aprender cómo prevenir o responder a la violencia doméstica y sexual en su comunidad.

SAFE ofrece talleres personalizados sobre una variedad de temas para:

- individuos
- vecindario
- organizaciones comunitarias
- escuelas, colegios y universidades
- grupos religiosos y cívicos
- pequeñas empresas
- proveedores de servicio
- ¡y más!

Nuestros educadores utilizan una variedad de técnicas para involucrar a los participantes, incluidas conferencias, debates guiados, tecnología, lecciones interactivas y otros materiales.

## INTERVENCION DE CRISIS

El Equipo de Respuesta a la Violencia Doméstica (DVRT) y el Equipo de Respuesta a la Agresión Sexual (SART) proporcionan apoyo emocional, planificación de la seguridad, defensa e información sobre opciones legales y recursos comunitarios a los sobrevivientes en todas las estaciones de policía del Condado de Hunterdon, cuarteles de la Policía Estatal y en el Centro Médico Hunterdon.

## SPECIAL VICTIMS INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSE

### “A TEAM EFFORT” WHAT TO EXPECT

- ◆ Matter is reported to SVU; information is gathered to determine the response from SVU. Some instances require an immediate response. Others are triaged.
- ◆ Determine jurisdiction and coordinate with the local police agency.
- ◆ If a sexual assault occurred within 5 days, determine whether the victim wants/needs the services of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE).
- ◆ Determine what services are needed for the victim. A sexual assault advocate may be contacted on the victim's behalf.
- ◆ Interview the victim, witnesses, and involved parties.
- ◆ Gather any evidence if evidence exists.
- ◆ Interview the suspect if feasible.
- ◆ All investigations are reviewed by the Assistant Prosecutor at all stages of the investigation.
- ◆ All investigations are fact sensitive and unique. There is no set time frame for an investigation to conclude.
- ◆ If probable cause exists, the suspect may be criminally charged. If so, they may be detained in county jail.
- ◆ If there is not enough probable cause to charge a suspect, the victim will be so notified and afforded an opportunity to meet with the AP to discuss the investigation.
- ◆ Criminally charged cases will go through the court process (first appearance, Grand Jury, status conferences, plea and/or trial). The Victim Witness Unit will maintain contact with the victim during all phases of a criminal matter; victims will be consulted during plea negotiations.

## PROTECTION FOR THE VICTIM

- If criminal charges are filed, a victim may obtain a Sex Offense Restraining Order (SORO). The Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office will assist a victim in obtaining this order.
- If criminal charges are declined, a court **may** determine that the victim is eligible for a protective order under the “Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act of 2015” (SASPA). A victim must contact the Hunterdon County Family Division at (908) 824-9750 to start that process.

### RESOURCES

- **SAFE in Hunterdon** (888) 988-4033  
Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Support Services
- **Catholic Charities-Flemington**  
Family Service Center (908) 782-7905  
Flemington, NJ
- **Victim Witness Advocacy** (908) 788-1403  
Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office  
(908) 788-1129
- **NJ 24-Hour Sexual Assault**  
Hotline (800) 601-7200  
[www.njcasa.org](http://www.njcasa.org)
- **VCCO (Victims of Crime**  
Compensation Office) (973) 648-2107  
Provides financial assistance to eligible victims  
of some crimes  
[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)
- **National Sexual Assault**  
Hotline (800) 656-HOPE  
[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)
- **National Sexual Violence Resource Center**  
[www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)

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# HUNTERDON COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE



## SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

## INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

## SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

The Special Victims Unit (SVU) is primarily responsible for investigating and prosecuting cases involving sexual and physical abuse of children. SVU is also responsible for providing investigative assistance to various municipal and state police agencies in sexual assault cases involving adult victims. All investigations are coordinated with the SVU, the police agency, and, if applicable, the Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P). The unit is prepared to respond 24 hours a day to those incidents that require an immediate response; other matters are investigated in a time-sensitive manner. Obtaining proper treatment for the victim is a priority, together with doing a comprehensive and thorough investigation.

Our Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is designed to put young victims at ease. The CAC is always utilized for victims that are under the age of 13, and often utilized for older victims. To eliminate the need for multiple interview, the rooms are equipped with digital video recording and monitoring so other involved agencies (i.e. DCP&P) can monitor the interviews.

All investigations are reviewed by an Assistant Prosecutor (AP). Victims are afforded an opportunity to speak with the AP to discuss whether their case is to be criminally charged or not. If a case is charged, a member of the Victim Witness Unit will remain in contact with the victim throughout the process, including but not limited to discussions of plea agreements, trial preparation, and other matters.

## OTHER SVU FUNCTIONS

### INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN (ICAC)

The SVU is a member of the ICAC, a national network of federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. These agencies are engaged in investigations, forensic examinations, and criminal prosecutions. ICAC encompasses the exploitation of children on line, most prominently involving the possession, transmission, and manufacturing of child pornography. In New Jersey, child pornography is defined as images or video depicting persons under the age of 18 engaging in sexual acts or simulated sexual acts. HCPO SVU actively investigates all tips received from the ICAC. The detectives involved in ICAC are highly trained in computer forensics and the latest and evolving technology.

### MEGAN'S LAW

The SVU is responsible for monitoring all registered sex offenders within Hunterdon County. Additionally, the SVU is responsible for any community/law enforcement notification conducted for each registrant. The process begins when a person registers within Hunterdon County; the registrant is then tiered utilizing a risk assessment scale. If a registrant is tiered as a tier 2 (moderate risk) or tier 3 (high risk), the matter is then scheduled for court for the purpose of obtaining an order to conduct community notification and/or internet notification. **\*Not all registrants are listed on the sex offender website located at [www.njsp.org](http://www.njsp.org)**

Registrants who fail to verify or register their addresses are criminally charged by either the SVU or the local police department.

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault is a term used to define a broad range of unwanted sexual activities. In New Jersey, sex crimes are defined under chapter 14 of the 2C Criminal Code. Sex crimes can happen to anyone, regardless of their age, sex, gender identity, educational level, race, or socioeconomic status. Perpetrators can be anyone, including but not limited to strangers, family members, friends, intimate partners, and clergy. In most cases, perpetrators are someone with whom the victim is acquainted. Regardless of the relationship between the victim and the suspect, or the circumstances, no one deserves to be sexually assaulted.

Victims may react in various ways to a sexual assault. They should understand that no matter their reaction, it is normal and that help is available, whether a victim wants to report the incident to law enforcement or not.

Victims should always remember that if they report a crime but it does not lead to criminal charges, that does not mean that it did not occur or that they were not believed. Charges can only be filed when a case can be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. There also may be instances where it takes time for charges be brought; this could be because SVU is waiting for lab reports, statements, reports, or other evidence.