The Preliminary Investigation
Recognize the common reactions and experiences of women who have been sexually assaulted
The Bottom Line

Proper Investigative Procedures must be followed for every sexual assault reported, regardless of your “gut” feelings.
Responding to a hot call
Responding to a delayed report
Initial Contact with the Victim

- Ensure victim safety
- Assess need for medical attention
- Establish that a crime has occurred
When a suspect is present at the crime scene
Determine the “type” of sexual assault committed and develop an investigative strategy.
The role of the advocate
The scope of the evidence collection process
Identify and secure crime scene
Evaluate the need for a search warrant
Preliminary Interview with the victim

• Information needed from the victim

• Victim’s physical and emotional well being
Determine when to obtain a forensic sexual assault examination of the victim
The role of the responding officer in investigating the suspect

• Identifying and locating the suspect

• Determine whether an immediate arrest should be made

• Purpose of a preliminary suspect interview
Determine the need for a forensic examination of the suspect