



Responding to Student Victims of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence laws in Arkansas prohibit people from physically injuring family members and household members. Arkansas also makes it illegal to engage in conduct that creates a substantial danger of death or serious injury to a family or household member. Punishment for domestic violence crimes range from misdemeanor penalties to lengthy felony prison sentences.

Arkansas domestic violence laws apply to aggressors and victims who are family or household members. Arkansas defines “family or household members” as:

- current or former spouses
- parents and children
- persons related by blood
- a child living in the household
- persons who currently or previously lived together
- people who have a child together, and
- persons who currently or formerly were in a dating relationship

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. Domestic violence occurs in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can happen to intimate partners who are married, living together, or dating.

Dating Violence

Dating violence is a pattern of assaultive and controlling behaviors that one person uses against another in order to gain or maintain power and control in the relationship. Dating Violence is defined as the physical, sexual, or psychological/emotional violence within a dating relationship. It can occur in person or electronically and may occur between a current or former dating partner. Other terms used include: relationship abuse, intimate partner violence, relationship violence, dating abuse, domestic abuse, domestic violence, and stalking.

Stalking

Stalking is a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear for his or her safety or the safety of others and/or suffer substantial emotional distress.

If you are a victim of domestic violence.....

Your first priority should be safety. The college can connect you with resources which can help. Community resources provide assistance with safety planning for victims, friends and family members – anyone who is concerned with their own safety or the safety of someone else. NWACC campus contacts:

Ms. Dale Montgomery, Dean of Students	SC 225 J	479-619-4234
Patrice Whitley, Director of Student Support	SC 230 C	479-619-4315
NWACC Public Safety/Campus Police	BH 1205	479-619-4229

You may also contact one of the local police departments by dialing 911, or listed below are the direct numbers for some of our area police stations:

Bentonville Police:	479-271-3170
Fayetteville Police:	479-587-3555
Rogers Police:	479-621-1172
Springdale Police:	479-751-4542

Filing a report with an NWACC representative will **not** obligate you to prosecute, nor will it subject you to scrutiny or judgmental opinions. Filing a report if you are a victim of domestic violence will help ensure you get the assistance you need.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, you may choose for the investigation to be pursued through the criminal justice system and the NWACC conduct system, or only the latter. A college representative from the Department of Public Safety, the Dean of

Students, or the Director of Student Support will guide you through the available options and will support you in your decision. These college representatives will provide options for support and will assist you in connecting with community resources, and local police if desired.

Regardless of whether the person who is accused of domestic violence is associated with NWACC, the college will provide assistance for any student who is a victim.

In addition to the above mentioned campus resources, NWACC also has **Confidential Advocates** available. Some people may choose to start with an Advocate before making the decision on what steps to take.....

Confidential Advocates have been specially trained to provide affirming, empowering, and confidential support. The Advocate will listen and explain options available to you while providing support. It is your decision to pursue available resources or to report an incident to law enforcement or the College. Although rare, there are times when the College may not be able to honor a victim's request for confidentiality. If a victim discloses an incident to an Advocate but wishes that no investigation into the incident be conducted or disciplinary action taken, the Advocate must weigh that request against the College's obligation to provide a safe environment for all students, including the victim. The Advocates are:

Judy Reeves	jreeves3@nwacc.edu	CHP 1053	619-4390
Austin Schader	sschader2@nwacc.edu	WCC 124	725-4663
Marcus Williams	mwilliams14@nwacc.edu	BH 3024	986-4065
Regina Johns	rjohns@nwacc.edu	SC 213B	619-4360
Ashley Byrd	abyrd2@nwacc.edu	BH 1218.2	619-4336

If the person who is accused of domestic violence is a student at NWACC: NWACC disciplinary proceedings are detailed in the *Student Handbook*. Possible sanctions imposed for disciplinary purposes against the perpetrators of domestic violence in the event of a finding of "in violation" include expulsion, suspension, dismissal, disciplinary probation, educational sanctions, denial of certain privileges, and counseling. The perpetrator could also be subjected to criminal prosecution in the state courts. Retaliation against a person for reporting an offense is not permissible.

If the person who is accused of domestic violence is an employee of NWACC: Human Resources will investigate.

Student victims have the option to change their academic situation after an alleged domestic violence occurrence, if such change is reasonably available. The Vice President for Student Services or the Dean of Students can provide information about this option and assist you with the process.

NWACC may provide you with professional counseling services at no cost to you.

The NWACC Department of Public Safety may provide assistance when needed. This can include accompanying a student on campus who feels threatened.

On Campus Resources:

Ms. Dale Montgomery, Dean of Students	SC 225 J 479-619-4234
Patrice Whitley, Director of Student Support	SC 230 C 479-619-4315
NWACC Public Safety/Campus Police	BH 1205 479-619-4229

Professional Counseling for Students

All counseling sessions are confidential and located on campus at no cost to students.

Contact Dale Montgomery at dmontgom@nwacc.edu or Danielle Schader at dschader@nwacc.edu to schedule an appointment

Wellness on Campus

<https://www.nwacc.edu/web/wellness/index>

Community Resources:

Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter

Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter provides safe and temporary shelter, 24-hour confidential crisis line, court advocacy, Spanish bilingual services, children's advocacy, and support groups for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and the children of those victims.

479-246-9999

24 Hour Crisis Line: 1-800-775-9011

www.nwaws.org

Peace at Home Family Shelter

Provides emergency shelter to women and children in danger. Works with survivors to help them remain independent of their abuser. Peace at Home offers emotional support through weekly support groups including parenting, substance abuse, and sexual assault and domestic violence recovery.

24 Hour Crisis Lines:

Local- 479-442-9811

Toll Free- 1-877-442-9811

www.peaceathomeshelter.org

Northwest Arkansas Center for Sexual Assault

1-479-445-6448

1-800-794-4175

Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence

1-800-269-4668

www.domesticpeace.com

Teen Dating Abuse Helpline: 866-331-9474

National Resources:

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-7233

www.thehotline.org

Women's Law

www.womenslaw.org

Stalking Resource Center

<http://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>