

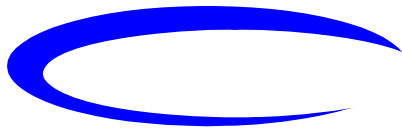
## Facts for Victims

The victim is not to blame for an assault or rape; only the attacker can choose not to assault.

It is common for survivors of sexual assault to feel embarrassed, angry, guilty, depressed, and/or fearful.

The effects of assault can be felt for years after an attack and the RIDOC is committed to helping victims at any stage in the healing process.

If you have been forced to submit to a sexual relationship, this is sexual assault. You can get help through the RIDOC.



## Facts for Inmates Who May Assault

If you commit prison sexual assault or rape, you will be punished to the highest degree, including criminal charges.

Your actions have an impact on your family and friends. Consider how your parents, children, spouse and friends will feel if you are placed in disciplinary confinement for a long period of time, or if you are charged with a sex offense.

If you feel your stress level increasing, seek help from staff, or request counseling.

## REPORTING AN ASSAULT

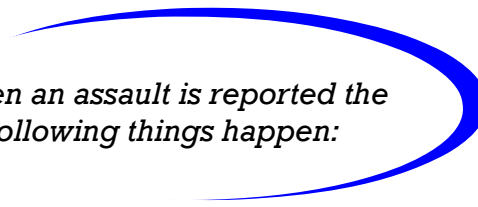
*Here are three ways to report a sexual assault:*

- Tell any RIDOC staff member.
- Use any RIDOC payphone to **make a collect call** to one of these three emergency numbers:

**Special Investigations Unit: 462-2282**  
**Inspectors' Office: 462-5551**  
**Rhode Island State Police: 462-2566**

- Write a letter and send it to any Departmental administrator.

No matter how much time has passed since the assault, the RIDOC will do a thorough investigation and see that you get the help you need.



*When an assault is reported the following things happen:*

The alleged victim and alleged perpetrator are separated.

The person who has allegedly been assaulted is taken to either the RIDOC Health Services Unit or some other medical facility.

Investigators respond to all reports and conduct complete investigations.

# Sexual Assault Awareness

**STOP**

**Sexual Assault Before It Begins...**

**START with Knowledge**

*Creating a culture of safety at the RIDOC*

A program of the *Rhode Island Department of Corrections* in partnership with *Day One (The Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center)*.

## WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

*Sexual Assault is any type of sexual contact involving two or more people when at least one of the involved people does not consent.*

Sexual Contact Includes:

- Sexual fondling of a person
- Sexual assault with an object
- Oral sex
- Contact between penis and any sexual part

Consent is not present if:

- Sexual contact is forced or against the person's will
- There is fear or threat of physical violence or bodily injury
- The victim is by law too young or mentally or physically incapable of consenting

***All sexual contact between inmates, and between staff and inmates, is forbidden—regardless of consent.***

### Did you know...?

Sexual assault can happen to anyone—male, female, heterosexual, homosexual, young, old, and everyone in between

### Did you know...?

52% of all females are victims of a sexual crime.

### Did you know...?

2.78 million American men have been sexually assaulted or raped

## TIPS FOR AVOIDING SEXUAL ASSAULT

*A victim is never responsible for being attacked, but these tips will help you decrease your chances of being assaulted.*

When possible...

- avoid isolated areas such as stairwells and unoccupied restrooms.
- stay within eyesight of correctional staff.

Be aware of...

- your body language. Do not walk with your head down and eyes lowered.
- inmates who say they will protect you.

Always try to...

- stay out of debt. Do not accept food or gifts from other inmates.
- be careful who you tell about your family, friends, and money.

### Did you know...?

Sexual assault is a crime of violence, power and control, not of passion and sexual desire. The offender uses sex as a weapon.

## HAVE YOU BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED?

*If the answer is yes, then you need to know this important information:*

If you are a survivor of prison rape or sexual assault you should report your experiences to any staff member, no matter how long ago the assault happened. The RIDOC is committed to providing you with the help you need at any time.

Request medical attention. You need to be checked for sexually transmitted diseases and injuries you may not know you have.

Request mental health services. You have been through something very difficult and it may help to talk to a counselor.

### IF AN ASSAULT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS:

Do not shower, change your clothes, brush your teeth or do anything else that may destroy important evidence. Immediately request help from any staff member or call Special Investigations Unit (SIU) at 462-2282.

***Telling what has happened to you or someone else may be a difficult experience. The back of this brochure provides options on how to report an assault.***