

REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE FOR YOUTH IN CARE

If you are a youth in care, under the age of 18 and you have experienced a sexual assault, your worker will talk with you to decide if it is a matter for police or if a joint investigation needs to take place.

REPORTING PROCESS FOR A JOINT INVESTIGATION:

1. Ask to have the entire process reviewed before you begin your report.
2. Making a report will likely include police and CAS taking an audio-visual statement.
3. Once you tell what happened, the CAS worker will focus on your safety and protection. Police will decide if charges will be laid.
4. If the case proceeds to court, you will be a key witness. In most areas, there will be support to prepare you to testify.
5. There will be a verdict of guilty or not guilty in court.

There are three possible outcomes from a CAS investigation that decide if the allegation of sexual abuse is:

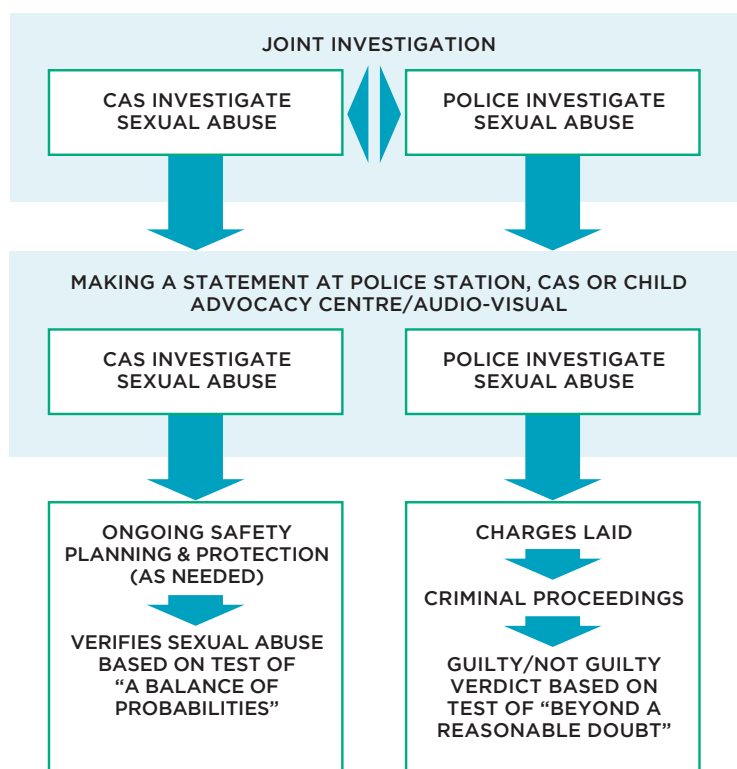
- verified,
- not verified,
- is inconclusive

CAS will continue to be responsible for your safety and protection even if there is an innocent verdict.

No matter the outcome from a trial, sexual violence is never your fault. Seek support for yourself from friends and family and from sexual assault centre services in your area. There are caring people in every community, reach out and find them.

YOUTH IN CARE UNDER 18 REPORTS A SEXUAL ASSAULT

- Is the perpetrator in a position of trust or authority?
 - If no – police investigate (sexual assault)
 - If yes, joint investigation (sexual abuse) by CAS and police



OUTCOMES CAN BE DIFFERENT

A person may be found not guilty of a crime in the legal system and at the same time the CAS may hold that ongoing protection is needed.