

## How to Report Sexual Abuse and Assault

If you feel at risk of being victimized, or if you become a victim of sexual abuse or assault, report the incident immediately. There are many options for reporting. Your ICE Detainee Handbook has more information about each of these:

### Report to the Facility

1. Tell any trusted staff member at the facility.
2. File an informal or formal grievance (including an emergency grievance) with the facility.

### Report to the ICE Field Office

3. Tell any ICE/ERO staff member who visits the facility.
4. File a written informal or formal request or grievance to ICE/ERO.

### Report to DHS or ICE Headquarters

5. Contact the ICE Detention Reporting and Information Line: **1-888-351-4024** or **9116#**. Language assistance is available.
6. Contact the DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG):

Write a letter to:

**DHS Office of Inspector General**  
Attention: Office of Investigations Hotline  
245 Murray Drive, SW  
Building 410/Mail Stop 0305  
Washington, DC 20528

Call the toll-free hotline at:

**1-800-323- 8603** or **518#**

### Report to Your Consular Official

7. Call or write to your consular official.

## Anonymous Reporting

You do not have to give your name to report a sexual abuse or assault. You can choose to report anonymously to the Detention Reporting and Information Line (DRIL) or the DHS OIG. You can also have somebody else report on your behalf to the facility, ICE Headquarters, or the OIG.

## Will this Impact my Immigration Case or Detention?

Any report of sexual abuse, or fear of being abused or assaulted, will **not** negatively affect your immigration case. *No one can retaliate against you in any way for reporting sexual abuse or assault.*

## Confidentiality

Information concerning your identity and the facts of your report will be limited to only those who need to know.



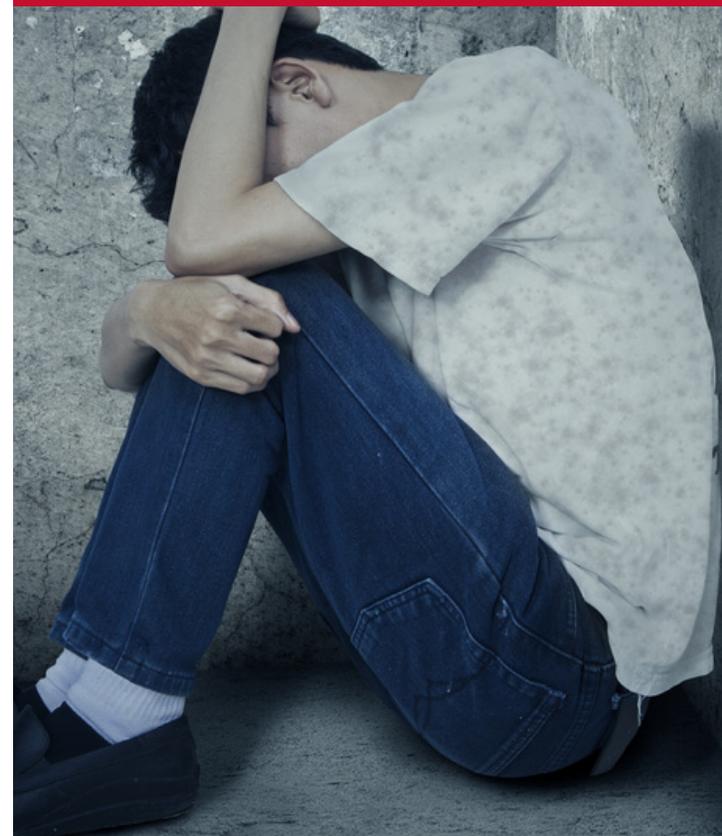
\*\*For more information on this content, please read the ICE Detainee Handbook or ask a trusted facility staff person.\*\*



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement



**SEXUAL ABUSE  
and ASSAULT  
AWARENESS**

[www.ICE.gov](http://www.ICE.gov)

## What is Sexual Abuse and Assault

### Detainee-on-detainee sexual abuse and assault:

All forms of sexual abuse and assault by a detainee against another detainee(s) are prohibited. If another detainee forces you or tries to force you to engage in a sex act, touches the sexual parts of your body, forces you or tries to force you to touch the sexual parts of their body, or uses threats or intimidations to pressure you to engage in sex, it is sexual abuse.

### Staff-on-detainee sexual abuse and assault:

All forms of sexual acts between a detainee and a staff member (including contract guards, medical professionals, and volunteers) are prohibited and against the law, regardless of whether they are consensual. If a staff member tries to or actually does have sex with you, intentionally touches you in a sexual manner, makes sexual advances or repeated sexual comments, displays his or her genitals, or engages in voyeurism, it is sexual abuse.

## If You Are a Victim of Sexual Abuse or Assault

Whatever your reactions or fears, it is important to understand that you are not to blame. Sexual abuse can violate your sense of safety and trust. You may feel shocked, angry, anxious, depressed, or guilty. You may also experience a variety of physical reactions, from changes in eating and sleeping patterns to nightmares or flashbacks. These reactions are normal, and help is available. The facility and ICE will help you get support and offer resources specific to your needs.

## What Support Can You Expect from ICE and the Facility

You will be offered immediate protection from the perpetrator and you will be referred for a medical examination, when appropriate. You will also be offered mental health services and outside victim services. Some victims may also be encouraged to receive a sexual assault forensic medical exam, which can help in criminally prosecuting the perpetrator.

## How Will Reports be Investigated?

When you report a sexual abuse or assault incident the facility and/or an appropriate law enforcement agency will conduct an investigation. You may be asked to participate in an interview to gather information. ICE will inform you of the result of any investigation once it is completed.

There is a difference between reporting the incident and choosing to press charges. You may choose not to immediately press charges, but you can always decide to do so later. If criminal charges are filed, it will be presented for possible prosecution. It is important for you to discuss any concerns you have with the prosecutor (or your attorney) or a victim advocate.

## How Can I Protect Myself from Sexual Abuse or Assault?

Sexual abuse and assault is never the victim's fault. Knowing the warning signs and red flags can help you stay alert and aware:

1. Report concerns.
2. Carry yourself in a confident manner. Many abusers choose victims who look like they would not fight back or who they think are emotionally weak.
3. Do not accept gifts or favors from others. Gifts or favors can come with demands or terms that the giver expects you to accept.
4. Do not accept an offer from another detainee to be your protector.
5. Find a staff member with whom you feel comfortable discussing your fears and concerns.
6. Do not use drugs or alcohol; these can weaken your ability to stay alert and make good judgments.
7. Be clear, direct and firm. Do not be afraid to say "no" or "stop it now."
8. Choose your associates wisely. Look for people who are involved in positive activities like educational programs, work opportunities or counseling groups. Get yourself involved in these activities, if they are available at your facility.
9. If you suspect another detainee is being sexually abused or assaulted, report it using one of the methods listed in this pamphlet.
10. Trust your instincts. Be aware of situations that make you feel uncomfortable. If it does not feel right or safe, leave the situation or seek assistance. If you fear for your safety, report your concerns to staff.



No More

