



Captain Dennis Geary  
Commander

*Newton Police Department*  
*Special Operations and Training Bureau*  
**Training Bulletin 20-06**  
February 6, 2020



Sergeant Daniel Valente

**Instructions for Distributing the TriFold Pamphlet:  
A Guide to Your Rights As a Survivor of Sexual Assault**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security**

RE: Sexual Assault Survivor Bill of Right Document

Dear Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Tracking Stakeholder:

Pursuant to Section 215 of Chapter 69 of the Acts of 2018, *An Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform* (hereinafter "The Criminal Justice Reform Act"), "in advance or at the time of a medical forensic exam or law enforcement interview, a medical professional, a victim advocate, a law enforcement officer or a district attorney shall provide a victim of sexual assault with a physical document developed by the executive office of public safety and security identifying the victim's rights under law. "

Enclosed are 250 copies of the above document entitled "A guide to your rights as a sexual assault survivor". This is the document that should be provided to the sexual assault survivor prior to the administration of a sexual assault evidence collection kit. This document is being sent to you in hardcopy form as your agency is part of the Track-kit tracking system now or will be by the end of February. Lastly, this document is located in your agency's portal on the tracking system and can be printed out.

If you have any questions pertaining to this document, please submit your inquiry to the kit tracking system at [kittrackinginfo@mass.gov](mailto:kittrackinginfo@mass.gov).

Sincerely,

Kerry A. Collins  
Undersecretary of Forensic Science and Technology  
Chair, Forensic Science Oversight Board

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**The TriFold Pamphlets are at the Patrol Bureau  
Library and in the Detective Bureau.**

**NORTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS:**

**The Center for Hope and Healing** Hotline: (800) 542-5212  
21 George Street, 4th floor TTY: (978) 452-8723  
Lowell, MA 01852-1710 Office: (978) 452-7721

**YWCA Northeastern Massachusetts** Hotline: (877) 509-9922  
38 Lawrence Street TTY: (978) 686-8840  
Lawrence, MA 01840-1409 Office: (978) 682-3039 x2123  
Lawrence, MA 01840-1409

[additional sites: **Lynn, Haverhill, Newburyport, Salem,**  
Lynn: 20 Central Avenue, Suite 510, Lynn, MA 0190 (781) 477-2313

**SOUTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS:**

**A Safe Place** Hotline: (508) 228-2111  
5B Windy Way Office: (508) 228-0561  
Nantucket, MA 02554

**The Women's Center** Hotline: (508) 999-6636  
New Bedford Women's Center TTY: (508) 996-1177  
405 County Street Office: (508) 996-3343  
New Bedford, MA 02740

**A New Day** Hotline: (508) 588-8255  
Health Imperatives TTY: (508) 894-2869  
942 West Chestnut Street Office: (508) 580-3964  
Brockton, MA 02301-5567

**Independence House** Hotline: (800) 439-6507  
160 Basset Lane Office: (508) 771-6507  
Hyannis, MA 02601

**CONNECT to end violence** Hotline: (508) 696-7233  
Martha's Vineyard Community Services TTY: (774) 549-9659  
261 Upper Main Street Office: (774) 549-9667  
Edgartown, MA 02539

**New Hope** Hotline: (800) 323-4673  
247 Maple Street Office: (508) 226-4015  
Attleboro, MA 02703

**WESTERN REGION:**

**Elizabeth Freeman Center** Hotline: (866) 401-2425  
43 Francis Avenue TTY: (413) 499-2425  
Pittsfield, MA 01201-5053 Office: (413) 499-2425

[additional sites: **North Adams, Great Barrington**  
479 Main Street TTY: (413) 772-0815  
Greenfield, MA 01301 Office: (413) 772-0871

**New England Learning Center for Women in Transition (NELCWIT)** Hotline: (413) 772-0806

**Center for Women and Community** Hotline: (413) 545-0800  
**University of Massachusetts – Amherst** TTY: (413) 577-0940  
New Africa House  
180 Infirmary Way Office: (413) 545-0883  
Amherst, MA 01003

**YWCA of Western Massachusetts** Hotline: (800) 796-8711  
1 Clough Street TTY: (413) 733-7100  
Springfield, MA 01118-2213 Office: (413) 732-3121

**STATEWIDE:**

**Llámmanos: Spanish Rape Crisis Hotline** Hotline: (800) 223-5001

**Deaf Survivors Program (Pathways)** Video Phone: (508) 502-7681

Each Massachusetts district attorney and the Massachusetts Attorney General have victim witness assistance programs to help victims and survivors navigate the criminal justice system. To seek assistance, call the agency that is prosecuting your case.

**Attorney General's Office Criminal Bureau** 617-727-2200

**Berkshire County District Attorney** 413-443-5951

**Bristol County District Attorney** 508-997-0711

**Cape & Islands District Attorney** 508-362-8113

**Essex County District Attorney** 978-745-6610

**Hampden County District Attorney** 413-747-1000

**Middlesex County District Attorney** 781-897-8300

**Norfolk County District Attorney** 781-830-4800

**Northwestern District Attorney**  
Franklin County 413-774-3186  
Hampshire County 413-586-9225

**Plymouth County District Attorney** 508-584-8120

**Worcester County District Attorney** 508-755-8601

**Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance** 617-586-1340

**A Guide to Your Rights  
As a Survivor of Sexual Assault**



*Funded by the  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**This brochure summarizes important rights you have under Massachusetts law. To learn more about these rights, contact one of the rape crisis centers listed in this brochure or speak with the health care professional, law enforcement official, or victim advocate assigned to your case.**

**1. You have the right to consult with a sexual assault victim advocate.**

- You have the right to request a consultation with a sexual assault victim advocate who shall have confidentiality and privilege **prior** to the administration of a sexual assault evidence collection kit or an interview with a law enforcement officer regarding the assault. A Sexual Assault Victim Advocate is a person employed or is a volunteer at a rape crisis center or rape crisis program
- If you choose not to speak with an advocate at first, you can always speak with an advocate at a later time.

**2. You have the right to information about disclosing an assault to law enforcement and having a sexual assault evidence collection kit tested.**

- The decision of whether to report a sexual assault to law enforcement is up to you.
- If you choose to report the assault to law enforcement, you do not need to write out your report or go to the law enforcement agency, although you may do so.
- If you choose to report a sexual assault, your kit will be tested at a crime lab.
- If you choose not to report a sexual assault, your kit will not be tested but will be stored appropriately by the law

enforcement agency in the city or town where the assault occurred. Your kit can only be tested if you report the sexual assault to law enforcement.

- The law enforcement agency in the city or town where the sexual assault occurred has a dedicated liaison that can assist you with this information request or any questions you may have.

**3. You have the right to information regarding your sexual assault evidence collection kit.**

- You have the right to know the kit's location, its testing date, the testing results, and when the kit may be destroyed.
- The location and testing date of your kit is available through <https://ma.track-kit.us>. The District Attorney or law enforcement agency handling your case can also provide you with this information.
- The District Attorney's office or law enforcement agency handling your case can provide you with the testing results from your kit.
- All kits must be held for at least 15 years. The District Attorney's Office or law enforcement agency can provide you with information on when your kit may be destroyed.

**4. You have the right to information on the status of your case.**

- If there is a criminal case pending, you have the right to know any change in the status of your case, and if the case has been closed or reopened at any time.
- The District Attorney's office or law enforcement agency handling your case

can assist you with this information request.

- The Massachusetts Victim Bill of Rights provides additional rights pertaining to your case.

**5. You have the right to apply for victim compensation funds.**

- The Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA), the District Attorney's office that is handling your case, or the liaison at the law enforcement agency handling your case can assist you with this information request.

**6. You have the right to designate someone to obtain this information for you.**

- You may choose another person to receive any or all of the information described in this brochure.

**Massachusetts Rape Crisis Programs:**

**BOSTON:**

**Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)**

99 Bishop Allen Drive

\*Cambridge, MA 02139-3428

Hotline: (800) 841-8371

[\*additional sites in **Boston, Waltham** have full wheelchair access]

**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS:**

**Pathways for Change**

588 Main Street

Worcester, MA 01608-2014

Hotline: (800) 870-5905

TTY: (888) 887-7130

Office: (508) 852-7600

**Wayside Trauma Intervention Services**

**Valley Rape Crisis Program**

10 Asylum Street

Milford, MA 01757

Hotline: (800) 511-5070

TTY: (508) 478-4205

Office: (508) 478-6888

**Voices Against Violence**

South Middlesex Opportunity Council

7 Bishop Street

Framingham, MA 01702-8313

Hotline/TTY: (800) 593-1125

Hotline/TTY: (508) 626-8686

Office: (508) 820-0834