

Judicial System

For many, this may be the first involvement with law enforcement or the judicial system. It's very common for people to expect what they have seen on television or movies to apply to their current circumstances. Unfortunately, these expectations are often unrealistic or a distorted snapshot of how things truly operate.

Wyoming has laws and regulations in place aimed at protecting victims. For cases involving prosecution, court advocates can provide you with information, education, and support that will help reduce fears and uncertainties.

Criminal case resolution by plea agreement is a practice that is often utilized. Through both negotiation and agreement, this approach to resolution can prevent the need for testifying in court.

Education and information regarding how the judicial system operates can assist victims and their family in the reduction of trauma.

Benefits of Counseling

Some of the benefits of seeking counseling are:

- Reviewing the incident and processing the event can help you clarify what actually occurred.
- Legal and judicial decisions can be discussed and utilized as part of the promotion of healing and resolution.
- Counseling can help develop coping skills and strategies—allowing for the continuance of school, work or relationships.
- Establishment of a support network can help to decrease the negative physical, psychological and emotional effects that often result from traumatic experiences.

You can utilize the traumatic experiences as an opportunity to build and practice assertiveness, confidence, and even protective instinct skills.

Who can help?

The Laramie County Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate can assist you with information regarding your case status, Victims' Rights, Crime Victim Compensation, navigation of the criminal justice system and referrals to the appropriate community helping professionals organizations according to your specific needs.



Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
214 E. 23rd Street
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-634-2273

Safehouse

714 W. Fox Farm Road
307-634-8655

Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network

1-800-656-HOPE(4673)
online.rainn.org

Resources

November 2013

Sexual Assault Reporting Options

Laramie County Sheriff's Office
Danny L. Glick
Sheriff
307-633-4700



Name/ID Number:

Direct Number:

Mailing Address:

1910 Pioneer Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001

What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault occurs when a person performs an unwanted sexual act on another. A victim is unable to give consent if he/she is under 16 years old, intoxicated/drugged or unconscious.

Aggravated sexual assault occurs when the sexual assault causes serious bodily injury or attempts to cause death; the perpetrator places the victim in fear that death, serious bodily injury, or kidnapping will occur; uses/exhibits a deadly weapon; involves a second perpetrator; or gives the victim a “date rape drug.” A sexual assault can also be aggravated when a victim is younger than 14 years of age or an elderly/disabled individual.

Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault.

Anyone can be a perpetrator of sexual assault.

Most victims know their perpetrators.

Marriage does not eliminate the possibility of a sexual assault by a spouse.

Victims of sexual assault may experience a variety of reactions—including physical and emotional reactions. Each survivor’s individual experience will be unique and normal. It is important to know that while you did not choose for this to happen to you, you have choices about what will happen next.

You are not alone and support is available.

Reporting Options

Reporting to Law Enforcement—making a law enforcement report will result in the sexual assault being investigated. The sooner a report is made, the probability of collecting substantial evidence for the case increases. All sexual assault cases are assigned to a detective for investigation. If sufficient evidence exists, the detective will submit the case to the District Attorney for prosecution of the offender.

Non-Reporting—safety and emotional concerns are often involved in the decision to report to law enforcement. Victims must do what is in their best interest, and that does not always involve making a law enforcement report.

It is your absolute right not to report the incident to law enforcement. However, even if you do not want to make a law enforcement report immediately after the assault, you can still access a medical exam to collect evidence from the assault if you decide to press charges in the future.

Individuals may also choose to go directly to Cheyenne Regional Medical Center and request the exam without law enforcement involvement and still remain anonymous.

Individuals who contact Laramie County Sheriff’s Office and advise that they **previously** completed a forensic medical exam due to a sexual assault and now want to report this to law enforcement shall be treated in accordance with established procedures for reports of current sexual assaults.



About the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam

The Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SANE exam) is completed at the hospital by a specially trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) who looks for evidence that might have been left by the suspect as a result of the assault. SANE examinations are completed at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center. SANE examinations usually take a few hours to complete.

It can be distressing to submit to an exam, especially so quickly after a traumatic sexual assault. Advocates are often present at the hospital to assist individuals with the process.

Protection Options

Protection Orders—If you are the victim of a sexual assault that is Domestic Violence or Stalking related, you have the right to apply for a protection order. Contact Safehouse or the District Attorney’s office to file for a protection order.

This is an order that states that the offender is prohibited from contact and is ordered not to communicate with the victim in any form by the court. It further states the abuser cannot threaten or harass you and doing so while a protection order is in place is a violation of the protection order and he or she will be arrested.

Additional options are:

No Contact orders -

Criminal Trespass -

Restraining orders -

Bond conditions if an arrest is made-

You may also contact the District Attorney’s office Victim Advocate or the Laramie County Sheriff’s Office for further assistance.