

## WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE IS RAPED?

- Advise the victim to seek the help of a counselor or a therapist who is an expert in handling cases of sexual abuse.
- Assist her in securing a safe and temporary shelter if she needs to move to another place for security reasons. She can be referred to a crisis center or any government agency that offers temporary shelter.
- Make sure that the evidence is safe and intact. This would help should the victim decides to file a case.
- Secure a Medico-legal certificate from a Medico-legal officer. Absence of bodily injuries does not mean that rape did not occur or that the case may not be pursued anymore.
- Support the victim along the way when she decides to file a case.
- Ensure that she is prepared in all aspects. Make her understand the overall picture of the case. Inform her that it is possible that doctors, police, lawyers and judges would not be sensitive to her situation and experience.
- Help the victim choose the lawyer who understand her most.
- Coordinate with people who can assist or support her all throughout.

## WHERE TO GET HELP?

### Counseling and Referral Services

- **Municipal Social Welfare and Development (MSWD)**  
A. Mojica St. Poblacion III, Indang, Cavite  
Tel. Nos.: 443 9074, 0917-526-9320/0923-606-0216
- **Medical and Health: Hospital-based Women's Desk Program**  
**Women's Crisis Center**  
Women and Children Crisis Care & Protection Unit (WCCCPU-EAMC)  
East Avenue Medical Center  
Tel. Nos.: (02) 926-7744, 922-5235

### Legal Assistance

- **DOJ – Public Attorney's Office**  
Tel. Nos.: (02) 929-9010, 929-9436 to 37

### Law Enforcement Agencies

- **Philippine National Police-Indang**  
Poblacion 1, San Gregorio St, Indang, Cavite  
Tel. Nos. (046) 415-0049  
Women and Children's Concern Division (WCCD)  
Tel. Nos.: (02) 723-0401 loc. 3480, (02) 410-3213  
Mobile No.: (0919) 777-7377 (Aleng Pulis)
- **National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)**  
Violence Against Women and Children's Desk (VAWCD)  
Tel. Nos.: (02) 523-8231 loc. 3403, 525-6098

### Gender and Development Resource Center Cavite State University (CvSU)

Don Severino de las Alas Campus Indang, Cavite  
Tel. (046) 415-0010 or 443-2546

### Sources:

- *The Anti-Rape Law of 1997 Republic Act 8353, Leaflet, PCW*
- *Ang Batas Laban sa Panggagahasa, Isang Praymer, Women's Legal Bureau in cooperation with NCRFW and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 1998*
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*İnsan hüquqları ayılığı keçiriləcək*, <http://www.aztv.az/readnews.phplang=az&id=14325>



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**Cavite State University**  
**Gender and Development Resource Center**

# REPUBLIC ACT 8353

The Anti-Rape Law of 1997



## WHAT IS ANTI-RAPE LAW OF 1997?

Republic Act 8353: An Act Expanding the Definition of the Crime of Rape and Reclassifying the Same as Crime Against Persons.

The Anti-Rape Law of 1997 redefines rape as:

### 1. A CRIME AGAINST PERSONS

*Rape violates a person's well being and not just ones virginity or purity.*

The law considers that any person, whether a prostituted person, non-virgin or one who has an active sexual life may be victimized by rape.

### 2. A PUBLIC OFFENSE

*By declaring that rape is a crime against persons, the law no longer considers it as a private crime.*

Anyone who has knowledge of the crime may file a case on the victim's behalf.

The prosecution continues even if the victim drops the case or pardons the offender.



## WHAT CONSTITUTES RAPE?

*Rape is committed:*

By a man who shall have sexual intercourse with a woman under any of the following circumstances:

- Through force, threat, or intimidation;
- When the victim is deprived of reason or is unconscious;
- Through fraudulent machination or grave abuse of authority; and
- When the victim is under twelve (12) years of age or is demented, even if none of the above circumstances are present.

By any person who, under any of the above circumstances, commits an act of sexual assault by inserting his penis into another person's mouth or anal orifice, or any instrument or object, into the genital or oral orifice of another person.

## WHO CAN BE RAPED?

Anyone can be a rape victim, but the incidence of rape is more rampant in women and girls.

## WHO CAN COMMIT RAPE?

Any man or woman may be held liable for rape.

It is possible that a man may rape his own wife, an act deemed as "marital rape". The penalty for rape in general may apply on the offender who commits marital rape.

## HOW IS THE CRIME PUNISHED?

*The penalty varies depending on the act itself and the circumstances surrounding it.*

### Reclusion Perpetua

*Imprisonment from 20 to 40 years* is imposed on the offender if rape is committed through sexual intercourse.



### Prison Mayor

*Imprisonment from 6 to 12 years* is imposed on the offender if rape was committed through oral or anal sex or through the use of any object or instrument that was inserted into the mouth or anal orifice of the woman or a man.

This may also be elevated to **Reclusion Temporal** *Imprisonment from 12 to 20 years* or **Reclusion Perpetua** depending on the circumstances surrounding the crime.