

**What to Do If You're Accused of a Sex Crime.** Facing accusations of a [sex crime in Missouri](#) is an extremely serious situation. Following this checklist can help make sure you protect your rights and help your [criminal defense attorney](#) prepare for your defense:

#### 1. Stay Calm and Avoid Confrontation

- **Do not engage with the accuser:** Refrain from contacting the individual who accused you in any form. Any communication could be used against you.
- **Do not attempt to explain or justify:** Anything you say can be used in court. Avoid providing any explanations or defenses directly to law enforcement without legal counsel present.

#### 2. Contact an Experienced Sex Crimes Defense Attorney

- **Immediately hire a skilled lawyer:** Choose a [defense attorney](#) who specializes in sex crime defense, is familiar with Missouri laws, and has successfully defended cases just like yours.
- **Follow legal advice closely:** Your attorney will guide you through the process. Avoid taking any actions that could harm your defense.

#### 3. Exercise Your Right to Remain Silent

- **Do not speak to police or investigators:** You are not obligated to [provide any statements or answer any questions](#), and doing so without the presence of an attorney could jeopardize your case.
- **Invoke your Fifth Amendment rights:** Politely decline to answer any questions without your attorney present. Firmly but unequivocally say, "I want to invoke my right to remain silent" or "I would rather have my attorney present before making any statement."

#### 4. Gather Evidence and Information

- **Preserve any digital communications:** Keep copies of emails, texts, or social media chats that could support your defense.
- **Document events:** Write down details of the day and time of the incident, possible witnesses, and any relevant interactions with the accuser.
- **Secure physical evidence:** If you have any physical evidence that may refute the claims, such as clothing, photos, or receipts, save them in their current state.

#### 5. Build a Defense with Your Attorney

- **Provide all relevant information:** [Be honest with your lawyer](#) and provide them with all documents and communications, even if you believe they may hurt your case. Your attorney will always have your best interests in mind.

- **Prepare for possible defenses:** Your attorney will walk you through all possible defenses to prepare for trial. Common defenses in sex crime cases include [consent](#), mistaken identity, [alibi](#), and false accusations.

## 6. Avoid Social Media and Making Public Statements

- **Don't post online:** Refrain from discussing the accusation or your case anywhere online, particularly social media platforms. Even seemingly innocent comments can be taken out of context. Also, anything posted can be used against you.
- **Instruct family and friends:** Ask anyone close to you not to speak about the case publicly or on social media.

## 7. Protect Your Personal and Professional Reputation

- **Be cautious regarding employee-employer matters:** If you're concerned about how the accusation will affect your job, consult your attorney before discussing anything with your employer.
- **Consider reputation management:** Your attorney can advise you on handling media exposure or public relations if necessary.

## 8. Understand Missouri's Legal Process for Sex Crimes

- **Fully cooperate with your attorney:** Your [sex crimes attorney](#) will keep you informed about court dates, any pretrial motions, and other legal proceedings.
- **Expect to encounter complex legal challenges:** Sex crimes charges in Missouri carry serious consequences, including [registration as a sex offender](#) if convicted. Work closely with your attorney to understand potential penalties and how to fight the charges.

## 9. Know Your Legal Rights

- **Challenge unlawful evidence:** If your rights were violated during the investigation – such as an [unreasonable search and seizure](#) or [failure to inform you of your Miranda rights](#) – your attorney can work to exclude evidence from your trial.
- **Understand all Missouri sex crime laws:** Your lawyer will explain specific laws, including [statute of limitations](#), potential penalties, and Missouri's sex offender registration requirements.

## 10. Prepare Mentally and Emotionally

- **Focus on self-care:** Make sure you are physically and mentally prepared to face the legal process.
- **Seek emotional support:** Being accused of a sex crime in Missouri can be traumatic. In addition to the support and guidance your attorney can provide, consider reaching out to a therapist or support group while you await trial.

## **Accused of a Sex Crime? Call the Expert Criminal Defense Attorneys at Combs Waterkotte Right Away**

Don't let this sex crime accusation ruin your life. As a leading [criminal defense law firm in Missouri](#), Combs Waterkotte understands the serious nature of sex crimes. Our skilled and experienced attorneys have successfully handled over 10,000 cases just like yours. Call 314-900-HELP immediately or [reach out online](#) for a free, confidential consultation with a knowledgeable sex crimes lawyer.