

# MAKING A STATEMENT TO POLICE AFTER A SEXUAL ASSAULT



This is an Easy Read information sheet made by WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association Inc.



You can ask a worker or someone you trust to help read this information.

Not bold

Some words are in **bold blue** writing.

**Bold blue**

We will explain what these words mean.

Links are underlined in [bright blue](#).



Sexual assault is a crime.



If it has happened to you, it is not your fault.



This information sheet is about making a **statement** to police about sexual assault with a **93a interview**.



You can click the following link to learn more about sexual assault in:

[\*You deserve to be Safe: A booklet about sexual assault.\*](#)



If you have been sexually assaulted, it is your right:



- To talk to police.



- To not talk to police.



- To get support.



- To get medical care.



- To be treated with respect.



- To be safe.

- To change your mind at any time.

## What is a **statement**?



A **statement** is made in an interview with police where you give details of who, what, when and where the sexual assault happened.



Making a **statement** happens after making a **Sexual Assault Report**.

For more information, see our Easy Read information sheets on:

- Contacting Policelink After a Sexual Assault
- Online Reporting After a Sexual Assault





Giving a **statement** helps the police with an **investigation**.



An **investigation** is when police look for **evidence**.



**Evidence** is information that shows that a crime has happened.



A **statement** can be used as **evidence** in a court case.

If police find enough **evidence**, the person who hurt you might:



- Be charged
- Have to go to court



If the police do not find enough **evidence**, the person who hurt you might not be charged or go to court.



It is a police decision if they will **investigate** and how they will look for **evidence**.



It may take a long time for police to **investigate**.



Most of the time, the police will do an interview to make a **written statement**.



A **written statement** is where police write down your words about what happened.



Doing a written statement can be really hard for people with an intellectual disability.



In Queensland, people with an intellectual disability can give a **statement** by doing a **93a interview**.



The **93a interview** is when police record a video of the interview as your **statement**.



The **93a interview** is done by a police officer who has had extra training.



It can help give better **evidence** to police for an **investigation**.



## Making a **statement** to police.



It is your choice if you want to make a **statement** to police.



You can get support to make a **statement**.

You can decide not to make a **statement**.



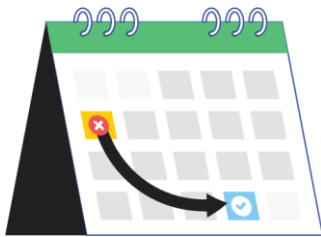
If you make a **statement**, it is your choice to tell the police if you have a disability.



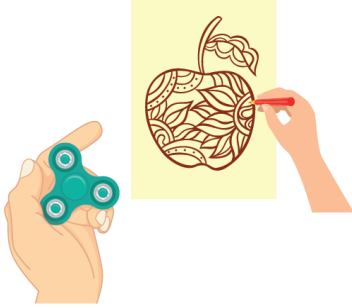
Telling the police about your disability can mean you get a supported **93a interview**.



You can ask a support person to help explain to police about your disability, and ask for a **93a interview**.

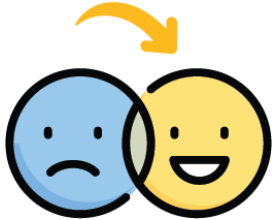


It is best to plan a time for you and police to be ready before you make a **statement**.



On the day, you might need to do something to help you feel calm and relaxed before and after.

## Doing a **93a interview** might help you.



The **93a interview** can make giving a **statement** to police easier.



You can take breaks when you need to during the interview.



The interview can be recorded at:

- The police station
- Your home





You can ask to do the **93a interview** at a different place that is safe.



If you need to go to court you may be able to watch the video recording to remind you what you said to police.

## Support people and the 93a interview.



The police might ask you to do the interview on your own.



It is your right to have a support person with you when you do the interview.



A support person cannot answer the questions for you.



A support person should be someone you trust.



Your support person **should not** be:

- A close family member



- A partner



- A regular support worker

This is because the support person  
**cannot** be:



- The first person you told what happened to you.

- A **witness**

A **witness** is:



- Someone who saw what happened to you
- Someone who knows other information about what happened to you.
- A person who you have told about what has happened to you





The police may need to talk to **witnesses** separately about what happened for their **investigation**.

## Your rights when making a statement.



Rights are rules to make sure everyone gets what is fair and safe.

When talking to the police you have the right to:



- Tell them if you need a break
- Tell them if you need more time



- Tell them if you do not understand something



- Ask them to say something in a different way.

## What happens after you have made a statement.



The police will tell you what will happen next.



You can call the police if you have any questions after you make a **statement**.



The police might not be able to talk to you right away.

## How to get support



You can call these numbers for help.

**1800RESPECT**

To speak to someone about sexual assault or domestic violence you can call:

**1800 Respect** on **1800 737 732**

Or

**DVCQCONNECT**  
*Be heard. Be safe.*

**Sexual Assault Helpline** on **1800**

**010 120** from 7.30am till 11:30pm.

To get support as a victim of crime you can call:

**VICTIM & CONNECT**

**VictimConnect** on **1300 318 940**,

or visit [www.victimconnect.org.au](http://www.victimconnect.org.au)



## WWILD Sexual Violence

**Prevention** provides support to people with intellectual disability who are victims of crime.

You can call **WWILD** on **07 3262 9877**.

For Legal help you can call:



**Women's Legal Service** on **1800 957 957**

Or



**Legal Aid** on **1300 651 188**



**Remember if you are in danger call 000.**

**If you have been sexually assaulted it is not your fault. You have a right to be safe and to get support.**