

# Who Can Help?

## Resources and Guidance for Victims of Sexual violence

**Medical** — If your child has been abused or assaulted, s/he needs to be seen by a medical professional. Many Iowa communities have specially trained nurses, called Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, who can examine someone after an assault and know how to properly collect evidence required for the legal system. You can also seek care at your local emergency room or family doctor. The cost of a sexual assault examination is not charged to the victim — it is paid for by the State of Iowa. All health care providers are required by law to report child sexual abuse and they know how to support your family in getting help for a victim.

**Legal** — Local law enforcement will assist by filing a police report, investigating the crime, and apprehending a suspect. To notify law enforcement, *dial 911*. Other professionals can help you to report sexual violence to the authorities. Teachers, nurses, counselors, social workers and other helping professionals are trained “mandatory reporters” of child abuse and assault and can offer support.

**Crisis Counseling and Advocacy** — Free crisis services and medical/legal advocacy are available to victims of crime in Iowa. Trained victim advocates can also help you receive compensation for some crime-related expenses, and can refer you to other community resources. To find a program near you, call the Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline (listed below).

- **For survivors** of sexual abuse and sexual assault, the Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline is a free 24-hour crisis line that provides information, support, and referral to appropriate agencies and programs across the state.
- **For youth who may be experiencing dating violence or need help escaping violent relationships**, contact the Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline for confidential support and information.

<b>Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline</b>	<b>1-800-284-7821</b>	<b>24-hour support, information and referral</b> — Trained advocates provide supportive listening and information about services for sexual abuse survivors and their significant others.
<b>Child Abuse Reporting Hotline</b>	<b>1-800-362-2178</b>	<b>Iowa Department of Human Services</b> — Trained staff accept mandatory and voluntary reports of suspected child abuse and refer them for investigation.

For more information on sexual violence go to:

[www.icyd.org](http://www.icyd.org)

## Preventing Child and Youth Sexual Harassment, Abuse, and Assault

### A Resource for Iowa's Families



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