

STEPS TO TAKE



IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT



1.

GET TO A SAFE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IF POSSIBLE, CONTACT SOMEONE YOU TRUST TO BE THE FIRST WITNESS - TELL THEM ABOUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED AS THEY CAN HELP SUPPORT YOU AND BUILD YOUR CASE.



2.

DO NOT WASH YOURSELF OR THROW AWAY THE CLOTHES YOU WERE WEARING,

TAKE THEM WITH YOU TO THE POLICE STATION. IF YOU ARE HURT OR UNABLE TO GET THERE CALL THE AMBULANCE.

3.

YOU WILL BE ASKED TO MAKE A BRIEF STATEMENT, YOUR FIRST WITNESS (THE TRUSTED PERSON YOU CALLED) MAY DO THIS WITH YOU.

REMEMBER TO GET A CASE NUMBER FROM THE POLICE OFFICER YOU ARE WORKING WITH AND KEEP IT SAFE. THE CASE NUMBER WILL BE USED TO GET ACCESS TO YOUR CASE FILE.



4.

THE POLICE WILL WRITE DOWN WHAT YOU TELL THEM AND SAVE IT AS AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT (YOU ARE ALLOWED TO READ AND MAKE CHANGES TO YOUR STATEMENT IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY.)

IF YOU ARE AFRAID OF INTIMIDATION FROM THE SUSPECT - APPLY FOR A PROTECTION ORDER.



5.

GET A MEDICAL EXAMINATION. THEY WILL TAKE YOU TO HOSPITAL WHERE YOU WILL BE GIVEN A MEDICATION TO PREVENT HIV/AIDS TRANSMISSION (PEP).

THE DOCTOR WILL THEN COLLECT EVIDENCE FROM YOUR BODY AND CLOTHES. YOU MUST BE REFERRED FOR FREE COUNSELLING AND TRAUMA DEBRIEFING.



6.

ALL EVIDENCE COLLECTED WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR CASE FILE.

THE POLICE WILL START THE INVESTIGATION.

