



VICTORIA POLICE

How to report a sexual offence



Easy English

Hard words



This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**

- we write what the hard word means.

You can get help with this book



You can get someone to help you

- read this book

- know what this book says

- find more information.





VICTORIA POLICE

About this book

Victoria Police wrote this book.

This book tells you what happens when you **report** a **sexual offence** to the police.



Report means to tell someone that something has happened.



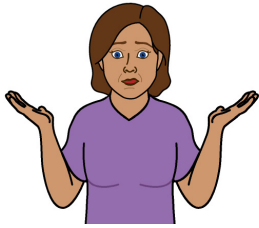
A sexual offence is when someone

- does sexual things to you that you do **not** want

or

- tries to do sexual things to you that you do **not** want.

About sexual offences



It can be hard to know if someone has done a sexual offence. It is okay if you do **not** know.

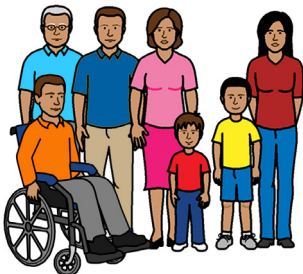


Detectives work out if someone has done a sexual offence. That is their job.

Detectives are special police who wear suits.



The police you talk to first might wear a uniform.



The person who did the sexual offence might be someone you know and trust.

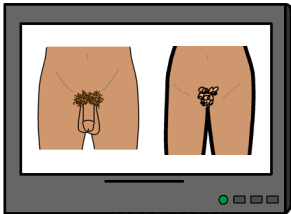
Sexual offences can be **more** than 1 thing.



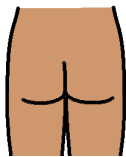
A sexual offence can be when someone

- tries to put something in your **private parts**

or



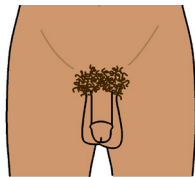
- shows you pictures of private parts that make you feel bad.



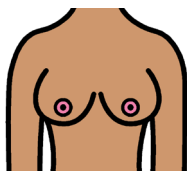
- bottom



- vagina



- penis



- breasts.

You might use other words for your private parts. That is okay.

A sexual offence can also be when someone

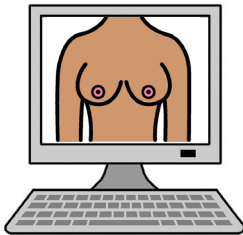
- touches your private parts when you do **not** want them to



- asks you to touch their private parts when you do **not** want to



- in your family has sex with you



- posts photos of your private parts online when you do **not** want them to.

Sexual offences can happen anywhere.

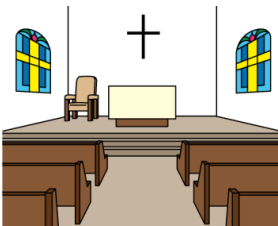


They can happen

- at home



- at school



- at church



- at aged care services or nursing homes



- at disability services

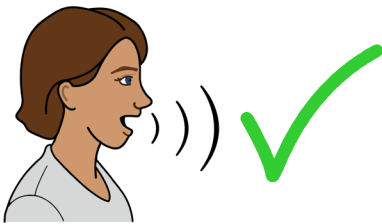


- online.

You can tell police what happened



Often the person who did the sexual offence tells you **not** to tell anyone what they did.



Do **not** listen to them. You **can** tell someone.

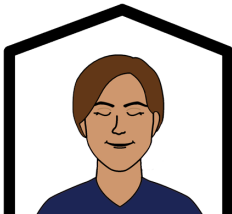


You can tell police what happened.



When you tell the police they can

- help you



- make sure you are safe



- tell you who you can talk to for support.

How you might feel when you report a sexual offence



When you report a sexual offence you might

- feel embarrassed
- be scared
- think that you did something wrong
- think that nobody will believe you.



If you do **not** want to tell police there are support agencies and other people that can help you.



If you are **not** ready to talk to the police you can contact the Centre Against Sexual Assault.

Call 1800 806 292

Website www.casa.org.au

How you can report to the police



You can call your local **Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Investigation Team** or SOCIT.



SOCITs are detectives that have special training so they can **investigate** sexual offences.

Investigate means the police work out what happened.

You can find the phone number for your local SOCIT later in this book.



You can talk to someone at your local police station.



You can call **000** in an emergency.

What happens when you report a sexual offence

We will treat you with respect.

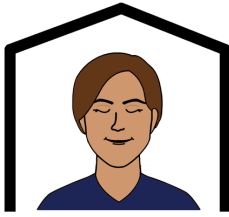


The police want you to know that they will

- listen to you
- take you seriously
- help you.



You will talk to a detective about the sexual offence.



The police will make sure

- you are safe



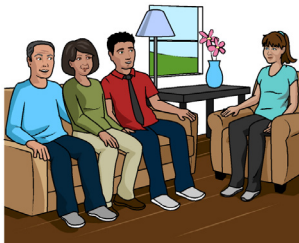
- a doctor or nurse helps you if you are hurt



- you can find emergency housing



- you get support when you go to court

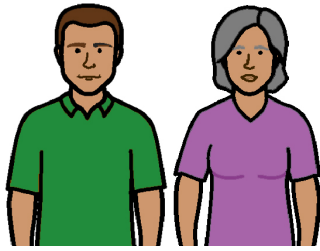


- your friends and family can get help



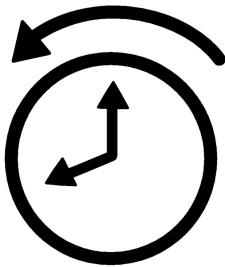
- you can see a **counsellor**.

A counsellor is someone you can talk to about how you feel.

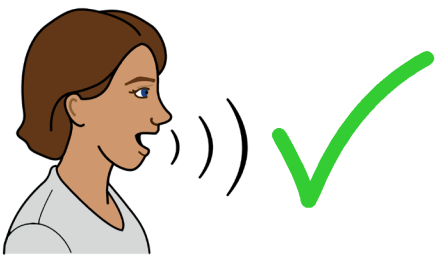


You can have a **support person** with you.

A support person can be a friend, family member or counsellor who can be with you when you talk to police.



It is okay to tell the police if the sexual offence happened a long time ago.



It is **never** too late to tell the police.

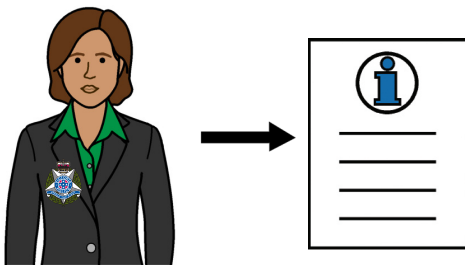
The investigation



You will talk to a detective about the sexual offence.



After you tell the police about the sexual offence they will start an investigation.



They will give you information about what they will do.



In the police investigation the detective can record your **statement**.

A statement is when you tell the police about what happened to you.



The detective can also keep and look at the **evidence**.

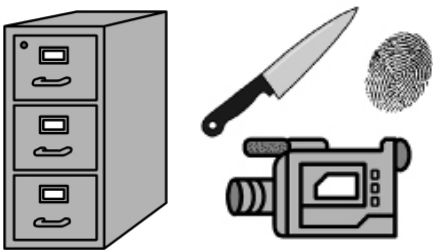
Evidence is something that helps the police find out what happened.

For example, photos or fingerprints.

If you want to stop the investigation



You can ask the police to **stop** the investigation at any time.



The police will keep the evidence they found.



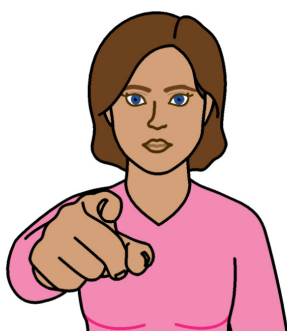
You can ask the police to start the investigation again at any time.

Why the police might not stop the investigation



The police will **not** stop the investigation if a **suspect**

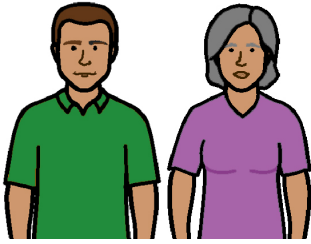
- is a dangerous person
- might have hurt other people before
- might hurt someone else.



A suspect is the person who you say did the sexual offence.

The police will let you know if they do **not** stop the investigation.

When you make your statement



You can have a support person with you when you talk to the police.



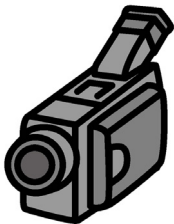
The police will ask you to make a **statement**.

A statement is when you tell the police about what happened to you.



The police

- write down the statement with you



- might video the statement.

We know it can be hard to tell us what happened to you.



It is important to tell the police as much as possible.



When you make a statement the police will let you

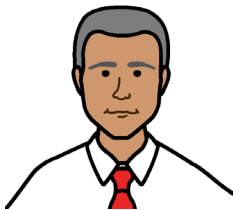
- use your communication aids
- have a support person



- use an interpreter

- have time to take a break

 Office of the Public Advocate



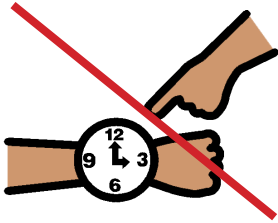
- have an **Independent Third Person.**

An Independent Third Person is someone who is trained and used in interviews with police.

They will help you understand what is going on.



You might need time to think of everything that happened.



It might be hard to remember things that happened a long time ago.

You do **not** need to rush.

Evidence



The police must get evidence.



To get evidence the police will talk to

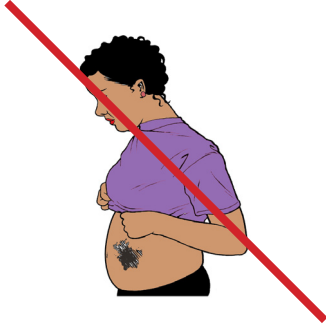
- you



- a **witness**.

A witness is a person who saw or knows what happened.

A medical exam



Sexual offences do **not** always leave marks on your body.



Police might ask you to have a **medical exam**.

A medical exam is a special health check. It is sometimes called a forensic exam.



A medical exam might help the police get more evidence.



You can say **no** to a medical exam.

Evidence can be lost if a lot of time goes by.



A doctor or nurse does the medical exam.



They might take photos of where you are hurt.



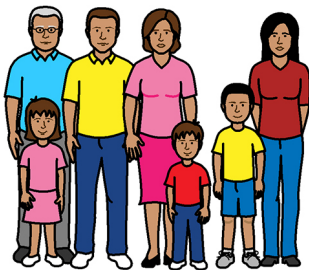
The doctor or nurse tells the police what they find.

A support person can be with you when you have the medical exam.

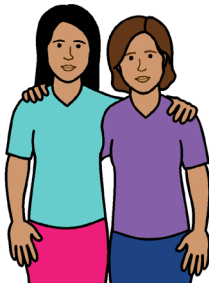


For example

- a counsellor



- a family member



- a friend.

A support person can **not** be a witness.

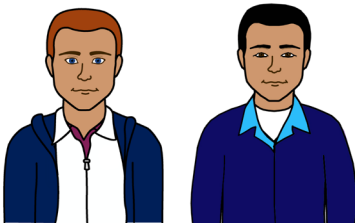
The police talk to the suspect



If the police find the suspect they might **interview** them.

Interview means the police talk to them and ask questions.

The police might interview the suspect **more** than once.



There might be **more** than 1 suspect.

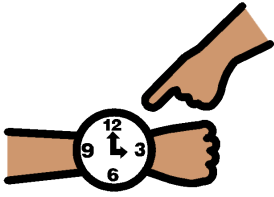
You might already know the suspect.



The police will tell you when they talk to a suspect.

The police will make sure you are safe.

The investigation can take time

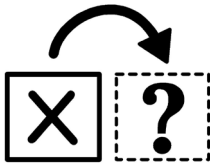


The investigation can take a long time.



The police should tell you

- new information
- what they will do next.



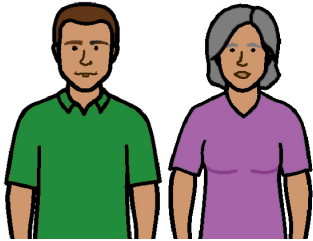
You can ask the police questions about the investigation.

The police might talk to you **more** than once.

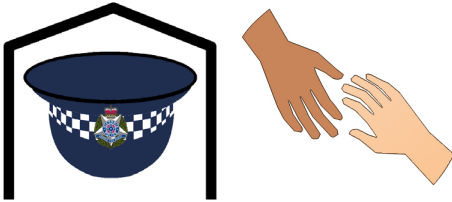


It might upset you to talk about the sexual offence **more** than once.

You can ask for help from police or support services.



If you do **not** want the police to talk to you about the sexual offence we can talk to your support person instead.



Remember that the police are there to

- help you



- make sure you are safe.

What happens at the end of the investigation?



The police might

- have a lot of good evidence

and

- think the suspect might be dangerous to you or other people.



Then the police might put the suspect in jail.

The suspect will stay in jail until they have to go to court.

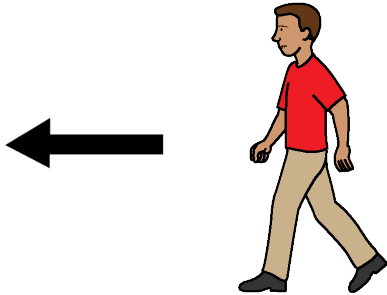


Sometimes there is **not** enough evidence to prove what happened.

The police might

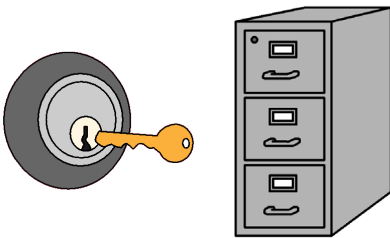
- **not** keep the investigation going

and



- let the suspect go.

This does **not** mean the police do **not** believe you.



If the police have any evidence they will keep the evidence in a safe place.



Later the police

- might find more evidence

- can use the evidence to prove in court what happened.

Going to court



If the police **charge** the suspect you might need to go to court.

Charge means the police say the suspect has done a crime.



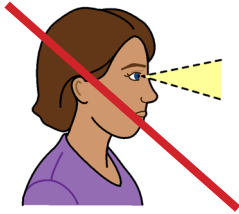
You can have a support person with you in court.



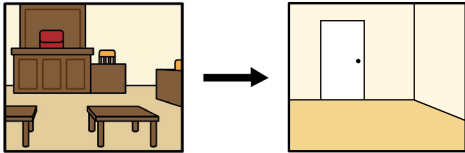
At court

- you might have to talk about what happened

- the suspect might talk about what happened.



You do **not** have to see the suspect in court.

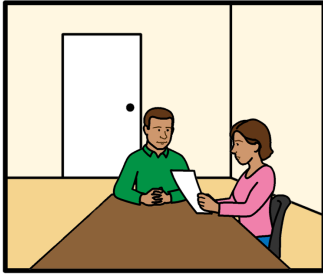


You can talk about what happened in another room.



People in court will see you on a screen.

Support when you go to court



You can get special help in court for

- you
- your family.



This help is called witness support.



Go to victimsandwitnesses.opp.vic.gov.au



Call 1800 641 927

Help to communicate

If you need help to speak or listen

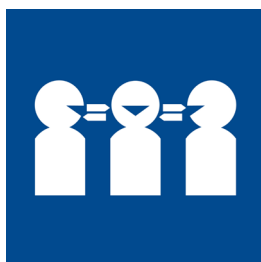


Use the National Relay Service.

communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs

Call 1800 555 660

Translating and Interpreting Service

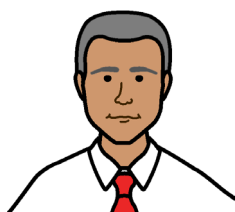


Help in languages other than English.

Call 131 450

Advice Service

 Office of the Public Advocate



Call 1300 309 337

www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au



How to contact the police

In an emergency call the police on **000**.



VICTORIA POLICE

Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams or SOCIT

North-West Metropolitan

Mernda 03 9216 1310

Fawkner 03 9355 6100

Brimbank 03 9313 3460

Melbourne 03 8690 4056

Westgate 03 9216 0566

Southern Metropolitan

Dandenong 03 8769 2200

Seaford 03 8770 1000

Bayside 03 8530 5100



VICTORIA POLICE

Western Victoria

Ballarat 03 5336 6055

Central Victoria - Bendigo 03 5444 6752

Colac 03 5230 0044

Geelong 03 5246 8100

Horsham 03 5382 9241

Ararat 03 5355 1500

Mildura 03 5023 5980

Swan Hill 03 5036 1600

Warrnambool 03 5560 1333

Eastern Victoria

Bairnsdale 03 5150 2677

Benalla 03 5760 0200

Box Hill 03 8892 3292

Knox 03 9881 7939

Central Gippsland - Morwell 03 5120 0300

Sale 03 5142 2200

More Eastern Victoria

Seymour 03 5735 0208

Shepparton 03 5820 5878

Wangaratta 03 5723 0848

Wodonga 02 6049 2672



VICTORIA POLICE

Sano Taskforce

To report child sexual abuse that happened when you were looked after in a religious place.

Call 1800 110 007

Email sanotaskforce@police.vic.gov.au

Who else can help?

Services



Centres Against Sexual Assault

A free service for victims and survivors of sexual assault.

Call 1800 806 292

Website www.casa.org.au

After Hours Sexual Assault Crisis Line Victoria

Call 1800 806 292

Website www.casa.org.au



National Sexual Assault, Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service

A service for people affected by sexual assault
and domestic family violence.

Call 1800 737 732

Website www.1800RESPECT.org.au



Safe Steps

A service for women and children who have
had family violence happen to them.

Call 1800 015 188

Website www.safesteps.org.au



inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence

Help for migrant and refugee women who have been hurt by family violence.

Call 9413 6500

Website www.intouch.org.au

Victims of Crime Helpline

Department of Justice and Community Safety.

Call 1800 819 817

Website www.victimsofcrime.vic.gov.au

National Redress Scheme

Support for people who had child sexual abuse happen to them when they were looked after by an **institution**.

An institution might be a childrens home, church or foster care.

Call 1800 737 377

Website www.nationalredress.gov.au

eSafety Commissioner

Help for people who have had intimate images shared online **without** consent.

Website www.esafety.gov.au/report



Legal help



knowmore Legal Service

Free legal help for people who had child sexual abuse happen to them when they were looked after by an institution.

Call 1800 605 762

Website www.knowmore.org.au



**Victorian
Aboriginal
Legal Service**

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

Legal aid services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria.

Call 1800 064 865

Website www.vals.org.au

Victoria Police pay respect to the traditional owners of lands on which we live and work.

We pay our respects to Elders and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who continue to care for their country, culture and people.

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