

SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY

The policy serves to implement the University System of Maryland's Policy on Sexual Assault. It also serves as a guide to students, staff and faculty when incidents on sexual assault occur on campus.

Bowie State University's Policy on Sexual Assault is applicable to all Bowie State University students and employees, both faculty and non-faculty.

Introduction

Bowie State University is committed to maintaining a working and learning environment in which faculty, staff and students can develop intellectually, professionally, personally and socially free from intimidation, fear, coercion, and reprisal.

Sexual assault is illegal. The University will not tolerate illegal activity of any kind. Persons found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action and may be subject to arrest. To educate our community, the Henry Wise Wellness Center, Counseling Services and Residence Life will sponsor seminars and workshops emphasizing safety and awareness of sexual assault.

SEXUAL ASSAULT I

By stranger or acquaintance rape, forcible sodomy, or forcible sexual penetration, however slight, of another person's anal or genital opening with any object. These acts must be committed either by force, threat, intimidation or through the use of the victim's mental or physical helplessness of which the accused was aware or should have been made aware.

SEXUAL ASSAULT II

By stranger or acquaintance, the touch of an unwilling person's intimate parts (defined as genitalia, groin, breast, or buttocks, or clothing covering them) or forcing an unwilling person to touch another's intimate parts. These acts must be committed either by force, threat, intimidation or through the use of the victim's mental or physical helplessness of which the accused was aware or should have been aware.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND CONFIDENTIALITY

All persons who investigate sexual assaults or who assist victims of sexual assault shall maintain the strictest confidentiality in all matters pertaining to the victim and the investigation. Failure to exercise good faith in maintaining confidentiality may result in disciplinary actions and other serious sanctions.

PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IF A SEXUAL ASSAULT OCCURS

If you are raped or sexually assaulted, you should:

- **Get to a safe place as soon as you can;**
- **Try to preserve all physical evidence;**
- **Get medical attention;**
- **Contact the Bowie State University Department of Public Safety by calling (301) 860-4688 (**HOTT**), 301-860-4040 or the Prince George's County Police by dialing 911;**
- **Talk with a counselor; and**
- **Contact someone you trust.**

Initial Contacts - The Bowie State University Department of Public Safety, (**HOTT**) or (301) 860-4040, the Henry Wise Wellness Center, (301) 860-4171 and/or the Office of Counseling Services located in the Martin Luther King Jr. Building, third floor, (301) 860-4164 are Bowie State University's initial contact person (s) to assist you following a sexual assault. When a report of sexual assault is made, (s)he will encourage you to contact law enforcement officials and/or obtain medical assistance as soon as possible following the incident so that you can receive guidance in the preservation of evidence needed for proof of criminal assaults and the apprehension and prosecution of the alleged perpetrator. If you request it, (s)he will also assist you in contacting the proper law enforcement authorities, assist you with obtaining medical attention and provide transportation to the hospital or other emergency medical facility. The Director of Counseling and other campus personnel retain the right to contact law enforcement officials directly where an issue of campus security is involved.

Initial Contacts Campus Location and Operation Hours -
Bowie State University Department of Public Safety, (301)-860-4688
McKeldin Gymnasium, Room 1005, adjacent to Parking Lot E
Robinson Hall, Department of Public Safety Communications Office
Monday – Sunday **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**

Henry Wise Wellness Center, (301) 860-4171
Christa McAuliffe Resident Hall, LL
Monday – Friday 8 AM to 5 PM

Counseling Services, (301) 860-4164
Martin Luther King, Jr. Building, Third Floor
Monday – Friday 8 AM to 6 PM

Immediate Steps for Self-care and Safety - Immediately after the assault you may be in a state of shock. Usually, your first reaction will be to take a bath or shower. Please don't. Instead, wrap yourself in something warm such as a blanket or coat. Call someone to help you immediately. We recommend that you call the Bowie State University Department of Public Safety, (**HOTT**) or (301) 860-4040, the Henry Wise Wellness Center, (301) 860-4171 and/or the Office of Counseling Services located in the Martin Luther King Jr. Building, third floor, (301) 860-4164 for an initial contact. Victims react to this state of shock in different ways: some are upset, angry or calm. Whatever your reaction, you may be able to make better decisions by talking to someone you trust or someone trained, instead of responding to your initial feelings immediately after the crime. Staying warm, instead of cleaning up right away, will help you accomplish two important things: (1) you will be helping your body to recover from the shock due to the assault; and (2) you will not have disturbed or destroyed any evidence needed if you decide to prosecute.

It is extremely important that you:

DO NOT	DO
* shower or bathe	* get to a safe place
* brush or comb your hair	* call the police for help
* douche	* lock doors and windows
* urinate (if possible)	* keep warm
* change clothes	* get medical attention
* eat or drink anything	* write down all that you can remember
* brush or rinse your teeth or smoke	* take a change of clothes to hospital or sexual assault center.
* touch things at the crime the scene	If you must change your clothes, put them in a paper bag to give to the police (plastic destroys evidence).

Seek medical assistance - It is very important that you see a doctor as soon as possible after a sexual assault. A medical examination serves two (2) purposes: it ensures that you receive whatever medical aid you need and that any available evidence is collected. The University's initial contact person(s) located in either the Bowie State University Department of Public Safety, (**HOTT**) or (301) 860-4040, the Henry Wise Wellness Center, (301) 860-4171 or the Office of Counseling Services located in the Martin Luther King Jr. Building, third floor, (301) 860-4164 will assist a victim in obtaining medical attention if the victim chooses, including providing transportation to the hospital or other emergency medical facility. A medical examination is always recommended even if you decide not to officially report the crime. It's a good idea to have evidence collected initially in case you decide to take legal action at a later date.

Victim Services – The nearest hospital equipped with the Department of State Police Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit is Prince George's Hospital Center, 3001 Hospital Drive, Cheverly, MD 20785. The telephone number is (301) 618-3154.

The nearest sexual assault/rape crisis center is Prince George's Hospital Center, 3001 Hospital Drive, Cheverly, MD 20785. The center provides free 24 hour support services for victims of rape, sexual assault and domestic violence. The telephone number is (301) 618-3154.

The University Office of Counseling Services provides individual and group counseling for victims of sexual assault, sexual abuse and incest. The telephone number is (301) 860-4164.

The Dean of Students, Division of Student and Academic Services, will provide assistance to students who report they are victims of sexual assault with a transfer to alternative classes or housing, if such alternatives are requested by the victim and are available, feasible and appropriate to the facts of the sexual assault reported. The telephone number is (301) 860-3390.

The Director of Human Resources will provide assistance to employees who report they are victims of sexual assault with an alternative employment situation if such an alternative is requested by the victim, and an alternative situation is available, feasible and appropriate to the facts of the sexual assault reported. The telephone number is (301) 860-3450.