

**Garda National
Protective Services Bureau**

Garda H.Q., Harcourt Square, Dublin 2
T: (01) 6663430/35
E: gnpsb@garda.ie

Or call your local Garda Station

Other Useful Contacts and Links

Cosc - The National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence | www.cosc.ie

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre | www.drcc.ie
National 24-Hour Helpline - Free Phone 1800 77 88 88

Rape Crisis Network Ireland | www.rcni.ie
Local Centres | www.rapecrisishelp.ie/find-a-service/

SATU Services | www.hse.ie/satu
Sexual Assault Treatment Units

Tusla - Child & Family Agency | www.tusla.ie

CARI (Children at Risk in Ireland) | www.cari.ie
Mon-Fri Helpline (9.30am - 5.30pm) - Lo Call 1890 92 45 67

ISPCC | www.ispcc.ie
24-Hour Childline – Free Phone 116 000

Crime Victims Helpline | www.crimevictimshelpline.ie
Free Phone: 116 006

Samaritans | website: www.samaritans.org
24-Hour Helpline Free Phone 116 123

**Contacting
An Garda Síochána**

**In an Emergency – Call
999 or 112**

**Call or visit your nearest
Garda Station**

Child Sexual Abuse Free-Phone

1800 555 222

Notes



An Garda Síochána
www.garda.ie



An Garda Síochána

**INFORMATION
FOR PERSONS REPORTING
SEXUAL CRIME &
CHILD ABUSE**



Victims of Sexual Crime and Child Abuse

An Garda Síochána recognises the emotional and physical pain that victims of sexual crime and child abuse may be suffering. This suffering can often be to such an extent that victims feel that they cannot report the crime to An Garda Síochána. We acknowledge this difficulty for victims, but we would encourage all victims of sexual crime and child abuse to make a complaint to An Garda Síochána to ensure that, where possible, the perpetrator is made accountable.

You can be assured that:

- It is the duty of An Garda Síochána to investigate fully all reports of sexual crime and child abuse, without exception. Your report will be treated seriously.
- Gardaí are trained to investigate your report in a compassionate, sensitive and professional manner. Every effort will be made to have a Garda of the gender of your choice allocated to the investigation.
- The rights of all parties involved in the investigation will be vindicated. Victims will be dealt with in accordance with EU Directive 29/2012 for Victims of Crime, Irish legislation and the Garda Síochána Victims Charter.
- Complaints of sexual crime and child abuse are recorded on the Garda Síochána PULSE computer system but access is restricted to personnel involved in the investigation and supervisors.
- You will be given the contact details of the investigating Garda and kept updated on the progress of the Garda investigation on a regular basis. You will be provided with the PULSE Incident Number relating to your complaint.
- You will be provided with details of available support services relevant to the crime that you report.
- You may be accompanied by a solicitor and/or another person of your choice when engaging with An Garda Síochána. You may also be provided with other special protective measures such as specially trained interviewers and/or an interpreter, depending on your circumstances.
- An Garda Síochána will communicate and work with the Child and Family Agency where any child protection concerns arise.
- When the investigation is complete, an investigation file must be forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

How to Report Sexual Crime or Child Abuse

Making an Initial Report

If you are a victim or a witness to a sexual crime or child abuse we would urge you to report this to An Garda Síochána. You can do this by the following methods:

Call 112/999

Call 112 or 999 in the case of an emergency. An emergency is any incident which requires an immediate Garda response. Examples of emergencies are:

- A danger to life
- Risk of serious injury
- Crime in progress or about to happen
- Offender still at scene or has just left

What Happens When I Call 112 or 999?

Remember when calling 112 (or 999), 'stay calm, stay focused and stay on the line'. When you call 112 or 999, please clearly state the emergency service you require. You may be required to give details such as your name, location and telephone number.

Child Sexual Abuse Free Phone

Complaints of child abuse can be made over the phone and in a confidential manner 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to 1800 555 222.

Call Your Local Garda Station or Report in Person

You can also contact your local Garda Station in person or by telephone. Details of all Garda Stations are available on the Garda Website (www.garda.ie).

You may call to the Garda Station in person accompanied by a friend, or a support worker from one of the many victim support groups. Details of those groups, providing both national and local services are listed on www.cosc.ie. Cosc, the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence is an executive office of the Department of Justice and Equality.

Contact Your Local Rape Crisis Centre

Rape Crisis Centres throughout the country offer advice and support services to victims of rape and sexual assault. You may contact the National 24-Hour Helpline at 1800 77 88 88.

For further information see www.garda.ie.

An Garda Síochána Policy

The Garda Síochána Policy on the Investigation of Sexual Crime, Crimes Against Children and Child Welfare (available at www.garda.ie) outlines the policy of the Garda Commissioner in respect of how sexual crime and child abuse is investigated.

Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs)

If you have been the victim of a rape or sexual assault in the last 7 days you may attend a Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) with or without Garda accompaniment. Three services are currently offered:

1. You may report the crime to An Garda Síochána, who will accompany you to a SATU. There you will receive comprehensive medical, psychological and forensic care. Any injuries will be documented and treated and appropriate forensic samples will be taken to aid the Garda investigation.
2. If you do not wish to report the crime to An Garda Síochána you may attend a SATU (Monday – Friday, 9am-5pm) to receive medical and psychological care. No forensic samples will be taken.
3. You may attend a SATU without Garda involvement to obtain medical and psychological care and have forensic samples taken and retained at the SATU while you consider whether or not to report the crime to An Garda Síochána. The samples will normally be retained for 1 year unless you request in writing that they be retained for a further period.

Please consider reporting the incident to An Garda Síochána at the earliest opportunity. A delay in reporting the incident could reduce the opportunity for An Garda Síochána to collect important evidence.

Please see overleaf for details on how to contact An Garda Síochána and many of our partner agencies.