

Every sexual offence is a medical emergency.

If your child, girlfriend or acquaintance has suffered a sexual offence, go for a medical examination. If you are the person affected, ask a trusted person to accompany you.

The employees of the counselling centres support women and girls. They offer everyday help to strengthen your own perception and security, regardless of whether or not the person concerned wishes to report the crime or not. Counselling centres also provide information on criminal proceedings and provide support during these. You can arrange a personal meeting at any time by telephone or e-mail.

It makes sense to disseminate this information further. Most people are unaware of this possibility. You can then be a good support as an accompanying person or if you are otherwise asked for help.

Background information.

In cooperation with the „GewAlternativen Round Table“ in the Borken district and with the support of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the anonymous securing of evidence after a sexual offence in the Borken district was made possible.

We would like to thank all participating institutions for their commitment in the procedure of anonymous forensic investigation for the victims of sexual crimes.



Medical help
and care after
a sexual offence

Englisch

Information:

Frauenberatungsstelle, Frauennotruf Ahaus
Women's Counselling Centre, Women's Emergency Hotline Ahaus
Telefon: 02561 - 3738

Frauenhaus Bocholt
Women's shelter Bocholt
Telefon: 02871 - 40194

Frauenschutzwohnung Gronau
Women's shelter Gronau
Telefon: 02562 - 817340

Medical help:

St. Agnes-Hospital Bocholt
St. Agnes Hospital Bocholt
Barloer Weg 125
46397 Bocholt
Telefon: 02871 - 200
Codewort: Anna
Code word: Anna

Your body, a crime scene.

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Do not hesitate to contact a trusted person and have him or her take you to hospital. There you will receive medical care, and there is the possibility to have traces secured anonymously.



Information for those affected of a sexual offence.

Your medical care has priority, you can decide to report the criminal offence later in your own discretion.

In the case of rape or sexual abuse, there are usually no witnesses. It may therefore be important to secure evidence in advance for later proceedings. Your testimony is an important evidence and additional objective evidence supports your statements. Women and men affected by such crime are in a mental state comparable to shock. They experience a time of disorientation. They are trying to regain control of their lives. You can take your time to report the criminal offence.

Regardless of whether you want to report the criminal offence or not, we strongly recommend that you have all traces of the crime, even the slightest ones, examined by a doctor as soon as possible. If you can bear not to take a shower beforehand, this would be better for the forensic investigation.

In order not to have to decide to report the criminal offence immediately, there is an offer to secure evidence anonymously and to store it for ten years. The hospital mentioned on the back carries out anonymous forensic investigations. You then have less time pressure to decide whether to report the perpetrator or not. You can also obtain professional advice and find out whether and when you want to report the crime by talking to confidants. The *institutions** listed on the back support and inform you.

Sexualised violence takes many forms. We recommend all affected persons to seek medical, therapeutic and legal assistance.

Decision for a report.

The decision for or against a report is difficult for most rape victims. Especially if a decision has to be made immediately after the crime has been committed. You must have time to weigh the options, nobody should be able to push you or influence you in any direction.

There is a desire for justice and punishment of the perpetrator. On the other hand, such criminal proceedings are always incriminating. The encounter with the perpetrator is filled with fear, to have to talk about the crime costs unbelievable overcoming. But if the criminal proceedings correspond to what you expect from them, they can even have a therapeutically positive effect.

If evidence has been secured, there is objective evidence to support the crime.

If the perpetrator is not known, this does not speak against an anonymous forensic investigation. It can even help to identify the unknown person.

How does the anonymous forensic investigation procedure work?

1

You go to the *hospital** mentioned here immediately after the crime and preferably without taking a shower beforehand. There you ask for an anonymous forensic investigation if you do not want to report the crime yet. You will need your insurance card for the examination.

2

The hospital has a forensic evidence kit ready.

3

The examination report remains in the hospital. The secured evidence is stored at the Institute for Forensic Medicine in Düsseldorf with a cipher number.

4

You sign a declaration that you wish to have the evidence traced anonymously and stored for ten years. You will receive a copy of this.

5

If you decide to report the crime at a later date, inform the police about the forensic investigation. The police will then take the necessary steps.

6

If you do not report the crime, the evidence will be destroyed after ten years.

* The addresses of the responsible institutions can be found on the back of this information brochure.

