

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED?**

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The **primary** concern for survivors of sexual violence is safety and to address medical issues related to physical injury, sexually transmitted infections, and/or pregnancy.

The **secondary** concern is evidence collection to aid in a possible police investigation.

- Get to a safe place immediately. Go to your residence hall, apartment, home, or the residence of a trusted friend.
- DO NOT change your clothing or shower. Preservation of physical evidence is of the utmost importance. If you change your clothes, it is important that they are kept in a paper bag to preserve evidence.
- DO NOT apply medication to any injuries that have been sustained unless absolutely necessary. Don't drink or chew gum, or disturb anything in the area where the assault occurred.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible. Visit a local hospital's emergency department or the Freeman SANE division listed on this brochure. Medical attention at the local hospital is required in order to preserve valuable evidence should you decide to seek prosecution through the criminal justice system. It is important to know if you go to the hospital the local police may be contacted. If you suspect that you have been given a predatory drug, like Rohypnol or GHB, please let the police or hospital know. A urine sample can be collected within 72 hours of a sexual assault for predatory drug testing.
- Seek free, confidential counseling at the OCC Counseling Center. Call 417-626-1213. Help is available for the person assaulted and for OCC students helping the survivor of sexual assault. Other free local counseling resources are available too.
- Utilize campus resources. The Dean of Students may be able to assist with changes in academic or college living arrangements if reasonable accommodations are available.

## **MEDICAL RESOURCES**

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### **OCC RICHARDSON HEALTH CENTER**

Mabee Student Center  
Lower Level  
417-626-1213

### **CHOICES MEDICAL CLINIC & RESOURCE CENTER**

531 E. 7<sup>TH</sup> – Joplin, Missouri  
417-624-8030 or Text Line: 774-277-8748

### **FREEMAN SANE PROGRAM SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER**

Freeman Emergency Room  
1102 West 32nd Street Joplin, Missouri  
417-347-6656 or 417-347-SANE (7263)

### **MERCY HOSPITAL**

Mercy Emergency Room  
Joplin, Missouri  
417-781-2727

The Ozark Christian College Sexual Assault  
Policy can be found at:

- [occ.edu/handbook](http://occ.edu/handbook) - Student Handbook
- [occ.edu/security](http://occ.edu/security) – Annual Security Report  
and in the Student Life Office.

## **COUNSELING RESOURCES**

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### **OCC COUNSELING CENTER**

Life & Ministry Preparation Center  
417-626-1279

### **LAFAYETTE HOUSE (WOMEN'S SHELTER)**

417-782-1772

### **OZARK CENTER CRISIS SERVICES**

417-347-7720 or 800-247-0661

### **NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINE**

800-656-4673

# **What to do about Sexual Violence**



A survivor of sexual violence may have a wide range of emotions following an incident. It is important to utilize all available resources and to ensure survivors receive necessary care and begin to process the events. Going to a hospital immediately following the incident provides survivors with urgent care as well as an opportunity for valuable evidence collection.

## **WHAT IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE?**

Sexual violence refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where an individual is incapable of giving consent due to an intellectual disability or use of drugs and/or alcohol. Sexual violence can occur between friends, classmates, spouses, romantic interests, acquaintances, or strangers. Examples of sexual violence include rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion. Dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking are also serious offenses.

## **WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR INVESTIGATION OF A COMPLAINT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT?**

You should file a report with the Dean of Students or the Title IX Coordinator. You will be contacted to schedule a meeting to collect the facts related to the incident. The purpose of the initial meeting will also assure that you have access to all necessary resources and to minimize the impact on your opportunity to participate in your educational program. You should be prepared to address any changes to your college living arrangements or academic program that may be appropriate based on the circumstances. Once you have filed a complaint you will be updated regularly regarding the status and outcomes of the investigation. You should expect to receive an equal opportunity for participation in the investigation and any subsequent proceedings as the individual who is the subject of the complaint.

For more information visit:

- [occ.edu/assaultprevention](http://occ.edu/assaultprevention) – see VAWA or Title IX
- [occ.edu/security](http://occ.edu/security) - see “Sexual Assault Policy”

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WITNESS A CRIME OF SEXUAL ASSAULT?**

If you are a witness to a crime of sexual violence you should report the incident to campus security and local police. You may also speak with the Dean of Students or the Title IX Coordinator who can assist you with further reporting as appropriate.

## **WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE IF I DO NOT WANT TO FILE A COMPLAINT?**

A survivor of sexual assault is always encouraged to consult with trained mental health professionals regardless of whether the person elects to file a report with the police or other campus officials. Mental health professionals can maintain confidentiality and discuss the services they provide.

### **REMEMBER:**

***Seeking support after a sexual assault is crucial.***

## **HOW FRIENDS, FAMILY, FACULTY AND STAFF CAN HELP**

- **Say something. Lend a listening ear.** Show that you care and are willing to listen. Do not force the issue but allow the individual to confide in you at his/her own pace. Never blame the person for what happened or underestimate his/her fear of potential danger. Focus on supporting the individual's right to make his/her own decisions.

- **Guide survivors to campus and community resources.** Let him/her know they are not alone and people are available to help. Encourage him/her to seek sexual violence advocates and assure them that information can be kept confidential.

- **Do not judge survivors.** Tell the person you are sorry they have been hurt. Regardless of their behavior prior to the assault, it is not their fault – the perpetrator is responsible. No one deserves to be assaulted.

- **Remind survivors that their feelings are normal.** They may feel “crazy”. Assure survivors they are not “crazy” and their feelings and reactions are normal.

- **Validate survivors in their feelings.** Continue to do so even if they feel everything is terrible and even if you feel frustrated with their recovery.

- **Focus on his/her strengths.** The individual has probably continually been told by the abusive person that he/she is a bad person, a bad student, or a bad friend. They may believe he/she cannot do anything right and that there really is something wrong with him/her. Give him/her emotional support and help in recognizing personal strengths and skills. Emphasize that he/she deserves a life that is free from violence.

- **Find your own support.** You cannot support someone else if you are not supported. Do not try to receive that support from the survivor.

## **WHAT IF I WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL AT THE TIME OF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT?**

While the use of alcohol or illegal drugs by students is prohibited at OCC, they can impact an individual's ability to consent a sexual act. A student who is assaulted while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is encouraged to seek help and is entitled to college and community assistance.

## **WHERE DO I REPORT SEXUAL VIOLENCE?**

## **COLLEGE-RELATED REPORTING**

**OCC Community Standards Office**  
417-626-1231

You should contact the Sr. Director of Community Standards who will begin an investigation. To encourage reporting, the college offers victims of misconduct and witnesses amnesty from policy violations that may be disclosed as a result of reporting the incident. If the aggressor was a student, the Sr. Director will investigate possible violations of the Code of Student Conduct which could result in disciplinary sanctions up to expelling the student from the college. The Sr. Director may also be able to immediately remove the student from the college and issue no contact orders.

### **TITLE IX COORDINATOR**

Lisa White  
417-626-1223

You should contact the Title IX Coordinator who will coordinate an investigation.

### **OCC CAMPUS SECURITY**

417-626-1200

You should file a report with campus security and local police for sexual assaults occurring on-campus or off-campus. When making a report to campus security and the local police, you may choose to report anonymously.

## **NON-COLLEGE RELATED REPORTING**

Call “911”

Joplin Police Department | 417-623-3131

Jasper County Sheriff's Office | 417-624-1601

**SEXUAL AWARE  
ASSAULT RESPECT  
SAFE EDUCATION  
EMPOWER COUNSEL COMMUNICATE  
WHAT IT IS PRIVACY  
REPORT WHAT TO DO  
WHERE TO GO SUPPORT**