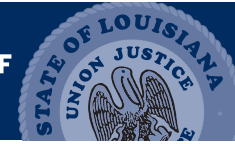




LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH



Guidance

A Survivor's Guide



A Survivor's Guide

Louisiana Department of Health

628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

(225) 342-9500 - press option 7

What to know after Rape or Sexual Assault

You are not alone!

Emergency room health professionals and counselors from the Rape Crisis Center (Sexual Assault Response Team) are here to help you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These services are *free* and *private*.

You do not have to go through this alone. Ask the nurse or doctor at this healthcare facility to contact a rape counselor (sexual assault advocate). This counselor will talk to you about all of your options. She can explain what choices you have and help you make decisions that you are comfortable with.

The health care providers and rape counselors will care for you with dignity and compassion.

These are some important things you should know:

- ▶ You do not have to report your assault to the police to get a medical rape exam.
- ▶ The health care providers here will tell you about any examinations, procedures or treatments before you choose to have them. You have the right **not** to do any of them.
- ▶ You may have someone with you when you talk to the police if you decide to report it.
- ▶ All of your information will be kept private.

The law does not allow a hospital or health care provider to bill you for services related to rape.

Medical exams and related services are free. They include:

- ▶ Lab tests and screenings related to the exam;
- ▶ Medicine provided during the exam;
- ▶ Services related to the exam.

If you get a bill or have questions about a bill, call the Louisiana Department of Health at (225) 342-9500. Press 7 when prompted.

If you have insurance, with your consent, the provider may bill your health insurance company.

- ▶ Louisiana law states that you do **not** have to pay anything.
- ▶ Your insurance company will only send an explanation of what services you were billed for to an address you choose. You may decide you do not want this.
- ▶ The provider may also bill Medicaid, Medicare or Tricare if you are enrolled in one of these.

If you get a bill for services other than the medical rape exam, you may be able to get these bills paid by the Crime Victims Reparations Board. For information about what costs are covered or how to apply for help, visit their website at www.lcle.state.la.us/programs/cvr.asp or call **(888) 6-VICTIM (888-684-2846)**.

Important numbers

- ▶ **National Sexual Assault Hotline**
(800) 656-4673
- ▶ **Crime Victims Reparations Board**
(888) 684-2846
- ▶ **Louisiana Department of Health**
(225) 342-9500. Press 7 when prompted