

Will I get in Trouble?

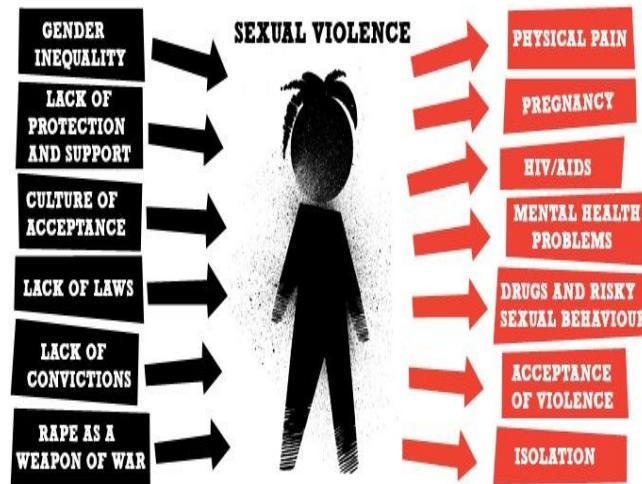
What if you were at a party that served alcohol? Or at a club with friends? Or maybe drinking in one of the residence halls? While the University has a strict no alcohol or drugs on campus policy, the “Sexual Misconduct Policy” states that when students report an incident of sexual misconduct, whether they are the victim or a witness, the University will not institute disciplinary actions for their involvement in drugs or alcohol related to the incident. This means that you will **not** get in trouble for being at a party or club and/or drinking.

Will I have to Call the Police?

If you are the victim of a sexual assault and you report the incident, you decide if the police should be called or not. You are strongly encouraged to notify the police, however you are **NOT** required to do so.

When reporting the incident to someone on campus, they can use their best judgment on whether to call for an ambulance. If there is a presence of blood, it is important to call for an ambulance whether the complainant wants to or not. This is for their own safety and protection.

Even if you have no physical injuries, it is important to be evaluated to ensure there are no internal injuries.



What do I do if it Happened Several Days Ago?

If the incident happened within the last several days (3-5 days), you can still go to the hospital to be evaluated and for potential evidence to be collected. Evidence can be collected up to **72-120 hours** after an assault, depending on local policy. However, it is best to seek help within the first **24 hours** after the assault.

If you don't want to report the assault right away, that is okay. If possible, do not wash the clothes that you were wearing during the incident in case you do decide to report later. If you decide to shower, you can still get checked out at a hospital and receive medical assistance and be evaluated.

If you don't want to make a report at all, you can still receive medical assistance. It is important to do so to prevent pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections.

What Happens Next?

After a report has been made, unless the report was given to a confidential resource (Pastor or Chaplain, licensed Counselor), the Department of Public Safety **must** be notified of the sexual assault. The only information they are required to know is the **crime** (rape, fondling, etc.), the **location**, and the **date it occurred**. They do **NOT** need to know the victim's name or even the suspect's name if the victim/witness chooses to omit them. Once they have this information, Public Safety will inform the Title IX Coordinator on campus, Ralph Johnson, who will conduct his own full investigation with the information that is given.

To ensure that a full investigation is conducted, it is important for the victim/witness to participate in both the Public Safety Department and Title IX's investigation. If the victim/witness chooses not to participate in the investigation, then a full investigation will not be able to be conducted.

If the victim decides to call the police, then they will conduct their own investigation. It is important to be involved in their investigation as well. Regardless of whether the police are called or not, or whether the victim/witnesses chooses to participate or not, the University **must** conduct their own investigation into the incident.

I'm not Sure if I Consented...

CONSENT
IT'S SIMPLE AS TEA

If drugs and/or alcohol were involved, it can be difficult to remember if you consented or if the person who assaulted you thought you had consented. If you or the person who assaulted you were drinking, then consent could **NOT** have been given, and no one can consent for you.

Even if you initially agreed to the activity, you can change your mind at any point, whether by expressly saying so or by physically resisting.

What if you didn't say no or fight back? Sometimes people freeze and don't know what to do. This does **NOT** mean that you consented; it just means that you had a normal reaction to a traumatic experience. It is a common misconception to believe that if a victim does not fight the person assaulting them, then it didn't happen. This is simply untrue. Everyone reacts differently to traumatic experiences.

When in doubt, it is best to report the incident and the Crime Victim Advocate can assist in providing information and options for the victim who can decide what is best for them.

