



Barcelona champions free and consensual sexual relations. If anyone is restricting your sexual freedom and forcing you to carry out, witness or put up with acts you find hostile or degrading, you can report them.

FIND OUT MORE!



Ajuntament de
Barcelona

There are 11 things you need to know:

- 1 **Whether or not you decide to file a report, you are entitled to receive psychological and medical support** and care to address the assault in whatever way you choose.
- 2 **You have the option of going to a medical centre to receive emotional support for the harm caused or to record the evidence of the assault.** The first few hours after a sexual assault are crucial for gathering evidence that can ensure optimal results from the investigation. And if you suspect the perpetrator drugged you or gave you a toxic substance, you will be given the relevant tests.

In cases of rape and sexual assault, ultimately DNA samples are the only objective evidence. If chemical submission is suspected in the assault, the first hours are critical for detecting specific substances in the victim's body. We therefore advise you not to wash yourself, take a shower or change your clothes and, in the case of oral rape, not to eat or drink anything before you go to a medical centre.
- 3 **The designated emergency medical facility in the city is Hospital Clínic de Barcelona.** Contact your emergency service: *Villarroel, 170 (Barcelona 08036), telephone: 932 275 400 (extension 2137). Bear in mind that these facilities are for individuals of legal age, and the designated hospital for those under 16 is Vall d'Hebron.
- 4 **If you are in hospital and decide to report the offence, that same hospital will be responsible for sending a medical report to the corresponding duty magistrate's court and for informing the police and the medical examiner.** You can also file your report directly at the nearest police station or duty magistrate's court; in the latter case you will have to take your medical report there in person.

- 5 **If you are in hospital and do not wish to report the incident, you should be aware that the hospital is obligated to inform the judicial authorities of any sexual assault,** with or without your consent, although this does not initiate legal proceedings.
- 6 **Only your reporting the offence will lead to the start of criminal proceedings against the perpetrator.** Criminal proceedings can be difficult and there is no guarantee of a "fair" sentence for the perpetrator, but it is the only way to deal with that person and prevent their acts from going unpunished.
- 7 **When you make a report, remember that you are entitled to receive free legal aid at police stations and court offices.** We recommend you request this so that a lawyer can help ensure the process is conducted properly.
- 8 **There are also feminist services and specialised legal organisations with extensive experience in sexual assaults that can help you.** You can go to the website <https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/dones/en/bcn-antimasclista>
- 9 **If your legal papers are not in order, you are still entitled** to free access to emergency healthcare services, to an interpreter and to file a report if you decide to do so. However, in this case we recommend you get in touch with a specialised organisation to receive proper advice.
- 10 **Remember that whether or not the perpetrator is punished should not be a burden for the victim,** who has to be able to weigh up the situation in relation to their emotional health and be free to find other ways of recovering.
- 11 **You have a time frame for reporting the offence,** and if you do not wish to do so immediately, you can go to hospital for preventive treatment and to obtain evidence in case you wish to report the offence at a later date.