

# Third Party Reporting for Survivors of Sexual Assault

If you have been sexually assaulted in British Columbia, you may be able to report the crime through a third party so that you can remain anonymous to the police.

Third Party Reporting is when someone else provides information about the assault to the police on your behalf. It allows survivors who do not want to report the crime directly to ensure police receive a report about the crime without knowing your name.

In Salt Spring and the Outer Gulf Islands, victims may make a third party report through Island Women Against Violence Outreach.

Sexual assault is one of the most under-reported crimes. As such, when violent sexual predators are operating in or across certain areas, police often have little or no information to aid them in protecting citizens.

Third Party Reporting seeks to increase leads on sexual predators and repeat offenders, while empowering survivors of sexual violence with an additional reporting option.



**Island Women Against Violence**  
Box 376 Ganges PO  
Salt Spring Island, BC  
V8K 2W1

**Women's Outreach Services:**  
250.537.0717

**24-Hour Violence & Abuse Help Line:**  
250.537.0735

# Third Party Reporting

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**THE ANONYMOUS REPORTING OPTION FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**



## What is Third Party Reporting?

Third Party Reporting provides a means by which an adult\*\* survivor of a sexual offence/assault may report an incident to police while remaining anonymous\*\*\*. This reporting option is provided as a last resort for survivors who would not otherwise provide information about the assault to the police.

\*\* Third Party Reporting is generally only available for survivors who are 19 years old or older. Please call or visit us for more information about reporting options for survivors under the age of 19.

\*\*\* Contact with police remains your decision unless very serious circumstances warrant intervention. Such circumstances would include where there is a risk of significant harm to the health or safety of the public, an individual, or where a child is in need of protection.

## How do I make a Third Party Report?

If you, or someone you know, would like to make a Third Party Report, call us. We will connect you with our Community Based Victim Services (CBVS) Program. The CBVS worker will explain the Third Party Reporting option, in addition to exploring any other practical and emotional supports you may need.

## What happens after I make a Third Party Report?

CBVS will keep your name confidential and provide the police with the information you have given about what happened.

Once police receive the Third Party Report, they will assign a police file number and enter the information you have provided into their internal database. They will provide the police file number to CBVS to pass on to you. They may also ask CBVS to re-connect with you to ask if you will provide further information, or request contact with you. CBVS will be your “bridge” to police throughout the process.

## Why Third Party Reporting?

Third Party Reporting is an invaluable tool which provides survivors with the opportunity to give information to authorities without the undue stress of worrying about being disbelieved, judged, arrested, or deported.

If you are reluctant to make a full report, but you want to share information about what happened with authorities, Third Party Reporting allows you to do so in a positive, empowering, and controlled way, so that your experience of reporting the crime is supported and honoured.

## Community Based Victim Services

In order to make a Third Party Report, you will be connected to Community Based Victim Services. CBVS offers a wide array of services and supports.

CBVS offer practical and emotional support, information, referrals, safety planning, court support and assistance with the criminal justice system, coping skills, and practices of self-care. CBVS offers an empowering, supportive, and safe space to talk about your experiences of violence and sexual assault.

## For more support:

### **24-Hour Crisis Line**

Toll-Free: 1.877.435.7544  
On Salt Spring: 250.537.0735

### **Women's Outreach Services**

250.537.0717

### **Transition House**

250.537.0735

### **Salt Spring Island Victim Services/RCMP**

250.537.5555

### **Outer Gulf Island Victim Services/RCMP**

250.629.6171