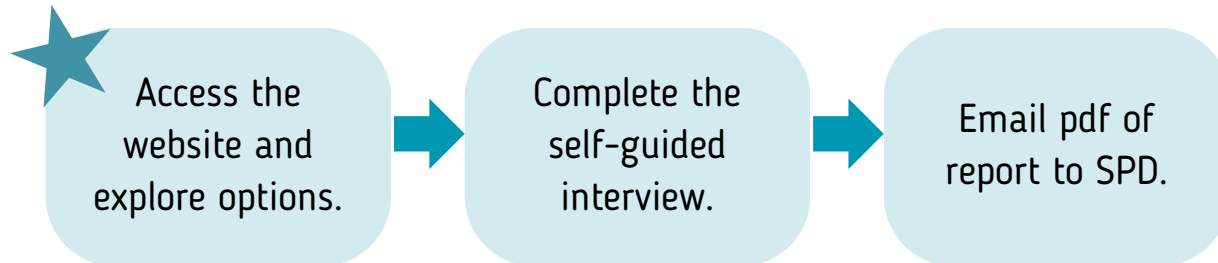


SEEK THEN > SPEAK

STEP-BY-STEP: HOW STS WORKS



STEP I: ACCESS SITE

BEGIN BY VISITING THE SEEK THEN SPEAK WEBSITE AT WWW.SEEKTHENSPEAKSEATTLE.COM

Choose Your Language: The platform offers browser-based translation to accommodate users of different languages. Select your preferred language to ensure you fully understand the process.

Explore Information and Options: If you prefer, take your time to explore the resources and information available in the "Seek" section. If you're not ready to start the interview, you can simply use this section to understand your options and make informed decisions without moving forward in the process.

BEFORE STEP #2:

The decision to report to police is an incredibly personal choice. Some survivors find that reporting gives them a sense of control, while others choose not to report and focus on healing in their own way. Both choices are valid, and everyone's path is different. Seek Then Speak aims to provide you with information and options, helping you make the decisions that feel right for you.

SEEK THEN > SPEAK

STEP-BY-STEP: HOW STS WORKS



STEP 2: BEGIN REPORT

- **Start the Interview:** When you're ready, you'll be guided through a series of questions designed to collect essential details about your sexual assault. The questions include prompts that clarify why the information is being asked and how it will be used. You can provide as much or as little information as you feel comfortable.
- **During the Interview:** Take your time as you do the interview, and take care of yourself during the process. Remember, you can pause at any time – there's no need to complete it in one sitting. You're in control, and you can resume whenever you're comfortable.
- **Complete the Interview:** After answering all the questions, the platform generates a PDF report that compiles your responses. You can keep this report for your personal records or submit to law enforcement either immediately or at a later time.

Download Questions in Advance (Optional): Some folks find it helpful to download the questions in advance using the "Preview Questions" option. This can help to prepare you for the process and reduce any anxiety about what to expect during the questions.

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STEP-BY-STEP: HOW STS WORKS



STEP 3: SUBMIT REPORT

YOU DECIDE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- **Save or Submit:** After completing your report, you can choose to save it for your own records or submit to police. If you're not ready to submit it to law enforcement, that's okay – you can hold onto it and decide later on.
- **Submit the Report to Law Enforcement:** If you decide to report to SPD, email the PDF of your report to: seekthenspeak@seattle.gov

PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY:

- **Your Info is Protected:** Your data is never automatically shared with anyone, including police, without your consent. SPD will only receive your report information if and when you choose to email it to them directly.
- **Clear Data from Your Device:** Once you're finished, you'll be prompted to clear your data. STS does not upload or store your information; instead, it temporarily saves it to your device's cache so you can start and stop during the interview. Clearing this data ensures that your info is protected.
- **Understand Confidentiality:** It's important to note that once you submit a report to SPD, it becomes part of the official police record, which may be accessed during potential future legal proceedings.

Submit your report or send questions to: seekthenspeak@seattle.gov

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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

AFTER YOU SUBMIT YOUR REPORT:

- A supervisor from SPD's Special Assault Unit (SAU) reviews all incoming STS reports to determine the next steps for the case.
- If your report meets certain criteria, a detective may follow up with you to gather more info and potentially start investigation.
- Every survivor who contacts the STS email will be contacted by a City of Seattle sexual assault victim advocate, who can offer emotional and logistical support, answer questions, and connect you with resources.

WHAT'S THE TIMELINE?

Unfortunately, the criminal justice process can be lengthy. Whether you reported through STS or patrol, the timeframe from reporting to follow-up to potential charges can vary significantly. Thank you for your patience, and please reach out to the STS email with report-related questions.

FOR SURVIVORS:

- If you or someone you love has experienced sexual violence, we are deeply sorry this happened to you. Choosing to seek help or share your story with others shows incredible bravery and resilience. We encourage you to reach out for additional support as you continue on this healing journey.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Local: Contact the 24/7 KCSARC Hotline at 1-888-998-6423 or kcsarc.org
- For survivors outside of Washington, reach out to RAINN's 24/7 National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) or rainn.org

Questions? Email: seekthenspeak@seattle.gov