

# REPORTING A SEXUAL CRIME



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**As a victim, I am reluctant to report a sexual crime. I do not want people to know my identity and details of my personal life. What can I do?**

Rest assured, in cases where the sexual offence was committed without consent, it will be conducted in closed proceedings. Even information that would indirectly reveal your identity, whether in reporting or reports on the investigation or trial is not permitted. Anyone who does so will be liable to pay a fine between MVR 10,000-MVR 15,000.

**As a victim, I fear retaliation if I reported a sexual crime against me. How do I protect myself?**

Depending on the circumstances, the court can grant a protection order. Effectively, the protection order will function best under these situations where the accused is:

- (a) entering and exiting your home, place of work, school/university and other commonly visited places, by restricting the accused.
- (b) stalking, going to the same place, stopping, bothering or verbally assaulting the victim;
- (c) entering or staying at the home of the victim or other place where the victim is, without the express permission of such person;
- (d) communicating with the victim, this includes phones, letters, electronic mail, text messages or any other form
- (e) causing any physical, sexual or psychological injury to the victim;
- (f) threatening to cause any physical, sexual or psychological injury to the victim;
- (g) causing or threatening to damage to the property of the victim;
- (h) committing or threatening to commit any act to intimidate, humiliate or cause psychological trauma on the victim;
- (i) committing any of the prohibited acts against the victim via a third party.