

Sexual Violence

and Title IX

What you need to know
at Coastal Carolina University

2014-2015



Online Resources

Title IX	coastal.edu/titleix/
CCU Policies	coastal.edu/policies
Counseling Services	coastal.edu/counseling
Student Health Services	coastal.edu/health
Dean of Students Office	coastal.edu/deanofstudents
Department of Public Safety	coastal.edu/safety
U.S. White House Resources	notalone.gov
National Sexual Violence Resource Center	nsvrc.org
Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN)	rainn.org

Apps

Circle of 6 – Free

Important Telephone Numbers

Campus Resources

Counseling Services	843-349-2305
Department of Public Safety	Emergency 843-349-2911
	Non-Emergency .. 843-349-2177
Office of University Housing	843-349-6400
Office of Student Affairs	843-349-2302
Student Health Services	843-349-6543
Dean of Students Office	843-349-4161
Office of Human Resources and Equal Opportunity	843-349-2036
Anonymous TIPS LINE	843-349-TIPS / 843-349-8477
Title IX Coordinator	843-333-6229
Student Advocacy and Intervention Manager	843-349-4161

Community Resources

Emergency Local Police and Medical	911
Rape Crisis Center	843-448-RAPE / 843-448-7273
Waccamaw Center for Mental Health	843-347-4888
Conway Medical Center	843-347-7111
Grand Strand Regional Medical Center	843-692-1000
Waccamaw Community Hospital	843-652-1000
Georgetown Memorial Hospital	843-527-7000
Conway Police Department	843-248-1790
Horry County Police Department	843-915-8342
Horry County Magistrate Office	843-915-5290
Horry County Solicitor's Office	843-915-5460

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Coastal Carolina University • P.O. Box 261954 • Conway, SC 29528-6054 • coastal.edu

A Message from the President

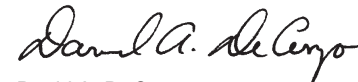
Dear Campus Community,

First and foremost, it is important for you to know that Coastal Carolina University does not tolerate any form of sexual violence. We are committed to educating not only our students, but also our faculty, staff and campus community in regard to Title IX protections, mandates and violations. We have put in place multiple resources to support students who have been victimized by sexual violence or sexual harassment. It is important that you know what is available and how to reach out for those resources.

This booklet is a great source of information for you to keep on hand if you or someone you know is ever affected by sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, domestic violence or sexual harassment. There are tips and other information you will find valuable to add to your college skills tool kit. I encourage each member of our community to take a stand against sexual violence. You can do this by being educated, by ensuring victims get the support they need for their safety and well-being, and by being an active citizen reporting behaviors that are against our policies.

Together we can make a positive impact on this campus to prevent violence in the many forms it may present itself.

Sincerely,



David A. DeCenzo
President, Coastal Carolina University



Definition of Sexual Violence

Under the Clery Act, forcible sex offenses are defined as any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will, or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent. Forcible sex offenses include forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. It includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX.

"Dating violence is defined as violence committed by a person "who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim"; and "where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship." 20 U.S.C. 1152 (f) (1)

Title IX also prohibits gender-based harassment, which may include acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping, even if those acts do not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

South Carolina law prohibits acts of sexual violence and identifies them as "criminal sexual conduct." See page 5 for specific definitions.

The Coastal Carolina University Code of Student Conduct states the following:

The University prohibits:

- Physical assault or abuse – tries to or does physically strike another,
- Sexual assault or abuse – actual or attempted non-consensual sexual activity including but not limited to intercourse or sexual touching by a person known or unknown, and
- Other conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person or any act that unreasonably interferes with, impedes or harasses other persons in the pursuit of their education or way of life.

QUICK FACTS

- College students are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence: 1-in-5 women have been sexually assaulted while in college.
- Men and boys, however, are also at risk: 1-in-71 men – or almost 1.6 million – have been sexually assaulted during their lives.
- Approximately 86 percent of victims know their assailants.
- The vast majority (nearly 98 percent) of perpetrators are male.
- Other populations are also at higher risk of being sexually assaulted, including people with disabilities, the LGBT community, prison inmates (of both genders), and the homeless.

Source: cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/sexualviolence/index.html

University Policies

Code of Student Conduct

Sexual misconduct is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. To initiate the student conduct process, the complainant should contact the Dean of Students Office and report the assault with a request that charges be filed. If the student/complainant does not wish any official action be taken, that is his/her choice.

Students accused of sexual misconduct are charged with violating Coastal Carolina University's Code of Student Conduct. The complainant is allowed to make a "victim impact statement" as part of the hearing process. During the hearing process, the complainant and the respondent may have an adviser present. (Please refer to the Code of Student Conduct regarding the role of an adviser as well as specifics of the conduct process.) Upon completion of the hearing process, both the complainant and the respondent are notified of the outcome.

If the student chooses not to file a formal complaint, but does identify the alleged perpetrator, the University may still decide to initiate an investigation, if there is potential threat to the campus. If a student is found in violation of sexual misconduct, disciplinary action may result in his/her separation from the University.

- The **Code of Student Conduct** can be viewed online at: coastal.edu/conduct
- Sexual Violence Policy**
Coastal Carolina University's policy on sexual violence can be viewed on the policy website: coastal.edu/policies
- Sexual Harassment Policy**
Coastal Carolina University's policy on sexual harassment can be viewed on the following policy website: coastal.edu/policies/policyDetails.html?x=85

The standard of proof used to determine a violation is "a preponderance of information," not the "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard used in civil and/or criminal proceedings. This means that a student may be found in violation of the Code if the information gathered indicates that it is 51 percent likely that the violating behavior occurred.

Retaliation

Retaliatory harassment against any complainant of sexual violence is prohibited and in direct violation of University policy. Any problems involving retaliation should be reported to the Dean of Students Office or the Title IX Coordinator so further action can be taken.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 on Sexual Violence

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities operated by recipients of federal financial assistance. This includes Coastal Carolina University. Title IX defines sexual harassment as “unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. It includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature.”

Sexual violence, according to the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, is defined as “physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person’s will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim’s use of drugs or alcohol.”

Title IX requires that “if a school knows or reasonably should know about student-on-student harassment [including sexual violence] that creates a hostile environment...the school [should] take immediate action to eliminate the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects.”

While students may pursue charges against an alleged perpetrator of sexual violence through South Carolina Law or the Coastal Carolina University Code of Student Conduct, they may also address alleged acts of sexual violence through CCU’s Title IX Coordinator.

- **Denise L. Morkis Perez, Title IX Coordinator**
Title IX: 843-333-6229 • dmorkis@coastal.edu
- **Travis E. Overton, Dean of Students, Deputy Title IX Coordinator**
843-349-4161 • toverton@coastal.edu



South Carolina Law on Criminal Sexual Conduct

According to the South Carolina Code of Law, criminal sexual conduct is defined as follows:

SECTION 16 3 652. Criminal sexual conduct in the first degree.

- (1) A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree if the actor engages in sexual battery with the victim and if any one or more of the following circumstances are proven:
 - (a) The actor uses aggravated force to accomplish sexual battery.
 - (b) The victim submits to sexual battery by the act or under circumstances where the victim is also the victim of forcible confinement, kidnapping, trafficking in persons, robbery, extortion, burglary, housebreaking, or any other similar offense or act.
 - (c) The actor causes the victim, without the victim's consent, to become mentally incapacitated or physically helpless by administering, distributing, dispensing, delivering, or causing to be administered, distributed, dispensed, or delivered a controlled substance, a controlled substance analogue, or any intoxicating substance.
- (2) Criminal sexual conduct in the first degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) years, according to the discretion of the court.

SECTION 16 3 653. Criminal sexual conduct in the second degree.

- (1) A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the second degree if the actor uses aggravated coercion to accomplish sexual battery.
- (2) Criminal sexual conduct in the second degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than twenty (20) years according to the discretion of the court.

SECTION 16 3 654. Criminal sexual conduct in the third degree.

- (1) A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree if the actor engages in sexual battery with the victim and if any one or more of the following circumstances are proven:
 - (a) The actor uses force or coercion to accomplish the sexual battery in the absence of aggravating circumstances.
 - (b) The actor knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless and aggravated force or aggravated coercion was not used to accomplish sexual battery.
- (2) Criminal sexual conduct in the third degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than ten years, according to the discretion of the court.

It Could Happen To Anyone

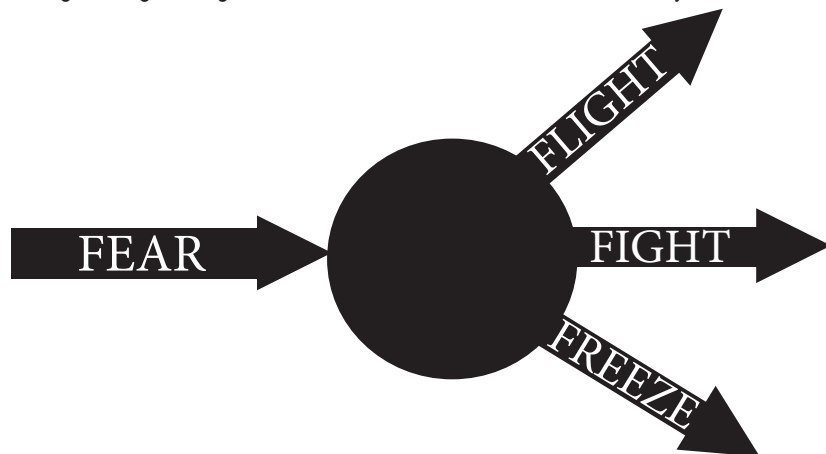
Anyone can be a survivor of sexual violence. Both women and men can experience sexual violence.

Besides feeling frightened, angry, hurt and ashamed, survivors can feel betrayed and even guilty for having “facilitated” the assault. In some cases, he/she does not even acknowledge that he/she has been assaulted until long after the incident has occurred.

If you find yourself in an unwanted sexual situation, on a date or wherever, be assertive – say no. If you are told “no” when you make a sexual advance, accept it.

Fight, Flight or Freeze

The nervous system responses of fight, flight and freeze are automatic survival actions. They are similar to reflexes in that they are instantaneous, but the mechanisms underlying these responses are much more complex. If the limbic system perceives that there is neither time nor strength for fight or flight, and death could be imminent, then the body will freeze.



Many survivors of sexual assault go into a “freeze state” while the assault is going on as a way of surviving. As we look back on what happened, it is easy to feel a lot of guilt or shame for freezing and not doing more to protect ourselves by fighting back or running away.

Understanding that freezing is not under the control of the victim is often a great help to people.

It is not your fault!

Potential Short- and Long-Term Effects of Sexual Violence

Adult's Response to Trauma

An adult's response to traumatic and cumulative stress varies according to how frequent and severe the events were as well as the coping skills of the individual. Generally, an individual's initial response, although quite upsetting, is considered an expected response to an experience outside of “normal” day-to-day experience. Individuals can be at risk for developing more serious problems such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. If the symptoms continue or greatly interfere with daily life, individuals should seek help as soon as possible.

Initial or Short Term Response	Delayed or Cumulative Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Shakiness, dizziness, numbness ▶ Crying or tearfulness ▶ Disturbed sleep or wakefulness ▶ Change in appetite ▶ Increased irritability and anger ▶ Argumentativeness ▶ Withdrawal or isolating self ▶ Family or marital conflict ▶ Refusal to talk about event ▶ Avoidance of reminders of event ▶ Reduced concentration ▶ Preoccupation with event ▶ Headaches ▶ Diarrhea ▶ Stomach aches ▶ Tingling in arms and legs ▶ Ringing in ears ▶ Feelings of helplessness ▶ Flashbacks and/or nightmares ▶ Anxiety and thoughts of death or dying* ▶ Initiating or increasing alcohol or drug use 	<p>Symptoms may appear in one to three months (or sometimes later) and last indefinitely without proper response. They generally include items in column one but with increasing severity. In addition, traumatic stress may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Preoccupation with the event to the exclusion of life activities ▶ Marked avoidance of reminders of the event ▶ Ongoing fatigue ▶ Disinterest in sex, leisure activities or other symptoms of depression ▶ Chronic feelings of hopelessness or powerlessness or worthlessness ▶ Inability to work ▶ Forgetfulness ▶ Increased accidents due to inability to concentrate ▶ Flashbacks and/or nightmares ▶ Sense of not being “all there” ▶ Increasing anger or violent behavior ▶ Marital or family conflict ▶ Inability to leave home and feel safe ▶ Substance dependence ▶ Suicidal thinking or planning*
<p>*ANY thoughts of self-destructive behavior need to be addressed immediately. Professional help should be sought.</p>	

What is Consent?

Consent is an agreement between people before they engage in any kind of sexual activity. Both people have to say “yes!” clearly and freely. Consent must be willing. The decision to have any type of sexual behavior must be free of force. Both partners must be free to make their own decisions and have the option of whether or not to be intimate. Force can either be physical or emotional. Examples of physical force include kidnapping, using weapons, holding someone down or taking advantage of someone when they are incapacitated due to drug or alcohol use. Examples of emotional force include threats, peer pressure, blackmail, guilt or coercion. Consent is an ongoing process, and either party can revoke consent at any point in the process. Consent can only happen when everyone participating is of legal age to consent to sexual activity.

Consent Is:

- An agreement made when both people want to have sex
- When both people can freely express their needs and wants without fear of their partner’s reaction
- Mutual
- Voluntary
- Sober
- Talked about before any sexual activity
- Enthusiastic
- Fun

Consent Is Not:

- The absence of “no”
- Implied or assumed, even in a relationship
- Silence or not responding
- When someone says “yes” because they feel pressured or afraid of how their partner would respond to “no”
- “I’m not sure”
- “I don’t know”
- “I’m scared”
- Consent is not permanent. An individual can give consent and then change his/her mind by verbalizing that he/she no longer wants to participate in a particular sexual act.
- Consent for one thing does not mean consent for everything.
- Consent given once does not mean always.
- Being passed out, sleeping or under the influence of alcohol and other drugs does not equal consent.²

² What is consent? (2013, 04 30) Retrieved from <http://healthandcounseling.unca.edu/what-consent>

Bystander Intervention Program: Step Up!

Coastal Carolina University has adopted the comprehensive bystander intervention program, Step Up!, on our campus. The program was originally developed at the University of Arizona and teaches students how to engage in pro-social behavior to help prevent their peers from suffering from negative behavior.

Students can help reduce the risk of sexual violence by stepping up to intervene when potentially dangerous behavior is occurring. For example, when a person has had too much to drink and another person is making sexual advances to him/her, a bystander who is stepping up will take measures to separate the potential perpetrator and victim.

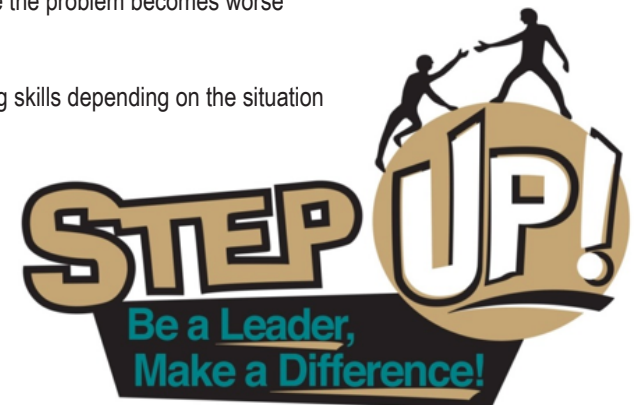
Being an empowered bystander can look different depending on the situation. In the case of sexual assault, it may or may not be safe to intervene directly. Sometimes providing a distraction can be an effective way to diffuse a potentially dangerous situation, or if someone is very agitated or aggressive, others may need to be involved. Consider both direct and indirect ways to intervene:

- **Direct:** You take responsibility as the primary helper.
- **Indirect:** You request that someone else take responsibility as the primary helper (e.g., the Police, Emergency Medical Trained or EMT personnel, Athletic Administrators, etc.)

Remember the S.E.E. Model:

- **SAFE Responding**
Decide a course of action that best ensures the safety of those involved
- **Early Intervention**
Intervene early – before the problem becomes worse
- **Effective Helping**
Develop specific helping skills depending on the situation

For more information about learning to Step Up!, contact the Dean of Students Office.



Risk Reduction

Only a perpetrator can prevent sexual violence from occurring. Potential victims, however, can take steps to reduce the risk of being assaulted.

Failure to take these proactive measures does NOT mean that the victim is to blame for a sexual assault. By definition, a sexual assault is non-consensual and the victim can never be blamed!

A. With Acquaintances

In approximately 86 percent of sexual assaults, the victim knows the assailant. These proactive measures can help reduce the risk of being sexually assaulted by an acquaintance:

- Know your sexual desires and limitations and communicate them clearly.
- Don't go to a secluded place with someone you've just met or don't know well. Suggest a public place.
- Drive your own car, use public transportation or have enough money for a taxi.
- Don't go to a room alone with someone you just met (or invite them to yours).
- Beware of the impact of alcohol and other drugs on your judgment and that of your date.
- Be cautious about spending time alone with someone you don't know well.
- Beware of attitudes that could possibly signal the potential for sexual violence – domineering personality, jealousy or unrealistic expectations.

It's NOT OK . . .

Stalking means a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would create a reasonable person to fear for her, his or others' safety, or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

B. With Strangers

There are a number of proactive measures you can take to minimize the potential for assault by a stranger:

- Report suspicious persons to the Department of Public Safety/Campus Police.
- Let others know where you are going and when you will return.
- Avoid working, studying or being alone in buildings or isolated in poorly lit areas.
- If you “feel” uncomfortable, trust your feelings. Contact the Department of Public Safety/Campus Police to be accompanied to your destination.
- Know where emergency call boxes are throughout the campus.
- Always close your blinds/shades/curtains at night.
- Check identification of strangers before opening your apartment door.
- Always keep your apartment door and car doors locked.
- Be alert and walk with confidence.
- Always watch your drink, and do not accept drinks from strangers.
- Only 14 percent of assaults are perpetrated by strangers.

SART

Sexual Assault Response Team

SART is a key group of sexual assault responders (Counseling Services, Public Safety, University Housing, Student Health Services, Dean of Students, etc.). This group reviews protocol after a campus sexual assault and recommends changes to protocol if necessary. This group also includes representatives from local hospitals and the Rape Crisis Center as appropriate.

CARES

Campus Assault Resource and Education Support Team

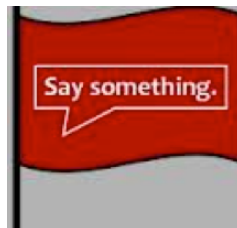
The CARES Team works toward the prevention of sexual assault; promotes general awareness of the effects of sexual assault; educates faculty, staff and students through a collaborative effort; and encourages students to know the protocol for what to do when they have been assaulted. The team is made up of Coastal Carolina University students, faculty and staff. Individuals who would like to contribute to the work of the CARES Team should contact the COAST at 843-349-5022.

OUTREACH

Annually the members of CARES and other individuals, departments and student organizations participate in planning programs and events to educate the campus about the serious topic of sexual assault.

Some of the events may include:

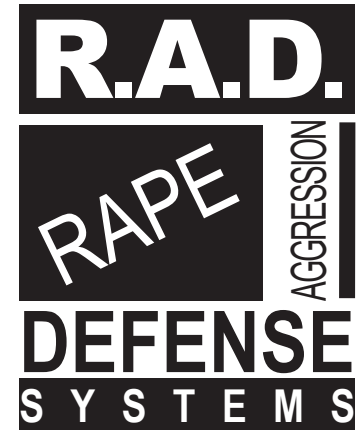
- ▶ Sexual Assault Awareness Week (October)
- ▶ Take Back the Night March and Rally Against Violence (October)
- ▶ The Clothesline Project
- ▶ Forum Panels
- ▶ Speakers
- ▶ Information tables
- ▶ Bystander campaigns such as the Red Flag Campaign
- ▶ Class and club presentations
- ▶ Variety of other events and programs



R.A.D. Class

offered by the
Department of Public Safety

The Rape Aggression Defense System is a program of realistic, self-defense tactics and techniques. The RAD system is a comprehensive course for women that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. RAD is not a martial arts program. Courses are taught by certified RAD instructors who provide participants with a R.A.D. workbook/ reference manual.



This manual outlines the entire Physical Defense Program for reference and continuous personal growth. The RAD System of Physical Defense is taught at many colleges and universities throughout the nation and Canada. Coastal students receive college credit for successfully passing this course. The growing, widespread acceptance of this system is primarily due to its ease, simplicity and effectiveness of tactics, solid research, legal defensibility and unique teaching methodology. The Rape Aggression Defense System is dedicated to teaching women defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault by utilizing easy, effective and proven self-defense/martial arts tactics. This system of realistic defense provides a woman with the knowledge to make an educated decision about resistance.

RAD operates on the research-supported premise that a spontaneous violent attack will stimulate a natural desire to resist on the part of the victim. Women are taught about the "Flight or Fight Syndrome," while showing them that enhancing their option of physical defense is not only prudent, but a necessity if natural resistance is to be effective.

Safety and survival in today's world requires a definite course of action. RAD provides effective options by teaching women to take an active role in their own self-defense and psychological well-being.

Getting Immediate Help

Survivors may be unsure how to deal with the assault or what courses of action are available and appropriate. All students, faculty and staff should be aware of both the consequences of sexual assault and the options available to the survivor. Seeking assistance in connection with a sexual assault from the hospital, the police, the University or anyone else does not obligate you to take further action.

If a sexual offense should occur, the survivor should:

1. Go to a safe place.
2. Contact a safe person.

The survivor has the right to choose who to talk to and who not to talk to at any point.

- a. CCU's Department of Public Safety at 843-349-2911, or 911 for the local police department if the incident occurs off campus. (*Optional, but not required.*)
- b. Trusted friend
- c. RA or other University Housing staff
- d. Family member
- e. On-Call counselor reached through the Department of Public Safety at 843-349-2911.

The following are options and are not required of a survivor:

1. Call Coastal Carolina University's Department of Public Safety at 843-349-2911.
2. Keep the clothes worn during the offense. If clothes are changed, place clothes in a paper bag. (Evidence deteriorates in plastic.)
3. Do not shower, bathe or douche. Do not urinate, if possible.
4. Do not eat, drink liquids, smoke or brush teeth if oral contact took place.
5. If the crime occurred in the victim's home and if the victim chooses to contact the police, the victim should not clean or straighten up until police have arrived.
6. Get prompt medical attention. This can be obtained from any hospital emergency room or Student Health Services. Both will maintain the survivor's confidentiality.
7. Obtain counseling. This can be done by contacting Counseling Services at 843-349-2305. This office will maintain confidentiality of the survivor. Counseling is also available through the local Rape Crisis Center at 843-448-RAPE or 843-448-7273.

Counseling Services

Medical Attention

Anyone who has been sexually assaulted should quickly seek medical attention. Even if the survivor decides not to report the assault to police, it is very important to seek medical attention immediately for possible internal injuries, sexually transmitted diseases and possible pregnancy. Survivors have two basic options for seeking medical attention – the local emergency room and/or a local medical provider.

Emergency Room

Physicians in the emergency room have the ability to treat injuries and infections as well as collect evidence. This is the best option since the rapid collection of evidence will allow the survivor to keep options open for pressing charges. Even if the survivor initially does not want to press charges, he/she may change his/her mind after the initial trauma begins to subside. Having this evidence collected will allow the survivor to consider all options.

Student Health Services or other Local Medical Provider

If the survivor chooses not to go to the emergency room, it is extremely important that he/she sees a medical provider. Coastal Carolina University's Student Health Services will see students who have been sexually assaulted. Typically, Student Health Services will be able to treat injuries and infections but will not collect evidence. Call Student Health Services at 843-349-6543 for more information.

Even if the survivor goes to the emergency room after the assault, it is advisable to follow up with a local medical provider to monitor the appearance of STDs, which typically do not emerge immediately after the assault.

Student Health Services



Counseling

Emotional trauma is severe after a sexual violence. The violation, loss of trust and loss of control can have serious long-term impacts on the survivor. It is not unusual for a person to feel guilty and distrustful or withdraw from others, particularly in an acquaintance rape.

There are, however, trained persons on and off campus who can provide counseling and support during recovery. Student survivors who wish to remain anonymous are encouraged to call Counseling Services at 843-349-2305 for help or advice. To reach a counselor after regular office hours call 843-349-2911. Regular office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Survivors have the option of keeping their report of sexual assault in complete confidence, protecting their right to anonymity, when making a report through CCU's Office of Counseling Services.

The Rape Crisis Center is a local nonprofit agency that offers a 24-hour crisis line for counseling and advocacy services. The crisis line number is 843-448-7273.

Advocacy and Remedies

The Student Advocacy and Intervention Manager in the Dean of Students Office serves as an advocate for students who have been sexually assaulted. The University can take measures to help promote the safety, comfort and recovery of a survivor of sexual assault. The advocate helps survivors understand and implement options. Contact the Dean of Students Office for assistance.

Remedies may include, but are not limited to:

- "No Contact" Order
- Providing an escort to class
- Housing changes
- Class changes



Remember . . .

**Sexual assault is a crime committed against you,
not by you.**

Do not blame yourself.

How to Help A Friend

If someone tells you about an unwanted sexual experience, follow these steps to help:

STEP 1: Ensure Current Safety

STEP 2: Listen Carefully

Helpful Responses:

- **LISTEN** without interrupting.
- **KEEP CALM** and don't panic. Note the volume of your voice.
- **RESPECT** the language that the survivor uses to identify what happened.
- **ALLOW** for tears and expression of feelings.
- **VALIDATE** the survivor's experiences or reactions.
- **ONLY** touch or hug the survivor with his/her permission. Be conscientious of the victim's personal space.
- **BELIEVE** and support the survivor.
- **ACKNOWLEDGE** his/her courage and discomfort.
- **REMIND** the survivor that he/she is not at fault. Be aware of the medical amnesty policy in the Code of Student Conduct. A victim and helping friend who reach out for help will not be charged with a violation of the Code. Refer to the Code for details.
- **ENCOURAGE** the survivor to seek medical attention and counseling.
- **ALLOW** the survivor to make his/her own decisions.
- **ASK** what you can do to be supportive.
- **PROVIDE** resources and options.

Unhelpful Responses:

- **ASKING** "why" questions or other questions that might imply blame.
- **BLAMING** or **JUDGING** the survivor's actions ("How much did you drink? What did you wear? Why were you there? Are you SURE it happened?")
- **DISMISSING** the survivor's feelings or minimizing his/her experience.
- **TRYING** to "fix" the problem.
- **ASKING** "too many" questions. You are here to help, not to investigate a crime.
- **OVERLOADING** the survivor with too much information at once.

STEP 3: Make A Follow-Up Plan and Referrals

Refer to pages 14-18 for follow up options.

Reporting Sexual Violence

Coastal Carolina University provides students with several options for reporting sexual violence.

1. To pursue **criminal charges** or to simply keep your option for pursuing criminal charges open, contact the police in the jurisdiction where the assault occurred.

If you are unsure of the jurisdiction, contact the Coastal Carolina University Department of Public Safety at 843-349-2911.

2. To pursue charges of a violation of the **Code of Student Conduct**, contact the Dean of Students Office at 843-349-4161.
3. To pursue a complaint against a faculty or staff member, contact the Office of Human Resources and Equal Opportunity at 843-349-2036.
4. To pursue compliance of Coastal Carolina University with Title IX, contact Denise L. Morkis Perez, Title IX Coordinator, at 843-333-6229 or online at: coastal.edu/titleix/
5. To talk with a person who will be able to keep your report **confidential**, contact Counseling Services at 843-349-2305.
6. To pursue confidential **medical treatment**, contact:
 - a. Local hospital emergency room
 - b. Student Health Services at 843-349-6543.

Reporting sexual violence as soon as possible after the incident maximizes the opportunities for remedies.



Confidentiality

Before revealing a sexual violence incident to a faculty or staff member, students should understand that person's legal responsibility. As a responsible person in the University, any faculty or staff member who knows or reasonably should know of an alleged sexual violence incident must report this to the Department of Public Safety and the Title IX Coordinator and/or Deputy Title IX Coordinator. This responsibility extends to the following student employees: resident assistants, orientation leaders, and peer leaders. Title IX mandates that these responsible persons must report all relevant details so that the University will be able to determine what occurred and resolve the situation. **The only exceptions to this legal mandate are Counseling Services personnel and Student Health Services personnel.** South Carolina statutes provide for these individuals to maintain confidentiality. The Advocate and Intervention Manager in the Dean of Students Office must inform the Dean of Students and Title IX Coordinator of incidents of sexual violence but will not reveal information to other individuals without the student's permission.

Once Public Safety and the Title IX Coordinator have been notified, they in turn will notify relevant Dean of Students Office personnel, relevant Counseling Services personnel, and the Vice President for Student Affairs. The name of the alleged survivor will be shared only with those individuals. Other administrators may be informed that an incident occurred, but will not be told the survivor's identity without the permission of the survivor.

Once notifications are made, the student survivor can expect three individuals to attempt contact with him/her. The Advocate and Intervention Manager in the Dean of Students Office will contact the student to offer services and remedies to assist the student in dealing with the situation. The Dean of Students or designee will make contact to attempt to conduct a legally required investigation. Department of Public Safety personnel will attempt to make contact to offer services and conduct a criminal investigation. It is the survivor's decision as to whether or not he/she talks to these individuals, receives services, or participates in an investigation. He/She can choose not to cooperate. However, the survivor is highly encouraged to respond to contact from these individuals who can provide assistance. Benefits include:

- Making sure survivors have services to protect his/her health and safety, and to help him/her heal.
- Making sure survivors know what options they have for pursuing justice and helping to facilitate those options.
- Ensuring the safety of other potential victims.
- Helping survivors avoid having this incident interfere with his/her education.