

## THE POLICE INVESTIGATION AND THE COURTS

After the medical examination you will be asked for a detailed statement concerning what happened in the assault to assist in the investigation and for use later at court. Your clothing will probably be taken possession of as evidence but may be returned once the case is over. You may be asked to attend an Identification Parade. If you do, you will not be seen by anyone standing on the parade, nor will your name be given to anyone on the parade.

The Procurator Fiscal who is responsible to the Crown for investigating offenders may ask you to speak to a precognition officer (if possible of the same sex as yourself). This will be an informal interview held in private.

The Defence Lawyer who represents the accused person may also want to have an interview (precognition) with you.

If you feel it is necessary you can have someone present who is not connected with the enquiry (i.e. friend or relative).

## CRIMINAL INJURIES

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board will consider applications for compensation arising out of acts of rape and other sexual offences. If you write initially to:

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board  
Tay House  
300 Bath Street, Glasgow  
G2 4LN  
Tel No: 0141 331 2726

Victim Support Highland can assist you in completing the application form. They can be contacted on 01463 258 834.

Scottish Helpline (Victim Support) 0845 6039213

## A PERSONAL REMINDER

The Police Officer working with you is

.....

The Officer who has been nominated as

Enquiry Officer is .....

The Incident Number is .....

### Medical Problems

You are advised to contact your GP if you are worried about anything medically. The police surgeon may give you a letter for him/her.

### Sexually Transmitted Diseases

You may wish to contact:

Genito-Urinary Clinic, Highland Sexual Health  
Raigmore Hospital  
Inverness IV2 7QN  
Tel No: 01463 704202

The Force Medical Examiner can make this appointment for you.

### Housing

If you have any fears about your attacker knowing your home address, discuss this matter with the Police Officer.

The Police Officer working with you will be able to refer you to any relevant agency which may help i.e. Counselling, Victim Support etc.

### Useful contacts:

Rape Crisis Scotland:	08088 010302
Victim Support Highland:	01463 258834
Samaritans Inverness:	01463 713456
Inverness Women's Aid:	01463 220719
Rape & Abuse Line:	0808 800 0123 (women)
	0808 800 0122 (men)



## INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT



### **INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED**

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REPORT THE MATTER TO THE POLICE

IT GIVES THEM A CHANCE TO DETAIN OR ARREST YOUR ATTACKER AND MAY PREVENT SOMEONE ELSE FROM BEING THE VICTIM OF AN ATTACK

THE DECISION RESTS WITH YOU

DO NOT FEEL GUILTY OR ASHAMED

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ASK QUESTIONS OF US, DOCTORS AND OTHERS CARING FOR YOU

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

After making your initial report to the Police you will be asked for your consent to a medical examination and for some of your clothing to be examined at the laboratory.

Before the examination, a specially trained Police Officer (Sexual Offences Liaison Officer - SOLO) will ask brief details about the attack. It is important to be honest, however embarrassing or unpleasant the experience.

The Doctor who examines you has had special training and will be known as the Force Medical Examiner (FME) or in the case of children a Paediatrician and an FME will examine you.

The Doctor will take samples for laboratory testing and you will be thoroughly examined for any injuries. They can arrange for any necessary follow-up visits required.

Arrangements will be made to photograph any injuries you may have.

### **PLEASE HELP PRESERVE EVIDENCE**

1. Please do not eat or drink anything until the SOLO says it is okay.
2. Please keep any tissues you use after going to the toilet
3. Please do not wash or clean your teeth.
4. You may be asked to provide a urine sample and mouth swabs (saliva sample).

### **FACILITIES**

We have special interview rooms which are designed to provide a comfortable, private place where you can speak to a SOLO. When you are ready to do so, a SOLO will listen and take your statement at your own pace.

### **FOLLOW UP**

1. The SOLO may ask to see you again in a few days time. She/he will be happy to assist you in any way she/he can.

This visit will also give you another opportunity to discuss any other details of the incident that you may remember.

2. **Possible Pregnancy**

The FME will advise you regarding possible pregnancy resulting from the assault and, if necessary, offer you immediate treatment, emergency contraception or refer you to your own Doctor or to a Clinic for the treatment.

3. **Sexually Transmitted Diseases**

You may be advised to have a series of checks for sexually transmitted diseases at the local GUM Clinic (Genito-Urinary Medicine) at Raigmore Hospital.

### **HELP FOR MEN WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED**

Boys and men may wish to speak to a male SOLO, but much of the foregoing also applies – experienced SOLO Police Officers and Doctors will work with you.