

## What are your rights?

You have the right to:

- Be treated with dignity and respect in regards to your gender identity and/or sexual orientation as a survivor.
- Sensitivity towards you as a survivor of sexual assault by medical and legal personnel.
- Have a victim advocate and a support person of your choosing present during the forensic exam as well as for any interviews by law enforcement authorities.
- Ask questions of the police, sexual assault forensic examiner, and attorneys.
- Keep your name from being mentioned in the incident report.

## Where Can I Report the Assault?

- Police
- Public Safety Department
- Human Resources
- Crime Victim Advocate\*  
John Cake
- Title IX Coordinator  
John Cake
- Vice President of Student Life  
Dr. Ralph Johnson
- Dean of Men  
Timothy Nelson
- Dean of Women  
Ashlee Chambers
- Office of Ministry\*
- Counseling Center\*

\*Confidential resources on campus

## On Campus Resources

Crime Victim Advocate  
Department of Public Safety  
John Cake  
Phone: 301-891-4019  
E-mail: [jcake@wau.edu](mailto:jcake@wau.edu)  
[dsscva@wau.edu](mailto:dsscva@wau.edu)

Title IX Coordinator  
Department of Public Safety  
John Cake  
Phone: 301-891-4019  
E-mail: [titleixcoordinator@wau.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@wau.edu)

## Off Campus Resources

Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault  
Program (VASAP)  
1301 Piccard Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Phone: 240-777-1355

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual  
Assault (MCASA)  
Phone: 301-328-7023

RAINN National Sexual Assault Hotline  
1-800-656-4673

For additional information, please visit  
[www.wau.edu/security](http://www.wau.edu/security).

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# **LGBTQ- Identified Survivors and Survivors of Sexual Violence**

**Info for students who  
identify as lesbian, gay,  
bisexual, transgender  
and queer or  
questioning**



## Sexual Assault in the LGBTQ Community

While sexual assaults are not isolated to any one type of survivor or attacker, there are issues that may arise for people who identify as LGBTQ that are unique.

Among female undergraduates, 73% of lesbians and 77% of bisexual women experienced harassment, intimate partner violence, or stalking, compared to 61% of heterosexual women.



**LGBTQ STUDENTS EXPERIENCE HIGHER RATES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND REPORT LOWER CONFIDENCE IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CLIMATE FOR PREVENTION AND RESPONSE.**

**EROC**  
END RAPE ON CAMPUS

## What should I do if I am raped or sexually assaulted?

Try to get to a safe place. Call someone who can help, whether a friend, family member or law enforcement. It is important to seek care as soon as possible by going to the nearest hospital with a SAFE program (Shady Grove Adventist Hospital). You may feel the need to shower, urinate, eat or drink, or change your clothes, but this can destroy evidence, so avoid these activities if you can until after you have sought care. Even if you have done these things, you should still seek care. Consider talking with a counselor who is trained to assist sexual assault survivors.

## What are some common reactions during or after a rape or sexual assault?

LGBTQ survivors of sexual assault can experience a number of different reactions and effects:

- Jitteriness/feeling “on edge”
- Muscle cramps or spasms
- Aching at injury sites
- Anxiety
- Rage
- Helplessness/Hopelessness
- Inability to concentrate
- PTSD
- Suicidal ideation
- Physical symptoms (trouble sleeping, stomach ache)
- Fears about safety
- Self-blame and shame

## What should I do if a friend is sexually assaulted?

Make sure that they feel safe. Be a good listener, and avoid asking them for details about the assault unless they provide them on their own. If they ask, assist them in reporting the assault and/or accompany them to the hospital for medical evaluation. Many survivors will blame themselves for the assault, but it is important to tell them that it is not their fault. Offer to stay with your friend; survivors of assault may be reluctant to be alone after the assault. Don't be afraid to suggest that your friend seek support from a counselor or advocate.

## There are special issues that are unique to the LGBTQ Community

Some people may be worried about “outing” themselves to the hospital staff or law enforcement, especially if they have not come out to their friends and/or family. Survivors of assault may not know where to turn, either because they are afraid that they will not be believed or supported, or because they do not want to malign another member of the community or reinforce negative stereotypes. It is important to be aware of these concerns and not to pressure a survivor to report before they are ready. Confidential resources are available for those about the issues discussed above (see other side).

*Strong or weak, outgoing or withdrawn, homosexual or heterosexual, old or young, male or female; NO ONE does anything that justifies sexual assault.*