



Responding to Victims of Sexual Assault

The Arkansas statute of rape is not gender specific, which recognizes that individuals of any gender can be victims or perpetrators of rape. Sexual assault can occur whenever consent is not freely given by the victim; whenever the victim fears that they will be injured if they do not submit; whenever the victim is incapable of giving consent or resisting; and whenever the perpetrator uses physical force, threat, coercion, or intimidation to overpower the victim.

If you are a victim of sexual assault, 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 an assault to the Director of Student Conduct, and/or the Dean of Students, and/or Public Safety.

NWACC Public Safety/Campus Police
CHP 1033C.479-619-4229
Mr. Ryan Drake, Director of Student Conduct
SC 225E479-619-4315
Ms. Dale Montgomery, Dean of Students
SC 225J479-619-4234

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 sexual assault, 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 sexual assault will help ensure that you understand your options and are connected to resources. Regardless of whether the person who is accused of sexual assault is associated with NWACC, the college will provide assistance for any student who is a victim.

Guidance if you are a victim of sexual assault



- ▶ Call the Center for Sexual Assault at their 24-hour hotline 800-794-4175 for support, accompaniment to the hospital, support with law enforcement, or to meet you at their Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Crisis Clinic.
- ▶ If the offense is reported to the police, Victims Compensation may pay for the treatment or other injuries that occurred during the rape.
- ▶ It is encouraged that you do not shower, eat, drink, smoke, comb your hair, urinate, douche, or change clothes before going to the emergency room or Center for Sexual Assault. However, if you have already taken any of these actions, you are still encouraged to seek medical care, and evidence may still be recoverable.
- ▶ If you decide to pursue criminal action, it is important that evidence be preserved. If possible do not alter the physical scene of the assault, i.e., room, car, etc. It should not be altered, cleaned up, or disturbed in any way. The decision on how to proceed can be made at a later date, but evidence preservation keeps options open.
- ▶ If you have physical injuries, photograph or have them photographed, with a date stamp on the photo.
- ▶ Try to document details (physical description, names, license plate number, car description,) if you have time and the ability to do so.
- ▶ If you decide not to seek medical attention in relation to a police investigation (i.e. the forensic evidence kit), still seek medical attention from a physician or a hospital.
- ▶ Victims that are capable of becoming pregnant may choose to talk with a healthcare professional about the "morning after pill". This type of medication is most effective within 72 hours of the incident.
- ▶ Victims may also want to be screened for sexually transmitted infections.

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 counseling@nwacc.edu |
| Campus Police | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | 479.619.4229 |
| Dean of Students | ✓ | | ✓ | | 479.619.4234 dmontgom@nwacc.edu |
| Director of Student Conduct | ✓ | | ✓ | | 479.619.4315 rdrake1@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.

Ms. Judy Reeves
jreeves3@nwacc.edu CHP 1053 619-4390

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

Mr. Marcus Williams
mwilliams14@nwacc.edu BH 3024 986-4065

Mr. Austin Schader
aschader@nwacc.edu WCC 124 725-4663

Ms. Ashley Byrd
abyrd2@nwacc.edu SC 215F 619-4336

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
Center for Sexual Assault**
2367 N Green Acres Road
Fayetteville, AR 72703
479-445-6448
24HR Hotline: 800-794-4175
www.nwaws.org

**Arkansas Coalition Against
Sexual Assault (ACASA)**
479-527-0900
www.acasa.us

Benton County Prosecutor's Office
Victim Witness Coordinator
479-271-1030

**Rape Abuse & Incest
National Network (RAINN)**
National Hotline: 800-656-HOPE (4673)

Washington County Prosecutor's Office
Victim Witness Coordinator
479-444-1570

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 sexual assault, 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 well-being 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 by emailing counseling@nwacc.edu.

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 on date rape and sexual assault through the Student Center brochure rack and the Washington County Center. The Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault www.acasa.us is an informative resource for sexual assault issues.