

RESOURCE GUIDE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT OR RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

Pittsburg State University prohibits all forms of sexual misconduct and relationship violence to include rape, acquaintance rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Survivors of sexual misconduct or relationship violence may choose for the investigation to be pursued through the criminal justice system and/or the university discipline process. University personnel will assist in the report process if requested by the survivor. A representative from the University Police, the Associate Vice President for Student Life, and/or the Title IX Coordinator will guide the survivor through the available options and support the survivor in his or her decision. While the university will investigate the complaint and may pursue appropriate discipline action with or without the survivor's consent, discussing a matter of sexual assault with a university official does not compel the survivor to participate actively in pursuing disciplinary charges. As a survivor, the individual has the option to decline to notify law enforcement or campus authorities.

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU ARE A SURVIVOR

Rape, acquaintance rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking are serious crimes whether the act of violence is by a stranger or someone known to the survivor. The university strongly encourages and supports survivors to report the crime immediately to the University Police or City Police. The university also encourages survivors of violence to contact the Safehouse Crisis Center for advocacy services. Advocates on staff can provide safety planning and help survivors navigate through the judicial process. As an alternative, the survivor may report the crime to the Associate Vice President for Student Life, or a resident assistant, assistant residence hall director or area coordinator. University personnel will assist in the report process if requested by the survivor. As a survivor, the individual has the option to decline to notify law enforcement or campus authorities. University procedures are designed to protect the student who has been hurt by these behaviors and to stop the offensive behavior. The due process rights of alleged offenders are protected, as well as the rights of the survivor.

Survivors of rape, acquaintance rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have the option for and will receive assistance from the university in changing academic, living, transportation and working situations, if such accommodations are reasonably available regardless of whether the survivor chooses to report the crime to campus police or local law enforcement.

Pittsburg State University prohibits retaliation by its officers, employees, or agents against a person who exercises his or her rights or responsibilities under any provision of the Campus SaVE Act.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE A SURVIVOR

Go to a safe location as soon as possible. If you can find a friend to accompany you, that would be even safer. From the safe location call:

Pittsburg State University Police, (620) 235-4624

or City of Pittsburg Police Department, (620) 231-1700

or Crawford County Sheriff's Department, (620) 724-8274

or Safehouse Shelter, (620) 231-8692

or Via Christi Medical Center, (620) 231-6100

or PSU's Title IX Coordinator, (620) 235-4186

or PSU Associate VP of Student Life, (620) 235-4945

or PSU Office of Student Life, (620) 235-4231

or [PSU Student Health Services](#), (620) 235-4452

or resident assistant, assistant hall director or area coordinator (residents of halls)

or the Crisis Hotline at 1-800-794-9148. This hotline will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Alternatively, you may go directly to the University Police Department, 1501 S. Joplin (open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or to the Via Christi Medical Center Emergency Room, 1 Mount Carmel Place.

IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING EVIDENCE

Time is of the essence. Survivors should **NOT** change clothes, shower, bathe, or douche. If possible, do not go to the toilet. Save all clothing, linens, or other items that may have been touched by the assailant for the police officers who will be responsible for evidence. Do not wash clothing, linens or other items that may have been touched by the assailant. All physical evidence, including seminal fluids, hair, blood types and scrapings of flesh from the survivor's fingernails will be used in prosecution of the crime.

You may request that the police investigation be conducted by a police officer of your gender (i.e. a female police officer for a female student, a male police officer for a male student) if available. As a survivor of rape, acquaintance rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, your name will not be released to the news media.

Be prepared to go to the Via Christi Medical Center Emergency Room, 1 Mount Carmel Place, and request a medical examination by the Emergency Room physician using the Sexual Assault Kit required for evidence in cases of sexual assault. This is done free of charge to the survivor. You should get to the hospital as soon as it is safe and possible. The University Police or City of Pittsburg Police or Crawford County Sheriff's Deputy will be able to arrange transportation to the hospital as soon as an assault that has taken place is reported.

A formal complaint for legal action against the assailant should be made to the County Attorney through the police (no fee will be charged). For criminal prosecution a survivor has two years to file a report from the day of the crime but it should be done as quickly as possible. In order to be eligible for compensation under the Kansas Crime Victims Compensation, the crime must be reported to the law enforcement agency where the crime was committed within 72 hours of the event unless the Crime Victims Compensation Board finds there was good cause for the failure to report. The survivor must be completely cooperative with the law enforcement agency. The survivor must file a claim with the Crime Victims Compensation Board within one year of the occurrence of the crime.

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