

## Police investigations in Greece – what to expect

➤ If you know the person's whereabouts, the police may take you to those places in order to try to identify and arrest the person concerned.

➤ If a suspect is brought to the police station you may be asked to make an identification.

If the police make an arrest, they will take the suspect before the public prosecutor within 24-48 hours who will then either:

- Order the person to summary (immediate) trial;
- Refer the case to further investigation to an Investigating Magistrate who will either detain the suspect in prison or release him/her on bail pending trial;
- Release the suspect if s/he believes there is insufficient evidence to prosecute.

## Court procedures – what to expect

➤ If a suspect is ordered to summary trial you will be expected to testify in court.

➤ If the case is referred to further investigation you may be asked to give an additional statement.

➤ If the case does not go to trial immediately you may be summoned to appear at a trial. You may be expected to attend court in person. However your lawyer will advise you further on this matter.

➤ A victim of crime (including rape and other forms of sexual assault) in Greece does not have the right of access to the case file and will not be kept informed of case developments by the Court. To acquire this right you will have to become a civil claimant. Please speak to a lawyer about this application process. The British consulate can provide a list of English speaking lawyers in Greece.

➤ The assailant may press counter charges against you claiming that you have made false accusations. The court will investigate these claims and decide on proceedings.

### If you change your mind about pressing charges or you are not sure if you want to continue

You have choices:

➤ If you change your mind about proceeding with the charges and you wish to retract your statement. To do this you must tell the police or the Public Prosecutor.

➤ If anyone intentionally makes false accusations to the police or withholds the truth, they can be prosecuted.

➤ You should be aware that:

- The charge of rape is an automatic state prosecution and will not be dropped
- However your revised statement will be considered during a trial and will support the assailant's defence.

## When you return home to the UK

➤ You may want to let your GP or a Sexual Assault Referral Centre know what has happened to you so that you can talk about the experience and seek further support and advice.

➤ You should be aware that the UK police will not normally be informed of the incident by Greek police.

➤ It is important to remember it is your choice to let people know. If you are ready to talk about it the organisations below maybe able to help you.

### Greece

### Useful contacts

#### General Secretariat for Gender Equality

Dragatsaniou 8, Athens 105 59, Greece  
24hr Tel. 15900 Greek/English speakers

- Aimed at female victims of physical, psychological, verbal, financial, sexual violence, rape or attempted rape, prostitution, trafficking or have suffered sexual harassment.
- Counsellors provide psychosocial support and appropriate referrals are made to counselling centres, hostels and other partners.
- Services are free and confidential.
- Referrals may be to EKKA (Line of Immediate Social Help) Tel. 197 for support to both male and female victims.

### UK

### Useful contacts

#### Glasgow & Clyde Rape Crisis Centre

Helpline Tel. +44 (0)8088000014 - hours as below

National rape and sexual assault helpline Tel. +44 (0)8088010302  
- hours 18:00 - midnight UK time

- Support service for Women and Men aged 13 and over who have been raped, sexually assaulted or sexually abused.
- Support is free and confidential.
- **Live Online Support** is available giving British survivors access to UK-based real time support from anywhere in the world.
- Access every day: 11:00-14:00 UK time, Monday - Thursday 17:30-19:30 UK time via:
  - Skype - search for Glasgow Clyde Rape Crisis
  - Facetime (Apple devices) - itunes@glasgowclyderapecrisis.org
  - Instant messenger via website - www.rapecrisiscentre-glasgow.co.uk
  - Email - support@rapecrisiscentre-glasgow.co.uk
  - Facebook - @GlasgowRapeCrisis
  - Twitter - @RCCGlasgow
- For more information visit [www.glasgowclyderapecrisis.org.uk](http://www.glasgowclyderapecrisis.org.uk)



Foreign &  
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Office

# Guidance for victims of rape and other forms of sexual assault in Greece

#### Disclaimer:

This information is provided by the British Government for the convenience of enquirers, but neither Her Majesty's Government nor any official of the Consulate accept liability for any loss or damage which you might suffer as a result of relying on the information supplied.

Medical information has been provided by The Havens Sexual Assault Referral Centres of Kings College Hospital NHS

Foundation Trust and was accurate at the time of this leaflet's production.

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# Initial steps to take if you have been raped or have experienced another form of sexual assault in Greece.

It is your choice about what you do next, but this information may help in coming to a decision.

The most important thing is to make sure that you are as safe as you can be.

- Contact the police call International Emergencies 112 or from a UK mobile 999
- Contact your tour operator if you are traveling with one.
- Contact the British Embassy/Consulate as soon as you are able to (details below). We are here to help you where we can. We will be polite, patient, sensitive and non-judgemental. If you want us to, we can contact your family or friends for you.

## British Embassy Athens

Ploutarchou 1, Athens 106 75

T : +30 210 7272600, [www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-athens](http://www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-athens)

## British Vice Consulate Corfu

Mantzarou 18, Corfu 491 00

T : +30 26610 23457, [www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-corfu](http://www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-corfu)

## British Vice Consulate Crete

Candia Tower, Thalita 18, Heraklion 712 02

T : +30 2810 224012, [www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-crete](http://www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-crete)

## British Vice Consulate Rhodes

G. Lambraki 29, Rhodes 851 00

T : +30 22410 22005, [www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-rhodes](http://www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-rhodes)

## British Vice Consulate Zakynthos

28 Foskolos St, Zakynthos 291 00

T : +30 26950 22906, [www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-zakynthos](http://www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-zakynthos)

## Police engagement

### If you want to report the incident to the police in Greece

- You must report the crime in Greece before returning to the UK if you want it to be investigated.
- If you choose to report the crime, try to do so as soon as you can so forensic evidence can be retained. Washing yourself or your clothes may make it harder for the police to obtain forensic evidence. If you change your clothes, think about taking those you were wearing to the police.
- You may wish to preserve evidence by retaining items such as condoms, toothbrushes, or texts.
- If you are travelling with a tour operator, they will usually send someone along to support you. If you do not have a tour operator and you are in an area where there is a British Embassy/Consulate, we will try to send a consular officer to support you.
- If you approach the police directly yourself, you may want to ask them to inform the nearest British Embassy/Consulate, so we can offer you consular support.
- Tell the police if you think you have been drugged.

### If you do not want to report the incident to the police in Greece

- Consular assistance will still be available from the British Embassy/Consulate. This includes helping you make arrangements to contact your insurance company, your family, travel back to the UK and give you information on local/UK support.
- You can report the incident to your tour operator and ask them for assistance. Where possible and if you wish, the tour operator may accompany you to the local hospital or medical facility.
- You will still be able to get medical attention, but you will not be entitled to a forensic examination.

### If you want to report the incident to the police in the UK

- You can report the crime to police in the UK. However the police in the UK cannot investigate offences that take place overseas. They can sometimes make details available to Greek authorities. You should speak to your local UK police force to see what is possible. If the Greek authorities decide to investigate the case they can request any information the UK police may hold. This can be a lengthy process. There is no guarantee justice can be accessed without firstly reporting the crime in Greece.

## Reporting the crime in Greece - what happens next ?

- The police will ask you to make a statement about the incident including a description if possible of your attacker(s).
- If available, you may request an officer of a particular gender. An interpreter will be provided by the local police; this may be another police officer.
- The police will keep any clothes which may be evidence of your attack to present to a forensic examiner.
- The police will send you (or take you if they have the available personnel but this is not part of their duties) to the local state hospital or forensic suite for a forensic examination.

## Health

### The medical examination – what to expect

- If a forensic examiner is not available, he/she will determine the medical physician who will carry out the examination.
- The examiner will ask some questions and may take photographs of any injuries – during the examination s/he will normally check the following:
  - Bruising and external injuries on all areas of the body
  - Internal injuries by examination and internal swabs
  - Possible DNA testing and tests relating to date rape drugs or sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). These may be performed by another doctor or department of the hospital).

### Treatment

- Hospital medical staff can give you advice on HIV PEP medication ('Post-exposure prophylaxis', a treatment that can prevent HIV infection) should you or they feel it is necessary. You should be aware that:
  - HIV PEP is subject to availability in Greece
  - It is medically prescribed and closely monitored
  - HIV PEP medication needs to be taken within 72 hours of the incident for it to be effective.
  - The NHS may be able to commence or continue the 28 day treatment on return to the UK
- Emergency contraception also known as the 'morning after pill' can be bought from most chemists at your own cost without a prescription or medical referral. It needs to be taken within 72 hours of the incident for it to be effective.
- Hospital treatment and tests are normally covered by your EHIC (European Health Insurance Card).