

Kelsey Smith Foundation, Inc.

RAPE PREVENTION



**P.O. Box 40393
Overland Park, KS 66204-0393
Phone: (913) 383-1751
Cellphone: (913) 302-0481**

What to do if You Are Raped

Notice everything you can about the rapist; speech, clothing, smells, scars/tattoos, direction of escape, etc.

If raped somewhere other than your home, try to leave evidence that can be traced to you such as a button, jewelry or fingerprints.

Do not touch anything the rapist touched. You may destroy valuable trace evidence.

Preserve all evidence. Do ***NOT*** bathe, shower or wash up. Do not change clothes.

Call the police and cooperate fully with the investigators.

Call or have someone call a friend or family member you trust who can be with you.

Agree to have a rape kit done at the hospital.

Above all do ***NOT*** feel guilty about what happened. You are the ***victim*** of a crime and it is not your fault that you were attacked.



Further information about the importance of evidence, types of evidence and uses of evidence can be found in KSF pamphlet, "Evidence – TV vs. Reality."

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Rape Defined

Rape is a crime in every state in the United States. Every state has a law defining rape, as does Federal law.

Each state defines the crime of rape differently, but all the definitions are similar. In general, Rape is defined as an unlawful sexual act with an individual against their will. Physical force is ***not*** needed to commit the crime of rape. If the victim does not consent, a rape has occurred, regardless of whether or not force is used by the perpetrator in commission of the crime.

Penalties for Rape

The crime of rape is a felony in every state of the United States. Sentencing guidelines vary by state. A felony conviction generally results in a prison sentence of at least one (1) year, but usually more than that.

Rape Prevention at Home

At your home, keep all entrances well lit (use at least a 60 watt bulb).

Keep all bushes and shrubbery well trimmed so they cannot be used as hiding places by attackers.

Have peepholes and deadbolts installed on all doors.

Check I.D. of all sales or service personnel. Call their company to verify who they are.

Never give the impression you are home alone.

Rape Prevention in Parking Lots

Have your keys in your hand as you approach your car.

If accosted in the parking lot, do everything you can to draw attention to yourself, divert the attacker's attention & aid your escape.

Look under, around and in your car before entering.

Lock your doors ***immediately*** upon entering your car.

If an attacker does manage to get in your car, do everything possible to exit the vehicle. If you are behind the wheel consider striking another object with your car to aid your escape.

If you think you are being followed go to a public area, such as a convenience store, gas station, etc.

Keep your cell phone available at all times.

Rape Prevention While Jogging/Walking

Be aware of your surroundings. Keep your head up. Be assertive!

Trust your gut! If a person, persons or situation makes you uncomfortable, get away from them or it.

If you think you are being followed go to a public area, such as a convenience store, gas station, etc.

Rape Prevention (General)

You have the ***right to be rude***. Don't let political or social correctness get in the way of staying safe. Trust your instincts. They are an accurate barometer, regardless of the social situation.

Be mentally prepared for an attack. Take the KSF Safety Awareness Seminar. When watching TV, reading a book or newspaper, put yourself into the situation. Role play and envision your response.

When driving or walking, visualize what you would do if an attacker approached you. Always see yourself succeeding!

Decide now what physical methods you will use to stay safe. No matter if you choose a self-defense class or a safety product - practice, practice, practice, so your response will be second nature. The time to figure out how your safety device works or to recall a self-defense technique is not when you are being attacked.

