

Sexual Assault



**What you need
to know.**



Important Telephone Numbers

Campus Resources

Counseling Services	843-349-2305
Department of Public Safety	843-349-2177
	843-349-2911
Office of University Housing	843-349-6400
Office of Student Affairs	843-349-2302
Student Health Services	843-349-6543
Office of Student Conduct	843-349-4161
Anonymous TIPS LINE	843-349-TIPS
	843-349-8477
Title IX Coordinator	843-349-2688
NOVA Victims Advocate	843-349-2218

Community Resources

Emergency Local Police and Medical	911
Rape Crisis Center	843-448-RAPE
	843-448-7273
Waccamaw Center for Mental Health	843-347-4888
Conway Medical Center	843-347-7111
Grand Strand Regional Medical Center	843-692-1000
Waccamaw Community Hospital	843-652-1000
Georgetown Memorial Hospital	843-527-7000

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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 due to being mentally incapacitated, intoxicated, under the influence of alcohol or other substances, unable to say "no", unconscious or passed out is rape.

- 1 out of every 6 women will be sexually assaulted.
- 85 percent of assaults are by someone known to the survivor.
- 20-25 percent 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 how to deal with the assault or 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:

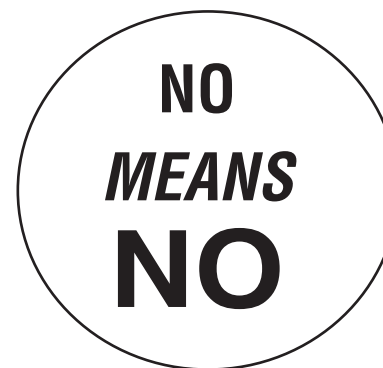
- ▶ Go to a safe place.
- ▶ Contact a friend or family member.
- ▶ Get prompt medical attention.
- ▶ Call Coastal Carolina University's Victims Advocate at 843-349-2177.
- ▶ Call the campus police (or the local police if the incident occurs off campus).
- ▶ Keep the clothes worn during the offense. If 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.

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 a sexual advance, accept it.



It is not your fault!

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 medical provider**.

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.

Local Medical Provider

If the survivor chooses not to go to the emergency room, it is extremely important that he/she sees a medical provider. Coastal Carolina University's Student Health Services will see students who have been sexually assaulted. Typically, Student Health Services will be able to treat injuries and infections but will not collect evidence. Call Student Health Services at 843-349-6543 for more information.

Even if the survivor goes to the emergency room after the assault, it is advisable to follow-up with a local medical provider to monitor the appearance of STDs, 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 and 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 to remain anonymous are encouraged to call Counseling Services at 843-349-2305 for help or advice. To reach a counselor after regular office hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays), call 843-349-2911. 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 Rape Crisis Center is a local nonprofit agency that offers a 24-hour crisis line for counseling and advocacy services. The crisis line number is 843-448-7273.

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

Do not blame yourself.

University Policies

Code of Student Conduct

Sexual assault is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. To bring University student conduct action, the survivor should contact the Office of Student Conduct 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 is found guilty, University discipline will be commensurate with the conviction. If charges are not pressed but the survivor identifies the assailant, disciplinary action will reflect 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.

- The **Code of Student Conduct** can be viewed online at: <http://www.coastal.edu/conduct/documents/codeofconduct.pdf>
- **Sexual Violence Policy**
Coastal Carolina University's policy on sexual violence can be viewed on the policy website: www.coastal.edu/policies

- **Sexual Harassment Policy**

Coastal Carolina University's policy on sexual harassment can be viewed on the following policy website:

<http://www.coastal.edu/policies/policyDetails.html?x=85>

SART

Sexual Assault Response Team

SART is a key group of sexual assault responders (Counseling Services, Public Safety, University Housing, Student Health Services, Student Conduct, etc.) This group reviews protocol after 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 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 and students through a collaborative effort; and encourages students to know the protocol for what to do when they have been assaulted. The team is made up of Coastal Carolina University students, faculty and staff. Individuals who would like to contribute to the work of the CARES Team should contact Counseling Services at 843-349-2305.

South Carolina Law on Criminal Sexual Conduct

According to the South Carolina Code of Law, criminal sexual conduct is defined as follows:

SECTION 16 3 652. Criminal sexual conduct in the first degree.

- (1) A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree if the actor engages in sexual battery with the victim and if any one or more of the following circumstances are proven:
 - (a) The actor uses aggravated force to accomplish sexual battery.
 - (b) The victim submits to sexual battery by the act or under circumstances where the victim is also the victim of forcible confinement, kidnapping, trafficking in persons, robbery, extortion, burglary, housebreaking, or any other similar offense or act.
 - (c) The actor causes the victim, without the victim's consent, to become mentally incapacitated or physically helpless by administering, distributing, dispensing, delivering, or causing to be administered, distributed, dispensed, or delivered a controlled substance, a controlled substance analogue, or any intoxicating substance.
- (2) Criminal sexual conduct in the first degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than thirty years, according to the discretion of the court.

SECTION 16 3 653. Criminal sexual conduct in the second degree.

- (1) A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the second degree if the actor uses aggravated coercion to accomplish sexual battery.
- (2) Criminal sexual conduct in the second degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than twenty years according to the discretion of the court.

SECTION 16 3 654. Criminal sexual conduct in the third degree.

- (1) A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree if the actor engages in sexual battery with the victim and if any one or more of the following circumstances are proven:
 - (a) The actor uses force or coercion to accomplish the sexual battery in the absence of aggravating circumstances.
 - (b) The actor knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless and aggravated force or aggravated coercion was not used to accomplish sexual battery.
- (2) Criminal sexual conduct in the third degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than ten years, according to the discretion of the court.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 on Sexual Violence

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities operated by recipients of federal financial assistance. This includes Coastal Carolina University. Title IX defines sexual harassment as “unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. It includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature.”

Sexual violence, according to the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, is defined as “physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person’s will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim’s use of drugs or alcohol.”

Title IX requires that “if a school knows or reasonably should know about student-on-student harassment [including sexual violence] that creates a hostile environment...the school [should] take immediate action to eliminate the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects.”

While students may pursue charges against an alleged perpetrator of sexual violence through South Carolina Law or the Coastal Carolina University Code of Conduct, they may also address alleged acts of sexual violence through CCU’s Title IX Coordinator.

J. Kay Keels, Ph.D., Title IX Coordinator

Associate Professor, Management

Wall Building 230 F • 843-349-2688 • jkeels@coastal.edu

Reporting Sexual Assault

Coastal Carolina University provides students with several options for reporting a sexual assault.

1. To pursue **criminal charges** or to simply keep your option for pursuing criminal charges open, contact the police in the jurisdiction where the assault occurred.

If you are unsure of the jurisdiction, contact the Coastal Carolina University Department of Public Safety at 843-349-2177.

2. To pursue charges of a violation of the **Code of Student Conduct**, contact the Office of Student Conduct at 843-349-4161.
3. To pursue compliance of Coastal Carolina University with Title IX, contact J. Kay Keels, **Title IX** Coordinator, at 843-349-2688.
4. To talk with a person who will be able to keep your report **confidential**, contact Counseling Services at 843-349-2305.
5. To pursue confidential **medical treatment**, contact Student Health Services at 843-349-6543.

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 in 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.
- Always watch your drink, and do not accept drinks from strangers.

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.
- 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 judgment and that of your date.
- Be cautious about 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.