



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAM

Q: Do I have to get the exam?

No. The exam is your choice. No one will force you.

Q: Will the exam hurt?

Some parts may feel uncomfortable, but the provider will explain everything and stop anytime you want. Your comfort and safety are the priority.

Q: Can I say no to parts of the exam?

Yes. You can decline or stop any part of the exam at any time.

Q: Do I have to report to law enforcement to get the exam?

No. You can receive a free exam without reporting. If you choose, evidence can be collected and sent to the crime lab anonymously without speaking to law enforcement.

Q: How long do I have to decide?

Evidence is best collected within 5 days, but you can receive medical care at any time.

Q: Will I have to take my clothes off?

Yes. Like other medical procedures, you will be given a gown to wear. If you are reporting, your clothing may need to be collected as evidence. We can provide clothing for you to wear home.

Q: Can someone stay with me?

Yes. You may have an advocate or support person with you throughout the exam.

Q: How much will this cost?

The exam is free for survivors, whether or not you choose to report.

Q: Will the exam tell me everything that happened?

The exam may not answer every question, but it can document injuries and collect evidence that may be helpful later.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

AFTER THE MEDICAL EXAM

Q: What happens to the evidence?

If you choose not to report, your evidence can be stored as an anonymous kit. If you do report, the evidence is turned over to law enforcement for processing.

Q: How long will my evidence be kept?

Alaska stores non-report kits for several years. Your advocate can help you check the exact current timeline.

Q: Do I have to make decisions right now?

No. You can decide later about reporting, counseling, or follow-up services.

Q: Will I get STD medication or emergency contraception?

Yes, if you want it. The medical provider can offer these during or after the exam.

Q: When Can I Take a shower?

Once the exam is complete.

Q: What if I remember more details later?

This is completely normal. You can share updates with your advocate or law enforcement at any time.

BEFORE REPORTING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Q: Do I have to report?

No. Reporting is your choice unless mandatory reporting laws apply, such as when a child is involved.

Q: What will police ask me?

They will begin with basic information. You choose how much detail you are ready to share.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Will the police believe me?

You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. Advocates can help support you through the process.

Q: Can I have someone with me when I talk to them?

Yes. An advocate may accompany you during all interviews.

Q: What if I was drinking or using drugs?

You can still report. The assault is not your fault.

Q: What if the person who assaulted me is family or in my community?

You will receive confidential support. Reporting is your choice.

Q: Will anyone tell my family?

Our staff does not notify family unless you request it or there is a safety concern.

Q: Can I report to Tribal law enforcement instead?

Yes. If you are a Tribal member, were assaulted by a Tribal member, or the assault occurred on Tribal lands, you can report to the Dot Lake Village Police. Dot Lake Village advocates can help connect you to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

AFTER REPORTING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Q: What happens after I make a report?

Officers gather information, review evidence, and forward the case to investigators.

Q: Will I have to go to court?

Maybe. Not all cases go to court. If they do, advocates can help you prepare.

Q: Do I have to face the person who assaulted me?

Typically, no. If court is required, advocates can help arrange safety plans, separate waiting areas, or remote testimony when allowed.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can I drop the charges?

Once reported, the case belongs to the state. You can still share your wishes with the prosecutor.

Q: Will my community find out?

Your information is confidential, but small communities may spread information informally. Advocates can help you plan for safety and privacy.

Q: What if I feel scared after reporting?

Advocates can help with protective orders, safety planning, and connecting you to Tribal or state resources.

Q: Will the person be arrested right away?

Not always. It depends on the investigation and circumstances.

Q: What rights do I have after reporting?

You have the right:

- To be treated with dignity and respect
- To have an advocate present
- To receive updates on your case
- To be notified about bail, release, or court hearings

AFTER THE ASSAULT (AT ANY TIME)

Q: Is it normal to feel this way?

Yes. Survivors often feel fear, confusion, numbness, anger, or many other emotions. All reactions are valid.

Q: Can I get counseling or support later?

Yes. Support is available whenever you are ready. Advocates or medical providers can help connect you with resources.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If you have questions, please call our team at: 1-877-935-6003, option 6 or email at TeeJuh@dotlakevillage.org

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