

Alexis Butler

Interviewer: Leslie Armstrong

1. How has the law changed regarding sexual assault?

If you assault someone, you will be charged for a crime if it is reported. It has changed because I think they have done more about the situation now than back in the day.

2. Does it matter whether a rape is a “stranger rape” or an “acquaintance rape” in the eyes of the law?

No. It does not matter what kind of rape it is, You still committed the crime.

3. How do you define “date rape?”

It’s where someone is trying to drug you or give you medication drugs to take advantage of you.

4. What are the best steps women can take to prevent being raped?

- Be Alert
- Watch surroundings
- Be cautious about who you bring around

5. If a women is raped, whom should she call right afterwards? Her doctor? Her lawyer? The police? All of the above ?

She should call all of the above immediately.

6. How is “stalking” defined legally?

- Following
- Harassing
- Violating
- Trespassing on property

7. How common are special victims in police departments?

There was not a specialized unit in any prosecutors' office or police agency to deal with these issues. Sex crimes, domestic violence, child abuse, and stalking.

8. Can so-called "cold cases" old crimes get solved today using these new tools?

Yes, a case can always be opened back up. It doesn't matter if it was 5 years ago.

9. What is the statute of limitations for rape?

Often the results connect known criminals to unsolved cases, or match up a string of sex offenders in different jurisdictions to a serial rapist. A rapist id computer-linked to multiple attacks by DNA fingerprinting long after victims imagined their attackers would be brought to justice. That's the main reason why many states are enacting legislation to eliminate the five year statutes of limitation that applied to most rape cases, allowing prosecutions whenever the DNA identifications is finally made.

10. What role does new DNA technology play in solving and prosecuting these crimes?

Most trials relied on the victim's ability to identify her assailant, which placed an enormous burden on women. Now, this brilliant methodology makes the likelihood of conviction much greater and less stressful. Can be used with equal reliability to exonerate suspects who have been wrongly accused.