

# 1 Pregnancy can be prevented by taking medicine after a rape or sexual assault.

- ☀ Medicine taken after a rape to prevent pregnancy is called emergency contraception (EC).
- ☀ **EC is a form of birth control.** It may delay ovulation, stop fertilization of an egg, or stop a fertilized egg from attaching.
- ☀ EC does not prevent sexual transmitted diseases.



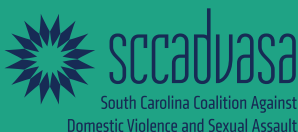
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For referral service to a local advocate near you, contact SCCADVASA:  
Monday-Friday 9:00 AM-5:00 PM  
803-256-2900 • PO Box 7776 Columbia, SC 29202 • [www.sccadvasa.org](http://www.sccadvasa.org)

South Carolina Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



For immediate help call 911 or the Rape  
and Incest National Network Hotline:  
1-800-656-4673.



# 5 Facts for Women to Prevent Pregnancy After a Sexual Assault or Rape



**DON'T WAIT!**

## Help is Available:

- ☀ You do not need to go through this alone. Contact your local rape crisis center to **speak with an advocate** or call **SCCADVASA** at 803-256-2900 to be linked with help near you.
- ☀ You have rights! **Sexual assault is a crime.**

[www.sccadvasa.org](http://www.sccadvasa.org)



## 2 Emergency Contraception is **safe and effective.**

- ☀ EC that is bought without prescription is usually effective up to 3 days after sex. A prescription may be effective longer.  
**The sooner it is taken, the better.**
- ☀ **EC is not an abortion.** It will not end an existing pregnancy.
- ☀ EC can be up to 95% effective in preventing pregnancy.



## 3 You have **options** for Emergency Contraception

- ☀ There are several types of EC. Plan B is the most common brand used in SC.
- ☀ Speak with a doctor/nurse about which type of EC is right for you and about the possible side effects.
- ☀ **Millions of women have safely taken EC** for over 30 years.



## 4 EC is **free** to victims of sexual assault and rape in South Carolina

- ☀ SC law requires health care centers to give victims of rape EC **free of charge** during a rape exam. The victim must request EC and it must be medically appropriate.
- ☀ **You do not need to press charges** to get EC.
- ☀ Speak to an advocate or medical professional for info.



## 5 Emergency Contraception is available **without age restrictions.**

- ☀ Some EC pills can be bought at a pharmacy **without ID or prescription by males and females of any age.**
- ☀ EC can be expensive, up to \$60 or more, if not given for free to rape victims in the emergency department.
- ☀ Health Departments might also have EC available.

