

The Court System

For many, this may be their first involvement with law enforcement or the judicial system. It is very common for people to expect what they have seen on television or movies to apply to their current circumstances. Unfortunately, these expectations are a distorted and unrealistic snapshot of how things truly operate. Arizona has laws and regulations in place to protect victims. For cases involving prosecution, a court advocate can provide information, education, and support that will help reduce fears and uncertainties.

It is important to be aware of resolution by plea agreement and understand that it is often practiced in the judicial process. By negotiation an agreement, this approach to resolution can prevent the need for testifying in court. As with any situation, education and information about how the judicial system operates can assist the victim and their family in the reduction of trauma.

Orders of Protection & Injunctions Against Harassment

If you have been or may become a victim of domestic violence, you can seek an Order of Protection or Injunction Against Harassment at any Municipal Court, Justice Court or Supreme Court. If there are any pending legal actions for maternity, paternity, annulment, legal separation or dissolution of marriage, the protective order must be sought through the Superior Court.

Prescott Municipal Court
928-771-3300

Yavapai County Superior Court
928-771-3312

Resource and Referral Information

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

(800) 782-6400
www.acesdv.org

Community Referral
211

National Domestic Violence Hotline

(800) 799-7233
www.thehotline.org

Prescott Municipal Court

Orders of Protection /Injunctions Against Harassment
(928) 771-3300

Prescott Area Shelter Services

Non-active domestic violence situations only
(928) 778-5933

Stepping Stones

Staffed 24/7 for a safe place or someone to talk to
(928) 445-4673

Yavapai County Attorney Office of Victim Services & Victim Compensation Division

(928) 771-3485
www.yavapai.us/coatty/Divisions-Programs/Victim-Services

Yavapai Family Advocacy Center (YFAC)

(928) 775-0669
www.yfac.org

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**Prescott Police Department
Victim Services**
222 S. Marina Street
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928-777-1988
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Surviving Sexual Assault

**City of Prescott
Police Department**

Victim Services



CITY OF PRESCOTT
ARIZONA

What is Sexual Assault?

Crimes that involve forced or unwanted sexual conduct are considered to be sexual assaults and can include:

- Acquaintance Rape/Non-Stranger Rape
- Date Rape or Stranger Rape
- Drug/Alcohol Facilitated Sexual Assault
- Indecent Exposure or “Flashing”
- Forced Sodomy (Oral or Anal)
- Gang Rape/Multiple Rape
- Marital Rape or Marital Sexual Assault
- Object Penetration
- Same Sex Sexual Assault
- Sexual Battery
- Voyeurism or “Peeping Tom”

Dealing with your Feelings and Trauma

Common short- and long- term reactions can include:

- Inability to concentrate or function at a usual level
- Overeating or appetite loss
- Nightmares
- Loss of self confidence
- Stress related illness
- Feelings of grief and despair
- Feelings of helplessness
- Sleeplessness
- Fear of being alone, or with people, or in a specific setting, especially at night
- Anxiety and mood swings
- Feelings of guilt and shame
- Denial of the assault
- Flashbacks
- Embarrassment
- Distrust towards others

What are the stages of coping?

Victims tend to go through several stages when coping with a sexual assault. Generally denial is first, then realization, anger, and eventually resolution of the event.

Denial Stage:

Initially, there may be denial and you may shut out others and avoid the subject. It is an attempt to believe the assault did not happen. Disbelief can be a protection from the overwhelming feelings associated with the trauma.

Realization Stage:

Denial is often followed by a realization stage where feelings begin to emerge. You may begin to lack trust in others and fear of future assaults may cause you to isolate yourself. There is also a tendency to blame yourself for the assault. It is important to remember you did the best you could in the situation. You are the victim; the blame rests on your attacker. Do not blame yourself in your attempt to make some sense out of what happened.

Anger Stage:

Victims usually move into a stage of anger. This is healthy when your feelings are directed toward your assailant. Sometimes your anger may be misdirected toward those around you. Let them know that you are not angry with them, but rather with what happened to you. The anger indicates you are beginning to integrate the event into your life and move on.

Resolution Stage:

Finally, you can begin to look ahead. You accept that it happened and that it was terrible, but you realize it is over.

Counseling and Victim Assistance

The Prescott Police Department can provide someone to help you through the maze of events and feelings connected with your sexual assault. An advocate can be with you when the police question you to help answer your questions, to give you information about what to expect, and to refer you to needed services. When you need or want to talk, the advocate will listen to you, offer alternatives and help you sort out your feelings.

Medical Attention

Medical attention is important for several reasons such as collection of evidence, unnoticed injuries, and possible internal injuries, risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease, becoming pregnant and risk of infection.

Forensic exams, also known as a Sexual Assault Nurse Exam or S.A.N.E. are performed by specially trained nurses and generally should be performed within 120 hours (5 days). Examinations are done in the medical suite, at a local family advocacy center.

As part of the exam, a detailed medical history is taken and used to aid in the collection of evidence and examination of injuries. These examinations can take anywhere from 2-6 hours depending on reporting time and injury.

Evidence is collected from various parts of the body with the use of cotton swabs, injuries are documented and measured, blood is usually drawn for DNA and collection of clothing may be necessary. Usually an opportunity to shower and a change of clothing is provided.