

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

What should I know about sexual assault?

Sexual violence affects every aspect of a person's life – her/his body, emotions, thoughts, behaviors, spirituality and relationships with family, friends and the outside world. This is true whether it is marital rape, acquaintance rape, date rape or stranger rape. It is important to emphasize that sexual violence is never the victim's fault. Statistics show that 85% of the victims knew their attacker. Sexual violence committed by a total stranger happens, but not nearly as frequently as by an acquaintance. If you have been a victim of sexual violence, there are a number of options available to you.

What should I do if I am the victim of sexual assault?

- Immediately contact the University or local police (911), and if possible,
- a nearby relative or friend for assistance.

*After contacting the police, you should remain calm to avoid destroying or contaminating any available evidence. It is best **NOT** to bathe, shower, brush your teeth, urinate, defecate, douche, change or launder clothing or bedding, where evidence may be found. Clothing may be kept as evidence.*

*If you choose NOT to contact the police, it is still important to take good care of yourself. You may consider making an appointment with a physician or the Student Health Center to be screened for sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. A police report is **not necessary** to receive victim services.*

What victim services are available to me?

Various support services are activated the moment a victim calls the University Police. These services are confidential and provided to all students and community members, both male and female, to deal with the emotional and physical trauma of sexual assault and resume progress toward educational and professional goals.

TO SPEAK TO A VICTIM'S ADVOCATE

STUDENTS - CONTACT the Victim's Services Office (561) 297-0500.

AFTER HOURS call University Police at (561) 297-3500.

- **The Advocate** works with the police to **assess whether or not the victim is in crisis.**
- **The Advocate** will **accompany the victim to a medical facility** where a rape exam is conducted, if the sexual assault occurred within 72 hours.
- **The Advocate** makes sure that a victim has **supportive family and friends** and explains the various services available on campus to all involved.
- **The Advocate** assists the victim in **changing his/her dwelling and/or arranging for a leave of absence** from the university, if necessary
- **The Advocate** will advise the **medical and therapeutic resources** available on campus and in the surrounding area
- **The Advocate** provides **short-term counseling** regarding the victim's legal options.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Victim's Services provides the same services for staff and faculty as for Students with the exception of counseling.

CONTACT the Victim's Services Office at (561) 297-0500.

AFTER HOURS call University Police at (561) 297-3500.

For other available victim services call:

Palm Beach County Rape Crisis Hotline (561) 833-7273.

Broward County Sexual Assault Treatment Center Hotline (954) 761-7273

Martin County 24 Hour Rape Crisis Hotline (561) 286-1121
St. Lucie County Sexual Assault-Rape Crisis Hotline (772) 465-1814

Please visit http://www.fau.edu/police/crime_tips.php for more information on sexual assault.

What should I know about sexual harassment?

Florida Atlantic University has a policy that prohibits sexual harassment in any form.

Sexual harassment is defined as: **Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other communication or physical conduct of a sexual nature** when:

- Submission to such conduct or request is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; or
- Submission to such conduct or request is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of academic achievement; or
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct or request by an individual is used as the basis for an employment or academic decision affecting such individual; or
- Such conduct or request unreasonably interferes with an individual's work or academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for working or learning.

The Florida Atlantic University Sexual Harassment Policy and procedures regarding reporting of incidents may be viewed at www.fau.edu/divdept/equalop/homepage.htm. This information is also available through the **Office of Equal Opportunity Programs**, which is located on the Boca Raton Campus and may be contacted at (561) 297-3004.