

## WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ+

Common fears of reporting include:

- Homophobic/Transphobic responses from first responders
- Being “outed” (especially in small communities)
- Not being able to have partners present without judgment
- Legal identification/anatomy that doesn’t match current gender identification
- Being misgendered or not having correct pronouns/names used
- Not being understood
- Being seen as a traitor by one’s LGBTQ+ community

## Safety Considerations in Small Communities

LGBTQ+ communities, particularly within any rural community, are very small. While it is common for information to spread quickly in rural areas, this is even more so the case for information regarding a survivor who identifies as LGBTQ+. Thus, a LGBTQ+ survivor may prefer to access services directly from a LGBTQ+ program or a sexual assault program outside the community.

Advocates can foster relationships with LGBTQ+ specific programs and/or brainstorm around specific privacy concerns survivors may have. For example, an advocate may be able to meet with you at a different location like at the library or a nearby eatery. Advocates may additionally be able to provide you with information about other safe people and places that will not shame or harass you in your community.

## LOCAL SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT PROGRAM:

Our statewide helpline can connect you to a local certified sexual assault program:

**1-888-956-7273**

This project was supported by Grant No. 2015-WR-AX-0038 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

## LGBTQ+ SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Information

Resources

Support

Sexual violence hurts people of all sexual orientations and gender identities – including people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+).

FCASV stands with ALL survivors.



## SEXUAL ASSAULT OF INDIVIDUALS

Perpetrators of sexual assault can be of any gender, just as the victims can be of any gender. Sexual assault is not defined by the biological sex or gender of the person offending or the sex or gender of the victim.

- Sexual violence is often used as a means of oppressing those who challenge social norms around gender and sexuality.
- Transgender people and bisexual women face the most alarming rates of sexual violence and the vast majority of sexual assaults continue to be perpetrated by cisgender, heterosexual males.
- Sexual assault may include forced or coerced vaginal or anal penetration (with any object), oral sex, touching, or ANY other type of sexual activity that was not expressly consented to.
- Same-sex sexual assault can happen on a date (hook-up or while “chilling”), between acquaintances, friends, partners, family members, or strangers.

Due to the societal oppression that individuals and communities who identify as LGBTQ+ experience, victims are less likely to report their assault to the police or seek support.

85% of victim advocates surveyed by the NCAVP reported having worked with an LGBTQ+ survivor who was denied services because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### Anti-Violence Project

Tracks, documents, and responds to incidents of anti-LGBTQ hate violence.

[www.ncavp.org](http://www.ncavp.org)  
212-714-1141

### Equality Florida

Securing justice for Florida's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer community.

<http://www.eqfl.org>  
813-870-3735

### Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV)

Sexual Violence shatters lives, wounds communities, and perpetuates injustice. FCASV leads, informs, and inspires the people of Florida to create safe and just communities. If you have any issues accessing services via a certified sexual assault program, please call the FCASV office number listed below.

<https://www.fcasv.org>  
850-297-2000

### FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression)

Home to the Transgender Sexual Violence Project. Provides information, resources and referrals, and publishes research for transgender persons experiencing violence and their loved ones.

<https://forge-forward.org>  
414-559-2123

### LGBT National Help Center

Free and confidential peer-support and local resources. Online peer support chat and weekly moderated LGBTQ teens and trans youth and teen groups available.

<http://www.glbtnationalhelpcenter.org>  
1-888-843-4564 (all ages)  
1-800-246-7743 (youth talkline)  
1-888-234-7243 (senior hotline)

### Gay Gull

Comprehensive lists of LGBTQ+ resources by state.

<http://www.gaygull.com/lgbtq-resources/lgbtq-florida/>

### The Network/La Red

Survivor-led, social justice organization that works to end partner abuse in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, SM, polyamorous, and queer communities.

<http://tnlr.org>  
1-800-832-1901

### The Trevor Project

Crisis intervention and suicide prevention for LGBTQ youth. Includes online community forums.

[www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)  
1-866-488-7386

### Trans Women of Color Collective (TWOCC)

Uplifts the narratives, lived experiences, and leadership of trans and gender non-conforming people of color. They fund survival, education, and wellness initiatives for trans women of color.

<https://www.twocc.us>  
202-643-7631

### Others

#### 1in6

Helps men who have had unwanted or abusive sexual experiences live healthier, happier lives. Includes online chat and weekly moderated virtual groups. Note: Not specifically tailored to the gay/queer community.

<https://1in6.org>

#### Resource Sharing Project (for Advocates)

Provides advocates with tools and technical assistance. Includes rural specific training and technical assistance. Included below is the white paper Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Rural Sexual Violence Survivors.

[http://www.resourcesharingproject.org/sites/resourcesharingproject.org/files/RSP\\_Whitepaper\\_LGBTQ.pdf](http://www.resourcesharingproject.org/sites/resourcesharingproject.org/files/RSP_Whitepaper_LGBTQ.pdf)

## IF YOU ARE A VICTIM, AN ADVOCATE CAN HELP:

### Your Rights

- You have the right to be treated equally and with respect.
- You have the right to affirmation of your gender identity.
- You have the right to accompaniment by anyone you choose.
- You have the right to free and confidential sexual assault services.
- You have the right to a free medical forensic exam, regardless of whether you report.
- You have the right to protest any discrimination you experience.

### Legal Advocacy

Sexual assault victim advocates can:

- Review your criminal justice options.
- Explore any civil legal remedies available to you.
- Accompany you to interviews and/or to court proceedings.

### Support

Sexual assault victim advocates can:

- Speak with you 24/7 via their helpline.
- Provide short and/or long-term crisis counseling.
- Review all your options with you.
- Refer you to other services, as needed, including internal referrals for individual therapy or support groups.
- Meet with your loved ones to provide them with secondary victim/survivor services.

### Medical Advocacy

Sexual assault victim advocates can:

- Answer questions about what the forensic exam will entail.
- Accompany you to an initial medical forensic examination (you can decide whether or not to submit the evidence).
- Accompany you to other medical exams/follow-up appointments.
- Provide referrals and/or assistance for any follow-up care.