



You are not alone. We are here for you.

Each survivor is unique and has individual reactions to an assault. Assistance from a rape recovery counselor can help you through your healing process.

Who We Help

The Peace River Center Rape Recovery Program provides free and confidential services to survivors of sexual violence and their significant others, including family members of survivors. We serve individuals 12 years and older living in Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Counties. Services are offered whether or not the survivor chose to report the assault and regardless of how long ago the assault happened.

Emergency Room Alternative

Victims may choose to have their sexual assault/forensic exam performed at the our Polk County Victim Services office instead of a hospital emergency room. An Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner from the Polk County Health Department is on-call 6 pm to 6 am Monday to Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday for those 18 years and older who have no physical injuries or bleeding associated with the sexual assault.

How We Help

The Rape Recovery Program provides:

- 24-hour helpline
- 24-hour response to area hospitals
- Individual supportive counseling
- Survivor support groups
- Court accompaniment and assistance with Office of Attorney General Victim Compensation Application and Sexual Battery Relocation
- Information and referrals
- Community presentations on prevention and Rape Recovery Program services

24-Hour Hospital Advocacy

No matter the time or day, our compassionate advocates are available to meet survivors at local hospitals and provide them with:

- Support and counseling
- Guidance on the legal process if desired
- Clothing kit
- Documentation explaining your rights and available follow-up services

Recommendations If You Have Been Sexually Assaulted:



Seek immediate medical attention.

- You may be injured internally or externally.
- You could become pregnant or contract a sexually transmitted disease.
- A medical examination may provide important evidence of sexual assault if you decide to take legal action.



Call PRC's Rape Recovery Program. We are available 24-hours a day, 365 days a year at 863.413.2707, toll-free 877.688.5077 or TTY 863. 733.4412.



Decide if you want to report the sexual assault to local law enforcement. You are not required to report to receive services.



We don't recommend you bathe or douche. While it might be the first thing you want to do, it might destroy evidence. Instead immediately seek medical treatment.



To avoid destroying evidence if there was any oral contact, try not to eat, drink or smoke until you have been examined.



We don't recommend changing clothes until after your exam. Clothing may contain hairs or other evidence that might identify the perpetrator.

free, confidential support



863.413.2707

Toll-Free 877.688.5077
TTY 863.733.4412

Facts About Sexual Assault

Sexual violence has fallen by half in the last 20 years. We are making progress, but it still affects hundreds of thousands each year.

Every 68 seconds someone in the US is sexually assaulted.

54% of sexual assault victims are 18 to 34 years old.

93% of child sexual assault victims know the perpetrator.

Source: RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, rainn.org)

Sexual Battery Definition

Oral, anal, or vaginal penetration with a sexual organ; or any other object, except as performed for bona fide medical purpose. And "consent" means intelligent, knowing, and voluntary consent and does not include coerced submission. "Consent" shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the alleged victim to offer physical resistance to the offender. (Synopsis of FS Chapter 794)

Sexual violence is a hostile expression of anger, hate, or insecurity.

Gratification comes from overpowering and degrading the survivor. The perpetrator's need is to dominate and humiliate, not obtain sexual pleasure or gratification. It is **never** your fault.

Survivors of sexual assault include men, women, and children of all races, ages, and incomes. Perpetrators can include friends, intimate partners, family, acquaintances, and strangers.

Survivors of sexual assault, regardless of their previous sexual experience, indicate that sexual assault is a violent attack upon them and it deeply affects their lives.

Rape Recovery Program

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All Services are Free and Confidential

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It is the policy of Peace River Center to provide equal opportunity in employment and the provision of services to all persons without regard to race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, religion, veteran status, disability, genetic information or genetic identity or other protected classifications.



United Way
of Central Florida

partner



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24-Hour Help Line

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