

# CURRENT OHIO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

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A statute of limitations is a state law passed to set the maximum time after an event within which legal proceedings can occur.



Each state has a different statute of limitations, so if you had a crime committed against you in different states, you will have different statutes.

A historical report documents evidence against an offender that can help in ongoing or future investigations for law enforcement and the prosecutors office.

In Ohio, the statute of limitations does not commence (begin) until the crime is discovered, disclosed, reported, etc. The current statutes of limitations for sexual assault in Ohio are:

**20**

If you have been violated through unlawful sexual misconduct and you were between thirteen and sixteen years old, you have 20 years to seek remedies after reporting.

**25**

If you were raped, you have 25 years after the crime was reported to seek remedies. Any sexual conduct that happens if you're 13 years old or younger is automatically rape.

**25**

If you have been violated through sexual battery, you have 25 years after reporting to seek remedies.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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In Ohio, **any survivor** of a Sex Crime can go to an emergency room to have a Sexual Assault evidence collection exam performed. These can be done without providing identity or reporting the crime if you so choose at the time. The hospitals have trained "SANE" (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners) who perform the procedure and are specially trained in handling these cases.

Most often, a victim's advocate from local resources can be present to assist with the survivor and provide support. This is all done with the utmost confidentiality and discretion.

If done anonymously, the collection kit is turned over to Law Enforcement to be secured in evidence. Ohio law requires Law Enforcement to hold secure the evidence of sex crimes indefinitely whether collected anonymously or in conjunction with a report and investigation. This ensures that the evidence will always be present for prosecution.

**Sexual conduct** means intercourse between a male and female, female and female or male and male; anal intercourse, oral sex, and, without consent, the insertion, however slight, of any part of the body or any instrument or other object into the vaginal or anal opening of another.

**Sexual battery** is considered a third degree felony. This might occur in cases where you submit to sex to a person who may have some type of power over you. For example, if they were a teacher, minister, deacon, bishop, parent, adoptive parent, counselor, house parent, facility caretaker or doctor then they would be considered to have committed sexual battery. It also might occur if you are incapacitated or unaware that something is happening.

If the victim involved in this type of sexual assault is younger than 13, then the person might face a second-degree felony charge rather than a third-degree felony.

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