

**RESOURCES
AND GUIDELINES
FOR VICTIMS OF
SEXUAL ASSAULT**

GOUCHER | college

DEFINITION

Sexual assault is **non-consensual physical contact of a sexual nature**, including rape as well as acts using force, threat, intimidation, coercion, or advantage gained by a victim's inability to make rational, reasonable decisions about sex. Sexual assault includes:

- **non-consensual sexual intercourse**, which is any sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, between any persons, without consent; and
- **non-consensual sexual contact**, which is any sexual touching (including disrobing the other or exposing oneself), however slight, with any object, between any persons, without consent.

Goucher College does not tolerate sexual assault under any circumstances. Perpetrators of sexual assault may be subject to criminal prosecution as well as disciplinary action by the college. Anyone who has been sexually assaulted, or believes he or she might have been sexually assaulted, is strongly encouraged to seek immediate medical and emotional support and to report the incident. Reports may be made to designated campus consultants—listed at the back of this guide—or **24 hours a day, seven days a week** to the Office of Public Safety at **410-337-6111 or 6112**.

Goucher's policies regarding sexual assault are included in the college's Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Relationship Violence, and Stalking, the full text of which can be found at **www.goucher.edu/misconduct**. Copies are available through the offices of Public Safety, Residential Life, and the Chaplain.

WHAT TO DO AFTER AN ASSAULT

Victims of sexual assault are encouraged to take the following steps soon after the assault:

Seek Support

Call a friend, family member, or someone else you trust and ask that person to stay with you. You may also contact campus consultant or outside source of support, as described in this guide, under *Counseling and Medical Attention*.

If you feel unsafe, lock the door if possible and call Public Safety at **410-337-6111** or **6112**. Wait for your support person or a Public Safety officer to arrive.

Record Details

If the alleged perpetrator was unknown to you, **try to remember any details** that may lead to that person's identification, such as scars or other marks, jewelry, dress, language, approximate height and weight in comparison to your own, vehicle description, tag number. Write these down as soon as you can and include the date and time of writing.

Preserve Evidence

Now or later, you may decide to **pursue legal recourse**.

To support legal action, observe the following precautions:

- Do not disturb the area, room, or vehicle where the assault was committed.
- Do not bathe, shower, douche, brush your teeth, or eat or drink. Consider pursuing a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) exam to preserve the evidence.
- Please also see *Forensic Examinations and Preservation of Evidence*.

Report the Assault to the Police

Public Safety can assist you in doing so. Reporting the assault can help you regain a sense of personal power, control it, and can help ensure the safety of other potential victims. However, you are not required to report an assault to criminal authorities; it is up to you whether to do so.

SUPPORT AND COUNSELING

If you are sexually assaulted, it is important that you **talk with a counselor** who is trained to assist people in coping with the emotional and physical impacts of sexual assault. This expertise is available in the Student Health and Counseling Center and at TurnAround, Inc. a local sexual assault/domestic violence crisis program in Towson.

On Campus

Students may receive confidential counseling during work hours, **free of charge**, from Goucher's counselors by contacting the Student Health and Counseling Center:

- Appointments may be made by calling 410-337-6481 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Emergency walk-in counseling is available at 1 p.m. every weekday without an appointment.

After hours and on Saturday and Sunday, consultation for students is available by calling Public Safety at **410-337-6111** or **6112**. *You will be referred immediately to on-call counseling or Residential Life staff for support and assistance.*

For counseling you may also contact the **college chaplain** at **410-337-6048** or the **Hillel rabbi** at **410-337-6545**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Off Campus

You may contact TurnAround, Inc. in Towson for counseling. Fees are charged on a sliding scale.

- 24-hour domestic violence hotline at 410-828-6390
- 24-hour sexual assault hotline at 443-279-0379
- Daytime general information at 410-337-8111 or 410-837-7000

MEDICAL ATTENTION

Even if you think that you do not have any physical injuries, you are strongly encouraged to have a medical examination and discuss with a health care provider the risk of exposure to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and the possibility of pregnancy resulting from the sexual assault. If you suspect you may have been given a rape drug, such as Rohypnol (“roofies”), ask the hospital or clinic where you receive medical care to take a urine sample.

On-Campus Services

The Student Health and Counseling Center (410-337-6050) provides medical care and counseling for all people who have been sexually assaulted, regardless of gender. You may elect to be seen there for injuries, testing for sexually transmitted infections, emergency contraception, and counseling. Please note that the Student Health and Counseling Center does not collect evidence or perform forensic medical exams.

Hospital Services

You may prefer to be taken to a local hospital for the following medical attention:

- to be examined for injuries
- to have evidence collected
- to receive immediate counseling and referral service
- to receive emergency contraception
- to be tested and treated for STIs

Transportation and Assistance

If you desire transportation to the hospital, please contact Public Safety at 410-337-6111 or 6112. If you are a student, please know that on-call counseling or Residential Life staff will accompany and assist you at the hospital. TurnAround, Inc. in Towson also offers ER companion advocates, who will meet you at the hospital if you call them (24-hour hotline: 410-828-6390). You will receive full and prompt cooperation from campus personnel in obtaining appropriate medical attention, including providing transportation to the nearest designated hospital.

FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS AND PRESERVING EVIDENCE

SAFE EXAM

If you believe you might at some point choose to pursue legal action related to the assault, please ask the hospital to perform a free **Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE)**.

Locations

Physical evidence is most effectively obtained within 48 to 72 hours of a sexual assault, but it can be collected up to 120 hours after the assault.

Maryland law allows a hospital to provide the SAFE exam free of charge, and there is no requirement for you to report the assault to the police. You can remain anonymous, and the evidence will be held for a period of time, giving you an opportunity to decide.

Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC), 6701 North Charles Street in Towson; ER 443-849-2225, is the closest hospital designated for sexual-assault evidence collection, and it performs SAFE exams.

Mercy Hospital, 301 St. Paul Place in Baltimore; ER 410-332-9477, is the designated hospital in Baltimore City and it performs SAFE exams.

Both hospitals will perform the exams regardless of where the assault occurred, although GBMC works most closely with Baltimore County prosecutors.

Guidance

If you are planning to have a SAFE examination, please preserve all physical evidence of the assault. Please do not bathe, shower, douche, brush your teeth, or eat or drink. (This can be done after the examination)

If you go to the GBMC emergency room for a SAFE, you are given priority to be seen and a private place to wait.

If you think you may want to pursue legal action related to the assault, it is important to preserve other evidence as well. Please do not wash or throw away any articles of clothing worn during the assault. Please place the items in a paper bag (plastic may break down the evidence), with each separate item in a separate bag if possible. Paper bags are available from Public Safety.

REPORTING AND CRIMINAL/ DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Where to Report

Decisions about reporting a sexual assault include whether to report the assault to the college administration, whether to file a complaint under the formal disciplinary procedures of this policy, and whether to bring criminal charges. If you have been sexually assaulted, the college will support your decision to report; you will not be penalized by the college for use of illegal drugs or alcohol related to the incident. You may report the assault directly to the following offices and staff members:

- **Office of Public Safety 410-337-6111 or 6112**
- **Title IX Coordinator 410-337-6570**
- **Dean of Students 410-337-6402**
- **Vice President for Human Resources 410-337-6010**

If you are sexually assaulted on campus, you are strongly encouraged to contact Public Safety immediately.

Criminal Procedures for Sexual Assault

If you are sexually assaulted, you have the option of notifying the appropriate law enforcement officials, including local police, and you have the right to file criminal charges. At your request, Public Safety or the Title IX coordinator will promptly assist you in notifying law enforcement officials.

Special Disciplinary Procedures for Sexual Assault

The college may institute disciplinary procedures against an accused student, faculty member, or staff member regardless of whether any criminal charges are filed. Persons accused of sexual assault may be removed from campus pending disciplinary action or criminal procedures to avoid additional conflict within the community and to protect the safety of all those involved and of the campus community.

If you are sexually assaulted, you (or when appropriate, the college) may institute disciplinary procedures pursuant to sections XIV and XV of Goucher's Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Relationship, Violence, and Stalking (www.goucher.edu/misconduct). If a criminal charge is filed, the college's general counsel will determine whether action under this policy should be delayed pending the preliminary investigation of the criminal case. The college is not required to await the outcome of any criminal proceedings before taking action under the policy.

If you believe you have experienced sexual assault, please consider your option to bring a complaint of sexual misconduct against the perpetrator. The complaint procedures are described in sections XIV and XV of the Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Relationship, and Stalking (www.goucher.edu/misconduct). If you believe you have witnessed sexual assault against another person, please consider reporting the matter to Public Safety or to other college authorities.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONSENT

Confidentiality

Goucher College recognizes confidentiality is important in matters of sexual misconduct. All persons responsible for implementing the Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Relationship Violence, and Stalking will respect the confidentiality and privacy of the individuals involved, to the extent reasonably possible. Those individuals reporting, accused of, or otherwise involved in a sexual misconduct complaint are also required to keep the matter as confidential as is reasonably possible during the proceeding. Absolute confidentiality may not be maintained in all circumstances, including when the college is required to disclose information in a response to legal process or when the college's need to protect the safety of others must outweigh confidentiality concerns.

Often a person reporting or otherwise concerned about sexual misconduct wants a discussion to be confidential or off the record. Confidential discussions about sexual misconduct may be available from persons who, by law, have special professional status—at Goucher that is the college chaplain; the Hillel rabbi; and the director, medical personnel, and mental health counselors at the Student Health and Counseling Center. However, these individuals may also be required to disclose personally identifiable information in cases that threaten imminent danger to a member of the college community. **The level of confidentiality depends on what legal protections are held by the specific persons receiving the information and should be addressed with them before specific facts are disclosed.**

Except these “confidential reporters,” all other Goucher employees, including faculty, and residential assistants (RAs), are required to disclose information concerning sexual misconduct to the Title IX coordinator so this person can meet with you to inform you of available resources and of your rights under the policy.

College employees who wish to discuss sexual misconduct confidentially may also choose to Goucher's Employee Assistance Program, which provides access to trained counselors.

Consent

Sexual assault occurs in the absence of consent. **Consent must be expressed in explicit words**, and it means willingly and knowingly agreeing to engage in mutually understood sexual conduct. Consent must be mutual and ongoing, offered freely and knowingly, and cannot be given by a person who is incapacitated, as described below.

Lack of Consent

Non-communication or silence constitutes lack of consent. A verbal “no” constitutes lack of consent, even if it sounds insincere or indecisive. Incapacitation also constitutes lack of consent. If at any time during a sexual interaction

any confusion or ambiguity should arise about consent, it is the responsibility of the person initiating the activity to stop and clarify the other's willingness to continue. If at any time consent is withdrawn, the activity must stop immediately.

Consumption of drugs or alcohol, in and of itself, does not relieve a party of responsibility to obtain ongoing consent.

For consent to be valid, all parties must be capable of making a rational, reasonable decision about the sexual act and must have a shared understanding of the nature of the act to which they are consenting. It is not possible for a person to give consent if incapacitated by drugs, alcohol, or other physical or mental impairment, or if incapacitated by being threatened, intimidated, or coerced into giving consent. Indications of consent are irrelevant if the person is incapacitated. Engaging in sexual activity with someone who is incapacitated constitutes sexual misconduct and violates this policy.

Examples of incapacitation include, but are not limited to, being highly intoxicated, passed out, asleep, unable to communicate, or subjected to violence. Incapacitation may include the following physical indications:

- Slurred speech
- Unsteady gait or stumbling
- Vomiting
- Unfocused or bloodshot eyes
- Outrageous or unusual behavior
- Expressed memory loss
- Disorientation
- Unresponsiveness
- Sleeping

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

On Campus

If you are sexually assaulted, you may choose to contact a trained consultant for support and advice. This professional can also assist you in making decisions about reporting and at your request may accompany you to report the assault.

Consultants will maintain confidentiality to the extent reasonably possible. The following people are confidential sexual-assault consultants on campus:

- **Monica Neel, psychologist** 410-337-6562
- **Lauren Greenberg, counselor** 410-337-3023
- **Josh Snyder, Hillel rabbi** 410-337-6545
- **Cynthia Terry, college chaplain** 410-337-6048

You may also report an assault 24/7 to Public Safety at 410-337-6111 or 6112.

You may also choose to seek support from other members of the college community, such as students, residential assistants (RAs), or faculty. However these individuals are required to report information about policy violations to the Title IX coordinator. Thus, you should discuss confidentiality with the person to whom you wish to speak before disclosing the assault. The college also maintains a list of trained advisers who can provide support to you throughout the process. The Title IX coordinator maintains a current list of such individuals.

Off Campus

If you are sexually assaulted, you may choose to receive assistance from a non-Goucher source. The following resources are available off campus:

- **TurnAround, Inc.** (Sexual assault/domestic violence crisis program)
- **Domestic violence hotline** 410-377-8111
- **Sexual assault hotline** 443-279-0379
- **Baltimore County office** 410-377-8111
- **Baltimore City office** 410-837-7000
- **House of Ruth** (Domestic violence services and shelter) 410-554-8463
- **Hotline and Victim Advocate Program** 410-889-7884
- **Domestic Violence Legal Clinic** 410-554-8463
- **Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc.** (referral source but not direct service provider) 410-974-4507
- **Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network Hotline** 800-656-HOPE
- **Sexual Assault Legal Institute** (assistance with legal issues related to sexual violence) 301-565-2277; 877-496-SALI

Contact information for off-campus resources may change, and other resources may become available over time. Goucher College will periodically update this list as appropriate.

