Assault and Sexual Assault

Pre-Medical Control

MFR/EMT/SPECIALIST/PARAMEDIC

1. Follow **General Pre-hospital Care Protocol**
2. Preserve evidence whenever possible.
   A. Consider wearing gloves for all patient care and other activities with the crime scene.
   B. Never cut through holes in clothing created by bullets or knives.
   C. Retain all clothing, place in a paper bag.
   D. When transporting a patient who may be dying, ascertain name and/or description of assailant if possible.
   E. At an outdoor crime scene do not disturb shoe prints, tire marks, shell casings, etc.
   F. Limit movement at the crime scene.
   G. Attempt to keep others out of the area.
3. Advise patient to not shower, change clothes, or dispose of pertinent objects.
4. Assess patient for injury and treat according to protocol.
5. Use sensitivity in asking victim for historical information.
6. Thoroughly document all injuries and voluntary statements of patient.
7. Assure appropriate law enforcement agency has been notified.
   A. Notify the investigating law enforcement officer of any alteration of the crime scene by EMS personnel including:
      a. Any movement of furniture, tables, etc.
      b. The original position of the items
      c. If you turned on lights
      d. What you touched, moved, etc.

EMT/SPECIALIST/PARAMEDIC

8. Transport

Post-Medical Control

If transport is refused refer patient to support agency and/or hospital whenever possible.

NOTES:

1. Your first duty is to provide emergency medical care at the scene of an illness/injury.
2. Certain measures can be taken to assist law enforcement personnel in preserving a crime without jeopardy to the patient.
3. The investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident is the responsibility of the law enforcement agency.
4. Red marks may disappear and your documentation may be the only witness that the victim was choked or struck, even though he/she stated it.
5. Be alert for torn clothing, fragments of cloth, blood, or body fluids, etc. for they need to be preserved as evidence. Law enforcement is responsible for the disposition of this evidence.
6. Do not move firearms (loaded or unloaded) unless it poses a potential immediate threat. Secure any weapon that can be used against you or the crew out of the reach of the patient and bystanders.