

Victim of Sexual Assault

Sexual Assault – Any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will; or where the victim is incapable of giving consent. This includes Forcible Rape, Forcible Sodomy, Sexual Assault With An Object, and Forcible Fondling.

You cannot consent to any sexual activity while incapacitated by alcohol or drugs, while passed out, sleeping, or if you are unaware of what is going on.

Sexual assault is NEVER the victim's fault!

Consent is mutual and informed!

What to do if you are sexually assaulted:

- Get to a safe place away from your perpetrator as soon as possible.
- Call a sexual assault (SAFE) advisor, on campus (http://www.westminster.edu/student/healthcenter/counsel/pdf/sexual_assault_advisors.pdf) or through the Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County @ 724 652-9036 to obtain an advocate. Advocates may be present during any medical, police or legal meeting you wish for an advocate to be present. Advocates can help you navigate the medical and criminal justice systems as well as provide information and support.
- Do not shower or change clothes before seeking medical attention. Take a change of clothes, the clothes you are wearing at the time of the assault will be retained as evidence.
- Seek medical attention – Even though no outward injuries exist, it is important to be checked by a medical professional. Forensic exams are done by specially trained nurses in the emergency room and are free for victims of sexual assault and do not go through the victim's insurance. Exams may preserve crucial evidence should you choose to report, though reporting to police is NOT necessary in order to have an exam completed.
- Consider reporting to police and/or your college.

Know Your Rights on Campus

- To be safe and free from a hostile environment
- To say "no" at ANY time
- To take legal action when a crime is committed against you
- To work with the police, campus officials and the prosecutor
- To be notified of counseling and other support services from the college and local resources
- To reasonable changes in academic and living situations
- To be notified of final results of any institutional disciplinary proceeding
- To have your name kept confidential

Process

Option 1 – Pursue Campus Disciplinary Charges

- Report to a campus official such as the Dean of Students or Public Safety
 - You have a right to have your report investigated, this may take several days to several weeks
 - A public warning may be issued to keep your campus safe. Your name and info will be kept confidential and you will be notified.
 - Local Law enforcement may be involved if reported to Campus Public Safety, it is still your decision on direction the investigation proceeds
- Ask campus personnel to be sure a “no Contact” order for campus is in place.
- Report forwarded to the Student Affairs Office, which is responsible for student discipline.
- Office responsible for disciplinary action follows up
- Conduct hearing may take place
 - You are entitled to have the same support as the accused to have a support person present as the accused.
 - If the accused is found responsible, then appropriate sanctions will be determined. You and the accused are notified of the outcome and any sanctions.

Option 2 – Pursue Criminal Charges

- If you would like their assistance Campus personnel will assist you in reporting to campus or local law enforcement
- Ask campus personnel to be sure a “no contact” order for campus is in place.
- An anonymous warning may be issued.
- Investigation is conducted by WC Public Safety or New Wilmington Police Department
- Investigation is forwarded to Lawrence County District Attorney for possible prosecution.
- Prosecution occurs in the criminal courts

Option 3 – Pursue both College and Criminal Charges

- Process of Option 1 and 2 occur simultaneously. Institutional and Criminal adjudication process occur independently, college should not refuse to act while awaiting outcome of criminal case.

Option 4 – Report Assault but Choose not to Pursue Charges

- If you wish to have a “no contact” order in place, you should request through Student Affairs. An institutional “no contact” order is for campus only. In some situations you may be able to obtain a protective order that extends off campus through a local court.
- Anonymous warning may be issued.
- Counseling and support services are still available and encouraged.

Thanks to Security on Campus, Inc. guide to victim of sexual assault booklet providing information in this guide.

