

The University of Dayton Department of Public Safety Survivor's Rights Guarantee

Sexual assaults, including date/acquaintance rape, are a very serious concern of Public Safety. If you feel you are the survivor of a sexual assault on campus, the Department of Public Safety will guarantee you the following:

1. We will meet with you privately to prepare an Incident report.
2. We will not release your name to the public or the press during the course of the criminal investigation, without your consent.
3. Our officers will not prejudge you, and you will not be blamed for what occurred.
4. We will treat you and your particular case with courtesy, sensitivity, dignity, understanding, and professionalism.
5. If you feel more comfortable talking with a female or male officer, we will do our best to accommodate your request.
6. We will assist you in arranging for any hospital treatment or other medical needs, including transportation to a local hospital with a Rape Crisis Treatment Center.
7. We will fully investigate your case and will help you to achieve the best outcome. This may involve the arrest and full prosecution of the person responsible. You will be kept-up-to-date on the progress of the investigation and/or prosecution.
9. We will continue to be available for you to answer questions, explain the processes involved (prosecutor, courts, etc.), and to be a listening ear if you wish.

If you feel you are a sexual assault survivor, call Public Safety at 229-2121, and say you want to privately make a sexual assault complaint. You may call any time, day or night.

If we fail to achieve any part of the above guarantee, the Director of Public safety (229-2121) will meet with you personally to address any problems.

The Department of Public Safety wants to help you make the University of Dayton campus safe for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

UNIVERSITY of
DAYTON

Important Numbers

Emergency (from on-campus phone) 911

Public Safety 229-2121

Student Escort (Mon's Limo) 229-2124

Parking Services 229-2128

Health Center..... 229-3131

Women's Center..... 229-5390

The University of Dayton Department of Public Safety

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Dayton OH 45469-2914

phone: (937) 229-2121

e-mail: pub.safety@udayton.edu

web site: <http://www.udayton.edu/~safety/>



Sexual
Assault
Prevention



Sexual Assault Prevention

Awareness

Don't just worry about sexual assault, think about it. Rapists "shop" for potential victims. Anyone walking alone with a timid appearance and a preoccupied mind may be a target for a rapist. A lack of awareness of your surroundings can allow someone to approach you without your knowledge.

The best defense is always to be aware of where you are. Walk with a purpose. Send a message that you are not a potential victim. Don't walk alone. Use the escort service or friends to get to and from your destinations.

In many cases, we rationalize our fears and learn to ignore instinctive warnings. Learn to trust your instincts in order to avoid becoming a victim. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, even if you know them, don't put your trust in the individual. Assert yourself if your "personal space" is invaded.

Be cautious when someone you don't know strikes up a conversation with you. They may be trying to distract you or gain your confidence in order to take advantage of you. A moment of embarrassment because you were somewhat rude is better than a lifetime of emotional anguish as a result of being sexually assaulted.

Acquaintance Assault/Date Rape

Studies have shown that most sexual assault victims know their attacker. Acquaintance assault and date rape are the most common and the least reported types of sexual assault. The likelihood of acquaintance assault and date rape can be lessened if you remain aware, communicate clearly your expectations and intentions, and set limits in terms of alcohol consumption.

Make sure you let those you date know, clearly and firmly, what the limits of the date will be before you get into a situation you cannot control. Leaving a party, concert, or bar alone with someone you just met is risky. It's better to plan to meet again in the future. When dating someone for the first time, plan to meet where there are other people. Dating someone with a group of friends allows you to get to know your date in the safe presence of others.

Utilize the "buddy system" when out with friends. If you arrive at a party or other gathering, stick close to those you came with and make sure that you leave together. Watching out for each other will ensure that no one will be placed in a situation where an isolated assault can occur.

Confrontation

What if worse comes to worse and you meet someone who clearly means to harm you? First and foremost, try to

remain in control of yourself. Panic will only hamper your ability to think at a time when you need to concentrate on surviving.

It is difficult to outline specific "action plans" to prevent sexual assault. What you will or can do depends on the circumstances at the time of the confrontation. The most important thing to think about is how you can safely escape the situation.

One option is the implementation of "passive resistance," which involves stalling for time and attempting to lessen the assailant's desire to assault you. In trying to talk your way out of the situation, use your imagination. Fake a convulsion or seizure, faint, or say you've tested positive for a disease. All of these ideas, said convincingly, have been used to successfully prevent a sexual assault.

"Active resistance" involves reacting immediately with some physical force which will give you the opportunity for escape. It could not be used to see who wins in a knockdown, drag-out fight.

You must be sure that you will have a safe place to run once you have escaped. In addition, physical force may anger the attacker and lead to an escalation of force on their part. Therefore, if you plan to use active resistance as an option in the future, learn how and where to strike and kick a person in order to be effective. You must be willing and able to injure your attacker enough to ensure your escape. This knowledge can be obtained through self-defense classes offered by the University under Recreational Sports. Remember, it takes time and practice to learn how to fight effectively.

During any attack, try to concentrate on the assailant's physical characteristics in order to provide an identifying description to the police. Memorize facial features, clothing, speech, mannerisms, height, weight, and any weapon displayed. Also look for specific identifying marks, such as moles, tattoos, or scars.

After an Assault

Due to the fact that many rapists repeat their assaults on numerous victims, you are encouraged to report the incident.

All reports of sexual assault will remain confidential. Reporting a sexual assault to Public Safety does not automatically mean you must prosecute the assailant. Rather, the emphasis will be on satisfying your needs as a crime survivor. Public Safety can transport you to any area hospital upon your request.

While at the hospital, a physical examination will be performed to ensure your physical well-being, treat any injuries you may have sustained, and provide support for

you during the crisis. During the exam, evidence will be collected from you and your clothing which will be held in safe-keeping until you are better able to make an unpressured decision regarding prosecution. Even if you feel that you do not want to pursue prosecution, it is possible that you may change your mind at a later date. Therefore, it is important that you do not shower, bathe, change clothes, or, if possible, disturb the location of the attack.

You may decide not to report the attack. This is your decision to make, but please talk about the assault to someone. You will need the help of a friend, relative, or trained counselor to put your life into proper perspective. A sexual assault can become a lifelong tragedy if you try to overcome it alone.

The Department of Public Safety is willing to aid, support, and advise you, no matter what your decision may be regarding reporting the assault. We have officers who have been trained in handling sexual assault cases. We are willing to talk with you, confidentially and anonymously if you wish, and to refer you to other agencies for counseling and legal assistance.

If you do decide to report the incident to the police, when an arrest is made and prosecution undertaken, we will provide transportation to court and are willing to be with you to explain the various proceedings. Please let Public Safety help you in your time of need.

Facts

- Sexual assault is a crime of violence and control, not a crime of passion.
- Offenders choose their victims based upon vulnerability, not on the basis of behavior, manner of dress, reputation, etc.
- Offenders are all ages and come from all backgrounds.
- Survivors of sexual assault are all ages and come from all backgrounds.
- Acquaintance assault could be committed by a date, friend, coworker, relative, or casual acquaintance.