

Who can Use VASAP? You may use the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program if you live in County or if your assault happened here. We provide counseling to victims of sexual assault regardless of age, sex, race, culture, sexual preference or disability. We also offer help to adults who were assaulted or abused as children. For children who have been abused by a family member or caretaker, please contact Protective Services at 240-777-4417.

Where are services provided? Outreach services are provided at local emergency rooms and police stations through the Montgomery County Crisis Center by VASAP volunteers. Crisis counseling is provided over the phone and on site by the counseling staff of the Crisis Center, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Crisis Center

1301 Piccard Drive, 1st Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-HELP (4357)

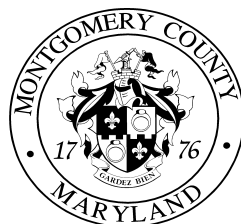
All other services are provided at the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program (VASAP) by appointment, Monday through Friday.

VASAP

1301 Piccard Drive, Suite 4100
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-1355

What are the fees for VASAP? Fees are based on your ability to pay. You will not be turned away if you cannot pay.

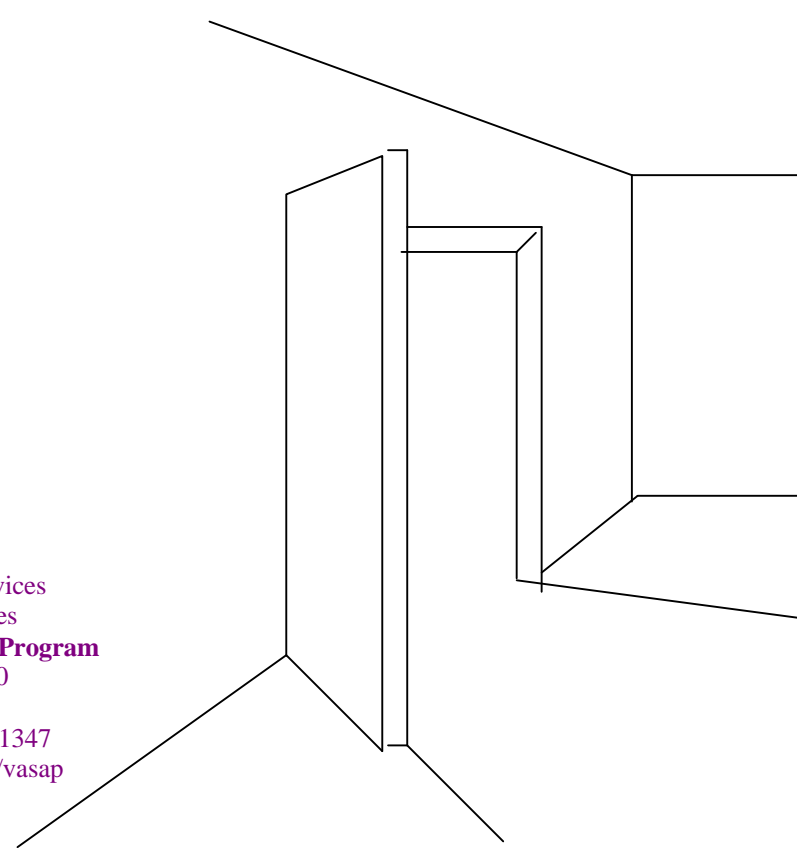
Who will know I have been to VASAP? Our services are strictly confidential. We will not speak to anyone about your involvement with us without your permission to do so.



Department of Health and Human Services
Behavioral Health and Crisis Services
Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program
1301 Piccard Drive, Suite 4100
Rockville, MD 20850
(240) 777-1355 TTY (240) 777-1347
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vasap

Department of Health and Human Services
Behavioral Health and Crisis Services
Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program

Sexual Assault: We're Here to Help



What is sexual assault?

Sexual assault is when someone forces you into sexual contact. Rape, or forced intercourse, is one kind of sexual assault. Sexual assault can happen to women or men, children or teenagers, young adults or the elderly. You can be assaulted by a stranger, an acquaintance, or even someone you thought was a friend. Sexual assault can happen to anyone.

How do people react after sexual assault?

Many people believe you should be crying and hysterical after the assault. However, you may feel quite calm, or just angry. Other common feelings include fear, helplessness and embarrassment. It is also common to believe that you did something to cause the assault. While these reactions are different, they are all normal.

It can take a long time to recover from an assault. Sometimes you think you are over it, and then weeks or months later, the feelings return. You may have nightmares or are not able to sleep. You may find you don't go out as much. You may find yourself fighting with family and friends. These are all signs that you may not be over the assault. Although you may not feel like discussing the assault with anyone, talking with a counselor can help.

What help is available?

The following services are available from the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program (VASAP).

OUTREACH: Twenty-four hour outreach to Montgomery County emergency rooms or police stations. We will support you through the medical exam and police investigation. We will talk with family and friends if needed. And, we will connect you with the resources you need.

CRISIS COUNSELING: Twenty-four hour telephone and walk-in crisis counseling. You and your family and friends may use this service.

ONGOING COUNSELING: We provide individual counseling to deal with immediate or delayed effects of sexual assault.

SUPPORT GROUPS: Small groups provide an understanding environment where you can talk about the assault's effects on yourself and others.

REFERRAL TO MEDICAL CARE: We will refer you to needed medical care, including pregnancy tests and venereal disease check-ups.

THIRD PARTY REPORTING: VASAP will report the assault to police if you do not wish to report it yourself. Your name will not be used.

COURT COMPANIONS: Should you have to go to court in Montgomery County, court companions will support you throughout the process.

