

March 2017 Third Party Reporting Protocol Enhancement

Background:

In British Columbia, Third Party Reporting (TPR) of sexual assault is a process which allows adult victims (19 and over) to report details of a sexual offence/assault to police anonymously, through a Community Based Victim Services Program (CBVS). This "Third Party Report" is an option of last resort for victims who would not otherwise provide information to the police. It is not a substitute for a call to 911, nor is it in and of itself a police investigation.

The BC TPR protocol is led by EVA BC's Community Coordination for Women's Safety (CCWS) program, which supports CBVS and police to develop local interagency protocols and to implement and maintain the TPR protocol. The TPR Protocol is guided by a provincial TPR Work Team comprised of CCWS, BC Association of Chiefs of Police, RCMP "E" Division, Vancouver Police Department Sex Crimes Unit, BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police, and BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

Full information: *Third Party Reporting Guidebook November 2015*

<http://endingviolence.org/publications/third-party-reporting-guidebook-increasing-reporting-options-for-sexual-assault-victims-november-2015>

March 2017 Protocol Enhancement:

To ensure consistency of response and collection of data, BC's police services have reached an agreement with Community Coordination for Women's safety to enhance the current TPR provincial protocol. This enhancement to the protocol is one of several initiatives the provincial TPR Work Team is engaged in to increase the availability of this important reporting option across the province.

RCMP Sergeant Stephanie Ashton with BC RCMP Crime Prevention Services (CPS) will act as a liaison with RCMP detachments and municipal police departments to support their efforts to investigate these incidents, and to ensure consistent attention to Third Party Reports and related policing issues. This liaison position will also improve the ability of police services to review TPRs from across the province to identify linkages between investigations of sexual assaults within and across police jurisdictions.

Currently when a victim of sexual assault completes a Third Party Report with a CBVS program, that community agency provides the report to the local police of jurisdiction, in the manner which has been decided between those agencies. **Now, in addition to that reporting structure, the community agencies will alert CPS and CCWS that a TPR has been submitted.**

***CBVS TPR Protocol Addition, March 2017:* After delivering the TPR to the police detachment, confirm that you have done this by sending an email with the date, community, RCMP detachment or municipal department, and your agency file # to: E_THIRD_PARTY_REPORTING@RCMP-GRC.GC.CA and ccws@endingviolence.org.**

- **CBVS & Coordination Support:** ccws@endingviolence.org Ph: 604 633-2506 ext. 15
- **Police Support:** E_THIRD_PARTY_REPORTING@RCMP-GRC.GC.CA