

# Help for survivors of sexual assault



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The Victim Rights Law Center (VRLC) provides FREE and CONFIDENTIAL legal services for survivors of sexual assault and rape in Massachusetts. Below is a list of our common practice areas and action steps we might take to assist the survivor.

## PRIVACY

- Represent survivors at privacy hearings following a request for the release of their privileged and/or confidential mental health, medical, or education records
- Conduct online and electronic privacy consultations
- Help protect survivor privacy in work and school settings

## SAFETY

- Represent survivors in proceedings to obtain Protective Orders under M.G.L. 209A and 258E
- Assist survivors in obtaining stay away orders available from a housing authority or school
- Work with employers, housing authorities, and schools to enforce safety measures

## EDUCATION

- Help survivors obtain assistance/services from school (i.e. add/drop classes, take a leave of absence, transfer housing, obtain a campus No Contact Order, etc.)
- Represent survivors throughout a campus disciplinary process such as investigations, hearings, and appeals
- File complaints against schools for violating state and federal laws

## IMMIGRATION

- Assist survivors petition for status in the U.S. (i.e., VAWA, SIJ, DACA, U-visa)
- Represent survivors in immigration court

## HOUSING

- Negotiate accommodations with landlords (i.e. to break a lease, or for increased safety measures)
- Represent survivors in Housing Authority proceedings and evictions
- Identify legal remedies for obtaining public and private housing

## EMPLOYMENT

- Negotiate accommodations with employers (i.e., time off, change in schedule, safety measures)
- Refer survivors to private lawyers for possible lawsuits against employers

## FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Assess survivors' eligibility for public benefits and refer to appropriate resources
- Represent survivors if their claims for public benefits are denied

### PLEASE NOTE:

The VRLC does not represent victims in family law matters, including divorce, custody, or visitation OR in tort suits against the assailant or third parties.

The VRLC does represent victims of domestic violence where sexual violence is part of the abuse IF the legal matter is listed above.



"I am afraid to take public transportation."

"Who will find out if I report the assault?"

"The perpetrator goes to my school."

"Can I report if I am undocumented?"

"The assailant is my neighbor."

"I am having difficulty focusing at work."

"My SSDI application was denied."



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