



Combating Sexual Misconduct

The Civil Rights Division is committed to protecting people from sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, and gender-based violence. The Division enforces criminal and civil federal civil rights laws that vindicate the rights of survivors and hold perpetrators accountable.

By the numbers:

Data from April 2022 through April 2023

- **Over \$3.75 million** awarded to victims & survivors
- **\$65,000** paid in civil penalties
- **9** civil complaints filed
- **16** civil cases in active litigation
- **Over 15** criminal indictments
- **21** criminal convictions
- **4** amicus briefs and statements of interest
- **Over 6,000** people trained through **79** training programs

Federal Civil Rights Protections



HOUSING: You are protected from sexual misconduct in the rental, sale, or financing of housing ([Fair Housing Act](#) and the [Equal Credit Opportunity Act](#)).



EDUCATION: You are protected from sexual misconduct in education programs and activities ([Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972](#); [Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#)).







EMPLOYMENT: You are protected from sexual misconduct in the workplace and application process, and at offsite functions or on official business ([Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) and [18 U.S.C. § 1589](#)).



CRIMINAL: You are protected from sexual misconduct in day-to-day activities, as well as during arrests and in correctional facilities ([human trafficking statutes](#); [Matthew Shepard Act](#); [18 U.S.C. § 242](#); [Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act](#); [Violent Crime Control & Law Enforcement Act of 1994](#); and the [Safe Streets Act of 1968](#)).



Recent Sexual Misconduct Cases

-  The Justice Department investigated a county agency whose former director had subjected at least 10 female employees and community service workers he supervised to sexual harassment and sexual assault, including rape. The Justice Department **settled** a civil suit with the county, alleging civil rights violations. The county agreed to pay \$1.1 million to the victims and to implement further reforms to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. The Justice Department also **indicted** the former director, who was **convicted** and **sentenced** to 17 years in prison.
-  The Justice Department investigated a university where an athletic trainer subjected female student-athletes to repeated, unwelcome sexual touching during treatment in campus training facilities. The university failed to respond adequately to reports about sexual harassment by the trainer, and retaliated against employees who reported the allegations. The Justice Department entered into an **agreement** with the university that required the university to improve its processes for responding to sexual harassment complaints and to pay \$1.6 million total to certain student-athlete survivors. The Justice Department also **charged** the athletic trainer with engaging in sexual misconduct with student-athletes in violation of civil rights.
-  The Justice Department investigated a landlord who owned hundreds of rental units and sexually harassed multiple tenants and housing applicants for more than 15 years. The Justice Department **settled** the lawsuit, requiring the landlord to pay \$4.5 million to victims and in civil fines. The landlord can no longer own or manage rental properties in the future. The local prosecutor has also **charged** the landlord for sexual crimes against his tenants.
-  The Justice Department **investigated** a police department's handling of sexual assault cases based on concerns of gender bias. The Justice Department **settled** the matter through a consent decree that requires the police department to implement full, trauma-informed, and victim-centered investigations into reports of sexual misconduct by officers. The Justice Department is enforcing that decree to ensure compliance.

Where should victims of sexual misconduct report?

- If you or someone else is in immediate danger, first call 911 or local police.
- To preserve certain rights, you may have to first file a formal complaint with another federal or state agency within certain time limits (e.g., employment claims must be filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or a similar state agency).

To report sexual misconduct to the Civil Rights Division, visit civilrights.justice.gov.