



Sexual violence

Sexual assaults also occur in 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.

Medical assistance

The University Hospital of Bern (Inselspital Bern) treats victims confidentially.

- The doctor does not tell anyone.
- Any violence is documented. The evidence is kept for 15 years.
- The documents can be given to the police later. It is important evidence.
- The doctor can network with victim support services (Opferhilfe).

Between the violence and the investigation

- Victims should not shower or wash – not even their hand
- If possible, victims should not go to the toilet.
- Victims should bring their clothes for examination (not washed).

Legal and psychological advice

The victim support advice centres (Opferhilfe-Beratungsstellen) can provide legal and psychological support. They know the answers to a lot of questions.

Report to the police

The police have experience with reports of sexual violence. Interviews are conducted by a person of the same sex. The complaint can be filed at the police station. A trusted person or a specialist from a victim support agency (Opferhilfe) can come with. Outside office hours, the police can be reached by calling 112. Women can also leave a message here. A female police officer will call back immediately.

- Cantonal police contact telephone for women: 031 332 77 77 (answering machine)

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

www.hallo-bern.ch/en/haeusliche-gewalt/sexualisierte-gewalt