

## Introduction

The University of Notre Dame is committed to providing a campus environment that fosters inquiry, faith, scholarship and community. Clearly, misconduct such as rape or any form of sexual assault has no place in any community – least of all in a Catholic university setting. Additional resources regarding sexual assault can be found in the student handbook, *du Lac: A Guide to Student Life*.

Sexual assault is defined as any unwanted sexual activity forced by one person on another, including but not limited to: stranger, acquaintance, date, marital or gang rape, and forced sodomy. Sexual assault and rape are violations of Indiana law, whether they occur on or off University property.

*The University encourages the reporting of sexual misconduct, especially sexual assault. At times, victims are hesitant to report to University officials because of a concern that they themselves may be charged with policy violations, such as intoxication or parietales. The University recognizes that it is in the community's best interest that victims feel supported and encouraged to report sexual assaults or misconduct; accordingly, student victims will not be subject to disciplinary action in connection with their reporting of sexual assault or misconduct. In some circumstances, the University may recommend and provide educational options that do not include formal disciplinary sanctions.*

### The University is sensitive to the following facts regarding sexual violence/assault:

- It is **never** the survivor's fault.
- A survivor's behavior is irrelevant, including his/her attire. No one "deserves," "asks for," or "provokes" sexual assault.
- Using alcohol or drugs is not an excuse for sexual assault.
- College-age students are more likely to be raped than any other age group.
- It is estimated that as many as one in four college women will be sexually assaulted during their college years.
- Recent statistics indicate that ten percent of sexual assault survivors are men.
- Sexual assault and rape are crimes of dominance, control, and power and involve violent and aggressive acts.
- Submission out of fear is not consent and does not imply failure on the part of the survivor.
- Ninety percent of rape survivors attending colleges and universities knew the offender. An offender may be a date, friend, or someone the survivor knows only casually.
- Survivors of acquaintance or date rape are as much a survivor as someone assaulted by a stranger.
- Survivors may experience many aftereffects as a result of sexual assault, and individual responses may vary.

## Resources

### Sexual Assault Resource Person (574) 631-7728

The University's Sexual Assault Resource Person(s) provide a safe and confidential place for students to learn about University resources and options available to them. They are committed to helping survivors get the support needed, either on or off campus.

## Reporting Options

The University encourages students to report any incident of sexual assault or misconduct. A student who has been victimized may choose to pursue one or more of the following options or take no action.

### A. Off-Campus Options

Survivors of sexual assault may choose to pursue criminal prosecution and/or civil litigation. Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) is available to act as a liaison with the St. Joseph's County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Survivors should consult legal counsel for additional information and assistance.

### B. On-Campus Options

A student may elect to pursue University disciplinary options. For information regarding the relevant procedures, please see *du Lac*. A student seeking further information, clarification, or assistance may make confidential inquiries through the Office of Residence Life and Housing. In requesting information about the process, the individual will not be required to give her or his name, describe the alleged incident in detail, or submit anything in writing to the Office of Residence Life of Housing. Requesting information does not commit a student to any subsequent course of action.

An Office of Residence Life and Housing staff member will answer questions and thoroughly review Administrative Hearing procedures with the student so that she or he can make an informed decision about exercising this option. Should the student choose to proceed, the Office of Residence Life and Housing will request a written report of the incident.

### C. Housing and Academic Options

A student victim may request assistance with academic matters or a change in housing. To the extent these requests are reasonable and can be accommodated, every effort will be made to do so.

## University and Community Resources

### Important Phone Numbers

#### University of Notre Dame

NDSP (24 Hour).....	(574) 631-5555
Counseling Center (24 Hour).....	(574) 631-7336
University Sexual Assault Resource Person.....	(574) 631-7728
Campus Ministry.....	(574) 631-7800
Health Services.....	(574) 631-7567
Office of Residence Life and Housing.....	(574) 631-5878

**S-O-S Rape Crisis Center (24 Hour).....** (574) 289-HELP

#### St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center

**Emergency Room.....** (574) 237-7111

#### Police – Notify police in the

locale in which the incident occurred.....	911
St. Joseph County Police.....	(574) 245-6500
South Bend Police.....	(574) 235-9201
Mishawaka Police.....	(574) 258-1683
State Police.....	(574) 233-1123
St. Joseph County Prosecuting Attorney's Office .....	(574) 235-9544

#### University Counseling Center

Staffed by trained professionals, the University Counseling Center can provide support and assistance to both survivors and those supporting survivors in the healing process. Students may seek counseling at any time.

- Counseling services are available year-round.
- Services are completely confidential.
- The aftereffects of a traumatic experience such as sexual assault or rape are many and varied. Survivors may experience feelings of shame, isolation, or helplessness, among many others.



#### University Health Services

University Health Services provides confidential and professional medical care to rape and sexual assault victims. However, the staff is unable to perform examinations related to the collection of evidence.

NDSP and University Health Services can be of assistance when a survivor requests and/or requires transportation to the hospital. St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center has a specially trained sexual

assault team available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is generally the preferred care facility for survivors.

## Quick Reference:

### What to Do if You are Assaulted

- Get to a safe place.
- Avoid washing, douching, brushing your teeth, or changing your clothes. While this may be difficult, preserving evidence is important in the event you decide to report the assault to the police.
- Call someone. No matter how late it is, you should not be alone. There are many people at the University who can help and support you: a friend, your Rector, AR or RA, NDSP, the University Counseling Center, and University Health Services. S-O-S of Madison Center provides an off-campus option. (See inside for contact information.)
- Seek medical attention at the Emergency Room of either St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center or Memorial Hospital.
- Consider reporting the assault to either the University or local police. See "Reporting Options" for more detailed information.

### How Can I Help A Friend Who Has Been Assaulted?

- **Listen** to his/her story.
- Let him/her know that you believe him/her.
- Provide comfort (i.e., ask "What can I do to help you?")
- **Affirm** the person. Let him/her know that you do not think he/she was at fault.
- Let him/her know that you want to make sure that he/she feels safe that day and evening.
- Suggest that he/she contact professionals (i.e., medical or psychological experts.)
- Help him/her organize his/her thoughts.
- **Empower** the individual to make his/her own decisions (i.e., "What would you like to do now?") by providing information about the possible options.
- If you are unsure of what to do, talk to your Rector, AR, RA, resources in Campus Ministry, the UCC, or Health Services. There are many resources available to help you and the survivor.
- Pay attention to your own feelings, as well as those of the survivor. If you are experiencing anger, be careful not to unleash it on him/her.



## University and Community Resources

### Pastoral Support

Campus Ministry, residence hall staffs, and members of the clergy are available to provide pastoral support both for the survivor and for any persons who may need support in assisting survivors through the healing process.

### S-O-S of Madison Center

S-O-S is St. Joseph County's Rape-Crisis Center. The trained professionals at S-O-S are available 24 hours a day and provide confidential counseling and recovery services, group therapy, information, and referrals. S-O-S also provides support and information about communication with the police, family, and friends. S-O-S Volunteer Advocates provide emotional support and information over the phone and in person at area Emergency Departments around the clock. Advocates also act as liaisons between the survivor and the legal process and can accompany the survivor to court if desired.

### Reporting Procedures

The University encourages all survivors of rape, or any other sex offense, to report such incidents to the appropriate police agency. If the incident occurred on University property, NDSP is the appropriate agency. For most local but off-campus incidents, the appropriate agency will either be the St. Joseph County, South Bend, or Mishawaka police departments. NDSP is available at any time to assist any student who wishes to report an offense that occurred in any police jurisdiction.

Once NDSP is contacted, a trained investigator will be assigned to follow up on the initial report. Filing a report does not commit the student to any subsequent course of action. Options and alternatives will be presented and discussed, but final decisions are left to the individual.

Confidentiality is a critical concern for survivors of sexual assault. Student victims frequently express concern that family, friends, professors, police, hall staff and/or press will learn of their situation. In keeping with the University's pastoral relationship with its students, the Vice President for Student Affairs is generally apprised of any serious incident involving a Notre Dame student. Insofar as it does not interfere with the University's legal or ethical obligations, the Office of Student Affairs will honor the survivor's choices regarding additional reporting and follow-up.

### Educational Programs and Prevention Services

Many University departments and organizations offer programs aimed at the prevention of sex offenses, including: the Gender Relations Center, NDSP, Student Government, and the First Year of Studies. For more specific information on any of these programs, contact the Office of Residence Life and Housing or the Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention (CSAP).

For more information, please see:

<http://csap.nd.edu>

# Support Services for Survivors of Rape and Sexual Assault



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