

Dear Survivor:

Thank you for contacting the (AGENCY NAME), (AGENCY MISSION). I am sorry to hear you have been sexually abused in (PRISON/JAIL). Please know that it was not your fault. I hope the information that I have enclosed will be helpful to you.

In your letter you wrote about how you feel. I am sorry to hear that you are going through so much. I hope it might comfort you to know that these are very common trauma reactions and you are not alone in feeling this way. Many survivors have similar feelings after a sexual assault, particularly if they face more abuse or are denied the care they need. The enclosed brochure/handbook has more information on common reactions to sexual abuse and how you can cope with your feelings.

In the interim, you can make an appointment for telecounseling with [RAPE CRISIS CENTER]. Please know that it is possible to heal, your feelings matter, and you don't have to go through this process alone. You are an important part of the right to end sexual abuse and have already helped just by having the courage to share your story.

Sexual abuse in detention, whether committed by staff or by another inmate, violates international human rights law, the U.S. Constitution, and state law. Abuse can take many forms and involve any type of sexual harm or exploitation, threats of sexual violence, attempted rape, sexual abuse, sexual slavery, sex in exchange for protection, and other forms of coerced or unwanted sexual contact. It can occur anytime whether someone is in custody, on probation or parole or in a prison, jail, halfway house, juvenile facility, immigration detention center, or police lockup.

No matter what crime you may have committed, rape is not part of the penalty. You have the right to be free from sexual abuse.

In accordance with NC Privilege Communication Statute § 8-53.12, the information you share with [RAPE CRISIS CENTER] is confidential unless you waive the privilege conferred. We will not share anything you tell us with anyone else without your informed written consent. However, limitations to your confidentiality are records subject to court order legal subpoena, abuse or neglect of a child, or if you inform us that you intend to harm yourself or someone else. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like additional information.

I wish you all the best.