



Sexual Violence

**How to be a Supportive and
Effective Helper!**



Know Your Legal Responsibilities

Due to Title IX and clarification of Title IX offered by the Office of Civil Rights in the “Dear Colleague” Letter (2011),

All CCU Faculty and Staff are considered **“MANDATORY”** reporters of sexual assault/sexual violence.

(Unless otherwise mandated by law to protect confidentiality, as in the case of medical providers and mental health counselors)



Sexual Violence Defined

- Sexual violence encompasses rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual coercion, and sexual harassment.
- Sexual violence has no gender, race, sexual identity or socioeconomic boundaries. It is a crime of aggression, power and control.

CCU Policies:

- Sexual Violence/Assault Policy

<http://www.coastal.edu/policies/policyDetails.html?x=141>

- Sexual Harassment Policy

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



HOW DO I KNOW THAT I MUST REPORT?

1. I was told by a student that he/she was assaulted during the time that he/she was enrolled as a student at CCU.
2. I have “reasonable knowledge” that a student was assaulted. Examples include:
 - Overheard it
 - Saw it on social media (Twitter, FaceBook, Instagram, etc.)
 - Read it in a writing assignment, journal, etc.
 - Was told by another person



If I suspect a student is about to tell me that he/she was assaulted...

- Can I cut them off to avoid having to report it?
- Should I cut them off to avoid having to report it?



How might this report help?

- The University can make sure survivors have services to protect their health and safety, and to help them heal.
- The University can make sure survivors know what options they have for pursuing justice and help facilitate those options.
- The University can take steps to ensure the safety of other potential victims.
- The University can help survivors avoid having this incident interfere with their education.
- The University can...(there may be other benefits that depend upon the survivor's specific situation).



What to do once told of a sexual violence incident

STEP 1: Ensure Current Safety

STEP 2: Listen Carefully

STEP 3: Explain Mandatory Reporting

STEP 4: Make a Follow-Up Plan and Referrals



STEP 1: Ensure Current Safety

- Is the survivor being assaulted now?
- Is the survivor in a place where the alleged attacker can continue to attack or attack again?
- Is the survivor in a safe place with trusted individuals?

If the survivor is not safe, get the survivor's location and call 911 or direct/guide the survivor to relocate to a safe place.



STEP 2: Listen Carefully

Allow the student to tell their story to promote:

- Healing
- Regaining Control
- Determining Next Steps



Helpful Responses

- **LISTEN** without interrupting.
- **KEEP CALM** and don't panic. Note the volume of your voice.
- **RESPECT** the language that the survivor uses to identify what happened.
- **ALLOW** for tears and expression of feelings.
- **VALIDATE** the survivor's experiences or reactions.
- Only touch or hug the survivor with his/her permission. Be conscientious of victim's personal space.



More Helpful Responses

- **BELIEVE** and support the survivor.
- **ACKNOWLEDGE** his/her courage and discomfort.
- **REMIND** the survivor that he/she is not at fault.
 - Note “medical amnesty” policy in Student Conduct.
- **ENCOURAGE** the survivor to seek medical attention and counseling.
- **ALLOW** the survivor to make his/her own decisions.
- **ASK** what you can do to be supportive.
- **PROVIDE** resources and options.



Unhelpful Responses

- **ASKING** “why” questions or other questions that might imply blame.
- **BLAMING** or **JUDGING** the survivor’s actions (“How much did you drink? What did you wear? Why were you there? Are you **SURE** it happened?”)
- **DISMISSING** the survivor’s feelings or minimizing his/her experience.
- **TRYING** to “fix” the problem.
- **ASKING** “too many” questions. You are here to help, not to investigate a crime.
- **OVERLOADING** the survivor with too much information at once.



STEP 3: Explain Mandatory Reporting

“I am legally required to tell two people that you informed me of a sexual violence incident – an investigator in the Department of Public Safety and the University’s Title IX Coordinator (Denise Morkis Perez).”

“The University has a legal responsibility to make sure that everything possible is done to create a safe environment. As an employee of the University, I have to pass this information along so that the people whose responsibility this is, can make every effort to keep you and others safe.”



Who will know once the report is made?

The survivor's name will only be given to:

- Relevant Public Safety Personnel
- The Title IX Coordinator (Denise Morkis Perez) and any Deputy Title IX Coordinator she designates.
- Relevant Dean of Students Office Personnel if the survivor is a student and VP for Student Affairs
- Relevant Counseling Services Personnel

Others may be notified of the situation, but the survivor will not be identified unless she/he gives permission.



What is the survivor required to do once the report is made?

- **NOTHING!!!**
- Relevant University personnel, usually a Title IX Investigator and/or a Student Advocate from the Dean of Students Office will attempt to make contact with the survivor to investigate and offer services and remedies, but the survivor does not have to talk to anyone about the incident.
- The survivor has the right to say “no” to those who initiate an investigation or offer assistance.

STEP 4: Make a Follow-up Plan and Referrals

- Seek the survivor's permission to call in an expert who can review options with them.

Those who can provide this service at any time are:

- Department of Public Safety Personnel
- The On-Call Counselor from Counseling Services
- Hospital Emergency Department Personnel

Others available during business hours are:

- The Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinators
- Dean of Students Office Personnel
- Student Health Services Personnel

STEP 4: Make a Follow-up Plan and Referrals

- Know the resources and options just in case the survivor refuses to talk to or listen to anyone else.
- Resources should be considered for:
 - Medical Care
 - Psychological Care
 - Evidence Collection
 - Seeking Justice/Protection
 - Getting Help with School



MEDICAL CARE

- For Medical Care and Evidence Kit:

Hospital Emergency Department

- For Medical Care Only:

Student Health Services

Survivor's own primary care physician



If considering an Evidence Kit

- Don't shower, douche, change clothes, use the restroom, smoke, chew gum, eat, drink or comb hair
- Bring a fresh change of clothes
- If clothes have been changed, the clothes worn at the time of the assault should be put in a **paper** bag (**NEVER plastic!**) and brought to the hospital.
- **The sooner, the better!**



If going to Student Health Services:

- Services include full gynecological/physical evaluation and prophylactic medications, such as morning after pill, preventatives for sexually transmitted diseases and referrals if needed.
- Student may use code word “**Healthy Chant**” visit or write down “Healthy Chant” and hand it to the front desk staff to ensure privacy.



PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE

- Counseling Services
- Rape Crisis Center
- Private Practitioner



Counseling Services

- Counseling Services offers **FREE and CONFIDENTIAL** crisis counseling and advocacy to support a survivor at any point after an assault.
- Survivors are offered **information and resources** so that they may make their own decisions about their care.
- Counselors are **on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year** and can respond to campus and local emergency rooms to support survivors.
- Counselors provide follow-up counseling which promotes healing



OPTIONS for Seeking Justice/Protection

- Reporting to police agency (preferably the agency in the jurisdiction where the assault took place, but can report anywhere) – By law a survivor is NOT required to report an assault to police.
- Reporting to police anonymously
- Evidence collected can be kept anonymously, giving survivor's up to one year to decide whether or not they wish to pursue charges.
- Reporting to Dean of Students
- Reporting to Title IX Coordinator
- A survivor always has the option of doing NOTHING.

Protect Your Campus

Be A Silent Witness

ANY
CRIME

843-349-TIPS

Never have to
give your name.



The Department of Public Safety also has an anonymous reporting feature on their website which cannot be tracked “backwards.”

www.coastal.edu/safety/police/index.html?type=witness



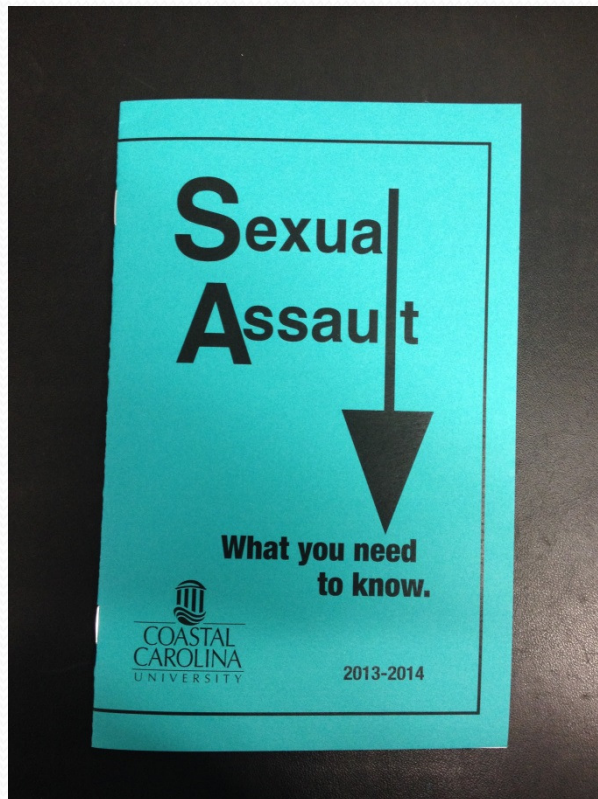
Other Possible Services

- Changing classes to avoid contact with the perpetrator.
- Changing residence halls to avoid contact with the perpetrator or living in the place where the assault may have happened.
- Medical-Psychological Withdrawal from classes without the penalty of a “WF”.
- Advocacy in dealing with friends, the perpetrator’s friends, police, court, etc.
- Additional help depending on the survivor’s situation.

STEP 4: Make a Follow-up Plan and Referrals

- Once the resources and options have been presented to the survivor, let the survivor decide what she/he will do next.
- Assist the survivor with contacting referrals.
- Make plans to follow-up with the survivor at a later time.

Information for Students



Found Online at:

www.coastal.edu/counseling/

Click on

Sexual Assault: What You
Need To Know

QUESTIONS?

- Title IX Coordinator 843-349-2382 or 843-333-6229
- Public Safety 843-349-2177 or 843-349-2911
- Counseling Services 843-349-2305
- Dean of Students Office 843-349-4161
- Student Affairs 843-349-2302
- Student Health Services 843-349-6543
- Human Resources 843-349-2036

QUESTIONS?

- Title IX Coordinator <http://www.coastal.edu/titleix>
- Public Safety <http://www.coastal.edu/safety>
- Counseling Services <http://www.coastal.edu/counseling>
- Dean of Students <http://www.coastal.edu/deanofstudents>
- Student Affairs <http://www.coastal.edu/students>
- Student Health Services <http://www.coastal.edu/health>
- Human Resources <http://www.coastal.edu/hreo>