

## Legal Options

Caller can choose any, all or none of the options below.

- 1. She doesn't have to press charges.**
- 2. She can call the police or 911**
  - a. Regardless of whether the assault is recent or years old, she can call the police station to file a report.
  - b. Detectives from the Sexual Assault Unit can meet with her at the police station, at her home or the KW SASC office (appointment needs to be arranged with the Volunteer Coordinator) KWSASC also provides court accompaniments, and preparation.
- 3. She can file a VICLAS report**
  - a. The VICLAS report is an anonymous third-party reporting system.
  - b. No investigation will be conducted.
  - c. This report puts information into an international database that enables police to share information.
  - d. VICLAS reports must be done at the police station or can be done with the assistance of staff from the SATC (Appointment must be arranged.)
- 4. She can file a civil suit.**
  - a. For financial reimbursement only, she may claim for pain and suffering, financial and or emotional compensation, as a result of injury caused.
    - i. Whether or not she has gone ahead with criminal charges, she can file a civil suit to recover money lost due to the assault and be compensated for pain and suffering.
    - ii. She needs to contact a lawyer to discuss the circumstances of such a suit.
- 5. She can contact the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.**
  - a. Criminal Injuries Board exists to compensate victims of violent crimes, their caretakers, or the dependants for losses incurred as a result of the crime.
  - b. They must apply within one year of the crime, though extensions can be granted in some circumstances.
  - c. Compensation may be awarded whether or not charges are laid or there is a guilty finding.
  - d. A counselor at the center can help her file her claim, (appointment must be arranged).

She can also file through the *Victim's Witness Assistance Program* (VWAP). **Waterloo Region: 1-519-741-3351**