



## You Can Get Health Care or Release a Rape Kit After a Sexual Assault

You get to decide if you will go to the hospital to see a doctor after a sexual assault. You do not have to ask your guardian or anyone else if you can go to the hospital.

You can decide whether evidence of the assault is collected at the hospital – some people call this a rape kit.

You get to decide whether the hospital gives the rape kit to the police. The police will take the rape kit to a crime lab to look for evidence.

If you can't give consent, your guardian, health care surrogate or health care power of attorney may be asked. If that person can't be reached or will not release the information, the police officer may release the information.

### **Background**

In the past, sometimes a victim had a guardian who was unavailable or unwilling to agree to health care or release evidence.

To fix this problem, the law was changed to protect your rights. [410 ILCS 70/5](#).

The law changed because of the work of self-advocates. They worked with:

- Illinois Imagines Project
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Other groups that help people with disabilities

### **Questions?**

Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
217.753.4117  
[www.icasa.org](http://www.icasa.org)

Illinois Department of Human Services  
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit  
217.558.6192 or [teresa.tudor@illinois.gov](mailto:teresa.tudor@illinois.gov)