

Pitt – Johnstown Sexual Assault or Misconduct Information Guide

Introduction

The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown is a community of learners in which mutual respect and concern for the safety and well-being of one another is required by all members of the community. If a member of the campus community is subjected to sexual assault or misconduct, the person committing such has likely committed a crime, engaged in a grievous breach of the trust placed in him/her by the community, and violated the Student Code of Conduct. The University will not tolerate such acts of misconduct or violence. The University strongly encourages members of the University community to report these occurrences. The University will provide victims of sexual assault with supportive interventions and comprehensive resources to assist in their treatment and recovery. Sexual assault prevention programs will be included in new student orientation and provided to students throughout the academic year. Resources and support regarding sexual assault may be found at the Office of Health and Counseling, the Campus Police Department, the Office of Housing and Residence Life, the Office of Student Conduct, the Office of Equity and Inclusion, the Women's Help Center, and Victim Services, Inc.

Overview of Expectations with Respect to Sexual Assault or Misconduct

The expectations of our community regarding sexual assault or misconduct can be summarized as follows: In order for individuals to engage in sexual activity, of any type, there must be clear, knowing and voluntary consent prior to and during such activity. Consent can be given by word or action, but non-verbal consent is not as clear as talking about what you want sexually and what you do not want. Consent to some form of sexual activity cannot be automatically taken as consent to any other form of sexual activity. Silence without actions demonstrating permission cannot be assumed to show consent.

Additionally, there is a difference between seduction and coercion. Coercing someone into sexual activity violates this policy in the same way as physically forcing someone to have sex. Coercion happens when someone is unreasonably pressured for sex.

Because alcohol or other drug use can place the capacity to give consent in question, sober sex is less likely to raise such questions. When alcohol or other drugs are being used, a person will be considered unable to give valid consent if they cannot fully understand the details of a sexual interaction (who, what, when, where, why, or how) because they lack the capacity to reasonably understand the situation. Individuals who consent to sex must be able to understand what they are doing. Under this policy, "NO" always means "NO". Anything but a clear, knowing voluntary consent to any sexual activity is equivalent to a "NO."

Definitions

There are many state and federal definitions relating to crimes of sexual misconduct, some of which are set forth below. All sexual crimes violate our Student Code of Conduct. It is important to note, however, that the sexual misconduct which does not necessarily fit the legal definition of a criminal offense may still violate the Student Code of Conduct as the University holds its students to a standard higher than the criminal law.

Sexual Assault: (as defined by the PA Crimes Code) – is when a person engages in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse with a complainant without the complainant's consent. It is a term that encompasses any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will; or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent. Sexual assault is a term that encompasses rape, forcibly fondling, incest and statutory rape.

Rape: The carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and/ or against the person's will; or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity (or because of his or her youth).

Forcible Fondling: The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, forcibly and/or against that person's will; or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

Incest: Non-forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Statutory Rape: Non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

Domestic Violence: Felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person living with or has lived with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family laws of the jurisdiction.

Dating Violence: Violence by a person who has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the victim.

Stalking: To follow, pursue, or repeatedly commit acts with the intent to harass, intimidate, injure, or kill another person, and/or to place under surveillance with the intent to harass, intimidate, injure, or kill another person, where such acts place a person in reasonable fear of death of, or serious injury to, or to cause substantial emotional harm to that person, a member of the immediate family of that person, or the spouse or intimate partner of that person.

Consent: The informed, affirmative decision made freely and actively by all parties to engage in mutually acceptable sexual activity. Consent is given by clear words or actions, and may not be inferred from silence, passivity, or lack of resistance alone. Existence of a current or previous dating, marital, and/or sexual relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent to additional sexual activity. Consent to one type of sexual activity does not imply consent to other types of sexual activity.

For consent to occur:

1. All partners must clearly communicate their willingness and permission. Consent is not the absence of the word "no". Failure to resist sexual advances, silence, and/or prior relationship does not constitute consent.
2. All partners need to be fully conscious and aware of their actions. A person is unable to give consent if they are asleep, drugged, intoxicated, unconscious, a minor, mentally impaired or incapacitated. Signs that a person may be intoxicated, incapacitated or otherwise unable to give consent include but are not limited to: slurred speech, loss of coordination, passing out for any period of time, vomiting, and a verbalized feeling of being nauseous.
3. All partners must be equally free to act. The decision to be sexually intimate must be made without coercion and all partners have a right to revoke their consent at any time during sexual activity by actively (verbally or nonverbally) communicating their desire to stop the activity. A verbal "no" (no matter how indecisive) or resistance (no matter how passive) constitutes a lack of consent.

Consent Under Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code

- (a) General Rule.--The consent of the victim to conduct charged to constitute an offense or to the result thereof is a defense if such consent negatives an element of the offense or precludes the infliction of the harm or evil sought to be prevented by the law defining the offense.
- (b) Consent to bodily injury.--When conduct is charged to constitute an offense because it causes or threatens bodily injury, consent to such conduct or to the infliction of such injury is a defense if:
 - (1) the conduct and the injury are reasonably foreseeable hazards of joint participation in a lawful athletic contest or competitive sport; or
 - (2) the consent establishes a justification for the conduct under Chapter 5 of this title (relating to general principles of justification).
- (c) Ineffective consent.--Unless otherwise provided by this title or by the law defining the offense, assent does not constitute consent if:
 - (1) it is given by a person who is legally incapacitated to authorize the conduct charged to constitute the offense;
 - (2) it is given by a person who by reason of youth, mental disease or defect or intoxication is manifestly unable or known by the actor to be unable to make a reasonable judgment as to the nature or harmfulness of the conduct charged to constitute the offense;
 - (3) it is given by a person whose improvident consent is sought to be prevented by the law defining the offense; or
 - (4) it is induced by force, duress or deception of a kind sought to be prevented by the law defining the offense.

Acquaintance Sexual Assault

Acquaintance Sexual Assault is an assault in which the assailant and the person being victimized know one another and is the most common type of sexual assault on a college/university campus. Research shows that one in four college women experience an assault or attempted assault during their college career and that women in their first year of college are particularly likely to be victimized. Alcohol consumption is often a factor in these assaults. Between one half and two thirds of students who experience an assault are so traumatized by the experience that they drop out or transfer to another institution. Although the term “date rape” is frequently used to describe these situations, many of these assaults are not committed within the context of a “date”. More common scenarios include assaults at parties where the assailant and the person being victimized have just met, assaults on co-workers, and assaults within the context of a friendship.

Acquaintance Sexual Assault Prevention Risk Reduction Tips

Risk reduction tips can often, unintentionally, take a victim blaming tone. With no intention to victim blame, and recognizing that only those who commit sexual violence are responsible for those actions, these suggestions may help reduce the risk of experiencing a non-consensual sexual act. Listed below are some suggestions to avoid being involved in a non-consensual sexual act.

1. Know and understand the definition of consent (see above). Seek the appropriate campus resources (see above) if you need clarification of the definition of consent.
2. Obtain consent before engaging in any sexual activity.
3. If you have limits, make them known as early as possible.
4. Tell the sexual aggressor “NO” clearly and firmly.
5. Stop sexual activity immediately if your partner indicates a desire to stop (see above).
6. Try to remove yourself from the physical presence of a sexual aggressor.
7. Take a trusted friend(s) when going out socially. Have a plan to leave together and what to do if you get separated.
8. Keep your cell phone charged and on your person at all times.
9. Have enough money for cab fare with you.

10. At social gatherings never accept a drink from someone you do not know and never leave your drink unattended.
11. Drinking alcohol or using illegal drugs can affect your decision making. If you choose to drink alcohol, it is best to avoid intoxication by limiting alcohol consumption to one beer or one glass of wine, one shot of hard alcohol or one mixed drink (containing one shot of hard alcohol) per hour and consuming food with your beverage.
12. Take affirmative responsibility for your alcohol intake/drug use and acknowledge that alcohol/drugs lower your sexual inhibition and may make you vulnerable to someone who views a drunk or high person as a sexual opportunity.
13. Take care of your friends and ask that they take care of you. A real friend will challenge you if you are about to make a mistake. Respect them when they do.
14. Always lock your door when leaving your room/apartment or when sleeping. Carry your keys and encourage your roommate(s) to do so as well so you are not leaving your room/apartment unsecured and putting one another at risk.

If you find yourself in the position of being the initiator of sexual behavior, you owe sexual respect to your potential partner. These suggestions may help you to reduce your risk for being accused of sexual misconduct:

1. Clearly communicate your intentions to your sexual partner and give them a chance to clearly relate their intentions to you.
2. Understand and respect personal boundaries.
3. DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS about consent; about someone's sexual availability; about whether they are attracted to you; about how far you can go or about whether they are physically and/or mentally able to consent. If there are any questions or ambiguity then you DO NOT have consent.
4. Mixed messages from your partner are a clear indication that you should stop, defuse any sexual tension and communicate better. You may be misreading them. They may not have figured out how far they want to go with you yet. You must respect the timeline for sexual behaviors with which they are comfortable.
5. Don't take advantage of someone's drunkenness or drugged state.
6. Realize that your potential partner could be intimidated by you, or fearful. You may have a power advantage simply because of your gender or size. Don't abuse that power.
7. Understand that consent to some form of sexual behavior does not automatically imply consent to any other forms of sexual behavior.
8. Silence and passivity cannot be interpreted as an indication of consent. Read your potential partner carefully, paying attention to verbal and non-verbal communication and body language.
9. Although your actions may not violate a criminal statute, you may still be found responsible for sexual misconduct under the Student Code of Conduct where the issue of consent is unclear, and the other party establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that he/she did not consent.

Stranger Sexual Assault Prevention

1. Do not prop open locked building doors and discourage others from doing so as well.
2. Do not allow a stranger to enter a locked building behind you.
3. Report strangers who are behaving in a questionable way or in a way that violates university policy to the Campus Police Department at 814-269-7005.
4. Walk with a friend(s) in remote areas on campus and/or after dark. Utilize the safety escort service provided by the Campus Police Department and Emergency Call Boxes when necessary.

Reporting a Sexual Assault

There are a number of mechanisms on campus for reporting a sexual assault, described below in detail. The person reporting the assault may select any one or a combination of all options below when reporting. In all cases the survivor of the assault will initially decide if, how, and when s/he will report the assault. When reported to any of the following - the Office of Health and Counseling, the Campus Police Department, the Office of Housing and Residence Life, the Office of Student Conduct, the Office of Equity and Inclusion – the person to whom the assault is reported will:

- listen attentively and supportively
- review all support resources available and assist with contacting the resources
- review all possible options for reporting/filing a complaint
- answer questions

It is important to note that if the victim was under the influence of alcohol or drugs at either the time of the incident or at the time s/he makes the report, s/he will not be charged with an alcohol or drug violation either through the criminal or University Judicial Process.

Specific Mechanisms for Reporting a Sexual Assault:

1. To the Campus Police Department
Individuals are encouraged to contact the University Police Department when a sex offense occurs regardless of whether or not formal charges will be pursued by the survivor. If reported to the Police Department, the survivor will be encouraged to seek medical assistance at a local hospital. In order to preserve evidence, clothes should not be laundered and the survivor should not bathe. The survivor's clothing should **not** be placed in a bag/container that is **plastic**. The survivor will also be informed of support services available and options for making a formal complaint through the criminal process and/or through the university judicial process. The police may conduct an investigation, and cooperate with any investigation conducted by the Office of Student Conduct or the Title IX office.
2. To the Office of Housing and Residence Life
If an incident takes place in campus housing and is reported a staff member of the Office of Housing and Residence Life such as an RA, the staff member will contact the Campus Police Department if requested to do so by the survivor, and certain information must be reported under the Clery Act. The survivor may request to keep her/his name confidential at this level. The University will attempt to honor this request, but cannot guarantee confidentiality in all cases. They must also report the incident to their supervisor. Residence life staff will also review support services and complaint options with the survivor.
3. To the Office of Student Conduct
A formal referral with the University's judicial process, through the Office of Student Conduct, may be filed with either a staff member from the Office of Housing and Residence Life or with Student Conduct. A staff member will review possible types of hearings and potential outcomes with the person filing the complaint. The University's judicial process allows both the accuser and the accused to question one another, to present witnesses, to have an advisor present during the proceedings, and to be informed of the outcome. The burden of proof rests with the person making the complaint. The standard of proof shall be the preponderance of the evidence. This process is more fully explained in the Student Code of Conduct.

4. Filing an Anonymous Report

Any member of the campus community may print the online Sexual Assault Anonymous Reporting Form and send it to the Chief of Police at the Pitt-Johnstown Police Department to file a report about an assault that one has either experienced or heard about without having to disclose the names of either the person who has been assaulted or the person who committed the assault. Many staff and faculty (except for the staff in the Counseling Center and those of the Clergy) are Campus Security Authorities and are required to report assaults brought to their attention by completing the Campus Statistic Crime Report Form found at <http://www.upj.pitt.edu/globalassets/documents/student-life/campus-police/upj-campussecurityform.pdf>. Additionally, University policy 06-03-02 encourages all faculty, staff and students to promptly report all crimes occurring on campus to the University Police Department. When a student becomes aware of a sexual assault, he/she is encouraged to complete the Anonymous Report found at <http://www.upj.pitt.edu/globalassets/documents/student-life/campus-police/anonymousreport.pdf>. This form is a mechanism for bringing the incident to the attention of the University in order to better understand the extent of the problem, plan more effective prevention and response efforts, and create a safer campus community.

For more information please go to: <http://www.upj.pitt.edu/en/campus-life/counseling/sexual-assault-services>

What are some of the signs that a student has been assaulted?

Recognizing Signs and Changes in Victims of Sexual Assault

Possible Emotional Responses and Symptoms

Most victims will not experience all of these symptoms but they are important to keep in mind.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------------|
| * Feeling Dirty | * Anxiety | * Shock/numbness |
| * Embarrassment | * Feeling of loss of control over one's life | * Relief |
| * Fear | * Grief | * Depression |
| * Loss of trust | * Anger | * Irritability |
| * Suicidal thoughts | * Preoccupation with safety | * Denial |
| * Guilt or self-blame | * Shame | * Apprehension |
| * Indecision | * Feeling stuck | * Insomnia |
| * Crying or inability to cry | * Changes in perception of the world | |

Possible Physical Responses and Symptoms

It is very unlikely that you will know about a student or victim's physical symptoms, however, it is important to be aware of them just in case they do become evident.

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| * Muscle tension | *Changes in sleep and eating patterns | * Pain and visible injury |
| * Shortness of breath | * Gynecological disturbances | * Fatigue |
| * Flashbacks | * Involuntary shaking | * Sexual dysfunction |
| * Increased possibility of alcohol and/or drug abuse | | |

Some of the victims may develop PTSD

- * Intrusive flashbacks, dreams, dwelling on the assault
- * Persistent or intense distress, anxiety, panic attacks, stress, sleep disturbance, irritability, fear, anger, apprehension, indecision, difficulty in concentrating, being easily startled, heightened awareness, and sensitivity
- * Feelings of detachment, feeling like they are different people now
- * Persistent avoidance of people, places, and things associated with the assault
- * Ambivalence or uncertainty about the future
- * Avoidance of normal daily activity
- * Reliving the event as if it were still occurring

What should you do if you think one of your students may be a victim?

If a student seems to be exhibiting some of the signs or changes mentioned earlier and you are worried, there are several options that can be used to address the problem. Choosing an option depends on your level of comfort and familiarity with the student.

Option A – You don't feel comfortable approaching the student.

If you don't know the student well enough or for other reasons are not comfortable approaching the student, you have 2 options.

1. Use a CARE report
 - a. The CARE reports provide coordinated services for students who are experiencing serious personal or academic difficulties.
 - b. Faculty, staff, or other students can refer students via the CARE reporting form which can be found on the Counseling Services webpage at <http://www.upj.pitt.edu//306/>
 - c. Your CARE report form will be sent to the appropriate department/office and that department/office will then coordinate efforts with departments across campus to address the needs of this student.
2. Call for a consult: It is possible to contact one of the following departments in order to bring them into the effort to approach the student:
 - a. The University Police Department can be reached at 814-269-7005
 - b. The Office of Health and Counseling Services can be reached at 814-269-7119
 - c. The Office of Housing and Residence Life can be reached at 814-269-7115
 - d. The Office of Equity and Inclusion can be reached at 814-269-7070
 - e. The Office of Student Conduct can be reached at 814-269-7112

Option B – You have approached the student and s/he told you about the assault. What now?

There are several things to keep in mind once a student has informed you that they have been assaulted.

1. As an employee of the University (except for the staff in the Counseling Center and those of the Clergy) you may be considered a Campus Security Authority and are required to report assaults brought to your attention by completing the Campus Statistic Crime Report Form found at <http://www.upj.pitt.edu/globalassets/documents/student-life/campus-police/upj-campussecurityform.pdf>. Additionally, University policy 06-03-02 encourages all faculty, staff and students to promptly report all crimes occurring on campus to the University Police Department.

- a. Explain that the University understands that victims often seek confidentiality and the University will attempt to honor such a request in most cases. However, the University will weigh such a request for confidentiality against any factors that may have a negative impact on the campus community, such as the use of a weapon or multiple alleged victims.
2. If appropriate at the time, inform the student of her/his options.
 - a. Tell no one else and no action will be taken other than filling out the CSA report form. This is a real option and some students will not feel comfortable taking any other steps. It is important that control remain in the hands of the victim and that s/he is not compelled to take any action they are not comfortable with.
 - b. Depending on the timing of the incident (within 5 days), you may recommend that the student go to a certified SANE site (Conemaugh Hospital) to receive a SANE examination, which may include medication to prevent pregnancy, STDs and other issues.
 - c. The Office of Health and Counseling Services can provide counseling and support specific to sexual assault victims and can be an important way in helping the student deal with this terrible issue.
 - d. The student has several ways of attaining justice for the incident:
 - I. A formal referral to the Office of Student Conduct: The student can file a referral alleging violation of the Code of Conduct, which would lead to an investigation and hearings. If found responsible, the (student) perpetrator could be disciplined, up to and including suspension or dismissal.
 - II. A criminal complaint to the Campus Police Department: This is distinct from the University's internal Student Conduct process. If convicted, the assault would be on his/her permanent record and jail time may follow.
 - III. A student may choose to file a complaint with both the Office of Student Conduct and the Campus Police Department. Each office will conduct an investigation and take appropriate actions.

Pitt – Johnstown CARS Team

What is the CARS Team?

The CARS team (Concern for at Risk Students) was designed to identify, help, and retain students of concern using a cross-campus, problem solving approach.

The CARS team is a network of staff that meets regularly to review a list of students who have had CARE reports submitted on or about them. The objective is to help these students succeed at Pitt – Johnstown. The CARS team is chaired by the Vice President of Student Affairs and includes various staff members from throughout campus. Through the CARE reports faculty, staff, and other students can register concerns about a student, the team is then able to make contact with appropriate campus resources to assist students who are experiencing a variety of difficulties.

How does the CARE Reporting System Work?

Pitt – Johnstown faculty, staff, and students may identify a student on CARE report via the Counseling Services webpage which can be found at <http://www.upj.pitt.edu//306>. This should be completed when the student exhibits behavior that causes a concern, or when the student appears to be “at – risk.”

The “at – risk” description refers to students who seem to be having problems or difficulties, for example:

- Sudden unexplained series of absences
- Disturbing or problematic expressions in class, in written communications, or on assigned papers
- Behavior problems or dramatic changes in behavior
- Interpersonal difficulties

Faculty, staff, and students may also submit a CARE report if they:

- Feel that a student is not coping effectively with stress
- Are aware of a major family problem or crisis facing a student
- Have seen problematic behavior in a student and the student has been unresponsive to overtures or assistance.

Each day, the Vice President of Student Affairs provides an administrative “first response” to submitted reports. The appropriate department/office will then conduct the necessary follow-up and the CARS team will review each report to ensure the student is receiving the necessary assistance.

Why refer students?

Through the CARE reports the CARS team seeks to help students succeed at Pitt – Johnstown. Students who transfer from Pitt-Johnstown, or leave college entirely, often do so because of poor academic performance or personal problems that negatively affect their student status. Students often recognize they need help, but are uncertain about where or how to obtain it. It is the goal of the CARS team to identify students at risk and work with them through the provision of supportive services to ultimately help the student achieve his/her educational goal.

The CARE reports:

- Provide coordinated resources for students who are experiencing serious personal or academic difficulties.
- Offers individualized help to struggling students whose concerns warrant additional interventions and support services.

This central referral source for students coordinates an effective support network for the student who may be at risk. This allows the University to intervene quickly with students who are in crisis and, possibly, to avoid a major campus tragedy. Additionally, duplication of effort is avoided and the completeness of information provided to the student is increased.

What Policies Govern the CARE Reports?

1. Access to information about a student who is referred is shared with appropriate faculty and staff on a need-to-know basis only.

2. Only select staff members have access to the CARE reports database and related student information files.
3. Alerts and case management follow-up notes on individual students will be securely kept by the appropriate department/office until the student's separation from the University.

How Can Students be referred?

Faculty, staff, and students may refer students via the CARE reporting form:

- From the Counseling Services webpage which can be found at <http://www.upj.pitt.edu/306>

Sexually Assaulted or Raped? How to Get Help for Yourself or a Friend

ON CAMPUS EMERGENCY: 814-269-7005

OFF CAMPUS EMERGENCY: 911

The following Pitt – Johnstown offices are prepared to help you consider your options and obtain needed services following a sexual assault or rape:

University Police Department

814-269-7005

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Location: Physical Plant Building

Office of Health and Counseling Services

814-269-7119

Location: G10 Student Union

Office of Housing and Residence Life

814-269-7115

Location: 130 Student Union

Office of Equity and Inclusion

814-269-7070

Location: 248 Blackington Hall

Office of Student Conduct

814-269-7112

Location: 142 Student Union

If you've been sexually assaulted...

- **It's not your fault**
- **Go to a safe place**
- **Get Support.** You deserve to have all resources available to you. Contact someone who can help you consider options, obtain medical care, and support you. On and off campus resources are available and listed in this handout.
- **Preserve evidence.** If possible, do not shower, bathe, douche, brush your teeth, or throw away any clothing that might contain evidence of the assault. Save articles of clothing, bedding, etc. in separate paper bags and bring them to the hospital or give them to the police. (Try not to use plastic bags as they can damage evidence.) Do not disturb anything in the area in which the assault occurred.
- **Get medical care.** Go to the hospital emergency room for treatment of injuries, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy, and crisis intervention and emotional support services.

Physical evidence for medical and legal services can also be collected at this time. A toxicology kit can be completed that may be able to detect “date rape” drugs.

You may seek medical care without reporting the crime to the police.

- **Decide if, how, and when to report the assault.** There are a number of mechanisms on campus for reporting a sexual assault, all of which are described in detail in the Student Handbook and the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (ASR). In all cases, the survivor of the assault will decide, if, how, and when s/he will report the assault.

Local Hospitals

Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center
1086 Franklin Street
Johnstown, PA 15904
814-534-9000
* SANE nurse site

Windber Medical Center
600 Somerset Avenue
Windber, PA 15963
814-467-3000

Off – Campus Support

Victim Services Inc.
638 Ferndale Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905
814-288-4961
800-755-1983

Women’s Help Center
809 Napoleon Street
Johnstown, PA 15901
814-536-5361
800-999-7406

Online Information

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR): <http://www.pcar.org/about-pcar>
Founded in 1975, PCAR advocates for the rights and needs of sexual assault victims and works to end sexual violence. PCAR partners with a network of rape crisis programs to bring help, hope and healing around issues of sexual violence to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. PCAR:

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN): www.rainn.org
The nation’s largest anti-sexual assault organization. RAINN operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE and also carries out programs to prevent sexual assault, help victims and ensure that rapists are brought to justice.

Male Survivor: www.malesurvivor.org
The National Organization against Male Sexual Victimization is committed to preventing, healing, and eliminating all forms of sexual victimization of boys and men through treatment, research, education,

SANE Nurses – SANE stands for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners. These nurses are specially trained to provide care to people who have been sexually assaulted. They are also trained to collect evidence that may be used in the prosecution of the assault, if the victim chooses to have evidence collected and chooses to go forward with a prosecution. SANE sites are hospitals that can request a SANE nurse when a person reports in the emergency room that they have been sexually assaulted. Additionally, Victim Services, Inc. can also provide an advocate and additional services.

advocacy, and activism. Their website includes a wealth of information for survivors and professionals about male sexual victimization as well as a discussion board and live chat room where survivors can network and support one another, anonymously if they wish.

Frequently Asked Questions

Please review the packet before checking the FAQs. Most statistical and legal information, as well as recommended courses of action can be found in the corresponding section of this packet.

Questions about the role of faculty/staff

1. I'm not sure how to use all this information. Am I supposed to be on a constant lookout for sexual assault victims?

No. It's true that sexual assault is common on college campuses however it is not something that is easily identifiable. There is no reason to jump to conclusions about a student who may be acting differently and to be constantly looking for them. However, if you do notice a change in behavior, the hope is that this packet will be used as an information source.

2. What if a student tells me about an assault, but does not want me to report it?

Explain that the University understands that victims often seek confidentiality and the University will attempt to honor such a request in most cases. However, the University will weigh such a request for confidentiality against any factors that may have a negative impact on the campus community, such as the use of a weapon or multiple alleged victims. Many staff and faculty (except for the staff in the Counseling Center and those of the Clergy) are Campus Security Authorities and are required to report assaults brought to their attention by completing the Campus Statistic Crime Report Form found at <http://www.upj.pitt.edu/globalassets/documents/student-life/campus-police/upj-campussecurityform.pdf>. Additionally, University policy 06-03-02 encourages all faculty, staff and students to promptly report all crimes occurring on campus to the University Police Department.

3. A student has talked to me about an incident that seems like it was a sexual assault. The student does not think that s/he was raped. Should I report something I am not certain about?

There are several courses of action that you could take to determine whether you have a sexual assault victim on your hands and what the next steps are. Call Campus Police (814-269-7005) and ask to speak to a Sergeant or an investigator. Another option would be to call the Office of Health and Counseling Services (814-269-7119). The definition of sexual assault is often unclear to students; for example, they may not believe that forced intercourse between boyfriend and girlfriend is rape. After reporting, the University can have the appropriate department/office reach out to the student to ensure that s/he gets the best support possible.

Questions about the victim

1. Can someone be a victim of rape and not exhibit any of the signs described?

Yes, some students may not display any of the signs above or may be able to function normally and with no change in behavior, despite being a victim of sexual assault. Some students may also work harder and delve deeper into their schoolwork, which would not be a recognizable sign of an assault. Keep in mind that not all victims are easily identifiable, so it is important to act if you believe that a student's behavior has changed considerably.

2. What kind of medical treatment dose a victim get?

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, otherwise known as SANE nurses, should attend to a victim of sexual violence. Universities cannot be SANE certified, so while our Office of Health and Counseling Services staff has some training in the area, they are not SANE nurses. If a student seeks medical attention for a sexual assault, they should be directed to Conemaugh Hospital. Survivors can elect to not participate in any portion of the SANE exam.

The SANE nurse will provide treatment of injuries, prevention of STDs and pregnancy, crisis intervention as well as emotional support services. Regardless of whether or not the victim decides to press charges, the nurse will do a full examination and try to remove all possible pieces of evidence. The full process can take several hours.

3. Is there any point in getting a medical examination and treatment if the victim has showered or cleaned up?

Clearly showering or cleaning up decreases the likelihood that significant evidence will be found, however, victims are encouraged to get medical attention in order to prevent disease and pregnancy.

4. What are the long term resources available to the victim?

On campus, support services through the Office of Health and Counseling Services are free for the length of time the victim is a student.