

What to Do If You Are Sexually Assaulted

Sexual assault is any sexual act committed against a person without their consent. Consent is a voluntary, verbal agreement between equal and unimpaired partners without coercion.

Find A Safe Place

Get to a safe place—anywhere away from the attacker. Call someone you trust, such as a friend, relative, or police officer to come meet you. There is support at AU and in the community to help you as you decide what to do. Alternatives, Inc. is always available to guide you through the entire process. Their 24-hour hotline number is 866-593-9999. Healing from a sexual assault takes time. Free counseling is available on-campus at Counseling Services, 641-4203 or 641-4205, or off-campus at Alternatives, Inc., 866-593-9999.

As you are considering your options, it is vital to remember:

- It is not your fault
- Every rape or sexual assault is different
- It doesn't matter what you did or did not do during the assault
- Healing from a sexual assault takes time
- It is never too late to get help, even if the assault happened years ago

Options for Reporting

You have the right to choose whom you tell. You may consider talking to a trusted friend or family member or to any of the university offices listed below. Your parents will not be called without your permission. In the case of a life-threatening emergency, the hospital may call your closest relative, but the nature of your injuries will not be disclosed.

You don't have to decide if you want to make a police report right away, but preserving the evidence helps if you decide to contact the police at a later date. To help preserve evidence:

- Don't bathe or brush your teeth, drink, or smoke before evidence collection.

- If you have already changed your clothes, place them in a paper bag (NOT plastic) to preserve them.
- To collect evidence, ask the hospital to conduct a rape kit exam. If you suspect that you may have been drugged, ask for a urine sample to be collected and try not to go to the bathroom before the sample is collected.

If or when you are ready, you can report the assault to Anderson University Police 24 hours a day at (765) 641-3333. Call 911 to report to the local police. You can also get assistance from Student Life by contacting the RD on call at (765) 641-3003. The university reporting hotline is available 24/7 at 855.270.3684 (toll-free).

You won't need to go to court unless you want to press charges, and you don't have to make that decision right away. You can seek an order of protection to keep the person who hurt you away. If you need a legal order of protection, a report needs to be filed with the jurisdiction in which the assault occurred. On-campus orders of protection (only applies while victim is on campus) can be obtained through the Department of Student Life without a police report. For information on/assistance with legal orders of protection, contact the University Police or Alternatives, Inc.

Medical Care

You may have injuries that aren't yet evident—*get medical attention immediately*. Even if you have no physical injuries, immediate medical care is important to reduce risks of pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections. *You do not have to press charges to seek medical attention.*

For pregnancy, HIV/STD or injury concerns: You can go to any local emergency room for testing, emergency medical care, and/or evidence collection. Community Hospital-Anderson houses the Madison County Sexual Assault Treatment Center and we recommend this hospital for care following a sexual assault. Community Hospital is located at 1515 N. Madison Avenue in Anderson, 765-298-5141

You may also visit Student Health Services for an initial consultation.

Options for Support, Referrals & Education

Getting help does not mean you have to prosecute. Professionals trained in crisis intervention are available free to AU students, and can help guide you through what services are available to help you choose what happens next:

- Alternatives, Inc. 866-593-9999 (24 hours) www.alternativesdv.org
- AU Counseling Services, 764-641-4203 Morrison House 327 College Drive
- Student Health Services, 765-641-4222
- Student Life, 765-641-4070
- Anderson City Police Department Victim Assistance, 765-648-6773

If Someone You Know Has Been Sexually Assaulted

Believe them, listen to them, support them—but don't be judgmental.

Inform them of the options (see information above), but remember it's their decision.

Be patient. Remember, it takes time to process and time to heal. Let them know that professional help is available. Get support for yourself. Counseling Services is also available to you. If a friend has been sexually assaulted, it is not uncommon for this person to experience:

- Shock
- Anger
- Denial
- Mood Swings
- Helplessness
- Inability to concentrate or relax
- Disturbances in eating and/or sleeping
- Disbelief
- Irritability
- Fear
- Depression
- Embarrassment

The health and safety of AU students is always the highest priority. However, students or others may be reluctant to get immediate medical or other professional assistance because of concerns that their

own behavior may be a violation of AU rules/regulations. Victims or reporting students will NOT be subject to sanctions of the AU Code of Conduct when reporting a sexual assault.

Indiana Lifeline Law

I.C. 7.1-1-3-19.7

Provides immunity from prosecution for public intoxication, minor in possession and consumption of alcohol to persons seeking medical assistance from law enforcement for a person suffering from an alcohol-related health emergency

What You Need to Know About Sexual Assault on the College Campus

- A woman has a one in four chance of being sexually assaulted during college
- Men are also sexually victimized
- Women are at greatest risk during their first three months on campus
- Sexual assault is the most under-reported campus crime
- Students who choose to disclose sexual assault usually tell a friend
- The assailant is an acquaintance 80-95% of the time –“stranger rapes” are the exception, not the norm
- Alcohol is the most common “date rape” drug: intoxication by either the victim or perpetrator is present in over 80% of cases
- Understand that silence can be understood as consent to a sexual act. A consensual sexual act means voluntary, verbal agreement at every stage.
- Be willing to intervene when you think someone is in a vulnerable situation

Common Myths and Realities

Myth: Rape is a crime committed by strangers jumping out of bushes or in dark alleys.

Reality: At least 80% of all sexual assaults on college campuses are committed by an acquaintance of the victim (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2008).

Myth: Victims of rape asked to be raped by their actions or the way they dress.

Reality: Nobody asks to be raped no matter how they act or dress. An individual's behavior is their choice, and is never justification for sexual assault.

Myth: If you paid for a date or drinks at the club, then they owe you sex.

Reality: A person doesn't have to do anything in return for a date or a drink. They are separate invitations and you should expect separate answers.

Myth: When a man becomes sexually aroused they have to have sex otherwise they will literally "explode".

Reality: Although it may be desirable to have sex when you are aroused, a man suffers no physical consequences if he doesn't have sex when aroused. There is no “point of no return”.

Myth: When a woman says "no" she really means "maybe."

Reality: Although you may think you're picking up mixed signals, consent is a continuous process. Never assume that no means anything but no and if in doubt—ask.

Myth: Same-sex sexual assault is motivated by gay attraction.

Reality: Same or opposite sex attraction are not the issue when trying to understand what motivates offenders. Sexual assault is predominantly an act of violence, and is committed for similar reasons as other types of assault. Offenders may be acting out of the desire to control, humiliate or harm the victim. Sexual assault is not defined by the gender of the offender or the victim.



Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness

*AU Police Department
765-641-3333*

*AU Counseling Services
765-641-4203*

*AU Dean of Students
765-641-4219*

*AU Title IX Coordinator
765-641-4133*