

Help for American Victims of Crime in South Korea

U.S. Department of State



U.S. Embassy Seoul, Korea

Tel: 02-397-4114, Fax: 02-397-4101

Email: seoulinfoacs@state.gov

Website: <https://kr.usembassy.gov/>

This handbook is intended to help victims of crime in South Korea. It includes information about how a victim can report a crime, what victims can expect as their case goes through the court system, and what resources are available.

9 / 1 4 / 2 0 2 2

Table of Contents

✚ Reporting Crimes

✚ Investigations

✚ Arrests

✚ Judicial Proceedings

➤ Pretrial Period

➤ Trial

➤ Sentencing

➤ Appeals

✚ Victim Compensation

✚ Special Information for Cases of Sexual Assault and Rape

✚ Special Information for Incidents of Domestic Violence

✚ Special Information for Cases of Child Abuse

✚ Special Information for Cases of Homicide

Being the victim of a crime in a foreign country can be a traumatic experience. While no one can undo the emotional trauma, physical injury, or financial loss, the U.S. Embassy in Seoul is ready to help. Our office can help victims find appropriate medical care, contact family or friends, and better understand the criminal justice system in South Korea, which is very different from the system in the United States.

Questions involving interpretation of South Korean laws should be addressed to legal counsel licensed to practice in South Korea. Our website has [a list of attorneys](#) who speak English and have expressed interest in working with U.S. citizens. **"DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Department of State assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the organizations whose names appear below. This referral does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation of the U.S. Department of State."**

ENROLL IN STEP!

U.S. Embassy Seoul encourages all U.S. citizens living or traveling in South Korea to enroll in the [State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive travel and security alerts. It also makes it easier for the Embassy to contact you in case of emergency.

Investigation and prosecution of crimes is solely the responsibility of local authorities. However, in certain cases such as kidnapping, hostage-taking or terrorism, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) may assist local authorities at their request.

REPORTING CRIMES

1) *Where can I file a police report or register a complaint? Must I report the crime in the jurisdiction where it happened?*

For the quickest action, contact the nearest police station. Police can provide English-language interpretation. Alternatively, report incidents to the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA) at 112 or to the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency (SMPA) Headquarters at 182. There may be investigative delays if the report must be routed to the police station in the area where the incident occurred.

Report crimes by dialing 112 to reach a KNPA hotline operated 24 hours/7 days a week. English-speaking police officers are available. Sexual assault victims can call the **Danuri Helpline** (tel: 1577-1366 or Kakao ID: women1366) and ask to be taken to the nearest Sunflower center (해바라기센터 or victim assistance center, pronounced "Hae-bara-ghee").

2) *What if I don't speak Korean?*

English-speaking "tourist police" operate in some areas of Seoul with many foreigners, such as Itaewon and Hongdae. The officers are unarmed and will summon regular police if there is an emergency or a serious crime. In other areas, upon request, the police will provide an interpreter by telephone or in person. Alternatively, contact these translation services to assist with the police by calling one of the following organizations:

- Danuri Women's Helpline (1577-1366);
- Dasan Call Center - Seoul metropolitan government call center for foreigners (120); or
- Before Babel Brigade (BBB) Korea (1588-5644, press 1 for English).

3) *Can someone else file a police report on my behalf?*

Yes, but that person needs to be designated with a power of attorney. If you return to the United States, you should contact the police after designating someone to file the report, then coordinate with U.S. Embassy Seoul to be sure the report is completed. The Embassy is not able to act directly on your behalf.

4) *Must I file a police report within a certain amount of time?*

A formal police report or complaint must be filed within one year from the day the incident occurred. However, you should report the incident as soon as it happens. The prosecution of certain crimes can be affected by statutes of limitations. Please contact an attorney for more specific information.

DNA evidence from a crime like sexual assault can be collected from the crime scene and also from your body, clothes, and other personal belongings. You may choose to have a sexual assault forensic exam, sometimes known as a “rape kit,” to preserve possible DNA evidence and receive important medical care. You do not have to report the crime to have an exam, but the process gives you the chance to safely store evidence should you later decide to report.

5) *Will I be given a copy of the police report?*

Yes, victims should request a copy of the report. A police report may be needed for crime victim compensation, if it is available, or insurance reimbursement. While we cannot act as a legal representative, our office can help track the progress of a case and provide updates. Victims can send the police report to U.S. Embassy/ACS at 188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Korea 03141, by email to Seoulinfoacs@state.gov, or by fax: 02-397-4101.

6) *Do I need a lawyer?*

A local attorney may be able to provide legal guidance. Local legal procedures differ from those in the United States. Although the public prosecutor is responsible for prosecuting cases, an attorney can promote an individual’s interests with the police and the court. While our office cannot recommend specific attorneys, we can provide a list of attorneys who have expressed interest in representing U.S. citizens. This list is available on the Internet at <https://kr.usembassy.gov/services-attorneys/>.

Courts are willing to appoint public defenders at no charge to minors, people over the age of 70, people with mental or physical disabilities, people who are unable to pay and suspects facing a minimum sentence of three years in prison. A public defender can also be appointed in other cases as needed. In addition, the court can also appoint a victim’s advocate public defender to help a victim of sexual assault.

INVESTIGATIONS

1) *Who is responsible for investigating crimes?*

The police and prosecutors have primary responsibility. The police will usually conduct a preliminary investigation and then refer the case to prosecutors, who may choose to reinvestigate for the criminal case.

2) *Will police collect forensic evidence (fingerprints, photographs, etc.)?*

Yes. Police regularly collect such evidence as part of their case investigations. Korean standards for the collection of forensic evidence, such as the use of fingerprints and DNA, are similar to those of the United States. The police may ask a victim to submit physical evidence (DNA samples, personal items, photos, etc.).

3) *How will I get information about the investigation?*

Police and prosecutors are required to give updates on the progress of a case to victims of the crime. However, that does not always happen. The Embassy can ask the police about the status of an investigation on your behalf, but usually victims learn more when they contact the proper officials directly to get information.

4) How should I report threats, harassment or intimidation by the accused and their associates?

Report these incidents to the nearest police station. Police officers investigate such incidents. Korean law allows a suspect to contact a victim to ask for forgiveness or to work out a compensation arrangement. Such contact is fairly common as non-adversarial methods, such as conciliation, are often preferred resolutions.

5) How long will the case remain open if there is no arrest?

Typically, most investigations last less than a year. Police have the authority to close a case if there is no evidence and may reopen it later if necessary. Please consult an attorney for more specific information.

ARRESTS

1) If someone is arrested, will he or she be detained until the trial?

A warrant is generally required before an arrest. No arrest warrant is required, however, for an individual caught in the act of committing a crime. In addition, no warrant is required when an individual is suspected of committing a serious crime if there is a risk that evidence may be destroyed, or that the suspect may flee.

Authorities can hold arrested suspects for up to 48 hours without a warrant of detention, which must be issued by a judge. Once a warrant is issued, police and/or prosecutors can hold the suspect for a maximum of 30 days, although usually no more than 20 days, while prosecutors determine whether to seek an indictment. Arrested suspects also may be released while they await trial. When a release is granted, the court usually orders defendants to remain within the boundaries of their immediate neighborhood or home.

The ROK government may prohibit U.S. citizens from leaving South Korea by imposing an exit ban if legal action is still pending. Exit bans are not placed on victims.

2) Will I be notified of an arrest?

If the victim asks to be notified, Korean law requires authorities to carry out notification. Prosecutors may call or even send a text (sometimes in Korean) to the victim. However, in some cases, such notification does not occur. The victim should feel free to contact the police or the courts to get such information.

3) Will I have to identify the perpetrator in person or in a police lineup?

The police may ask you to identify the detainee from a lineup from behind a one-way glass panel or by a selection of photographs, including CCTV images (sometimes via text-messaging). You may refuse to participate in this identification process.

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

PRETRIAL PERIOD

1) Who decides if charges will be filed?

The public prosecutor decides whether charges are filed, usually based upon a police recommendation.

2) Who is responsible for the prosecution?

Trial prosecutors are responsible for prosecutions. They are assigned to branch and district offices located throughout Korea. The High Prosecutor's Offices, located in Seoul, Daejeon, Daegu, Busan, and Gwangju, handle appellate cases. The Supreme Prosecutor's Office, located in Seoul, is responsible for directing and supervising all investigations and operations of Korea's prosecutors' offices.

3) What courts have jurisdiction in criminal cases?

Criminal trials are handled at the District Court level. The High Court handles appeals from the District Court, and the Supreme Court is the court of final appeal.

4) Is there an equivalent to plea bargaining?

There is no provision for plea bargaining. However, under a system called *ha-bee* (합의), the suspect and the victim may agree outside of court on a monetary settlement. The prosecutors may even recommend *ha-bee* to settle a case and can act as mediators for this process. This allows a victim to be compensated directly and without the need for an attorney. However, *ha-bee* is only allowed for less-serious crimes such as threats or verbal abuse in which no physical harm occurred. Such settlements are not allowed in sexual assault cases and other serious offenses.

5) Are there organizations that represent victim's interests?

Please see the section on Victim's Compensation for a comprehensive overview of both Korean and U.S. organizations that can assist you.

TRIAL

1) How long do trials normally last?

Courts are required to begin a trial within six months after a referral from the public prosecutor's office. There is no limit on the length of the trials if the suspect is not detained. All decisions are up to the judge. If the suspect is detained, the trial generally must be completed within 18 months of the initial indictment.

2) Will I have to return to Korea to testify?

The court may require you to return to testify or offer you the option to provide a written statement or testimony at the South Korean embassy in the United States.

3) What can I expect during the trial?

Trials are open to the public unless the presiding judge decides otherwise, often to protect the identity of a victim of sexual assault. A consular officer may attend, if necessary. However, that would happen only in very unusual circumstances.

In certain cases, the defendant has the option to request a jury trial. However, the jury's decision is advisory only, and is not binding on the judge. In serious cases, a jury may reach a verdict for certain felonies, such as murder and rape, but only with the consultation and consent of the judge. A jury is not available for appellate trials

Translation will be provided for witnesses who do not speak Korean.

SENTENCING

1) What can I expect at sentencing?

Victims have some input at sentencing; judges may consider victims' statements in determining the sentence.

In the closing statement at the trial, the prosecutor recommends a punishment. The court then renders its judgment at trial, or in a separate sentencing phase. When separate, sentencing usually takes place within two to six months of the end of the trial. The defendant is detained at the detention center or prison until sentencing and begins serving his or her sentence as soon as the sentence is handed down.

2) Will I be notified when the prisoner is transferred or released?

Police and prosecutors are legally required to notify victims of the offender's release; however, this does not always occur. We encourage you to contact prison officials or the prosecutor handling the case to get more information.

3) When will the prisoner qualify for parole?

A prisoner in Korea will generally qualify for parole after serving one-third of the sentence, but this varies widely. The Ministry of Justice makes the final determination regarding parole.

APPEALS

1) Can the accused appeal?

Yes, both the prosecutor and the defendant can appeal the judgment rendered by the trial court.

2) How long does the appeal process take?

There may be multiple appeals, but the appeal process is generally completed within 18 months, depending on the nature of the case.

3) Are victims expected to testify during appeals as well?

Only if requested by the court.

VICTIM COMPENSATION

There are a number of resources in both Korea and the United States to help victims of crime with services ranging from counseling and medical care to legal assistance and shelter.

Resources in Korea:

- **Danuri Women's Helpline** (tel: 1577-1366, Kakao ID: women1366, wm1366@hanmail.net). Danuri provides help for foreigners who are victims of crime in Korea, including counseling, medical support and translation, legal assistance, and shelter referrals. English speakers are not always available.
- **Korea Crime Victims Center (KCVC)** (tel: 1577-1295, <http://kvcv.or.kr>). KCVC provides a variety of services for crime victims including counseling services, financial support for medical transport and medical bills, collecting and holding a victim's personal belongings, financial support for living expenses and tuition fees.

- **Korean Crime Victims Support Association** (KCVA: tel. 02-586-1295). Provides financial, counseling, housing, and legal services for victims.
- **Korea Legal Aid Corporation** (tel: 132 with no area code, <https://www.klac.or.kr/>) and **Korean Bar Association** (tel: 02-3476-6515, aid@legalaid.or.kr, <http://www.legalaid.or.kr/>). These organizations offer free legal services and counseling for victims of sexual and domestic violence.
- **Korean Prosecutors' Office**. (tel:1577-2584, www.kics.go.kr). The Prosecutors' Office provides various programs including economic support, personal protection, and pro-bono translation/interpretation services. The range of support depends on various factors including current visa status and the severity of the crime. These victim assistance programs are provided by the Korean Prosecutors' Office, and the U.S. Embassy does not play a role in determining their scope or applicability.
- **Seoul Counseling Center for Migrant Women** (이주여성상담센터, tel: 02-733-0120, smf0120@daum.net, <https://smf0120.modoo.at/>, address: 7F, Dongdaemun Global Center Building, 146, Mareunnae-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul). This center is a one-stop service provider offering a crisis hotline, English-speaking counselors, medical and legal assistance, and shelter for women in crisis and for non-migrant foreign women who are victims of sexual or domestic violence. To contact centers available in other regions, please contact the following:
 - **Daegu Counseling Center for Migrant Women (tel: 053-944-2977)**
 - **Chung Buk Counseling Center for Migrant Women (tel: 043-223-5253)**
 - **Jeon Nam Counseling Center for Migrant Women (tel: 061-282-1562)**

Resources in the United States (also available to persons overseas):

- **National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards** (<http://www.nacvcb.org/>). This association's website has the links to every state crime victim compensation program. If a crime victim is deemed eligible, state compensation programs can help victims of crime by paying for the costs of medical care, mental health counseling, and lost time at work, as well as expenses that families face in the aftermath of a victimization.
- **U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime** (<https://ovc.ojp.gov/>). Contact information for non-emergency services in communities throughout United States.
- **National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA, tel: 1-800-TRY-NOVA, <http://www.try-nova.org>)**. Toll-free 24/7 hotline and online chat available.

3) What financial compensation is available to victims?

South Korea has a program to provide financial compensation for victims of violent crime who have suffered serious injuries as well as the dependents of deceased victims, including U.S. citizens. Application forms can be obtained from police stations or prosecutor offices. Disability relief funds for victims typically range from 3,000,000 to 6,000,000 won. Family relief funds for deceased victims are typically 10,000,000 won. For more information, please contact the Court of Korea (tel: +82-2-530-1114, fax: +82-2-530-2609, www.scourt.go.kr).

SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR CASES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND RAPE

Physical evidence is important in sexual assault cases and deteriorates quickly. Therefore, victims should not change clothes, avoid bathing if possible, and have a physical exam at the first opportunity. Victims should take these steps even if they are unsure about whether to report the crime. If the victim later decides to pursue a prosecution, these steps preserve evidence. A consular officer or after-hours duty officer from the U.S. Embassy may be able to help victims of sexual assault to set up the medical exam.

1) How is sexual assault and rape defined in Korea?

The Korean National Police Agency defines sexual assault as any kind of physical, verbal, or psychological violence that forces sexual relations against a victim’s will. This includes rape, attempted criminal assault, sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, child assault, and spousal assault. The definition of rape generally includes penetration of some type. The current definition of sexual assault places a higher evidentiary burden than is common in the United States because it requires strong evidence of violence or coercion.

Prosecutors can pursue a prosecution in sexual assault cases regardless of the victim’s decision to file charges. Males are now also considered potential victims of sex crimes. Intoxication is no longer grounds for reducing sentences against the perpetrators of crimes involving sexual assault and rape. Spousal and acquaintance rape are crimes, but police and prosecutors have only rarely prosecuted these types of cases.

2) Where should victims go for a sexual assault exam and what does it entail?

Forensic sexual examinations are not mandatory in Korea for every sexual assault case. However, the victim should always seek the assistance of medical professionals as soon as possible after the attack both for health reasons and to obtain as much evidence as possible for possible prosecution. When a prosecutor is deciding whether to file charges, physical evidence can strengthen the case, so a medical exam can make a significant difference in the successful prosecution of the perpetrator. The police may request a forensic examination. The examination usually involves tests for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), HIV/AIDS, and examinations of the uterus and vagina and is free of charge after the victim reports the case to police. Friends may accompany victims.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family runs 37 relief centers for victims of sexual and domestic violence located inside hospitals (website: <http://www.smonestop.or.kr/>). Support includes medical services, counseling, recording of statements, collection of evidence as necessary for investigations, legal assistance, and referrals to non-governmental organizations. These hospitals are available around-the-clock, not only for victims of sexual assault, but also for cases involving domestic violence and sex trade. While most centers provide emergency medical and forensic services for victims, some centers provide comprehensive services for victims, including free counseling, and medical, legal, psychotherapy and investigation services.

As of 2022, there are currently 39 Sunflower Centers (“Hae-Ba-Ra-Gi” Centers) in Korea.

SEOUL	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Seoul Sunflower Center 서울 해바라기센터	Tel: 02-3672-0365, 02-3672-1117 Address: Hamchoon Hwe-gwan B101, 101 Jongno-gu Daehak *Haehwa subway station (Line 4, Exit No. 3) Website: www.help0365.or.kr/ Remarks: English counseling available only on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please call in advance.	Seoul National University Hospital 서울대학교병원

Seoul Dongbu Sunflower Center 서울동부 해바라기센터	Tel: 02-3400-1700, 02-3400-1117 Address: 1F, 123 Songyee-ro, Songpa-gu *Police hospital subway station (Line 3, Exit No. 1) Website: http://www.smonestop.or.kr/	Police Hospital 경찰병원
Seoul Nambu Sunflower Center 서울남부 해바라기센터	Tel: 02-870-1700 Address: 2nd floor, Heemangkwan, Boramae-ro 5 Gil 20, Dongjak-gu Website: http://www.smonestop.or.kr/	SNUH Boramae Hospital 보라매병원
Seoul Children's Sunflower Center 서울 해바라기 아동센터	Tel: 02-3274-1375 Address: 7th floor, Goo Plaza, Baekbeom-ro 23 Mapo-gu Website: http://www.child1375.or.kr/	Yonsei Univ. hospital 연세의료원
GYEONGGI PROVINCE	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Gyeonggi Bukdongbu Sunflower Center 경기 북동부 해바라기센터	Tel: 031-874-3117 Address: 3rd floor, Main building, 142 Heungsun-ro, Uijeongbu city Website: http://www.ggnonestop.or.kr/	Uijeongbu Medical Center 경기도의료원 의정부병원
Gyeonggi Seobu Sunflower Center 경기 서부 해바라기센터	Tel: 031-364-8117 Address: 2nd floor, Byulkwan 2, Hando hospital, 186Seonbu Gwangjang 1-ro, Danwon-gu, Ansan Website: http://www.ggwsunflower.or.kr/	Hando Hospital 한도병원
Gyeonggi Nambu Sunflower Center 경기 남부 해바라기센터	Tel: 031-217-9117 Address: 3rd floor, Do Byeongwon Pharmacy, 179 Bun-gil 7, Worldcup-ro Youngtong-gu, Suwon Website: http://www.ggsunflower.or.kr/	Ajou University Hospital 아주대병원
Gyeonggi Seobu Sunflower Center 경기 서부 해바라기센터	One Stop Center Tel: 031-215- 1117, 031-216-1117 Address: Ajou University Hospital, 164 Worldcup-ro, Youngtong-gu, Suwon	Hando Hospital 한도병원
Gyeonggi Bukseobu Sunflower Center 경기 북서부 해바라기센터	Tel : 031-816-1375 / Emergencies: 031-816-1374 Address: 5th floor, Woori Plaza, 65-1 Hwa-jeong-ro, Deokyang-gu, Goyang city	Myeongji Hospital 명지병원

	Website: http://www.gnwsunflower.or.kr/	
Gyeonggi Children's Sunflower Center 경기 아동 해바라기센터	Tel:031-708-1375 Address: 5th floor Hanhwa bldg, 471 Pangyo-ro, Bundang-gu, Seongnam-si Website: http://www.sunflower1375.or.kr/	Bundang Cha Hospital 분당차병원
BUSAN	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Busan Sunflower Center 부산 해바라기센터	Tel: 051-244-1375 Address: 3rd floor, S Dong (Yoonghap-euihak Yeongu dong), Busan University Hospital, 179 Goodeok-ro, Seogu, Busan Website: http://www.busansunflowercenter.or.kr/	Busan University Hospital 부산대학교병원
Busan Dongbu Sunflower Center 부산 동부 해바라기센터	Tel: 051-501-9117 Address: B1, Busan Medical Center, 359 Worldcupdae-ro, Yeonjae-gu, Busan Website: http://www.bsonestop.or.kr/	Busan Medical Center 부산의료원
INCHEON	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Incheon Dongbu Sunflower Center 인천 동부 해바라기센터	Tel: 032-582-1170 Address: Incheon Medical Center, 217 Bangchook-ro, Dong-gu, Incheon Website: http://www.iconestop.or.kr/	Incheon Medical Center 인천의료원
Incheon Bukbu Sunflower Center 인천 북부 해바라기센터	Tel: 032-280-5678 Address: 56 Dongsoo-ro, Bupyeong-gu, Incheon St. Mary's hospital, Incheon Website: http://www.icnonestop.or.kr/	Incheon St. Mary's Hospital 인천성모병원
Incheon Children's Sunflower Center 인천 아동 해바라기센터	Tel: 032-423-1375 Address: 2nd floor, Hansung Building, 769 Namdongdae-ro, Namdong-gu, Incheon Website: http://www.sunflowericn.or.kr/	Gacheon Univ. Gil Hospital 가천대길병원
DAEJEON	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Daejeon Sunflower Center 대전 해바라기센터	Tel: 042-280-8436	Choongnam Hospital 충남대병원

	Address: Choongnam University Hospital, 282 Munhwa-ro, Joong-gu, Daejeon Website: http://www.djsunflower.or.kr/	
ULSAN	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Ulsan Sunflower Center 울산해바라기센터	Tel: 052-265-1375 Address: 8th floor, Ulsan Hospital, Namgu, Wolpyeong-ro 171 bun-gil 13 Website: http://www.ussunflower.or.kr/	Ulsan Hospital 울산병원
GANGWON PROVINCE	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Gangwon Seobu Sunflower Center 강원서부해바라기센터	Tel: 033-252-1375 Address: Gwangwon Univ. Hospital, 156 Baek-ryeong-ro, Chuncheon city Website: http://www.gwsunflower.or.kr/	Gangwon University Hospital 강원대병원
Gangwon Dongbu Sunflower Center 강원동부해바라기센터	Tel: 033-652-9840 Address: Gangreungdae-ro 419 Bun-gil 42, Dongin Hospital Byulkwan, Gangreung-si Website: http://www.sunflower6447.or.kr/	Gangreung Dongin Hospital 강릉동인병원
Gangwon Nambu Sunflower Center 원주 남부 해바라기센터	Tel: 033-735-1375 Address: 4th floor, Moonchangmo Ginyeomkwan, Wonju Severance Christian Hospital, 20 Ilsan-ro, Wonju city, Gangwon-do Website: http://www.gwsunflower.or.kr/	Wonju Severance Christian Hospital 원주세브란스 기독교 병원
DAEGU	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Daegu Sunflower Center 대구 해바라기센터	Tel: 053-556-8117, 053-556-9117 Address: 2nd floor, Daegu Medical Center, 157 Pyeongri-ro Seo-gu , Daegu Website: http://www.tgonestop.or.kr/	Daegu Medical Center 대구의료원
Daegu Children's Sunflower Center 대구 아동 해바라기센터	Tel: 053-421-1375 Address: 2nd floor Gookchae bosang-ro 14o gil 32, Joong-gu, Daegu Website: http://www.csart.or.kr/	Gyeongbuk Univ. Center 경북대병원
GWANGJU	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS

Gwangju Sunflower Center 광주해바라기센터	Tel: 062-225-3117 Address: 2nd floor, Chosun Univ. Hospital, 365 Pilmoondae-ro Dong-gu, Gwangju Website: http://www.gjonestop.or.kr/	Chosun Univ. Hospital 조선대병원
Gwangju Children's Sunflower Center 광주해바라기아동센터	Tel: 062-232-1375 Address: 4th floor, Well Clinic, 57 Jebong-ro, Dong-gu, Gwangju Website: http://www.forchild.or.kr/	Jeonnam Univ. Hospital 전남대병원
JEONNAM PROVINCE	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Jeonnam Dongbu Sunflower Center 전남동부해바라기센터	Tel: 061-727-0117 Address: Byulkwan, Sooncheon St. Carollo Hospital, 221 Soongwang-ro, Sooncheon Website: http://www.jonestop.or.kr/	Soonchon St. Carollo Hospital 순천성가롤로병원
Jeonnam Seobu Sunflower Center 전남서부해바라기센터	Tel:061-285-1375 Address: 5th floor, Byulkwan, Mokpo Central Hospital, 623 Youngsan-ro, Mokpo Website: http://www.jnsunflower.or.kr/	Mokpo Joongang Hospital 목포중앙병원
JEONBUK PROVINCE	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Jeonbuk Sunflower Center 전북해바라기센터	Tel: 063-278-0117 Address: B1 Jeonbuk University Hospital Emergency Center, 20 Gunju-ro, Deokjin-gu, Jeonju city Website: http://www.jbonestop.or.kr/	Jeonbuk Univ. Hospital 전북대병원
Jeonbuk Children's Sunflower Center 전북 아동 해바라기센터	Tel: 063-246-1375 Address: 2nd floor, Bank bldg, 751 Baekjedae-ro, Deokjin-gu, Jeonju Website: http://www.jbsunflower.or.kr/	Jeonbuk Univ. Hospital 전북대병원
Jeonbuk Seobu Sunflower Center 전북 서부 해바라기센터	Main bldg. Tel: 063-859-1375 Address: 895 Wonkang Univ. Hospital, Moowang-ro, Iksan Website: www.wksunflower.or.kr/	Wonkang Univ. Hospital 원강대병원
CHOONGNAM PROVINCE	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Choongnam Sunflower Center 충남해바라기센터	Tel: 041-567-7117 Address: Danguk University Hospital, 201 Manghyang-ro Dongnam-gu Cheonan	Danguk Univ. Hospital 단국대학교병원

	Website: http://www.cnonestop.or.kr/	
CHOONGBUK PROVINCE	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Choongbuk Sunflower Center 충북해바라기센터	Tel: 043-272-7117 Address: Cheongju Medical Center, 48 Heungdeok-ro , Heungdeok-gu , Cheongju Website: http://www.cbonestop.or.kr/	Cheongju Medical Center 청주의료원
Choongbuk Children's Sunflower Center 충북해바라기아동센터	Tel. 043-857-1375 Address: 4th floor, Bosung Bldg, Bonghyunro 222 Website: http://www.1375.or.kr/	Geonbook Univ. Hospital 건국대충주병원
GYEONGBUK PROVINCE	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Gyeongbuk Dongbu Sunflower Center 경북동부해바라기센터	Tel:054-278-1375 Address: B3, Luka-kwan, Pohang St. Mary's Hospital, Daejamdong- gil 17, Namgu, Pohang Website: http://gbsunflower.or.kr/	Pohang St. Mary's Hospital 포항성모병원
Gyeongbuk Sunflower Center 경북북부해바라기센터	Tel: 054-843-1117 Address: B1 Andong Medical Center, Taesa 2-gil 55, Andong Website: http://www.gbonestop.or.kr/	Andong Medical Center 안동의료원
Gyeongbuk Seobu Sunflower Center 경북서부해바라기센터	Tel: 054-439-9600 Address: Sineum 1 gil 12, Gimcheon Website: http://www.sbonestop.or.kr/	Gimcheon Jeil Hospital 김천제일병원
GYEONGNAM PROVINCE	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS
Gyeongnam Sunflower Center 경남해바라기센터	Tel: 055-244-8117, 055-245-8117 Address: B1 Masan Medical Center, 3-15 Daero 231, Masanhap-po-gu, Changwon Website: http://www.gnonestop.or.kr/	Masan Medical Center 마산의료원
Gyeongnam Seobu Sunflower Center 경남서부해바라기센터	Tel: 055-754-1375 Address: 3rd floor, Gyeongsang Univ. Hospital Emergency Center, 79 Gangnam-ro, Jinju Website: http://www.savechild.or.kr/	Gyeongsang Univ. Hospital 경상대병원
JEJU ISLAND	CONTACT INFO AND LOCATION	HOSPITALS

Jeju Sunflower Center 제주해바라기센터	Main bldg. Tel: 064-749-5117 Address: 2nd floor, Yeon Dong, Halla Hospital, 65 Doryeong-ro, Jeju-si Website: http://www.ijonestop.or.kr/ Annex Tel: 064-748-5117 Address: 3rd floor, 5-3 Namnyeong-ro, Jeju-si	Halla Hospital 한라병원
-----------------------------------	--	------------------------

4) Who interviews the victim?

A female police officer usually interviews a female victim, although multiple law enforcement officials may interview the victim. Victims are often interviewed more than once. If you do not speak English, the police should provide a translator. Because the police and prosecutors examine victim statements for consistency, having the same translator (or friend) present at each interview can prevent translation discrepancies from appearing to be inconsistencies in the victim's account. Recording is available on request and can also help prevent discrepancies.

5) Do laws protect the identity of sexual assault survivors? Can s/he expect media attention?

Media attention is possible, but the identity of a victim is generally not disclosed to the public. Korea has laws to protect the identity of survivors of sexual assault. Illegally revealing identities is punishable by up to five years in prison.

6) Is there a rape crisis hotline or English-language counseling services?

There is not a rape crisis hotline. However, a person can call the Korean National Police Agency (dial 112) to report a rape or any other crime. The caller will be transferred to a police officer who speaks English. Other crisis hotline resources are:

- **Korea Sexual Violence Relief Center** (KSVRC, tel: 02-338-5801, 5802, counsel@hotline.or.kr, <http://www.sisters.or.kr/eng/>). This center provides information and counseling for victims of sexual violence. Since the KSVRC has limited English service, please make initial contact via e-mail or contact with assistance from a Korean-speaker.
- **Danuri Helpline** (tel: 1577-1366, Kakao ID: women1366, wm1366@hanmail.net). Provides help for foreigners who are victims of crime in Korea. Services include counseling, medical support and translation, legal assistance and shelter referrals. Please note that English speakers are not always available.
- **Seoul Counseling Center for Migrant Women** (서울이주여성상담센터, tel: 02-733-0120; Email: smf0120@daum.net; website: <https://smf0120.modoo.at/>, address: 7F, Dongdaemun Global Center Building, 146, Mareunnae-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul). This center is a one-stop service provider offering a crisis hotline, English-speaking counselors, medical and legal assistance, and shelter for women in crisis and for non-migrant foreign women who have experienced domestic or sexual violence. To contact centers available in other regions, please contact the following:
 - **Daegu Counseling Center for Migrant Women (tel: 053-944-2977)**
 - **Chung Buk Counseling Center for Migrant Women (tel: 043-223-5253)**
 - **Jeon Nam Counseling Center for Migrant Women (tel: 061-282-1562)**
- **Sunflower Center** (tel: 112)

Resources in the United States include:

- **RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network)** (tel: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673), www.rainn.org). Toll-free 24/7 phone and online hotline for sexual assault counseling and referrals. RAINN also offers a hotline that provides live, secure, anonymous crisis support for victims of sexual violence and their friends and families over RAINN's website.
- **U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)** (<https://www.justice.gov/ovw>). Information about local sexual assault victim assistance coalitions.
- **International Directory of Domestic Violence Agencies** (<https://www.hotpeachpages.net/>). Global list of abuse hotlines, shelters, refuges, crisis centers and women's organizations, plus domestic violence information in over 115 languages.

Also, for those who would like to seek professional help from a psychologist, counselor, or psychiatrist in Korea, below are some that provide services in English. For a comprehensive list of English-speaking counselors compiled by the Embassy (no endorsements) in Korea, please contact the Special Consular Services unit at 02-397-4114 or email seoulinfoacs@state.gov.

- **The Tree Group** (tel: 02-557-8816, 8823, Treemind@thetreeg.com, <http://www.thetreeg.com>, Address: 12F, 90 Beobwon-ro, Songpa-gu, Seoul, Korea 05855.) Provides counseling in English for 250,000 won per session.
- **Adaptable Human Solutions** (tel: 02-749-7915, info@ahskorea.com, <http://ahskorea.com>, Address: 101-2502 Lotte Castle President, 467 Gongdeok-dong, Mapo-Gu, Seoul, Korea 04146). Provides counseling by licensed counselors in English and Korean. AHS is a Tricare approved provider for U.S. Military Service Members. Charges range from 120,000 won to 340,000 per session.

SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1) *Is domestic violence a crime in Korea?*

Yes. Domestic violence is a crime involving physical, marital, or property damage by a family member against another family member. A family member is a spouse, an ex-spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, or any relatives who live together.

2) *Is there a domestic violence hotline? Do the operators speak English?*

There are currently two hotlines for foreigners who are victims of domestic violence in Korea.

- **Seoul Counseling Center for Migrant Women** (서울이주여성상담센터, tel: 02-733-0120; Email: smf0120@daum.net; website: <https://smf0120.modoo.at/>; address: 7F, Dongdaemun Global Center Building, 146, Mareunnae-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul). This center is a one-stop service provider offering a crisis hotline, English-speaking counselors, medical and legal assistance, and shelter for women in crisis and for non-migrant foreign women who have experienced domestic or sexual violence. To contact centers available in other regions, please contact the following:
 - **Daegu Counseling Center for Migrant Women (tel: 053-944-2977)**
 - **Chung Buk Counseling Center for Migrant Women (tel: 043-223-5253)**
 - **Jeon Nam Counseling Center for Migrant Women (tel: 061-282-1562)**
- **Danuri Helpline** (Tel: 1577-1366, Kakao ID: women1366, Email: wm1366@hanmail.net). Provides help for foreigners who are victims of crime in Korea. Services include counseling, medical support and translation, legal assistance and shelter referrals. English speakers are not always available.

Sunflower Centers can also assist victims of domestic and/or sexual violence. You can reach them by dialing the police at 112.

Resources in the United States include:

- **National Domestic Violence Hotline** (tel: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), <http://www.thehotline.org/blog/get-help-today>). Toll-free 24/7 hotline for crisis counseling and referrals:
- **U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)** (<https://www.justice.gov/ovw>). Information about local sexual assault victim assistance.
- **National Coalition Against Domestic Violence** (tel: 1-303-839-1852, <http://www.ncadv.org/>). The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence offers a safe home and shelter programs, public education, and technical assistance. They also have a list of state and international organizations that can assist domestic violence victims.
- **Pathways to Safety International** (1-833-SAFE-833 (International toll-free), crisis@pathwaystosafety.org, <https://pathwaystosafety.org>). 24/7 international crisis hotline can be called toll free from overseas.
- **International Directory of Domestic Violence Agencies** (<https://www.hotpeachpages.net/>). Global list of abuse hotlines, shelters, refuges, crisis centers and women's organizations, plus domestic violence information in over 115 languages.

3) Are there domestic violence shelters in Korea?

The Korean Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF) manages approximately 66 domestic violence shelters (가정 폭력쉼터) throughout the country. Most shelters have 10 to 30 beds. Most victims are brought to shelters through a police or government referral, so it is best to contact police (dial 112), a local Sunflower Center, the Seoul Counseling Center for Migrant Women, or the Danuri Helpline to report a case of domestic violence (see numbers above). Shelter location is confidential for security reasons. Young children are generally allowed to stay with a parent in the shelter, but children who have reached the age of puberty, particularly males, are encouraged to move to separate children's facilities.

4) How can victims get a protection/restraining order? How are restraining orders enforced?

Victims of domestic violence can seek a protection/restraining order by contacting their local police or the domestic violence assistance hotline listed below. Restraining orders are enforced through the court system.

5) Is stalking a crime in Korea?

Korean law defines the act of stalking as the excessive following, observing, or contacting of another person. It is a criminal offense. There may also be civil remedies available for stalking victims, such as obtaining a restraining order and compensation for material loss.

SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR CASES OF CHILD ABUSE

1) How are allegations of child abuse investigated in Korea?

The Ministry of Health and Welfare is charged with the protection of children and juvenile policy in general. Some overlap exists with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family in the areas of sexual violence. The Ministry of Health and Welfare sends counselors to investigate allegations of child abuse. However, police and prosecutors are the only agencies that conduct criminal investigations. According to the Children's Welfare Act, employees of a wide variety of educational and care centers must report suspected child abuse to the police or face fines. Doctors and other professionals are also required to report cases of suspected child abuse.

2) How do I report suspected child abuse?

Suspected child abuse should be reported to the police by calling 112. Interpreters are available for foreign victims or persons reporting crimes during business hours. The police work with the **National Child Protection Agency** to handle reports of abuse (<https://www.ncrc.or.kr/>).

3) What happens after a report of suspected abuse?

If a child is at serious risk, police and prosecutors in the local area will be contacted immediately. The Ministry of Health and Welfare may also send trained child protection specialists to investigate allegations of child abuse/neglect (English speakers may not be available). The counselor may send the child to a nearby hospital for an examination, accompanied by an investigator. If the examination occurs within 20 hours of the alleged crime, all physical evidence will be collected by the doctor in the presence of the investigator.

If a Ministry of Health and Welfare counselor determines that a child needs to be removed from the home, the preferred alternate placement is with relatives. If no suitable relatives can be found, an abused child could be sent to a temporary shelter or entrusted to a volunteer foster family in Korea.

4) Is the child expected to testify if the abuser is charged with a crime?

Victims of child abuse are rarely expected to testify in court against their abuser, but they may be asked to do so. To help protect children under the age of 16 from the trauma of testifying, courts frequently allow children to testify via video recording.

SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR CASES OF HOMICIDE

1) Is an autopsy required in homicide cases?

Yes.

2) Can surviving family members participate in the prosecution?

Korean authorities make every effort to keep surviving family members informed on the process. Family members may attend the hearing and, at the judge's discretion, may make a statement at sentencing. A statement can affect the sentence delivered by the judge.

3) Are there any special requirements for handling the estate in homicide cases?

Families of homicide victims may be eligible to receive up to 10,000,000 won from the government as compensation under Korea's crime victim compensation program. All monies, along with other personal items in the estate of the victim, will be returned to the victim's family. Personal items marked as evidence in the homicide case also will be returned to the family after the case is closed.

Consular Assistance to American Crime Victims Overseas



The State Department is committed to assisting American citizens who become victims of crime while abroad. If you are the victim of a crime while in Korea, contact U.S. Embassy Seoul. Phone call services with a consular duty officer are available for after-hour emergencies at **02-397-4114**.

For inquiries regarding an American's arrest, death, crime victim assistance, or financial assistance, call 02-397-4114 or email seoulinfoacs@state.gov. More information is available at: <https://kr.usembassy.gov/services/>. We assist most victims by phone or email, but if you need to see us in person, please call or email for an appointment.

Directions: To get to the Embassy, we recommend traveling by public transport as there is no public parking available. Take a cab to the "Miguk Daesaghwan" (188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu, Seoul 03141) or the subway to Gwanghwamun Station Purple Line 5 (Exit 2). From exit 2, walk straight less than 100 meters; you will see the Embassy building on your right side. Please enter through the side entrance of the Embassy and follow the signs to American Citizen Services. You do not need to stand in line with visa applicants and can come directly to the front of the line.