



Sexual Assault Investigations: FAQs

Will the investigating Deputy or Officer be of the same sex?

- Not always. There are not an equal amount of female and male deputies and officers, and there are many different shifts that they may be assigned to. All deputies and officers are trained in sexual assault investigations and how to conduct trauma-informed investigations.

What are my options?

- The survivor is not required to speak to law enforcement. You may document the details of the incident via a restricted sexual assault examination, which is retained as evidence should you desire law enforcement contact in the future.
- If you desire law enforcement contact, an advocate from either STESA (Standing Together to End Sexual Assault) or CARE, the UCSB equivalent, will be contacted to advocate for you and guide you through the process. They can be present during the interview, and you may choose your own advocate to be present as well.
- A sexual assault examination will be offered to you if the assault occurred within a specific time frame. A sexual assault examination is an evidentiary examination that is conducted by a specially trained nurse called a SANE nurse (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner.) Transportation to the SART cottage is conducted by law enforcement for safety purposes.

[Sexual Assault Response Team \(SART\) | Santa Barbara County, CA - Official Website \(countyofsb.org\)](http://countyofsb.org)

What will be asked during the investigation?

- The questions asked in a sexual assault investigation are uncomfortable questions by nature, but they are asked for the purpose of identifying specific criminal violations. It is

important to these types of questions to gather specific details necessary for sexual assault detectives.

Will my name be kept confidential?

- Yes and no. Your name and identifying information will be kept confidential throughout the report however should you have to testify you will be identified in court.
- If you opt for a restricted sexual assault examination, your information is also confidential.

Will I have to face my abuser?

- During the investigation process you will not be required to face your abuser. However, should you be required to testify in court the abuser may be present in the courtroom.

Will I have to testify in court?

- It depends. If the case is filed with the District Attorney's office and the case goes beyond a preliminary hearing, you may be required to testify if the case goes to trial. You can get more information about this process through the District Attorney's office.

[Victim Services | Santa Barbara County, CA - Official Website \(countyofsb.org\)](https://www.countyofsb.org/victim-services)

What resources are available to me?

- If you are a Santa Barbara County resident (including but not limited to SBCC student), STESA has resources to guide you through the process whether that be reporting, emotional resources, financial resources, and medical resources. The Santa Barbara District Attorney Victim Witness Assistance Program offers additional resources. Additionally, you have rights afforded to you under California Marcy's Law.

[Standing Together to End Sexual Assault | Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center \(sbstesa.org\)](https://www.sbstesa.org)

[Marsy's Law - Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services \(OVSRS\) \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ovsrs.ca.gov)

- If you are a UCSB student, CARE has resources to guide you through the process whether that be reporting, emotional resources, financial resources, and medical resources. The

Santa Barbara District Attorney Victim Witness Assistance Program offers additional resources. Additionally, you have rights afforded to you under California Marcy's Law.

[Home | Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education \(CARE\) \(ucsb.edu\)](#)