



# 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 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
- Rebecca Hudson, Director of Community Standards  
SC 225H .....479-986-6682
- 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, the Dean of Students, or Confidential Advocates 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 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 the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Crisis Center.
- ▶ If the offense is reported to the police, Victim 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., 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 &amp; free</i>	✓			✓	479.619.6128 <a href="mailto:counseling@nwacc.edu">counseling@nwacc.edu</a>
Campus Police	✓	✓	✓		479.619.4229
Dean of Students	✓		✓		479.619.4234 <a href="mailto:deanofstudents@nwacc.edu">deanofstudents@nwacc.edu</a>
Director of Community Standards	✓		✓		479.986.6682 <a href="mailto:rhudson1@nwacc.edu">rhudson1@nwacc.edu</a>
Title IX Coordinator	✓		✓		479.619.4188 <a href="mailto:ttaylor19@nwacc.edu">ttaylor19@nwacc.edu</a>
Confidential Advocate <i>Confidential &amp; 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](mailto:aschader@nwacc.edu)  
SC 233A 479-619-4371

**Vince Pianalto**

[vpianalto@nwacc.edu](mailto:vpianalto@nwacc.edu)  
Brightwater 479-631-8604

**Eric Vest**

[evest@nwacc.edu](mailto:evest@nwacc.edu)  
BH 2313 479-619-4345

**Juanita Franklin**

[jfranklin1@nwacc.edu](mailto:jfranklin1@nwacc.edu)  
SC 223 479-619-2204

**Cierra Collins**

[ccollins15@nwacc.edu](mailto:ccollins15@nwacc.edu)  
SC 2251 479-619-4315

**Aria Kagan**

[akagan@nwacc.edu](mailto:akagan@nwacc.edu)  
Brightwater 479-631-8600

**Simone Francis**

[Sfrancis4@nwacc.edu](mailto:Sfrancis4@nwacc.edu)  
WC 110 479-725-4673

*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**  
1670 W Sunset Ave, Suite B  
Springdale, AR 72762  
479-347-2304  
24HR Hotline: 800-794-4175  
[www.nwasexualassault.org](http://www.nwasexualassault.org)

**Arkansas Coalition Against  
Sexual Assault (ACASA)**  
501-246-3276  
[www.arkcasa.org](http://www.arkcasa.org)

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

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

**Washington County Prosecutor's Office**  
Victim Witness Coordinator  
479-444-1570  
**HARK NWA**  
[www.harknwa.com](http://www.harknwa.com)

## 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 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](mailto:counseling@nwacc.edu)

The Arkansas Sex Offender Registry is accessible by going to [www.acic.org](http://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 am and 4:30 pm.

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.arkcasa.org](http://www.arkcasa.org) is an informative resource for sexual assault issues.