

# RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



Safety & Justice

# What are rape and indecent assault?

Rape and indecent assault are human rights violations.

01

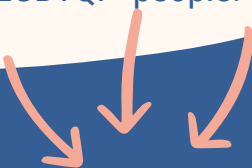
**Rape** means any act of sexual penetration without a person's consent, such as with the use of violence, coercion, threat, or by being opportunistic.

02

**Indecent assault** means any act of touching a person's genitals or other body parts without their consent, or coercing a person to perform such acts on someone else, for the purpose of sexual pleasure.

## Who is affected?

Rape and indecent assault can be committed against anyone, including women, men, girls, boys, and LGBTQI+ people.



## Who can be a perpetrator?

Rape and indecent assault can be committed by anyone. No one has the right to assault you, even if they are a family member, your husband, wife, boyfriend, or girlfriend.

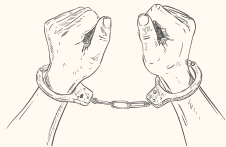
# What are the impacts?

Rape and indecent assault can cause immediate and long-term physical and emotional harm. They can impact children's development, mental health and studies.

They can also cause unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections that may require fast medical attention.

**No one deserves to be treated this way.**

# Is sexual assault illegal?



Yes, rape and indecent assault are illegal in Cambodia.

**Perpetrators can be imprisoned for:**

Offence	Prison Sentence	Criminal Code
Rape or attempted rape	<b>5-10 years</b>	Article 239
Indecent assault or attempted assault	<b>1-3 years</b>	Article 246

**Other charges and fines may also be applicable.** In some cases, aggravating circumstances may lead to longer prison sentences of up to 30 years.

# What are my rights?

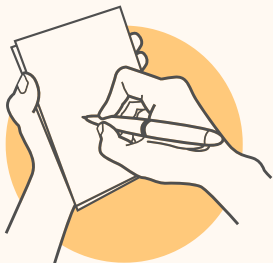


- Right to live **free from violence**
- Right to **file a complaint** to authorities
- Right to **request compensation** through the courts



- **Right to have a lawyer.**  
You can request a lawyer from an NGO, other legal aid service, or hire a private lawyer.
- **Right to request a private trial hearing**

# How can I seek justice?



You can file a complaint with:

**1**

**Police in the area where the crime happened**  
(No official payments are required)

**2**

**The provincial or Phnom Penh court,**  
directly with the prosecutor

**3**

A prosecutor at an **appeal court**, if the prosecutor at the lower court ended the case





**A forensic medical examination is often used as important evidence in court.**

If you have experienced sexual violence, it is useful to have this examination as soon as possible. Examinations are free and only available at a provincial or capital referral hospital.



**Other evidence can support your case.**

If it is safe, record details about the perpetrator's identity, when and where the abuse happened, who witnessed it, photos of injuries or property damage, medical reports or receipts, clothing, or chat messages.

# What should the police do?



## Police must:

### **Receive and act on your complaint.**

Sexual violence is a serious crime. After receiving a complaint, police may investigate or forward the information to the prosecutor.

**Refer you for a forensic medical examination** and should help connect you with services.

## **Police can be held accountable if they fail to act.**

If the police do not send the case to court when there is evidence of sexual violence, they may be punished under the law (Article 75, Code of Criminal Procedure).



**Sexual violence is never  
your fault.  
You should never be  
blamed for it.**



If authorities are not satisfactorily acting on your complaint, **you can request advice** from an NGO or other relevant authorities.

## Contact

The Cambodian League for the Promotion & Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO):  
**012 536 300 or 015 553 855**

For more information and resources, visit the **Safety & Justice** website  
[www.licadho-cambodia.org/safety-and-justice](http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/safety-and-justice)

