



Note for Parents/Caregivers:

Discovering that your child has experienced abuse can be overwhelming. Individuals who sexually abuse children are often known and trusted by the family and child. Knowing someone close to you and your family has abused your child can bring up feelings of shock, anger, guilt, shame, fear and confusion.

As parents and caregivers, it is helpful to let your child know:

- ✓ You believe them
- ✓ It's not their fault
- ✓ It's okay to share with you
- ✓ You will support them



It is common for children to share what happened in bits and pieces, worry they did something wrong, to feel confused, or have difficulty talking about the abuse.

Your support will help your child understand they are not at fault and help them heal. We are here to help you understand how to support your child and what to do next.

We offer specialized, comprehensive services for children, teens and families, including therapy for children aged 6 and up and support for parents and caregivers.

Counseling can help your child cope with the feelings or reactions they may experience.

Visit kcsarc.org for more resources & information

Your legal options

You have a right to have an advocate with you for support during any interviews, court hearings, or meetings regarding your legal case.

Your advocate can help provide information about:

- ✓ Civil legal remedies and resources
- ✓ Protection orders
- ✓ Crime Victims Compensation
- ✓ Address confidentiality program
- ✓ Criminal justice process
- ✓ Title IX educational rights

Free, confidential help & information

24 hours a day/7 days a week

1.888.99.VOICE
(1.888.998.6423)



Know your rights



ALL WELCOME



Next steps: Understanding your legal options after sexual assault



It is normal to feel overwhelmed and confused after experiencing sexual assault or abuse.

You may experience a range of emotional and physical reactions because of the assault. If you choose to report, you may find legal processes can be slow and complex.

We can help.

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center is a private nonprofit community sexual assault program with services for you.

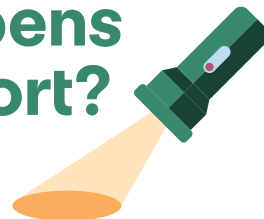
Our 24-Hour Resource Line
888.99.VOICE
is confidential and free.

KCSARC advocates are available to help victims of sexual assault and their family members. Advocates can help you navigate the legal options best for you, providing support and information to help guide you through each step.

KCSARC legal advocacy services are free and confidential. Advocates can:

- ✓ Explain what to expect
- ✓ Inform you of your rights
- ✓ Help you with a safety plan
- ✓ Act as a liaison and advocate on your behalf
- ✓ Accompany you to interviews/court
- ✓ Connect you with resources

What happens after a report?



1 Investigation

The initial report to law enforcement or Child Protective Services (CPS) will be forwarded to a specialized unit and/or detective who investigates sexual assault cases.

2 The interview

If you are 16 or older, you can request to have an advocate present at the interview with a detective even if one is not offered to you.

Children and teens under 16 will meet with a child interviewer who is specially trained in evidence-based techniques that allow children to talk about something that may have happened to them. An advocate is available to you and your child prior to the interview for support.

3 Prosecutor makes a filing decision

The prosecutor determines if a case has enough evidence to prove 'beyond a reasonable doubt' that a crime happened.

If charges are not filed, you may have questions about the decision. Your advocate can help set up a meeting with the prosecutor. If the prosecutor declines to file charges, this does not mean it did not happen.

If charges are filed:

A defendant may be arrested, but most defendants will post bail and be out of custody during the process. The court may order conditions of release that include no-contact orders or electronic home detention.

4 Steps in a criminal case

Arraignment

An arraignment hearing is scheduled a few weeks after charges have been filed. The defendant must appear and is presented with the criminal charges. An advocate can attend with you or on your behalf, providing input you may want the prosecutor or judge to know.

Pre-trial hearings

After arraignment, cases are set for a pre-trial hearing called an omnibus hearing. This is a trial readiness hearing that happens about a month before the trial date.

Plea hearing

Most criminal cases are negotiated and result in a plea decision. Your input is critical for the prosecutor to make the final decision. Advocates can help you communicate your wishes to the prosecutor.

Trial

If your case is set for trial, it may take a few years before going to trial. Your advocate will support and prepare you by keeping you updated throughout the process. An advocate will be with you for support at trial.

Sentencing

After a guilty plea or verdict, a sentencing hearing is set. You have a right to be present and have your voice heard. An advocate can help you prepare your victim impact statement.

5 Post-resolution

KCSARC advocates are available to provide support and answer questions that may arise anytime after the criminal case has completed.