

Sexual violence

Sexual violence can happen anywhere: in public, at work, online or within a partnership and the family. Sexual violence is a form of domestic violence. It can be reported to the police. Even if a victim does not want to report it to the police, it is important to get a medical examination after the assault.

What is sexual violence?

Sexual violence refers to acts of a sexual nature that are forced or coerced upon someone. Examples include: sexual harassment or sexual assault, sexual coercion, sexual abuse in childhood, sexual exploitation or rape. Sexual violence may also take place online. For example, when intimate videos or photos of a partner are shared on social media without consent.

Sexual violence occurs in all social classes and age groups and can affect **anyone**. Sexual violence is prohibited and punished in Switzerland.

Important to know

Most sexual offences are not committed by strangers, but by partners, ex-partners, acquaintances and colleagues. Those affected often feel ashamed and suffer from feelings of guilt. It takes courage to seek help. Following rape, however, it is important to have a medical examination. A report can also be made to the police at a later date.

Where can I find help?

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual violence:

Medical examination

Seek medical attention **within 72 hours** where possible.

Frauenklinik (Women's Clinic) – Kantonsspital Aarau +41 62 838 50 74, Haus 8,
Tellstrasse 25, Aarau

Notfallzentrum (Emergency Centre) – Kantonsspital Aarau +41 62 838 41 41, Haus
1, Tellstrasse 25, Aarau

Kinderspital (Children's Hospital) – Kantonsspital Aarau +41 62 838 49 41, Haus 9,
Tellstrasse 25, Aarau

Securing evidence

- If you cannot visit a family doctor's practice or hospital straight away, keep evidence like clothing safe in a paper bag.
- Chat logs and SMS messages may also serve as evidence. Save this data.

Additional support

- The Aargau victim counselling service offers legal and psychological support.
- It also provides information about the advantages and disadvantages of reporting the crime to the police.
- The costs of treatment are assumed by the victim support service, regardless of whether or not you decide to report the crime to the police.
- **Contact:** Aargau victim counselling service, 062 835 47 90 or chat, www.opferberatung-ag.ch

Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

dev.hallo-aargau.ch/en/haeusliche-gewalt/sexualisierte-gewalt