

## What to do if you've been sexually abused

1. Get to a safe place.
2. Even if you want to clean up immediately after the incident, 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 abuse 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.

**Cherokee County Sheriff's Office**  
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## How to report sexual abuse/sexual harassment

If you are a victim of sexual abuse/sexual harassment or you suspect someone else has been sexually abused/ sexually harassed 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 Abuse and Sexual Harassment*

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



Sexual abuse and sexual harassment are against the law.

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

This office has ZERO TOLERANCE of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. 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.

### Sexual Abuse includes

- Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration however slight;
- Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus;
- Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by hand, finger, object or instrument; and
- Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation or that is unrelated to official duties.

### Sexual Harassment includes

- Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments or gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one person directed toward another; and
- Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a person, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory

comments about body or clothing or obscene language or gestures.

It is **NOT YOUR FAULT** if you were a victim of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.

### How to prevent sexual abuse or sexual harassment

- Anyone offering you favors, lending you things, or providing you protection, may be setting you up for an incident 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 incident 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.

*Copies are available in Booking*