

# Sexual violence

Sexual violence can happen anywhere: in public, at work, online or within a partnership and the family. Sexual violence is a form of domestic violence. It can be reported to the police. Even if a victim does not want to report it to the police, it is important to get a medical examination after the assault.

## What is sexual violence?

Sexual violence refers to acts of a sexual nature that are forced or coerced upon someone. Examples include: sexual harassment or sexual assault, sexual coercion, sexual abuse in childhood, sexual exploitation or rape. Sexual violence may also take place online. For example, when intimate videos or photos of a partner are shared on social media without consent.

Sexual violence occurs in all social classes and age groups and can affect **anyone**. Sexual violence is prohibited and punished in Switzerland.

## Important to know

Most sexual offences are not committed by strangers, but by partners, ex-partners, acquaintances and colleagues. Those affected often feel ashamed and suffer from feelings of guilt. It takes courage to seek help. Following rape, however, it is important to have a medical examination. A report can also be made to the police at a later date.

## Where can I find help?

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual violence:

### Medical examination

Seek medical attention **within 72 hours** where possible.

- You can arrange a medical examination and documentation of your injuries with your **family doctor's practice**.
- Otherwise, please contact the **Aargau Medical Emergency Hotline**, 0900 401 501 (CHF 3.23 per minute, on landlines).

### Forensic examination

- Aarau Cantonal Hospital offers free forensic examinations for victims of physical and sexual violence.
- Your information is treated **confidentially**.
- The injuries suffered during the violence are documented and evidence secured.
- Upon request, you may be referred to the Aargau victim counselling service.
- **Contact:** forensic examination centre for victims of violence, 062 838 64 62.

Open hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 12pm noon and from 1.30pm to 4pm.

[www.ksa.ch/gewaltopfer](http://www.ksa.ch/gewaltopfer)

### Securing evidence

- If you cannot visit a family doctor's practice or hospital straight away, keep evidence like clothing safe in a paper bag.
- Chat logs and SMS messages may also serve as evidence. Save this data.

### Additional support

- The Aargau victim counselling service offers legal and psychological support.
- It also provides information about the advantages and disadvantages of reporting the crime to the police.
- The costs of treatment are assumed by the victim support service, regardless of whether or not you decide to report the crime to the police.
- **Contact:** Aargau victim counselling service, 062 835 47 90 or chat, [www.opferberatung-ag.ch](http://www.opferberatung-ag.ch)

## Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

[www.hallo-aargau.ch/en/haeusliche-gewalt/sexualisierte-gewalt](http://www.hallo-aargau.ch/en/haeusliche-gewalt/sexualisierte-gewalt)