



How to Report Sexual Misconduct by Law Enforcement & Other Government Actors



The Department of Justice is proud of its longstanding partnership with law enforcement agencies across the country, who work every day to ensure that justice is served for victims of sexual violence. The vast majority of our country's law enforcement upholds the Constitution with integrity. However, law enforcement and other government actors who use their authority to commit sexual misconduct destroy community trust earned by their colleagues and violate the Constitution and federal law.

Sexual misconduct by police officers, probation officers, corrections officers and other employees of jails and prisons, as well as judges, prosecutors, public school employees, and other government actors, acting in their official capacity, is a federal crime. The Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice (CRT), in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and local United States Attorney's Office (USAO), investigates and, where appropriate, prosecutes sexual misconduct by law enforcement and government actors.

Sexual misconduct includes sexual assault or unwanted sexual conduct, procured without consent or through coercion, force, or threat of force, including gratuitous sexual contact such as touching or groping. The Department of Justice also prosecutes perpetrators of official misconduct for obstruction of justice, including attempting to prevent victims from reporting sexual misconduct; lying to federal officials during the course of a federal investigation into sexual misconduct; or writing false reports to cover up sexual misconduct.

Because victims of sexual misconduct by law enforcement may be in the custody or under the authority of their perpetrators, these crimes often go unreported. Victims may not know to whom they can report. Yet, victims often disclose to family, friends, clergy, hospital staff, legal aid groups, tribal leaders, national and local civil rights organizations, attorneys, mental health counselors, substance abuse counselors, rape crisis centers, and other trusted contacts.

If someone discloses to you that they have been the victim of sexual misconduct by a law enforcement officer, probation officer, corrections officer, or government actor who used their authority to commit sexual misconduct, the Department of Justice encourages you to work with the victim/survivor to report allegations to local or federal authorities.

To make a report or for more information, please contact:

Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section
U.S. Department of Justice
CRMreferral@usdoj.gov

Local FBI Field Office
www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field

Civil Rights Division Complaint Portal:
<https://civilrights.justice.gov/>

FBI Complaint Portal:
<https://tips.fbi.gov>