Survivor
Advocacy Program

Resource Guide
This guide is designed to assist those who have experienced a sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or those who have a friend/relative in need of resources. The goal of this guide is to highlight some of the resources and options that are available to Ohio University students. Everyone processes trauma at his/her/their own pace. Our hope is that this resource guide may aid in the recovery process. Remember that ONLY the person who committed assault is responsible for the assault. The survivor is NEVER to blame.

Ohio University
Survivor Advocacy Program

038 Lindley Hall
1 Ohio University
Athens, OH 45701-2979

740-597-7233 (24/7 Crisis Line)
survivor.advocacy@ohio.edu

This booklet is a compilation of information from providers of the services described within, as well as, information adapted from the following:

- Resource Guide, developed by the Ohio University’s Department of Health Education and Wellness, August 2006.

- Ohio Protocol for Sexual Assault Forensic and Medical Examination, developed by the Ohio Department of Health-Division of Prevention; Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction and the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention Program, Revised February 2011
If You Have experienced a Sexual Assault:

1. If possible, **get to a safe place.**

2. **Call** someone who can help:
   - A friend
   - The **Survivor Advocacy Program** for Ohio University students-
     
     24/7 crisis line (740) 593-0544

   - The Ohio University Police Department - (740) 593-1911

   - The Athens Police Department - 911

3. **Do not blame yourself.** Being a victim of sexual assault is never your fault.

4. **Consider** going to **O’Bleness Memorial Hospital Emergency Room** for a SANE examination. **Do not shower, drink, eat, brush your teeth or change your clothes.** However, if you have already done so *(which is a perfectly normal response)*, you can still seek a SANE exam within the 96 hour time frame. These activities do not necessarily prevent the collection of evidence, and your physical well-being is most important. SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) exams can be performed up to 96 hours after the assault. An exam typically takes about three hours. While forensic exams may seem invasive, they are done to collect all possible evidence.

The initial part of the exam consists of an interview where the nurse will ask about the assault. They will ask you specific questions concerning details of the assault. It is always your choice not to answer any question or questions about the assault, but the more information the SANE can have concerning the assault, the more thorough the examination can be. The second part of the exam will include a thorough physical exam and collection of evidence.

-If you have not yet decided whether you want to pursue legal charges, a SANE examination can still be completed to secure evidence so that you can decide at a later date.
If you need safe transportation to O’Bleness Memorial Hospital or a ride back to your safe place:
SAP has established a cab voucher program for survivors of sexual assault. This program provides pre-paid cab vouchers for survivors for transport to and/or from O’Bleness Memorial Hospital from Ohio University Campus and the Athens City Limits.

Providing you with a cab voucher allows you the option to get to the hospital if you wish to seek medical assistance, but do not wish to seek transport from police, a friend, or a family member. A cab voucher system can help solve this problem by allowing you to contact SAP or the hospital and ask that a cab be contacted to provide transportation from their home or other safe location to the hospital.
You may have an additional support person(s) ride in the cab.

The cab driver does not know specifics of your situation, just that it is a sensitive and urgent situation. The cab service is willing to give priority to the transport of people using our vouchers.

This cab voucher service allows you to have safe, accessible, and free transportation in your time of crisis and afford you the opportunity to make the choices that are right for you.

In order to access this service please call our 24/7 crisis line at: (740) 597-7233
If you have been assaulted and received a SANE/SAFE exam at the hospital, you may have questions about what to do now. There are choices and options available to you. In this guide you will find the people and places that will walk beside you if you so desire.

A note on the evidence collected during the SANE exam:

- The SANE kit information will be submitted to the State Bureau of Investigation (BCI).
- The results of the DNA testing are placed in an Index System (CODIS) containing digital profiles of DNA collected from assaults. It is part of the FBI’s National DNA Index System. Through CODIS, DNA profiles can be linked to evidence from other assaults and can be linked together at a local, state, or national level.
- Depending on the profile complexity and the number of kits the BCI receives, the testing can take approximately 20 days or more once it is received at the Laboratory.

One of the first choices you can make is whether or not to work with an advocate.

As a student at Ohio University you have access to:

**The Survivor Advocacy Program (SAP)**

The Survivor Advocacy Program’s mission is to provide confidential support and advocacy services to student survivors of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. We work to increase student survivors’ access to support and resources through trauma informed advocacy and empowerment.

Email [survivor.advocacy@ohio.edu](mailto:survivor.advocacy@ohio.edu) to schedule an appointment or call **740-597-SAFE (7233)** to speak with a trained advocate who can offer the following supportive services:

- Telephone and/or in-person crisis intervention.
- Referrals to counseling and social services.
- Support during police interviews and investigations.
- Guidance on navigating University, legal and medical processes.
- Development of a safety plan.
- Support during follow-up care and medical visits.
- Assistance in locating transportation to/from the hospital.
- Assistance with housing options and class accommodations.
- Help writing impact statements.
• Support for your family and loved ones, at your request
• Individual supportive services
• A confidential & safe space on campus

What You Can Expect from an Advocate

☐ Assurance that the experiences you share will be kept private and confidential, barring any legal exceptions and/or your permission.
☐ Respect, empathy, and support. Advocates are there to listen, not to pass judgment or investigate.
☐ Acknowledgement that you are the expert in your situation. Advocates have knowledge and expertise to assist you in making informed choices, but those choices are yours and deserve to be respected

The next decision you can make might be whether or not you wish to report the incident to the University or law enforcement. The University process (ECRC/CSSR) is separate and different from the criminal court system. You may decide to pursue one or both courses of action.

University Reporting Options

Office of Equity and Civil Rights Compliance (ECRC)

www.ohio.edu/equity-civil-rights/
(740) 593-2620

Any type of sexual misconduct that occurs against an Ohio University student, can be investigated by the Title IX office. If you call SAP (740) 597-7233 an advocate can help you with reporting. Once the office becomes aware of sexual misconduct they set up a meeting with you to discuss your resources and options. You can report an incident on the Office’s website or call and ask to speak with the Title IX investigator.

Sexual assault is a violation of the Ohio University Student Code of Conduct. ECRC conducts a joint investigation with Office of Community Standards and Student Responsibility (CSSR) when a report of sexual assault is made. You may choose to contact SAP at (740) 597-7233 to speak with an advocate who will support you and accompany you to meetings throughout the process.
In addition to the University administrative process mentioned above, survivors may also participate in a legal process with the appropriate law enforcement agency.

**Legal and Judicial Processes**

**Law Enforcement Investigation**
If you choose to participate in an investigation, you will speak with a law enforcement officer in private, and have the right to have an advocate or another support person of your choosing present. A SAP advocate is there for support, not to answer questions for you or ask questions of you. The interview may be audio and/or visually recorded. You may have one or more follow-up interviews to discuss the details of assault. Getting the name and number of the officer who interviewed you is helpful in case you recall additional information or have questions about the status of your case.

Survivors should not avoid making a police report due to the fear of getting in legal trouble for consumption of alcohol or drugs at the time of an assault. The police consider all circumstances when investigating criminal offenses and will make personal crimes their first priority.

The police will conduct a thorough investigation, which may take time. They will then provide the information to the the prosecutor who will review the case and possibly meet with you. The prosecutor makes the determination of how to proceed legally. This process is lengthy and can become frustrating. It is often a good idea to work with an advocate to help you make contacts with those involved in order to be informed about where your case is in the process.
If the incident occurred on campus (campus property) you should contact:

**Ohio University Police Department**

(740) 593-1911  
135 Scott Quad

If the incident occurred off campus but within the city of Athens (e.g., off-campus housing, Court Street) you should contact:

**Athens Police Department**

(740) 592-3313  (911 in an emergency)  
11 N. College Street

When you are navigating the Criminal Justice System you may also choose to contact a Victim’s Assistance Program. They can work with you during law enforcement investigation or when law enforcement transfers your case to the prosecutor. They can work in conjunction with a SAP advocate to help you access all resources available to you.

**Athens VAWA Unit-Victim Specialist**

Available to you throughout an Athens Police Department law enforcement investigation

The Victim Specialist is available to assist the survivor throughout the law enforcement and judicial process. The Victim Specialist can provide the following supportive services:

- Information regarding the law enforcement process, including investigations.
- Information about the criminal and civil court processes.
- Information regarding your rights as a crime victim.
- Accompany you during the investigation interviews.
- Accompany you to court proceedings and meetings with the prosecutor.
- Assistance with applying for crime victim compensation.
- Assistance with petitioning for civil protection orders.
- Notification concerning your case’s status.
- Assist with interactions with court personnel, social service agencies, and other community providers

(740) 592-3315  
mburchfield@ci.athens.oh.us
Keller J. Blackburn’s Victims Assistance Program:
Available to you when your case is transferred to the prosecutor’s office

The Victim’s Assistance Program is designed to assist the survivor throughout the criminal justice process and attempt to lessen the impact that crime and the criminal justice process can have on families and individuals. The Victim’s Assistance Program can provide the following supportive services:

- Information regarding the criminal justice system and proceedings.
- Information regarding your rights as a crime victim.
- An escort to court and support throughout the process.
- Assistance with your victim impact statement.
- Assistance with applying for crime compensation.
- Assistance with petitioning for civil protection orders.
- Notification concerning your case’s status and upcoming court dates.
- Assist with interactions with court personnel, social service agencies, and other community providers.

(740) 592-3208
1 S. Court Street

Civil Court
Sexual assault survivors have the right to sue the offender or other involved parties for monetary damages. You can pursue this type of prosecution alone or in conjunction with the criminal, and/or campus CSSR/ECRC process. As with CSSR/ECRC action, the burden of proof is a preponderance of the evidence. If you consider this type of prosecution, consult with an attorney for more information.
Student Legal Services:

(740) 594-8093
50 S. Court Street Suite D
Athens, OH 45701

The Center for Student Legal Services (SLS) has been providing Ohio University students with affordable legal assistance since 1997. Students can choose to enroll in the program as an option on their semester tuition bill. The cost of enrollment is $12 per semester. If a student waived the fee at the beginning of the term, they will need to complete a re-enrollment form and pay the $12 SLS Fee. Even if students do not require representation in court, those who choose to enroll in the CSLS program are entitled to our notary services as well as general legal advice on a number of topics.

CSLS may provide limited advice in certain areas of the law. These areas include, but are not limited to: felonies, immigration, property damage, personal injury, or malpractice claims, estate and probate matters/complex wills and trusts, taxes, bankruptcies, establishing copyrights and patents, divorce or child custody or support hearings.

The Center for Student Legal Services cannot represent one student against another in a civil or criminal matter. If CSLS is unable to provide assistance, they will do their best to refer you to someone who can assist you.
It is important that you consider seeking follow-up medical care after an assault. You may choose to seek these services on campus or in the community. Here are some options that you may want to consider.

**Medical Resources**

**O’Bleness Memorial Hospital Emergency Department**
55 Hospital Drive
(740) 593-5551
Medical attention and/or evidence collection by a sexual assault nurse can be obtained on a 24/7 basis. The medical evidentiary examination is at no cost to the victim/survivor. The emergency room can also provide emergency contraception.

**Ohio University’s Campus Care**
Confidential campus resource
Hudson Health Center, 1st Floor
(740) 593-1660
Student Health services provides follow-up medical care for students and it is recommended go to Campus Care after receiving a sexual assault examination at the hospital. Campus Care can provide testing and treatment for injuries and sexually transmitted infections. Emergency contraception can also be obtained, as well as other options for contraception. If you have difficulty getting in to Campus Care within a reasonable timeframe (i.e. 2-3 weeks) after an assault, contact a SAP advocate for assistance.

**Planned Parenthood of Southeast Ohio**
1005 East State Street
(740) 593-6979
Provides comprehensive gynecological exams including pregnancy testing, STI testing and treatment. Emergency contraception is also available. There is a sliding scale for fees and services.

**River Rose Obstetrics & Gynecology**
75 Hospital Drive, Suite 260
(740) 594-8819
Provides obstetrical and gynecological healthcare for the women of SE Ohio regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or finances using modern equipment and procedures.
Sexual assault can have psychological, emotional, and physical effects on a survivor. These effects may appear right away or surface at a later time. These effects can be very difficult to deal with, but seeking help from a professional can often times help a survivor gain the skills to cope. Below are some options you have for supportive services.

**Counseling and Support Services**

**Survivor Advocacy Program (SAP)**  
Confidential campus resource  
038 Lindley Hall, Ohio University  
(740) 597-SAFE (7233)  
Provides 24/7 confidential advocacy services to victims/survivors of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence and stalking. An advocate can be with a survivor during any medical, legal and/or judicial process that the survivor chooses to participate in and can also provide support if the survivor chooses not to go through any process. An advocate can speak with you over the phone and/or in-person.

**Ohio University Counseling and Psychological Services**  
Confidential campus resource  
2 Health Center Drive, 3rd Floor  
(740) 593-1616  
Provides confidential counseling and 24/7 crisis intervention. CPS provides group, individual, and couples counseling. They offer a group for survivors of sexual assault. Contact CPS or SAP for more information.

**My Sister’s Place**  
(740) 593-3402  
If you are a victim/survivor of domestic/dating violence, My Sister’s Place provides 24/7 crisis intervention, emergency shelter, advocacy throughout the legal process, assistance with filing protective orders, counseling and more.

**Hopewell Health Centers**  
90 Hospital Drive  
(740) 592-3091  
Counseling is available for those who receive or are eligible for Medicaid or Medicare. Private insurance and self-pay are also acceptable. In addition to counseling, a 24/7 crisis line 1-888-475-8484 is available.
Every survivor has the right...

...To be respected.

...To be supported.

...To report to Law Enforcement, Judiciaries and/or Institutional Equity.

...To be safe at work, at home or at school.

...To receive medical attention.

...To receive counseling and other support services.

...To be informed of all options and the outcome of any formal proceedings.

Remember: If at any time the information in this guide becomes confusing or overwhelming for you, the Survivor Advocacy Program is here to assist you. We are available to explain your options and assist you in making reports to any of the agencies you choose. Call us at 740-597-7233 or stop in our office in Lindley Hall 038.
Important Information

My Survivor Advocate’s name: __________________________
Contact number: __________________________

My SANE/SAFE Nurse’s name: __________________________
Contact number: __________________________

Other Medical Professional’s name: _______________________
Contact number: __________________________

My Detective’s name: _______________________________
Phone number: _______________________________

My Forensic Kit Number: _______________________________

Remember, if you had a SANE/SAFE exam at the hospital and you decided to withhold your name from the evidence collected, you may change your mind and decide to make the report in your name. You will then contact the police department and provide your kit number.

Notes:
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Investigation Process for Allegations of Sexual Misconduct by a Student

**ACTUAL NOTICE of Sexual Misconduct Allegation**

- Assess interim suspension
- Confidentiality request
- Resources and options meeting

  **Gatekeeper determines no reasonable cause to believe Policy 03.004 violated**
  - Conduct issue referrals to CSSR
  - Preliminary investigation ends - no conduct issue, provide closing letter

  **Gatekeeper determines reasonable cause to believe Policy 03.004 violated (and which ones)**
  - Investigation by Equity and Civil Rights Compliance and Community Standards
  - Pre-hearing meeting
  - Hearing
  - Appeal by any party to Vice President for Student Affairs
  - Notice of appeal/appeal rebuttal

- Initial remedial actions
- Assess duty to warn

- Decision is overturned. If the report is overturned, notice of any modifications will be given to both parties
- Decision is upheld