



Know
Before
You
Go

CHILE

A Guide to Keep You Safe Abroad

Provided by Sexual Assault Support and
Help for Americans Abroad (SASHAA)

Updated June 2017



SASHAA
Sexual Assault Support &
Help for Americans Abroad

Let's be perfectly clear, the number one way to prevent sexual assault is to **not rape**. While the responsibility of ending sexual gender-based violence is on the perpetrators, this guide will offer general safety tips, country-specific information, and resources to help prevent and prepare travelers for the possibility of sexual assault abroad.

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS:

1. Use the **buddy system** and travel with friends!
2. Be aware of **social and cultural norms**. For example, looking at someone in the eyes when you speak to them is perfectly normal in the U.S., but in another country that could signify you're interested in the person.
3. **Recognize controlling behavior** when entering a relationship. Most rape survivors recall feeling "uncomfortable" about some of their partner's behaviors such as degrading jokes/language or refusal to accept "no" as an answer, whether in a sexual context or otherwise.²
4. **Avoid secluded places** where you could be more vulnerable. Meet new people in public spaces and let a trusted friend know where you'll be beforehand.
5. **Trust your gut**. Many victims have a "bad feeling" right before an assault takes place.



ALCOHOL AND DRUG AWARENESS:

- Always be sure to watch your drink being poured and carry it yourself, even to the bathroom.
- Be aware of "drug-facilitated sexual assault drugs," also referred to as 'roofies' or 'club drugs,' which may turn your drink bright blue, cloudy, or slightly salty. Effects such as impaired judgment, lost sense of sight, sound, or consciousness can be felt within 15 minutes and up to 4 hours.³
- Chile's legal drinking age is 18.⁴ According to the World Health Organization, Chileans have one of the highest consumption rates in South America at approximately 9.6 liters of alcohol each year.⁵

CULTURAL INFORMATION:

Major Religions: Roman Catholic 66.7%, Evangelical or Protestant 16.4%, Jehovah's Witnesses 1%, other 3.4%, none 11.5%, unspecified 1.1% (2012 est.)⁶

Legal System: Chile is a democratic republic. The president is the supreme head of the nation and responsible for the general administration of the country.⁷

Social/Cultural Norms: Among friends, men typically embrace and pat each other on the back and women kiss once on the right cheek. Chileans tend to stand very close when conversing. Tradition and religion has played a large role in defining social and political life throughout the country.⁸

Gender Equality: The World Economic Forum ranked Chile 70th out of 144 in the Global Gender Gap Index.⁹ One pressing challenge continues to be the low rates of employment among women. The current female president created the first ever Women's and Gender Equality Ministry.¹⁰ However, recent statistics suggest that these reforms fell short in addressing deeply-rooted sexism in the Chilean workforce.¹¹



Sexual Assault and the Law: Chilean Context

In 1999, Chile's Criminal Penal Code was amended to begin redefining sexual assault and rape in order to increase conviction rates. There is now a broader scope of victim categories, no need for the qualification of having a "good reputation" in order to file charges, and criminalization of marital rape enforcement.¹² Rape is now considered any sexual action that consists of vaginal, anal or oral violations of any kind. The criminal punishment for rape is imprisonment for 5-15 years. Perpetrators can now be prosecuted for assaults committed 1) while being in charge of the victims' care, education, or employment, 2) when the victim is incapable of consent or 3) if the victim is deceived due to sexual ignorance.¹³

If You Experience Sexual Assault...

Don't blame yourself! **Sexual assault is never the fault of the victim.** You may be unsure of how to proceed, and that's okay. First, consider taking the following actions:

1. If you are in a safe place, **call someone you trust** to be with you. If you are not safe, call someone you trust to come and get you.
2. Do **self-collection of evidence**. Put all of the clothes you were wearing, bed sheets, and so on in a paper bag. If you have any injuries, **take pictures**. If there is semen present, collect what you can in a hotel glass or cup and put it in the paper bag.
3. **Call a SASHAA advocate** internationally toll free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They can help you through the ordeal, honoring your decisions. (See Resources)

Medical Care and Reporting Sexual Assault in Chile

Report crimes to the local **police at 133** and contact the **U.S. Embassy at (56) 2 2330-3716**. Local police are responsible for investigating and prosecuting the crime.¹⁴ The Code of Criminal Procedure states that any health professional who believes that a gender-based violence crime has been committed has a duty to report it. Nevertheless, according to Ministry of Health figures, there are more than 33,000 abortion-related hospital admissions a year.¹⁵ Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice and Policía de Investigaciones (PDI) in Chile have a number of offices specifically dedicated to assisting rape and sexual assault victims. However, experts believe that most gender-based violence cases go unreported due to fear, social stigmas, and other reasons.¹⁶

LGBTQ VICTIM CONCERNS



As of 2015, same-sex couples have the same legal protections available to opposite-sex married couples- except for adoption rights and the title of marriage. There has been no official prohibition, but LGBTQ people may be discharged in the armed forces due to "offenses to values and morals."¹⁷ Although LGBTQ discrimination is illegal, there have been discrimination cases reported, including cases involving violence and death.¹⁸

POST EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS, EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION, AND ABORTION

Q. Are post exposure prophylaxis and emergency contraception available?

A: Misoprostol is very difficult to obtain. It is registered under the names: misotrol, alumbra and cytotec. These forms of EC may be slightly easier to get in cities in the north, closer to the Peru. It has become more difficult to get in pharmacies, even with a prescription from a doctor.¹⁹

Q: Is abortion legal in Chile?

A: Chile is one of only six countries in Latin America that criminalize abortion under *all* circumstances. There are currently no exceptions due to the Church influence and strict laws that have not been amended in modern times.²⁰ Section 119 of the Health Code says "No action may be executed that has as its goal the inducement of abortion." A woman consenting to or inducing her own abortion is subject to imprisonment. Harsher penalties are placed on physicians who illegally administer abortions.²¹

Resources

SASHAA

SASHAA International Crisis Line:

To call our confidential, toll-free, International Crisis Line first dial the country specific AT&T access code for **Chile (Telmex: 800-225-288, ENTEL: 800-360-311, Telefonica: 800-800-288, Other Telmex: 171-00-311, Easter Island: 800-800-311)**. Then, at the prompt, enter our phone number: **866-USWOMEN (866-879-6636)**.

Crisis Email:

To reach a SASHAA advocate, you can email us at crisis@866uswomen.org. All crisis emails will be responded to within 24 hours. However, if you need to get in touch with us immediately, please call the international toll-free crisis line.

Live Chat:

SASHAA online chat services are available 24/7 at our website <https://sashaa.org>.

ABORTION HOTLINES

Linea Aborto Libre (Free Abortion Line)

Tel: 975307461

E-mail: femilesinfo@gmail.com

US EMBASSIES/CONSULATES

U.S. Embassy Santiago

Avenida Andres Bello 2800, Las Condes

Tel: +(56)(2) 2330-3000

Emergency After-Hours Tel: +(56)(2) 2330-3000

Email: SantiagoUSA@state.gov

GOVERNMENT MINISTRY

SERNAM Servicio Nacional de la Mujer

Central Level

Calle Agustinas 1389, Santiago, Metropolitana

Tel: +56 2 2672 1134

Website: www.minmujeryeg.gob.cl/

VICTIM SUPPORT CENTERS:

Valparaíso: Freire 657, Valparaíso

Tel: +56 32 325 7654

Valdivia: Jose Miguel Varela 235, Valdivia
Tel: +56 63 236 6956

Osorno: O'Higgins 667 piso 3, Osorno
Tel: +56 64 245 7906

Castro: Los Carrera 685, Castro
Tel: +56 65 239 2156

Puerto Natales: Germann Eberhard 448, PN
Tel: +56 61 236 7252

Santiago: Arturo Prat 134, Santiago
Tel: +56 2 2902 8357

*Website: www.apoyovictimas.cl

NON-GOVERNMENTAL

Sexual and Reproductive Rights Network Forum

San Luis 1438 Independencia

Tel: 02-7356641

Email: forosalud@gmail.com

Servicio Medico Legal

Avenida La Paz 1012. Independencia

Tel: (56-2) 782-3500

Website: www.wwwsml.cl

Casa Malen

Los Arrayanes 6342 Lo Prado, Santiago

Tel: (56-2) 775-2684

Email: carpdoir@entelchile.net

Centro de Asistencia a Víctimas de Atentados Sexuales (CAVAS)

Roman Diaz 817 Providencia, Santiago

Tel: (56-2) 264-0431 /2493

Email: cavasinvestigaciones@gmail.com

Website: <http://victimasportal.org/>

Chilean Network against Domestic and Sexual Violence

San Luis # 1438, Independencia

Tel: (56 2) 2665 7106

Website: www.nomasviolenciacontramujeres.cl/

POLICE

Ambulance (SAMU): 131

Police Emergency: 133

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