



# VICTIM / SUSPECT

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## TIPS AND RED FLAGS TO WATCH FOR WHEN REPORTING SEXUAL ASSAULT

*Victim/Suspect reveals a shocking pattern nationwide: Young women tell the police they've been sexually assaulted, but instead of finding justice, they're charged with the crime of making a false report, arrested, and even imprisoned by the system they believed would protect them. Police can lie about what evidence they have — or even that evidence exists — in order to pressure you into giving a confession. Remember: Anything you say can be used against you.*

- 1** Police can lie about what evidence they have — or even that evidence exists — while interviewing you. Remember: Anything you say can be used against you.
- 2** Consider having another person with you when interacting with the police — either a lawyer, a victim's advocate or both.
- 3** "I don't remember" or "I don't know" is a legitimate answer to any question asked by law enforcement. You can ask for a break or end the interview at any time.
- 4** Watch for signs that you are being treated as a suspect rather than a victim:
  - The investigator asks to download a copy of your cell phone.
  - The investigator presents a hypothetical to you "What if I told you I had X evidence?" "What do you think the suspect would tell me about what had occurred."
  - You are being asked the same questions repeatedly.
- 5** You are not obligated to agree to participate in the investigation or prosecution process during the interview.

**Note:** None of the above is legal advice, and you should seek your own counsel, if you think you are becoming a suspect.

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Want to learn more? Visit [victimsuspect.com](https://victimsuspect.com) for more information about the documentary Victim/Suspect and its accompanying resources.