



Chief Steven J. Wojnar

**TOWN OF DUDLEY
POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Sgt. Dean P. Poplawski

Sgt. Paul T. Ceppetelli

Sgt. Marek Karłowicz

Crime Victim Information Sheet

The Dudley Police Department wishes to inform you that we are here to assist in any way possible. In particular, this includes cases of possible sexual assault, domestic violence, and other violent or non-violent offenses. There are rights you have as a crime victim, whether or not your case results in court action. We wish to insure you have as much information as possible to make an informed decision.

Victims of a possible sexual assault: If you may be the victim of a sexual assault, it is imperative that your personal safety is given first priority. You are entitled to the appropriate medical attention and your personal safety should otherwise be insured. Because these matters are very serious, it is important that certain steps are followed; whether or not you are interested in proceeding forward with a criminal case. It is crucial to secure certain evidence in the proper fashion. Anything that is improperly gathered (including statements) can result in its exclusion from future court proceedings. This will greatly hinder efforts toward a successful conviction. This is why prompt reporting to the police is crucial and encouraged. **The gathering of information and evidence by police will not automatically result in criminal charges. Although a victim may not wish to immediately pursue a matter criminally; it is crucial for the police to gather and preserve evidence properly, in the event a victim changes their mind (even years later).** The Dudley Police have several trained sexual assault investigators. Their names appear on the back of this form. Your statement, those of witnesses, and other evidence (which may include clothing or other materials from the scene) must be secured immediately and properly. This will preserve the chain of custody and the integrity of the evidence. We recommend you do not shower, wash your clothes, or dispose of anything that may contain critical evidence, until you have had the opportunity to meet with the police in order to complete the process. Sexual assault evidence can be gathered at the hospital and may be available some 72 hours or more after the contact. For these reasons, and many others, it is important to consult with a police officer as soon as possible.

If you are the victim of domestic violence, to include family members, your dating partners, roommates, and some others, you have certain rights that you should know. On the back of this form, you will also find area resources that may be of assistance to you. We wish to insure you receive the proper medical treatment, are advised of all applicable rights, and that your safety is otherwise insured.

It is important for you to know our department is here to work with all victims of crime. We wish to insure you are safe, have access to medical treatment, and receive the necessary information pertaining to your situation. You must make an informed decision on all these cases. We work in partnership with the Nichols College community and have regular police officers assigned specifically to the campus. We have officers that specialize in many fields and have access to a variety of resources. We wish to give you whatever assistance necessary and secure evidence in the proper manner. Please do not hesitate to contact us if any assistance is needed. Phone numbers are available on the top and back of this sheet. Once again, it is important to note: **THE MERE REPORT AND INITIAL INVESTIGATION BY THE POLICE DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN CRIMINAL CHARGES.** As a victim, you will have the greatest say in how the matter will proceed.

We wish you all the best with your situation.

Sincerely,

Chief Steven J. Wojnar
Dudley Police Department

Dudley Police Sexual Assault Investigators:

Sergeant Dean Poplawski Officer Philip Megas

71 West Main Street

Dudley, Ma. 01571

508-949-8023

24 hr. Non-Emergency – South Worcester County Regional Communications Center - 508-943-4411 Option “0”

Victim Bill of Rights

www.mass.gov/mova/pdfs/VicBillRig.pdf

Victim Compensation Applications

<http://www.mass.gov/Cago/docs/Victim/VComp2007.pdf> (ENGLISH)<http://www.mass.gov/Cago/docs/Victim/VComp2007spanish.pdf> (SPANISH)**Sexual Assault/DV Resources**

New Hope, Inc.

(508) 949-0452

6 River Court

Webster, MA 01570

Domestic Violence and Family

BWRI- in Central Massachusetts

24-hour Hotline: 978-537-8601

www.bwri.com

Daybreak- in Central Massachusetts

Support services for battered women and their children

(SAFELPLAN host location)

24-hour Hotline 508-755-9030

www.ywcaworcester.org

Pathways for Change

800-870-5905

Gay Men’s Domestic Violence Project

800-832-1901

www.gmdvp.org**Health/Medical**

Emergency Contraception Information

888-not-2-late (1-888-668-2528)

www.not-2-late.com

Aids Action Committee

HIV/AIDS & STD Hotline 800-235-2331 TTY: 617-437-1672

Hepatitis Hotline 888-443-4372 TTY: 617-437-1672

www.aac.org

Jane Doe Inc

The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

Phone: 617-248-0922

Fax: 617-248-0902

TTY/TTD: 617-263-2200

www.janedoe.org

National DV Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233) or 1-800-787-3224 TTY

www.ndvh.org

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

717-728-9740

www.nsvrc.org

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network

1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673)

www.rainn.org**Hispanic Community**

Centro Hispano Americano/ Spanish American Center (Massachusetts)

(978) 534-3145

www.spanishamericancenter.org

Centro Las Americas

(508) 798-1900

<http://centrolasamericas.org>**Shelters**

Safelink –Massachusetts Statewide Shelter Hotline

They will search the statewide database for any available bed and coordinate transportation for most shelters throughout Massachusetts.

877-785-2020 Voice or 877-521-2601 TTY

Victim Rights/Legal Support

Victim Rights Law Center

Providing sexual assault victims with free legal help

617-399-6720

www.victimrights.org