

## Sexual Assault and Rape

There are no rape crisis hotlines in Honduras. However, U.S. citizens may find [additional resources for victims of sexual assault](#) in the United States. In addition, you should seek medical attention immediately if you have been the victim of rape or sexual assault, even if you do not plan on reporting the crime to the police or pressing charges. We provide a list of local hospitals where most doctors have their offices.

Physical evidence is very important in sexual assault cases and can deteriorate as time passes. As such, victims should not change clothes, avoid bathing if possible and have a physical exam at the first opportunity. You should take these steps even if you are unsure about whether to report the crime to police. If you decide to pursue a prosecution at a later time, these steps preserve evidence that will assist the prosecutor. A consular officer or after-hours duty officer from the U.S. Embassy may be able to accompany victims of sexual assault for the medical exam.

Forensic sexual assault exams are ordered by the Public Ministry. However, not all cities have access to this type of examination and therefore, they are not always ordered. When ordered, these exams are performed by a medical forensic doctor at their office. These exams normally include a pelvic exam, physical collection of body specimens for evidentiary purposes and blood samples. Pregnancy and HIV testing are also performed. Victims are allowed to bring a support person throughout the examination. These examinations are free of charge. If the victim decides not to have a medical exam, rape/sexual assault charges can still be filed. However, if there is no other evidence, it may affect the outcome of the trial.

You should get medical attention to determine if you have been injured in any way and to discuss treatment and prevention options for pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Emergency contraception (the morning-after pill) is available in Honduras. HIV prophylaxis is also available.

The victim will be initially interviewed by the police and by the prosecutors and will be later cross examined by the defense attorney and the judge at the trial. Acquaintance rape (date rape) is considered rape as well as spousal rape. There are no special considerations for male sexual assault, it is legally considered the same as female sexual assault and prosecuted the same way.

There are no laws that protect the identity of sexual assault survivors, except when the victim is a minor. Media attention is always a possibility, but not customary.