

False Accusations of Rape in Florida and Nationwide

Most people believe that if a person falsely accuses another person of rape, they just made it up. After all, that's what happens in many cases of false accusations of other crimes, such as theft. However, what happens in many cases of [false accusation of rape](#) is far more tragic. Many people who have actually been raped, particularly stranger rape, have accidentally accused the wrong person of rape.

DNA evidence suggests that many people who are in jail for rape could not have committed the crime they were accused of: the rape kit, which may contain semen or other DNA-containing evidence, shows that a completely different person committed the crime. The Innocence Project, a non-profit organization that uses DNA evidence to prove prisoners' innocence, has exonerated hundreds of men, often imprisoned for decades, from accusations of rape. It is unknown how many people are imprisoned for [sexual assaults in Florida](#) they did not commit.

Why? Well, eyewitnesses are often unreliable. A person who was raped may have been drunk, high, drugged with roofies or something else that made them pass out, or otherwise intoxicated, possibly to the point of unconsciousness. A rape survivor may have dissociated from their rape or otherwise been unable to note exact facial details. A rape may have occurred at night, in a darkened room or otherwise in a circumstance that makes it difficult to notice that the person was raped. Although they are only a small percentage of rape survivors, stranger rape survivors, in particular, are likely to be unfamiliar with the identity of the person who raped them.

Other factors after the rape may make it harder for a rape survivor to identify his or her rapist. For instance, time may pass and make it harder for the survivor to recall the rapist's face. Police may subtly pressure the survivor to pick someone out of the lineup, even if the rapist isn't there. In addition, sometimes police improperly use lineups, such as by having only one person of a particular race -- the suspect -- on the lineup. It is important to note that misremembering is never malicious on the part of the rape survivor. She or he is likely to honestly remember that the person who didn't rape them raped them.

If you have been falsely accused of rape in Florida, it is important to hire a [competent Florida rape attorney](#). A Florida rape attorney will look at all the possibilities, including DNA evidence and the possible of a mistaken eyewitness identification, to prove that you did not commit the crime you didn't commit. With the help of your Florida rape attorney, you can get your life back and the search for the real rapist—the person who actually committed the horrible crime— and for justice for the survivor may begin.