

# What Happens if I'm Charged with Sexual Battery?

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Sexual battery and assault is and always has been a serious problem. Women are the victims of sex-related crimes way too often. Statistics say that 683,000 forcible rapes occur every year in the US, which comes down to 1.3 forcible rapes every minute.

## Sexual Battery in Palm Beach County

According to [WPTV News Channel 5](#), a man accused of raping four young girls multiple times was taken into custody yesterday.

Kengi Meritt, 29, a former Boynton Beach resident, has been charged with four counts of sexual battery. The girls, who are now 8, 11, 13, and 14 years old claimed Merritt abused them over a period of five years, according to the Miami Herald.

Merritt is being held without bond in the Orange County Jail until he is extradited to Palm Beach County to face the charges.

## Sexual Battery

Sexual Battery is defined as oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by, or union with, the sexual organ of another, or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any other object; however, sexual battery does not include an act done for a bona fide medical purpose.

## Sexual Battery and The Law

As stated in [Florida Statute 794.011](#):

"A person 18 years of age or older who commits sexual battery upon, or in an attempt to commit sexual battery injures the sexual organs of, a person less than 12 years of age commits a capital felony punishable by death, or life imprisonment and ineligibility for parole."

If you were charged with sexual battery, it is important to contact a [criminal defense lawyer](#) that understands the seriousness of the charge and knows how to defend against it. A knowledgeable [criminal defense attorney](#) should have extensive experience representing people charged with aggravated assault and battery. [A criminal defense lawyer's team](#) will review the evidence and conduct private investigations in order to find holes in the prosecution's case.

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