

## DPA Recommendations To Enhance Services At District Stations for Sexual Assault Survivors<sup>1</sup>

### At District Stations

1. Provide sexual assault reportees privacy at district stations by requiring officers to use an interview room for interview and report-taking.
2. Provide sexual assault reportees at district stations a copy of “Your Rights as a Survivor of Sexual Assault<sup>2</sup>” prior to any interview or report-taking. (Penal Code section 679.04)
3. Comply with Penal Code section 679.04’s mandate that a sexual assault survivor may have a victim advocate and support person present during the interview and report-taking at district stations.
4. Inform a sexual assault survivor that SFPD can conduct the interview and take the report at SF Women Against Rape’s office<sup>3</sup>.
5. For Limited English Proficient (LEP) sexual assault reportees at district stations, use a certified bilingual officer or employee for interview and report-taking. If a certified bilingual officer or employee is not available, use a Language Line interpreter. All communication with the LEP sexual assault survivor should be in the survivor’s primary language, including preliminary information about the anticipated wait time for an officer or in person interpreter.

### SFPD Website

Provide on SFPD’s website easily located information about sexual assault survivor’s rights, resources, SFPD’s Special Victims Unit, Family Code §6228’s requirements that victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking and elder abuse be provided their police report within 5 days unless the agency informs victims of the reasons why, for cause, the report is not available, in which case the incident report shall be made available to the victim no later than 10 working days after the request, and Police Commission Resolution 16-28<sup>4</sup> that provides for SFPD’s biannual reports about its collection and analysis of sexual assault kit evidence and notification to sexual assault survivors of testing results.

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<sup>1</sup> These recommendations arise in part from concerns raised by the Language Access Working Group, a group initiated by the DPA in 2012 that is comprised of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse service providers, language access advocates, city agencies, a Police Commissioner and the Police Department to address on-going language access, sexual assault and domestic violence concerns.

<sup>2</sup> See SFPD Department Bulletin 18-082 that announced the Sexual Assault Rights card (SFPD form 540). <https://sanfranciscopolice.org/sites/default/files/Documents/PoliceDocuments/Transparency/A%2018-082%20Assembly%20Bill%20No.%201312%20Sexual%20Assault%20Victims%20Rights.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> In July 2017, DPA, SFWAR and SFPD arranged a system where SF WAR can call SFPD’s Operations Bureau and an officer will respond to SF WAR’s office to take a non-emergency report from a survivor.

<sup>4</sup> <https://sanfranciscopolice.org/sites/default/files/Documents/PoliceCommission/PoliceCommission-ResolutionNo16-28.pdf>