

_____ Case/Report Number:
_____ Phone Number:
_____ Date:
_____ Agency:

**Sexual Abuse Victims' Rights
Per Section 680.2 PC**



Available Resources

**Ventura County District Attorney's Crime Victims' Assistance Unit:
(805) 654-3622**

Assists with asserting your rights as a crime victim, applying for victim compensation, and referrals to other services.

Interface Children and Family Services: (800) 636-6738

Provides family counseling services and domestic violence shelter.

**Ventura County 211: Dial 2-1-1, click 211Ventura.org,
or text your zip code to 898211**

Ventura County 211 is a guide to available community resources.

California Victim Compensation Board: (800) 777-9229

<https://victims.ca.gov>

Aids with medical and dental bills, relocation, mental health counseling, loss of income, or other expenses.

The Ventura County Family Justice Center

The Ventura County Family Justice Center (VCFJC) is a center that brings together the services from a multitude of community agencies to serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, hate crimes, and human trafficking. The purpose of the center is to help save lives, reduce trauma, and empower survivors as they recover, heal, and break the cycle of abuse. At VCFJC, clients can access:

- Crisis counseling and linkage to long-term counseling.
- Assistance with restraining orders.
- Connection to social services such as shelter, housing, child support, and services for elderly or dependent adult clients.
- Legal assistance or referral to legal aid.
- Updates on criminal cases that are being prosecuted.

Call VCFJC at (805) 652-7655 or text (805) 947-7981

Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm

Email vcfjc.coop@ventura.org

Vcfjc.org

Coalition for Family Harmony

Coalition for Family Harmony is the Rape Crisis Center for Ventura County. Rape Crisis Advocates hold privileged communication and are confidential advocates that provide emotional support and advocacy to victims of sexual violence 24 hours a day.

Services include:

- Crisis Counseling and warm transfers to clinicians for long-term counseling or clinical support groups.
- Information about your reporting options and rights if you have been the victim of sexual assault.
- Referrals to additional programs that are available for victims of sexual violence including housing and legal services.

Rape Crisis Advocates also serve as a support person for victims of sexual violence during forensic exams, when filing a police report for sexual violence, or during interviews with law enforcement.

24-Hr Bilingual Crisis Hotline (1-800) 300-2181

Main Office (805) 983-6014, Monday to Friday 8 am – 5 pm

Victims' Rights in cases of Sexual Abuse

CA Penal Code, Section 680.2

Sexual Abuse is any unwanted intimate or sexual touching by one person to another person without consent.

If you were a victim of sexual abuse, you have the right:

- To report your sexual abuse incident to the police and have an investigation started **or** to keep the incident private. No matter what you choose, you keep all of your rights.
- To ask for a medical forensic exam, to collect evidence, at no cost to you.
- To have a confidential sexual assault counselor, or other support person, with you during an exam or interview.
- To ask about the status of testing, test results and evidence from the assault.
- To ask the officer for a case number and how to find out what happens next.
- To request a free copy of the initial crime report.
- To be a part of the investigation and criminal case, **or** to choose not to participate. If you choose not to participate, it is your right to know that a victim of sexual assault or domestic violence will not be imprisoned for refusing to testify concerning the crime.
- To ask for a protective order.

If you are not ready to talk to the police, you still have a right to request an exam. An exam without a police investigation is called an **abbreviated exam**. Evidence collected during the exam will be saved in case you change your mind and later want an investigation done by the police.

You have the right to additional information, including:

- The attacker's sex offender registry information, if convicted.
- If evidence was used to make a DNA profile of your attacker and if law enforcement entered the profile into a database.
- Evidence from the rape kit. The rape kit must be:
 - Taken to the lab within 20 days and analyzed within 120 days
 - Kept for 20 years OR until you turn 40 if you were under 18 when the assault happened.

If you are considering requesting an exam, it is your right to know:

- DNA and other types of evidence may last from 12 hours to 7 days and may degrade/break down over time due to exposure to heat, water, and other materials.
- Since evidence does not last long on the body or other places, the sooner you request an exam the better.
- If the crime just occurred, you should not bathe, use the restroom, or wash your body/private parts until evidence is collected.
- You should not throw away or wash any items like clothes, blankets, or bedsheets that may have evidence on them. Do not try to clean anything up. If you have already washed your clothes or other fabric items, keep them anyway.

These agencies can assist you in asserting your rights:

- **The Ventura County Family Justice Center** can assist you in obtaining a protective order and connect you to **The Ventura County District Attorney's Office** for information about prosecution and the attacker's sex offender registry status, after they are sentenced: (805) 652-7655.
- **Coalition for Family Harmony** has Rape Crisis Advocates available to provide support during a forensic exam, crisis counseling, and long term-counseling: (1-800) 300-2181.
- The **law enforcement agency where you reported the crime** can provide you with a copy of the police report; the status of testing or results of your exam; or any updates regarding the investigation.
- **The California Attorney General's Victims' Services Unit** can also provide a general location and status of your rape kit based on data entered in the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Tracking (SAFE-T) database: (877) 433-9069 or <https://kitstatus.doj.ca.gov/>.
- **The California Victim Compensation Board** might be able to assist with things like medical and dental bills or other expenses due to the crime. Contact **The Ventura County Family Justice Center** for assistance or apply online at <https://victims.ca.gov>. You can also call (1-800) 777-9229.