Will My Report be Confidential?

Certain laws, such as the Clery Act, require institutions to report various crimes, such as sexual assault, in their Annual Security Report. However, when making a report, whether you are the complainant or a witness, you can request for your name to be left out of the official report and no identifiable information will be given.

Certain people on campus have complete confidentiality; these include licensed counselors and pastors/chaplains. If you make a report to either, they are not obligated to report the incident to the Department of Public Safety or the police.

I Am Afraid of the Person Who Attacked

According to the University’s “Harassment and Discrimination Policy,” retaliation against anyone reporting or thought to have reported harassment or sexual assault is strictly prohibited. Victims/witnesses who report such crimes will be protected from retaliation.

How Can I Report a Sexual Assault?

What do I do?
Why should I report?
Where do I go to report?
Will I get in trouble?
Will it be confidential?
Will I have to call the police?

For more information and other resources, please see other pamphlets located in the Department of Public Safety or go to www.wau.edu/security. Pamphlets for female survivors, male survivors, LGBTQ survivors, as well as information on dating violence, domestic violence, and workplace violence are available. Information about the services of the Crime Victim Advocate are also available at the website mentioned above.

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What Do I Do?

If you have been the victim of a sexual assault, it is important to get to a safe place. If you feel comfortable doing so, call someone who can help, whether it is a friend, family member, or law enforcement. It is very important to get medical help as soon as possible. The nearest hospital with a forensic nurse is Shady Grove Adventist Hospital. If you need transportation, you can contact the Crime Victim Advocate on campus and they will accompany you to get medical assistance. It is important to NOT shower, go to the bathroom, eat or drink, or change your clothes, as this could destroy potential evidence.

Why Should I Report?

Being sexually assaulted can be a very traumatic experience. It is important to receive medical attention as well as counseling for emotional and psychological help. It is also important to report to ensure that the person who assaulted you does not go on to assault other people as well.
I’m Not Sure if I Consented...

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 **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.

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.