

What is Rape?

Rape is a crime of violence which is sexual in nature. Legally, rape is the insertion of the penis into your vagina against your will or without your consent. If you are under sixteen years old, sex with or without your consent is statutory rape.

Other crimes involving sexual violence

Forced anal sex, insertion of objects into your vagina, mouth or anus, may be more degrading or violent, but it is not legally rape. However, these acts may constitute the crimes of outrage of modesty, outrage on decency, carnal intercourse or attempted rape.

Rape is . . .

- **NOT** sex. It is violence. Rapists use force to assert control and power over you. Sex is used as a weapon to degrade you. Rape is an expression of violence, anger and power meant to hurt and humiliate you.
- **NOT** your fault. You do not provoke rape. You do not ask to be raped by wearing sexy clothing or acting sexy. No woman's behaviour gives a man the right to rape her.
- **NOT** committed by strangers only. Most women know their rapists. The rapist may be your neighbour, friend, boyfriend, even a family member or other relative.

- **NOT** something which happens to young women only. Toddlers, elderly women and women from all walks of life are raped.
- **NOT** something that only happens at night and in isolated places. Rape happens at any time of the day or night. Rape can also occur in "safe places" like homes, schools and workplaces. Rape can happen at any time, any place.

If you are raped . . .

Do not wash up or change clothes. Your first instinct may be to clean yourself. But it is very important that you get a medical examination before you wash yourself. Seminal and blood fluids, mud, debris, fibres, hairs, and clothes are all evidence.

Find a Friend. Ask a supportive person to go with you to the Hospital and the Police Station. It may be traumatic to recount details of the rape to the doctor and the police.

Go to the Hospital immediately for a medical examination.

The Hospital staff will notify the Police. A police report may be made at the Hospital. You may also choose to go to the police station to make your report. If you go to the police station first, a policewoman should accompany you to the Hospital.

At the Hospital

You will first be provided with forms requesting your approval for the medical examination, and that the information be used for police investigation. The doctor will examine you and your genital areas. Your clothes will also be examined.

The Police investigation

After the first police report, a police-woman (Investigating Officer) will be assigned to investigate your case. A detailed statement will be taken. You may be required to attend an identification parade to identify the alleged rapist.

After the Police investigation

The Government, through the Deputy Public Prosecutor (DPP), is responsible for prosecuting your case. Based on the evidence of your case, the DPP will decide whether to press charges, or not. If there is insufficient evidence, the DPP may not press charges.

The Court Process

You are the complainant who will be required to give evidence in Court as a witness. You do not require a lawyer, but engaging your own lawyer may provide additional support before, and during the trial (by holding a watching brief). When you give evidence about the details of the rape, the Court may order the public to leave the courtroom. This is referred to as hearing *in camera*.

Punishment for Rape

Section 376 of the Penal Code states that whoever commits rape shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than five years and not more than twenty years, and shall also be liable to whipping.

Note: The Malaysian law does not recognise rape within a marriage.



BECOMING WHOLE

If you have been raped, you may feel angry, hurt, fear, anxiety, nervous, guilt or shame. You may also appear calm and composed or may withdraw yourself for days. These reactions are normal.

Remember, rape is a crime committed against you. It is not your fault. You may find it helpful to discuss your feelings with someone you trust. Or you can call the Women's Crisis Centre (WCC) for help.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Women's Crisis Centre	04-228 0342
Biro Bantuan Guaman	04-262 3563
Legal Advisory Centre	04-261 7451
General Hospital	04-229 3333
Welfare Department	04-650 5258

POLICE DEPARTMENTS

• Penang (Headquarters)	04-222 1522
• Jelutong	04-282 5922
• Bayan Lepas	04-643 0311
• Pulau Tikus	04-228 0422
• Sungai Nibong	04-643 0222
• Air Itam	04-826 8522
• Butterworth	04-332 2222
• Bukit Mertajam	04-538 2222

WELFARE OFFICES

Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat

Daerah Timur Laut
Kompleks Masyarakat Penyayang
Jalan Utama, 10400 Pulau Pinang
Tel: 04-226 4531 / 227 7413

Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat

Daerah Barat Daya
No: 4-2-1, Kompleks Balik Pulau
Jalan Quah Sin Kheng, 11000 Balik Pulau Pulau
Pinang • Tel: 04-866 8442

Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat

Daerah Seberang Perai Utara
12000 Butterworth • Tel: 04-331 3455

Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat

Daerah Seberang Perai Tengah
99 Jalan Bunga Raya, 14000 Bukit Mertajam
Tel: 04-538 2584

Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat

Daerah Seberang Perai Selatan, Kompleks Pejabat-
Pejabat Kerajaan, 14200 Sungai Jawi, S.P.S.
Tel: 04-582 1798

WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE PENANG

*WCC provides
the following service:*

**Counselling and
emotional support**

**Accompanying you to
the hospital and/or
the police station**

Legal advice

Temporary shelter to stay

*WCC services
are free and
strictly confidential*



For more information, contact

**Pusat Krisis Wanita
(Women's Crisis Centre)**
24-D Jalan Jones
10250 Pulau Pinang, Malaysia
Tel: 04-2280342
Tel / Fax: 04-2285784
E-mail: wccpen@po.jaring.my



**WOMEN'S CRISIS
CENTRE PENANG**

*The Women's Crisis Centre
("WCC") publishes a series
of pamphlets to equip you
with more knowledge of
your rights.*



RAPE

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT

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