

*Due, in part, to the lack of research in the area of false rape allegations and the lack of investigator awareness and willingness to investigate such instances, there are few, if any, tools to assist investigators in identifying potential false reports. The BAFRI attempts to address that need.*

### **Baeza False Report Index (BAFRI)**

1. A female victim has demanded to speak with a female officer or investigator (this excludes those cases in which a male officer or investigator has acted inappropriately towards the female).
2. A female victim's husband, boyfriend, or other intimate partner has forced her to report the alleged crime, rather than having reported the crime of her own volition.
3. A victim's parents have forced the victim to report the alleged crime, rather than having reported the crime of their own volition.
4. A victim, most often underage (less than 18 years old), has returned home after their curfew.
5. A victim states that they were abducted at a busy intersection (or some other very public location) during the day, and there are no witnesses to the incident.
6. A victim states that they were attacked by a masked offender in the middle of the day on a busy street (paradoxical offender behavior).
7. A victim is in a drug rehabilitation program and is out past curfew.
8. A pregnant female victim is forced by a parent or guardian, to report the crime to police.
9. A victim cannot describe the suspect nor can they provide details of the crime.
10. A victim has previously been charged with falsely reporting an incident.
11. A victim has previously reported a similar crime to the police.
12. A victim focuses on relocating to a new home or apartment during the investigation.
13. A victim focuses on initiating a lawsuit or on monetary gain during the investigation.
14. A victim displays "T.V." behavior when initiating a complaint, mimicking the way that stereotypical victims act on television and in film (hysterical, demand female officer, catatonic, etc.).
15. A victim cries at crucial points in the interview to avoid answering certain questions.
16. A victim has a long psychiatric history.

\*It must be made absolutely clear that this index is to be used as a guide, or investigative tool, only. These items are **NOT** 100% foolproof indicators that the victim is falsely reporting a crime. To the professional investigator or forensic practitioner, **these red flags merely suggest the possibility that the allegations may be false.** There is no substitute for a thorough investigation or investigative case analysis.

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