



Resources, Rights, and Options for Victims of Sexual Offenses

Clark University strives to provide a safe campus community. Sexual offenses by and/or against University community members will not be tolerated. Sexual offenses include rape, sexual assault, stalking and relationship violence such as dating violence or domestic violence. Sexual offenses are prohibited under Title IX of the Educational Amendment Act of 1972, state law, and Clark University policies. Clark University's complete sexual offense policy and additional resources can be found on Clark's Safety and Security Website (clarku.edu/safety). The following information is intended to assist victims of sexual offenses.

On-Campus Resources and Services

On-Campus Confidential

The following on-campus resources are available to provide assistance or counseling on a fully confidential basis:

Counseling/Psychological Services - Confidential and free individual therapy is available to students, including education regarding normal reactions to sexual assault and relationship abuse and how to cope with distress.

Center for Counseling & Personal Growth (508) 793-7678

Medical Services - Confidential physical health services are available, including physical exams and testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and pregnancy.

Health Services (508) 793-7467

On-Campus Non-Confidential

The following on-campus resources are available to assist you. By law, Clark staff and faculty cannot ensure confidentiality.

University Police – *Basement of Bullock Hall; (508) 793-7575*

University Police will investigate the allegation/incident and can assist in filing criminal and/or internal charges if desired.

Residential Life and Housing – *142 Woodland Street (Corner House), first floor; (508)-793-7453*

Can assist with room change requests or discuss other housing options. In addition, Administrators, Professional Live-in Staff, and Student Resident Advisors (RAs) are trained to assist victims of sexual offenses.

Dean of Students Office – *Alumni & Student Engagement Center - 2nd Floor; (508) 793-7423*

Provides support, assistance, and guidance to students. Complaints that involve possible violations of the Student Code of Conduct, including complaints related to sexual offenses, may be handled by the Dean of Students Office, the Dean's designee, the Sexual Misconduct Hearing Board, or the University Judicial Board.

International Students and Scholars Office – *142 Woodland Street (Corner House), second floor; (508) 793-7362*

Victims involved in an investigation/adjudication of a sexual offense case may have questions about how the case may affect their visa or travel status. This office can assist international students with visa or immigration related issues.

Title IX Coordinator - The Title IX Coordinator is the University official designated to receive and investigate complaints related to sexual offenses on campus.

Lynn Levey (Title IX Coordinator)	(508) 793-7194
David Everitt (Deputy)	(508) 793-7295
Adam Keyes (Deputy)	(508) 793-7423
Catherine Usoff (Deputy)	(508) 793-7670

Off-Campus Resources and Services

Medical Services - These providers can offer physical exams and provide sexual and reproductive health services (e.g., STI and pregnancy testing). Additionally, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are available to collect evidence in case an individual would like to pursue criminal charges. These resources are **confidential**.

UMass Memorial Hospital Emergency Room/SANE Nurse	(508) 334-1000
UMass Memorial University Campus/SANE Nurse	(508) 334-1000
St. Vincent's Hospital Emergency Room /SANE Nurse	(508) 363-5000
Planned Parenthood	(800) 258-4448

Counseling/Advocacy Services - These providers can offer **confidential** counseling, advocacy, and other services.

Sexual Assault:

Pathways for Change	(800) 870-5905 (24-hr hotline)
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Relationship Abuse:

Daybreak Domestic Violence Services	(508) 755-9030 (24-hr hotline)
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Court Advocacy - These services provide **confidential** support, help with access to, and explanation of, the legal process and court procedures for victims of crime.

Daybreak / SAFEPLAN (assistance with restraining orders)	(508) 831-2168
Victim Witness Program (advocate from DA's office)	(508) 755-8601

Law Enforcement - Police will investigate the allegation/incident. Criminal charges may result.

Worcester Police	(508) 799-8606
Daybreak / Worcester Intervention Network (WIN)	(508) 799-8610

Legal Assistance - These **confidential** services offer legal advice and provide direct legal representation to victims of relationship abuse and sexual assault.

Community Legal Aid	(508) 752-3722
Victim Rights Law Center	(617) 399-6720
Massachusetts Justice Project (legal advice and referrals)	(508) 831-9888

Financial Assistance - Confidential financial assistance may be available for costs related to medical care, mental health counseling, and other expenses through the Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Program, which operates out of the Attorney General's Office. Please call (508) 755-8601 for more information.

Recommended Procedures for Victims of Sexual Offenses

For a person subjected to a sexual offense, there can be time-sensitive decisions to make about sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and collecting physical evidence in the event of prosecution. Therefore, victims of sexual offenses are advised to:

- **Protect Yourself** - Find a safe place as soon as possible.
- **Contact Someone You Trust** – You may wish to ask a trusted friend or family member to assist and support you.
- **Get Medical Attention** – Seek medical attention immediately. Injuries and exposure to disease may not be immediately apparent. A medical examination can provide necessary treatment and collect important evidence. It is recommended that a physical exam be conducted within 72 hours of the incident in order to adequately preserve evidence. Victims of a sexual assault are encouraged to go to the UMass Memorial Hospital Emergency Department (119 Belmont Street, Worcester, MA 01605), before washing yourself or your clothing. A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (a specially trained nurse) at UMass Memorial Hospital is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (call the Emergency Department at 508-334-6481, if you first want to speak to the nurse). A representative from the University and/or a support person can also accompany you to the hospital and University Police can provide transportation if necessary.

If you go to the hospital, local police will be called, but you are not obligated to talk to the police or to prosecute. The exam will help to keep that option open for you, should you decide later to exercise it. The hospital staff will collect evidence, check for injuries, and address the possibility of exposure to sexually transmitted infections. If you have changed clothing since the assault, bring the clothing you had on at the time of the assault with you to the hospital in a clean, sanitary container such as a clean paper grocery bag or wrapped in a clean sheet (plastic containers do not breathe, and may render evidence useless). If you have not changed clothes, bring a change of clothes with you to the hospital, if possible, as they will likely keep the clothes you are wearing as evidence.

- **Try to Preserve Physical Evidence** - It is important to preserve all physical evidence following an act of sexual violence. Physical evidence may be necessary in the event criminal prosecution is pursued. If possible, a victim should not to wash, eat, drink, shower, use the bathroom, or change clothes. If clothes are changed, all clothes that were worn at the time of the incident should not be cleaned and should be placed into a clean paper bag. Do not disturb the crime scene. Leave all sheets, towels, etc. that may bear evidence for the police to collect.
- **Health and Support Services** - Various health and support services are available on and off campus for victims of sexual offenses. Please see the list of resources included on page 1 of this document.

Victim Rights and Protections

Victims of sexual offenses shall have the following rights and protections:

- The right to, or not to, seek assistance from University administration and/or University law enforcement;
- Not to be discouraged by University officials from reporting an incident to either on-campus and off-campus authorities;
- To be provided assistance in contacting local law enforcement if requested and have the full and prompt assistance and cooperation of campus personnel should a civil and/or criminal complaint be pursued;

Victim Rights and Protections (continued):

- To be treated with dignity and be free from any suggestion that they somehow contributed to or had a shared responsibility in the violent act;
- To choose whether or not to have the case adjudicated through the University's judicial system, the criminal justice system, or both concurrently.

- To have the same opportunities for representation as the accused, and to have others present in campus proceedings;
- To be informed about the outcome of any University investigation, including any disciplinary action against the accused.
- To receive full and prompt cooperation from University personnel in obtaining and securing evidence (including medical evidence) necessary for any potential criminal proceedings;
- To be informed of, and have access to, University counseling and medical professionals, victim support services, and to obtain referrals to off-campus counseling and support services if desired;
- To be permitted to attend classes, live in on-campus housing, work and participate in University activities free from unwanted contact or proximity with the accused individual(s) insofar as the University is permitted and able;
- To be informed of any no-contact or no-trespass orders issued to the accused by the University and the University's commitment to honor any court-issued restraining or protective orders, to the extent permitted by law.

Options for Reporting and/or Filing a Complaint

A victim of a sexual offense has several options available regarding reporting the incident and filing a complaint. The University is obligated to investigate allegations of sexual offenses, even if the alleged victim chooses not to file a formal complaint and/or participate in the investigation.

Confidential reporting and/or counseling – If you desire that details of the incident be kept completely confidential, there are several options available to you both on and off campus. Please see the list of resources starting on page 1.

File a formal complaint with the University – Victims of sexual offenses have the right to file (or right not to file) a formal complaint with the University. Incidents formally reported to the University will be promptly and thoroughly investigated. A person found to have committed a sexual offense shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension, expulsion or termination from the University. For assistance with filing a formal complaint, contact University Police, the Dean of Students, or the Title IX coordinator (see contact information on page 1).

Personal identifiable information about a victim will only be shared with persons with a specific need to know and/or who are investigating and/or adjudicating the complaint, delivering resources or support services to the victim or as public safety requires. The University does not publish the names or other identifiable information of victims in the University Police department's Daily Crime Log, in any Timely Warnings issued or online.

File a criminal complaint – A criminal complaint can be filed instead of, or in addition to, a formal complaint with the University. The filing of a criminal complaint will not delay or impact the University's own investigation. Criminal complaints may be filed directly with the Worcester Police Department or assistance can be provided by University Police or the Title IX coordinator.

Report the incident without filing a complaint – Even if they do not want to file a formal complaint, victims of sexual offenses are encouraged to report the incident to University Police or the Title IX coordinator.