

# SEXUAL ASSAULT

## FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault is any unwanted act of a sexual nature

This may include inappropriate touching, attempting to remove clothing, kissing, and vaginal, oral or anal penetration

Sexual assaults are crimes of aggression where sex is the weapon used

The victim is never to blame for this unwanted act of violence

A person who has been sexually assaulted may experience a wide range of conflicting emotions, from fear to disbelief

It is important for a person to seek out their supports in their lives to help them through this traumatic event

Professional help may be necessary to help someone cope with what has happened to them

## WHAT ABOUT THE HOSPITAL?

If you go to the hospital, you have several options. You could:

- 1. Ask for medical treatment for any injuries and to test for pregnancy.**
- 2. Request both medical treatment and the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit.**
- 3. Request the Sexual Evidence Kit only.**

If you have the sexual assault kit done, you can request that it be stored for up to six months so that you can take your time deciding what you want to do. If you decide to have the kit done, the nurse examiner or doctor will:

Collect your clothes (bring extra if possible)

Take swabs of your mouth for saliva samples

Come head and pubic hair for samples

Scrape under your fingernails

Take blood samples to check for alcohol and drug levels

Take vaginal and anal swabs, especially looking for presence of semen

Take vaginal swabs and blood samples to test for pregnancy

Physically examine you for signs of physical injuries such as broken bone, internal injuries, bruising, cuts, etc.

Photographs will probably be taken to document visible physical injuries

It is important to be aware that this procedure can be uncomfortable and that you can have a support person with you. You can also request a female nurse or doctor. If you choose not to have the kit done, you can still receive medical attention, the morning after pill, crisis counselling, report the sexual assault to police and/or obtain referrals to other support services.

## **REFERRALS**

<i>Victim Services of Huron County</i> .....	524-4108
<i>Women's Shelter</i> .....	524-5333
<i>Crisis Line</i> .....	1-800-265-5506
<i>Second Stage Housing</i> .....	482-5288
<i>Sexual Assault Centre-London 24hr</i> .....	438-2272 or 1-877-529-2272
<i>Sexual Assault Counselling Program; Stratford Hospital</i> .....	272-8210 ex. 2205
<i>St. Joseph's Hospital</i> .....	646-6000 ex. 64224
<i>Huron County Health Unit</i> .....	482-3416
<i>Assaulted Women's Helpline</i> .....	1-888-863-0511
<i>On Mobile phone</i> .....	#7233 (Bell, Rogers, Fido or Telus)
<i>Victim Support Line</i> .....	1-888-579-2888
<i>Criminal Injuries Compensation Board</i> .....	1-800-372-7463
<b><u>Support for Male Victims</u></b>	
<i>Phone Support</i> .....	519-438-2272
<i>Ears</i> .....	519-570-3277