

Sexual Assault and Family Violence Support

Sexual Assault Support Services

24 hour crisis support is available from various services around Tasmania. It is free to access.

They can provide support in a number of ways, including

- Attending the hospital with the survivor should they wish to undergo medical or forensic examination
- Attending the police station should they wish to make a statement
- Assisting the survivor to connect with counselling services for ongoing counselling and support

24 hour crisis support phone:
1800 MYSUPPORT (1800 697 877)

North West

Laurel House
Phone: (03) 6431 9711
www.laurelhouse.org.au

North

Laurel House
Phone: (03) 6334 2740
www.laurelhouse.org.au

South

Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS)
Phone: (03) 6231 0044
www.sass.org.au

Sexual Assault and Family Violence Support

Family Violence Counselling and Support Services (FVCSS)

All FVCSS services are voluntary and free of cost.

Services include:

- Information, counselling, and support
- Safety planning
- Assistance to access a police response to intimate partner family violence matters
- Referrals and advocacy

Family Violence Counselling Support Service

9.00am – midnight weekdays

4.00pm – midnight weekends and public holidays

Phone: 1800 608 122

Telephone and online counselling:

1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)

Lifeline counselling and support 24/7

Phone: **13 11 14**

**If someone is at immediate risk or in danger
call Tasmania Police on 000**



Sexual Assault
and Family Violence
FORENSIC SERVICES



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Your Options Following a Sexual Assault

Your options following an assault

As a survivor of a recent sexual assault or family violence assault there are various options available to you:

- To seek information, advice or counselling from a Sexual Assault or Family Violence support organisation
- To have a *medical examination* only (assessment and treatment of injuries and provision of emergency contraception and antibiotics for STI if needed)
- To have a *forensic medical examination* (a medical examination AND the recording of injuries and collection of biological samples which can be used as evidence in court)
- To report the assault to the police (either formally or informally)
- Not to report the assault to the police
- Any combination of the above
- To do nothing at all

What Is a Forensic Medical Examination?

A Forensic Medical Examination (FME) is done to document injuries, and to collect evidence that may be used in a court.

An FME cannot confirm or deny whether an assault took place.

FMEs are done by qualified Forensic Examiners, doctors or nurses/midwives who have been trained in the field of forensic evidence gathering.

FMEs are a free service provided through the major hospitals.

After presentation, the Forensic Examiner will meet with you and explain what will happen during the examination. You will be asked to sign a consent form to proceed. Your consent can be withdrawn at any time - it is up to you.

The Forensic Examiner will ask you about the assault and what happened to you in order to guide the examination. They will check your body for any injuries and take swabs and samples if necessary. They will explain what they are doing at each step and *you may decline any or all parts of the examination at any stage*. You will be offered emergency contraception and STI treatment and follow up if required.

An FME can be done with or without a report to the police.

Any samples will be stored until you decide whether you would like to proceed with a report. They cannot be processed and released to the police without your consent.

The sooner an FME is done, the more likely evidence will be collected. The ideal time is within 24 hours of the assault. However, examinations can be done up to 7 days after the assault in some cases.

Even if you are unsure whether to proceed with a report to the police, having an FME means that you will have more options available to you in the future.

Your FME record is kept separate from your medical records and only released with your consent.

If you choose to have a Forensic Medical Examination, you can arrange one by going to the Emergency Department at any hospital, contacting Tasmania Police or contacting one of the crisis support organisations listed on the back of this brochure.