

# RAPE ALLEGATION CHECKLIST

*Created by the U.S. Pentagon and  
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Tabulation of Investigators Findings				Points
<b>Initial Complaint</b>				
1	Was the complaint timely?	Y	N	N=0.5
2	Was the initial complaint made by the victim to a friend?	Y	N	Y=0.5
3	Were law enforcement authorities notified by someone other than the victim?	Y	N	Y=3.0
<b>Nature of the Allegation</b>				
4	Does victim report being abducted?	Y	N	Y=0.5
5	Does victim report being intoxicated at the time of the assault?	Y	N	Y=3.0
6	Does victim's recollection of the details of the assault seem overly broad?	Y	N	Y=0.5
7	Does victim report offering vigorous resistance to her assailant?	Y	N	Y=3.0
8	Is victim able to identify or locate the scene of the assault?	Y	N	N=3.0
9	Does victim report passing out or losing consciousness during the assault?	Y	N	Y=0.5
10	Does victim report waking up (or coming to) and finding her assailant engaging in intercourse with her?	Y	N	Y=0.5
11	Does victim have difficulty in describing the sexual details of the assault?	Y	N	Y=0.5
12	Does victim report anal sex (sodomy)?	Y	N	N=1.0
13	Does victim report forced oral sex (fellatio)?	Y	N	N=0.5
14	Does victim's story contain any significant changes in subsequent retelling?	Y	N	Y=2.0
15	Does victim describe the assault in flat, unemotional tones?	Y	N	Y=0.5
16	Does victim describe the assault with a sense of relish or enthusiasm?	Y	N	Y=0.5
17	Does victim report being assaulted at gunpoint?	Y	N	Y=3.0
<b>Suspect Description</b>				
18	Does victim report being assaulted by multiple assailants?	Y	N	Y=0.5
19	Does victim report her assailant(s) as being of a different race or ethnic group?	Y	N	Y=0.5
20	Does victim report keeping her eyes closed during the assault (and therefore not able to identify her assailant)?	Y	N	Y=0.5
21	Does victim describe her assailant as having an unsavory appearance?	Y	N	Y=0.5
22	Does victim report her assailant wore a mask?	Y	N	Y=0.5

<b>Tabulation of Investigators Findings</b>				<b>Points</b>
23	Does victim report her assailant wore gloves?	Y	N	Y=0.5
24	Does victim describe her assailant as a person she knows or who is familiar to her but can't provide a good physical description?	Y	N	Y=3.0
<b>Physical and Medical Evidence</b>				
25	Is the crime scene consistent with the story?	Y	N	N=3.0
26	Does victim display any minor sharp weapon injuries (lacerations)?	Y	N	Y=3.0
27	Is the condition of victim's clothing consistent with her story?	Y	N	N=3.0
28	Does victim present bruises from the assault which are inconsistent in color (age) with the time of the assault?	Y	N	Y=0.5
29	Does victim display any cross-hatching scratches to the face?	Y	N	Y=5.0
30	Does victim display shallow scratches to the face, neck, breasts, thighs or stomach?	Y	N	Y=5.0
31	If scratches are present on the face or breasts, do they cross the eyes, lips or nipples?	Y	N	N=3.0
32	Do any lacerations include hesitation wounds?	Y	N	Y=5.0
33	Does victim display any writing on her body allegedly done by the assailant?	Y	N	Y=5.0
<b>Victim's attitude</b>				
34	Does victim seem ambivalent toward her injuries?	Y	N	Y=0.5
35	Does victim appear to feign emotions when relating details of the assault?	Y	N	Y=0.5
36	Is victim reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement authorities?	Y	N	Y=0.5
37	When telling about the assault, does victim have difficulty explaining anomalies or inconsistencies?	Y	N	Y=0.5
38	Does victim demand to be treated by a female physician or interviewed by a female police officer?	Y	N	Y=1.0
39	Does victim express a desire to "drop" the whole matter or otherwise indicate she does not want it investigated?	Y	N	Y=1.0
40	Does victim become outraged when asked to corroborate her assault?	Y	N	Y=1.0
41	Does victim try to steer the interview into "safe" topics or those that will engender sympathy?	Y	N	Y=0.5

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<b>Assailant's Communications</b>				
42	Does victim report receiving obscene phone calls prior to the assault?	Y	N	Y=1.0
43	Does victim report receiving phone calls from the assailant after the assault?	Y	N	Y=1.0
44	Does victim report receiving any kind of written communication from her assailant before, during, or after the assault?	Y	N	Y=1.0
45	If victim has received a written communication, was it a "cut and paste" note?	Y	N	Y=3.0
46	If victim has received written communication, does it contain any kind of rhyming scheme or take the form of poetry?	Y	N	Y=3.0
47	Does victim report being watched (surveilled) by her assailant prior to the assault?	Y	N	Y=0.5
48	Does the victim report being complimented by her assailant during the assault?	Y	N	Y=0.5
<b>Personality and Lifestyle Issues</b>				
49	Does victim report engaging in high risk behavior prior to her assault?	Y	N	Y=2.0
50	Does victim have a history of alcohol abuse?	Y	N	Y=3.0
51	Does victim have a history of financial problems?	Y	N	Y=1.0
52	Does victim have a history of mental or emotional problems?	Y	N	Y=3.0
53	Does victim have a significant medical history?	Y	N	Y=2.0
54	Does victim report prior rapes or assaults?	Y	N	Y=2.0
55	Does victim have a history of work-related problems?	Y	N	Y=2.0
56	Does victim have problems in her interpersonal relationships (i.e., with her husband, boyfriend, or others)?	Y	N	Y=3.0
57	Does the allegation solve a problem for the victim?	Y	N	Y=5.0

**SCORING SCALE (sum of investigators findings for the 57 questions):<sup>1</sup>**

- 0 - 15: **EQUIVOCAL** (further investigation is required)
- 16 - 35: **ALLEGATION PROBABLY FALSE** (but may still be true)
- 36 - 75: **FALSE ALLEGATION** (absent clear and convincing evidence)
- 76 & UP: **OVERKILL** (no known examples of actual rape victims in this range)

1. Checklist based on a 1985 investigation of 1,218 cases of purported rape by U.S. Air Force personnel from 1980-1984 conducted by [Col. Charles P. McDowell, Ph.D.](#), U.S. Air Force, Office of Special Investigations. Of the 1,218 complaints 460 (38%) were found to be valid, in 212 (17%) cases the women admitted the charges were false, 546 (45%) of the remaining cases lacked convincing evidence, and eventually 366 (67%) of the women in this group admitted the charges were false. Thus, 48% of the original charges were shown to be false accusations.