

What to do if you've been sexually assaulted

1. Get to a safe place.
2. Even if you want to clean up immediately after the assault, it is important to save the evidence.
3. Don't use the bathroom, brush your teeth, shower, or change your clothes
4. Report it, even if you don't have any evidence. It doesn't matter when the assault happened.
5. Tell ANY staff person (Jail Officer, Supervisor, Deputy, Volunteer, Pastor, Nurse, etc...)Talk to any staff member you trust.
6. You may talk to someone in person, send an Inmate Request or file a Grievance. It doesn't matter—just tell someone.
7. **Call the 1 (888) 299-0911 report line.** All reports are thoroughly investigated. This number can be used by anyone and has been unblocked for the Inmate Phone System.
8. Seek the support of a trusted friend, family member, or staff member. Whether or not you plan to report the assault, you may choose to talk to someone.
9. Get victim services through mental health or medical staff. They will know how to get services for you.

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How to report a sexual assault

If you are a victim of sexual assault or you suspect someone else has been sexually abused or involved in sexual misconduct with a staff member, you need to report it. A thorough and impartial investigation will be conducted.

Your Options:

1. Report the incident to the toll-free telephone number: 1 (888) 299-0911. This number can be accessed from inmate phones.

Remember, we cannot conduct an investigation if we don't have enough information. All information will be kept in strict confidence. This number has been unblocked so any inmate can use it. Your family or friends can also use it to report these incidences for you.
2. Talk to any staff member you feel comfortable with. This can be an officer, supervisor, deputy, volunteer, pastor ANYONE.
3. Send in an Inmate Letter or file a Grievance.

REPORTING IS THE FIRST STEP



**Cherokee County
Sheriff's Office**

Sexual Assault and Custodial Sexual Misconduct

- How to Prevent it
- How to Report it
- Know Your Rights



Sexual assault and custodial sexual misconduct are against the law.

This Office is committed to your safety and the safety of staff. Sexual assault compromises everyone's safety.

This office has **ZERO TOLERANCE** of sexual assault. That means we are committed to investigating **EVERY** allegation, getting services to **EVERY** victim, and punishing **EVERY** perpetrator. That includes involving law enforcement and prosecutors.

You have the right to be held in this facility with dignity.

What is sexual assault

- Anytime another inmate sexually touches the sexual parts of your body, forces you to touch the sexual parts of their body, has sex with you without your ok, or forces you to have sex with someone else without your ok, it is against the law
- Anytime a staff member makes sexual advances or comments, sexually touches you, or has sex with you, it is against the law. Even if you wanted or invited it, the staff person is not allowed to respond. This does not include routine searches or touching for certain medical procedures.
- Anytime you sexually touch a staff member or force them to touch you, it is against the law.

Examples of sexual assault

- Rape
- Someone forcing you to have sex with them or another person to repay a debt
- Someone offering you protection in exchange for sex
- A staff person offering you a privilege or a favor in exchange for sex.

It is **NOT YOUR FAULT** if you were sexually assaulted.

How to prevent sexual assault

- Anyone offering you favors, lending you things, or providing you protection, may be setting you up for an assault or targeting you as a potential victim. **DON'T DO IT!**
- Be aware of situations that make you feel uncomfortable. Trust your instincts. If it feels wrong, leave or call out for a staff member. It's your right to say "NO", "STOP IT", or "DON'T TOUCH ME!".
- If you or someone else is being pressured for sex, tell a staff member immediately. You don't need to wait for an assault to happen to ask for help.
- Be aware of areas where it may be hard to be seen by staff or where you would have trouble getting help if you needed it.
- Stay out of other people's cells and keep them out of yours.
- Be alert—contraband such as drugs and alcohol will make it hard for you to stay alert and make decisions.