

# Sexual Assault



**What you need  
to know.**



**COASTAL CAROLINA  
UNIVERSITY**

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## Definition of Sexual Assault and Rape

Sexual assault is any actual or attempted non-consensual sexual activity including but not limited to intercourse, attempted intercourse or sexual touching by a person known or unknown to the survivor.

Rape is an act of sexual intercourse with a person against his or her will and consent whether a person's will is overcome by force or fear resulting from the threat of force, or by drugs administered without consent, or when a person is unconscious, intoxicated or otherwise physically unable to communicate willingness.

Having sexual relations with someone who is unable to give consent by being mentally incapacitated or unconscious (passed out) is rape.

- *1 out of every 6 women will be sexually assaulted.*
- *85% of assaults are by someone known to the survivor.*
- *20-25% of college women are victims of an attempted or completed rape during college.*

Rape and sexual assaults may cause significant health risks. These assaults also may cause serious psychological trauma even when there are no physical injuries. Health risks can be lessened if the victim seeks immediate medical attention.

## Getting Immediate Help

Survivors may be unsure of how to deal with the assault and can wonder what courses of action are available and appropriate. All students, faculty and staff should be aware of both the consequences of sexual assault and the options available to the survivor. Seeking assistance in connection with a sexual assault from the hospital, the police, the University or anyone else does not obligate you to take further action.

### **If a sexual offense should occur, the survivor should:**

Go to a safe place.

Contact a friend or family member.

Get prompt medical attention.

Call CCU's Victims Advocate at (843) 349-2117.

Call the campus police (or the local police if the incident occurred off campus).

Keep the clothes worn during the offense. If clothes are changed, place clothes in a paper bag (evidence deteriorates in plastic.)

Do not shower, bathe or douche. Do not urinate, if possible. Do not eat drink liquids, smoke or brush teeth if oral contact took place.

If the crime occurred in the victim's home, the victim should not clean or straighten up until police have arrived.

# SART

## Sexual Assault Response Team

SART is a key sexual assault group of responders (Counseling Center, Public Safety, Residence Life, Student Health Services, Dean of Students, etc.) This group reviews protocol following a campus sexual assault, recommends changes to protocol if necessary, and develops and presents training programs for gatekeepers. This group also includes representatives from local hospitals and the Myrtle Beach Rape Crisis Center as appropriate.

# CARES

## Campus Assault Resource and Education Support Team

The CARES Team works toward the prevention of sexual assault; promotes general awareness of the effects of sexual assault; educates faculty, staff, students through a collaborative effort; and helps students to know the protocol for what to do when they have been assaulted. The team is made up of CCU students, faculty and staff.

# Medical Attention

Anyone who has been sexually assaulted should quickly seek medical attention. Even if the survivor decides not to report the assault to police, it is very important to seek medical attention immediately for possible internal injuries, sexually transmitted diseases and possible pregnancy. Survivors have two basic options for seeking medical attention – the **Local Emergency Room and/or a Local Physician**.

## Emergency Room

Physicians in the emergency room have the ability to treat injuries and infections as well as collect evidence. This is the best option since the rapid collection of evidence will allow the survivor to keep options open for pressing charges. Even if the survivor initially does not want to press charges, he/she may change his/her mind after the initial trauma begins to subside. Having this evidence collected will allow the survivor to consider all options after there is more time to think about it.

## Local Physician

If the survivor chooses not to go to the emergency room, it is extremely important that he/she sees a physician. CCU's Student Health service will see students who have been sexually assaulted. Typically, they will be able to treat injuries and infections but will not collect evidence. Call Student Health Services at 349-6543 for more information.

Even if the survivor goes to the emergency room after the assault, it is advisable to follow-up with a local physician to monitor the appearance of STD's which typically do not emerge immediately after the assault.

## Counseling

Emotional trauma is severe after a sexual assault. The violation, loss of trust, and loss of control can have serious long-term impacts on the survivor. It is not unusual for a person to feel guilty, distrustful or withdraw from others, particularly in an acquaintance rape.

There are, however, trained persons, on and off campus, who can provide counseling and support during recovery. Student survivors who wish anonymity are encouraged to call Counseling Services at 349-2305 for help or advice. To reach a counselor after regular office hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays) call 349-2177. Survivors have the option of keeping their report of sexual assault in complete confidence, protecting their right to anonymity, when making a report through the University's Office of Counseling Services.

The Grand Strand Community Against Rape is a local non-profit agency that offers a 24-hour crisis line for counseling and advocacy services. The crisis line number is 448-7273.

**Remember, sexual assault is a crime committed against you, not by you.**

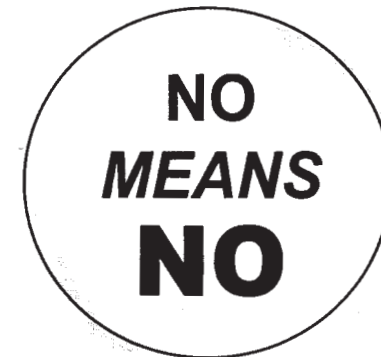
**Do not blame yourself.**

## It Could Happen To Anyone

Anyone can be a survivor of a sexual assault. Both women and men can be sexually assaulted.

Besides feeling frightened, angry, hurt and ashamed, survivors can feel betrayed and even guilty for having "facilitated" the assault. In some cases, he/she does not even acknowledge that they have been assaulted until long after the incident has occurred.

If you find yourself in an unwanted sexual situation, on a date or wherever, be assertive – say no. If you are told "no" when you make sexual advances, accept it.



**It is not your fault!**

## University Policies

University judicial action, criminal prosecution and civil suits are all options available to survivors of sexual assault. To begin University judicial action, the survivor should contact the Dean of Students and report the assault with a request that charges be filed. If the student/survivor does not wish any official action be taken, that is his/her choice.

Students accused of sexual offenses are charged with violating Coastal Carolina University's Code of Conduct. The accuser and the accused are entitled to have others present during a campus disciplinary hearing. If the accused also faces criminal prosecution, he/she may have the right to the presence of an attorney. If he/she chooses that option, the survivor may also have an attorney present. Both the accused and the accuser are notified of the results of the campus disciplinary proceeding brought as a result of the charges. The survivor is allowed to make a "victim impact statement" as part of the hearing process.

If criminal charges are pressed and the suspect found guilty, University discipline will be in line with the conviction. If charges are not pressed but the survivor identifies the assailant, disciplinary action will be in line with the severity of the offense upon completion of the investigation. Possible University disciplinary action may include fines, dismissal from housing, or dismissal from the University.

## Proactive Measures for Preventing Stranger Rape

There are a number of proactive measures you can take to minimize the potential for stranger rape:

- Report suspicious persons to the Department of Public Safety/Campus Police.
- Let others know where you are going and when you will return.
- Avoid working, studying or being alone in buildings or isolated or poorly lit areas.
- If you "feel" uncomfortable – trust your feelings – contact the Department of Public Safety/Campus Police to be accompanied to your destination.
- Know where emergency call boxes are throughout the campus.
- Always close your blinds/shades/curtains at night.
- Check identification of strangers before opening your apartment door.
- Always keep your apartment door and car doors locked.
- Walk with confidence and alertness.

## Proactive Measures for Preventing Acquaintance Rape

There are a number of proactive measures you can take to minimize the potential of acquaintance rape:

- Talk clearly about sexual expectations with your date.
- Don't go to a secluded place with someone you've just met or don't know well. Suggest a public place.
- Drive your own car, use public transportation or have enough money for a taxi.
- Especially don't go to your date's apartment or invite him/her to yours.
- Beware of the impact of alcohol and other drugs on your judgement and that of your date.
- Be cautious dating someone you don't know well.
- Beware of attitudes that could possibly signal the potential for sexual violence: domineering personality, jealousy or unrealistic expectations.
- Know your sexual desires and limitations and communicate them clearly.

## Important Phone Numbers

### Campus Resources (area code: 843)

Victims Advocate	349-2177
Counseling Services	349-2305
Department of Public Safety	349-2177 349-2911
Department of Residence Life	349-6400
Vice President of Student Affairs	349-2300
Student Health Services	349-6543
Dean of Students	349-4160

### Community Resources

Emergency Local Police and Medical	911
Grand Strand Community Against Rape	488-RAPE (448-7273)
Waccamaw Center for Mental Health	347-4888
Conway Medical Center	347-7111
Grand Strand Regional Medical Center	692-1000
Waccamaw Community Hospital	652-1000
Georgetown Memorial Hospital	527-7000