

# Reporting to Police

## Approaching the Justice System after experiencing Sexualized Violence

### Contact the police

- Dial **911** if you are currently in danger.
- Contact your local police detachment if you are currently safe:

**Yarmouth Town Detachment:** (902) 742-8777  
**Yarmouth County Detachment:** (902) 742-9106  
**Meteghan Detachment:** (902) 645-2326  
**Digby Detachment:** (902) 245-2579  
**Barrington Detachment:** (902) 637-2325  
**Shelburne Detachment:** (902) 875-2490

### No charge by Police

- This means there was not enough evidence for the police to proceed with the investigation. **This does not mean they do not believe you or that you did not experience sexualized violence.**
- You are encouraged to seek supports outlined on the back of the page to aid you in the healing process.

### Charge by Police

- The police lay a charge on the perpetrator who will likely be taken into custody for 24hrs or until the trial.
- **The perpetrator will not be allowed contact with you, the victim/survivor.**

### Victim statement & collection of evidence

- A police officer will ask you for details regarding what happened. **Try and stay calm and relay what information you are able to at the time.**
- Evidence such as the clothes you were wearing, items from the scene, pictures, etc will be collected. You may also be referred to a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program in your area or the hospital for medical care and collection of evidence from the body.

### Crown chooses not to proceed

- This means they do not believe there is a likelihood for conviction, this does not mean you are not believed or that you didn't experience sexualized violence.
- You are encouraged to seek supports outlined on the next page to aid in the healing process.

### Crown Assessment

- The Crown assesses the charge laid by the police and determines the likelihood of conviction.

### Crown chooses to proceed

- The Crown determines that a conviction is possible and proceeds with the case.

### Guilty

- No trial will be held, and the accused will be sentenced.

### Plea

- The accused will plead guilty or not guilty to the charges.

### First appearance

- The accused stands in front of the judge for the first time.
- Information about the accused is collected.

### Not guilty

- The charges proceed to a judge to determine if a trial will be held.

### Discharge

- The judge decides not to proceed as there is not enough evidence to support the charges in a trial.
- This does not mean you have not been believed or you have not experienced sexualized violence. You are encouraged to seek supports outlined on the next page to aid you in the healing process.

### Preliminary Hearing

- You, the victim/survivor, will appear in court for the first time.
- Here, the judge will assess and determine if there is enough evidence to go to trial.

### Trial

- A trial will be held.
- This will be a long and stressful process. You are always encouraged to seek support from family, friends and/or from services outlined on the next page to help you through a trial.

### Acquittal

- The accused is found not guilty and will not proceed to sentencing.
- This does not mean you did not experience sexualized violence and you are strongly encouraged to seek supports found on the following page to aid in the healing process.

### Verdict

### Conviction

- The accused is found guilty of the charges laid against them and the case will proceed to sentencing.

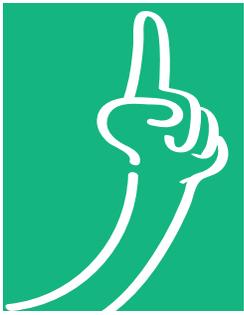
### Sentencing

### Victim Impact Statement

- Following the conviction of the accused, you, the victim/survivor, may choose to read a statement in court to outline the impact that sexualized violence has had on your life.



# Seeking Supports



## First of all: YOU HAVE OPTIONS

What happens after you experience any form of sexualized violence is completely up to you. Even if you decide not to make an official police report, there are many options should you wish to seek support.

Keep in mind that everyone has a duty to report sexualized violence of a minor (16 years or younger) or someone 19 and under if the perpetrator is a parent or guardian.



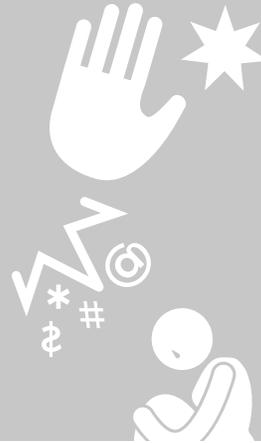
## What is Sexualized Violence?

The World Health Organization (2002) defines it as:

*"any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work."*

This means that **ANY** unwanted sexual touching, contact, comments, or coercion into sexual acts by **ANYONE** falls under the umbrella of Sexualized Violence and is **NEVER** okay.

## Sexualized Violence comes in many forms



### Physical

- Oral, anal, or vaginal penetration
- Unwanted groping
- Unwanted sexual touching or manipulation of body parts
- Force or coercion to participate in sexual acts
- Human trafficking

### Verbal

- Cat-calling
- Harassment
- Sexist jokes
- Spreading rumors

## Disclosing Sexualized Violence

Support comes in many forms, depending on individual needs.  
*Your path to recovery and healing is completely up to you.*

### Reach out to support services in your community

See resources below for options.

### Confide in a close friend or family member



### Seek medical attention

- **Yarmouth Regional Hospital Emergency Department**  
60 Vancouver Street, Yarmouth  
Phone: (902) 749-2396
- **Digby General Hospital Emergency Department**  
75 Warwick Street, Digby  
Phone: (902) 245-2501
- **Roseway Hospital Emergency Department**  
1606 Lake Road, Shelburne  
Phone: (902) 875-3011

## Support Services Available in your Community

### Yarmouth

- **Tri-County Women's Centre**  
12 Cumberland Street, Yarmouth  
Phone: (902) 742-0085  
Toll Free: 1-877-742-0085
- **Juniper House**  
www.juniperhouse.ca  
Phone: (902) 742-8689  
24hr Crisis line: 1-800-266-4087
- **Yarmouth Mental Health and Addictions Centre**  
Yarmouth Regional Hospital  
60 Vancouver Street, Yarmouth  
Phone: (902) 742-4222

### Digby

- **Tri-County Women's Centre Outreach office**  
124 Water Street, Digby  
Phone: (902) 245-6866  
Toll Free: 1-877-742-0085
- **Juniper House**  
www.juniperhouse.ca  
Phone: (902) 245-4789  
24hr Crisis line: 1-800-266-4087
- **Digby Mental Health and Addictions Centre**  
Digby Regional Hospital  
75 Warwick Street, Digby  
Phone: (902) 245-4709

### Shelburne

- **Tri-County Women's Centre Outreach office**  
25 King Street, Shelburne  
Phone: (902) 875-4777  
Toll Free: 1-877-742-0085
- **Juniper House**  
www.juniperhouse.ca  
Phone: (902) 749-7170  
24hr Crisis line: 1-800-266-4087
- **Shelburne Mental Health and Addictions Centre**  
Roseway Hospital  
1606 Lake Road, Shelburne  
Phone: (902) 875-4200

## Province-wide Services

- **Victim Services Emotional Support**  
Phone: (902) 490-5300
- **Mental Health and Addictions Self-Referral (Intake) Line**  
Phone: (902) 1-844-380-4324
- **Mental Health Crisis Line**  
Phone: 1-888-429-8167
- **Residential School Survivors Crisis Line**  
Phone: 1-866-925-4419

## Legal Services

- **Provincial Victims' Services Program**  
Phone: (902) 749-2230  
Toll Free: 1-800-565-1805
- **Legal Advice for Sexual Assault Survivors Program**  
<https://novascotia.ca/sexualassaultlegaladvice/>  
Phone 211 to register for up to 4 hours of free legal advice  
**211 can also be contacted for further navigation of services available in Nova Scotia**