

Submission 156 –

This submission relates to absenteeism regarding an employee after a rape: After experiencing a rape, women then are expected to spend a day liaising with police/medical professionals etc for treatment, for evidence collection etc. Medical professionals are clueless as to where to send the victim. One victim - who was raped and felt as though she was drugged, and so wanted a drug test done, as well as STD test - was sent from her GP clinic to [REDACTED] Hospital. While the victim was waiting for triage, her GP called and told the victim to go to [REDACTED] Hospital. A nurse spoke to the victim, stated "We don't do that here, you need to go to [REDACTED] Hospital". The rape victim became upset, and so the nurse went to find a Dr, and told the Dr that the patient (rape victim) was 'angry and aggressive'. The victim was denied treatment, instead the Dr wanted the police to deal with the matter. The victim had an important work day [REDACTED] and had already spent several hours trying to simply get STD test and a drug screen done. After much arguing, [REDACTED] were called, [REDACTED] spoke with the victim and then told the Dr to administer treatment to the victim. The Dr at [REDACTED] was extremely rude to the rape victim, he seemed to be suggesting that the victim was after 'free STD testing'. This was deeply disturbing and offensive to the married rape victim. The rape victim had to take time off work because of such a slow process. The medical practitioners were extremely self-indulgent and wanted to have the rape victim wait around. The victim eventually got her results, no STDs, and only a partial drug screen was ordered. The victim has no idea if she was given rohypnol or other common date rape drugs. The victim was only going to report to the police if she had a positive date-rape drug in her system. She has difficulty remembering the entire ordeal, but can remember being unable to move while she was attacked. Absenteeism can be combatted with better available medical care. Drug screens need to be done within 72hrs. In some jobs, a victim cannot just take a day off. This submission relates to employees working in Medical Research - in biological research, experiments are continued for days, there are exact timepoints, there are few specialists capable of doing complex experiments, it is not possible to just take a day off to have a police report done. Furthermore, how does one address this? "Sorry I let the team down and now a \$10,000 experiment is ruined" What excuse can employees use? "I was sick" won't work because suddenly the employee was fine. "I was involved in a crime" is not believable. "I was raped" is very difficult to say in a workplace, especially if the attacker is a senior staff member. This is such a hassle for victims.