

	<b>Abbotsford Police Department</b> <b>Policy and Procedure</b>	
	<b>Operations</b>	<b>Investigation</b>
	<b>II.D.260</b>	<b>Sexual Assault Investigations</b>

## **POLICY**

- (1) Abbotsford Police Department (AbbyPD) officers investigating allegations of Sexual Assault will:
  - (a) conduct thorough, professional, timely, unbiased, risk-focused investigations;
  - (b) respond in a manner which attempts to:
    - (i) support Victims of Sexual Assault, with the goal of ensuring Victims feel safe and to minimize the potential for re-traumatization by the investigative process; and
    - (ii) is cognizant of how specific experiences impact Victim trauma, memory, reactions and behavior; and
  - (c) attempt to ensure special consideration is given to the unique needs and circumstances of Victims belonging to Vulnerable Populations.
  
- (2) All reports of Sexual Assault are accepted at the time they are made and are given full consideration. The following factors must not diminish response:
  - (a) the characteristics or demeanor (e.g., gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, socio-economic status, substance use, etc.) of the Victim or the subject of the complaint;
  - (b) whether the Sexual Assault occurred in the context of an intimate partner relationship;
  - (c) the perceived severity of the Sexual Assault;
  - (d) the length of time since the Sexual Assault occurred; and
  - (e) the jurisdiction in which the reported offence occurred.

*Paragraphs (1) and (2) constitute policy approved by the Police Board on February 22, 2023.*