

Responding to 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 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 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. It is physical, sexual, or psychological/emotional violence within a dating relationship and can occur in person or electronically by 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.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, your first priority should be safety. If there is any immediate danger, contact Campus Police (479-619-4229) if you are on campus, or call 911 if you are off campus. If you have safety concerns, the Department of Public Safety can also escort you to your vehicle on campus. Downloading LiveSafe from the App Store or Google Play is another way to share information with Public Safety, know what resources are around you on campus, and quickly request help in an emergency. NWACC strongly advocates that a victim of sexual assault report the incident as soon as possible. You are encouraged to report domestic violence to the Director of Community Standards, and/or the Dean of Students, and/or Public Safety.

NWACC Public Safety/Campus Police
CHP 1033C 479-619-4229

Becky Hudson, Director of Community Standards
SC 225H 479-986-6682

Ms. Dale Montgomery, Dean of Students
SC 225J 479-619-4234

You may also contact a local police department by dialing 911.

Filing a police report with an NWACC Public Safety officer will **not** obligate you to prosecute. If you are a victim of domestic violence, you may choose for the investigation to be pursued through the criminal justice system and NWACC, or only through NWACC. A college representative from the Public Safety Department or the Dean of Students will guide you through the available options, will support you in your decision, and connect you to community resources and local police if desired. Filing a report if you are a victim of domestic violence will help ensure that you understand your options and are connected to resources. 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.

Guidance if you are a victim of domestic violence

- ▶ Call the NWA Women’s Shelter at their 24-hour hotline numbers 800-775-9011 or 479-246-9999 for support, advocacy, emergency shelter, and other resources. Please note that the shelter services women, men, and children.
- ▶ If you are experiencing stalking, you are encouraged to document all related behaviors, such as harassing telephone calls, electronic contacts (texts, e-mails, contact via social media), letters/notes, acts of vandalism, and threats communicated through third parties. If possible, try to include the date, time, location, and description of what occurred.
- ▶ If you were harmed, you are encouraged to receive medical attention as quickly as possible.
- ▶ Tell someone you trust about the incident, you may want to develop a safe word to be used in emergency situations to indicate when and how they can help you.
- ▶ If you obtain external orders of protection, please notify Campus Police, the Dean of Students, the Director of Student Support, or the Title IX Coordinator so that those orders can be observed on campus.
- ▶ Treat all threats, direct or indirect, as legitimate and report them.

Whom to Contact on Campus

	Information & Support	Immediate Protection	Formal Investigation & Outcome	Counseling Services	Contact Information
NWACC Counseling <i>Confidential & free</i>	✓			✓	479-619-4128 to schedule an appointment
Campus Police	✓	✓	✓		479-619-4229
Dean of Students	✓		✓		479-619-4234 dmontgom@nwacc.edu
Director of Community Standards	✓		✓		479-986-6682 rhudson1@nwacc.edu
Title IX Coordinator	✓		✓		479-619-4188 ttaylor19@nwacc.edu
Confidential Advocate <i>Confidential & free</i>	✓				See following list

Some people may choose to start with a **Confidential Advocate** before making the decision on what steps to take.

Austin Schader
aschader@nwacc.edu
SC 233A 479-619-4371

Juanita Franklin
jfranklin1@nwacc.edu
SC223 479-619-2204

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.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Northwest Arkansas
Women's Shelter**
479-246-9999
24 HR Crisis Line: 800-775-9011
www.nwaws.org

**Northwest Arkansas
Center for Sexual Assault**
479-445-6448
24HR Hotline: 800-794-4175
www.nwasexualassault.org

Peace at Home Family Shelter
24HR Crisis Lines:
479-442-9811 • Toll Free: 877-442-9811
www.peaceathomeshelter.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline
800-799-7233
www.thehotline.org

**Arkansas Coalition
Against Domestic Violence**
800-269-4668

Teen Dating Abuse Helpline:
866-331-9474
www.domesticpeace.com

Stalking Resource Center
<http://www.victimofcrime.org/stalking-resource-center>

Student Conduct Proceedings

NWACC disciplinary proceedings are detailed in the Title IX Policy and Procedures. The accused (responding party) and the victim (reporting party) will each be allowed to have someone accompany them throughout the investigation and procedures. Both the reporting and the responding parties will be informed of the outcome of the investigation. If found responsible for stalking, possible disciplinary sanctions for the responding party include expulsion, suspension, course or program dismissal, conduct probation, disciplinary warning, restitution of college property, restriction of participation in student organizations, events, and college employment, limited access to designated areas, educational sanctions which could include co-curricular education, community service, a conduct review(s) and/or educational conversation with college official(s), mandatory counseling, alcohol and/or drug assessment. The responding party could also be subjected to criminal prosecution in the state courts. Retaliation against any person who files a report or participates in an investigation is not permissible and may result in further charges.

Student Support

Academic situations may be adjusted and no contact orders implemented in order to support and protect the safety and wellbeing of all parties involved. The Dean of Students can provide information about this option and assist you with the process. The Dean of Students can also assist in connecting students to campus and community resources. Professional counseling services are available at no cost to students.

The Arkansas Sex Offender Registry is accessible by going to www.acic.org. NWACC's Department of Public Safety (DPS) maintains a folder of all registered sex offenders on campus. To view this folder, visit the DPS office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) makes available literature regarding domestic and dating violence through the Student Center brochure rack and the Washington County Center