Be part of the Solution!

WVUPD has been made aware of a sexual abuse and a sexual assault case since school has started and we want to get some information out to the community.

Preventing sexual assault is everyone’s responsibility. As a mountaineer you have the duty to create a safe community for everyone and part of that means taking responsibility for and protecting others.

Silence is not consent. If a person is intoxicated they cannot give consent and sex without consent is sexual assault.

If you see a situation which could end badly step up and step in say something, get help for the intoxicated individual don’t let them go off alone with someone even if they claim to know them. Don’t allow anyone to put themselves in a bad situation step in and speak up.

Create an environment where sexual assault is not acceptable. Speak openly about the fact that it is wrong and that you will not allow it to happen.

If you have been sexually assaulted follow these steps.

Where can I go for help?

**If you are not safe, call 911 immediately.

1. Contact someone for support and to discuss your options. There are many people on and off campus you can talk to.

RDVIC (Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center) 24-hour hotline: (304) 292-5100. RDVIC can send a peer advocate to meet you at the hospital, the police department, or the WVU Title IX Office. You can speak with RDVIC advocates confidentially, and they can provide you with information about your options, emotional support, and even free counseling. WELLWVU Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services, Sexual Assault Counselor Deb Beazley and licensed psychologists offer free, confidential counseling and advocacy specifically for WVU Students. Services are available 24/7. Call (304) 293-4431.

WVU Employees

You can also speak with a trusted resident assistant, coach, professor, or staff member at WVU, but be advised that they will be required to report your sexual assault to the WVU Title IX Office. Aside from contacting a professional, it is always helpful to have someone that you trust and care about with you. Reach out to a friend or family member to help you through the process.

2. Go to the hospital for medical care, evidence collection, and access to emergency contraception and medicine to help prevent sexually transmitted infections. You can obtain both medical treatment and a Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence kit (AKA “SAFE kit”) at the hospital. SAFE kits can only be completed within 96 hours of the sexual assault, and emergency contraception is only effective if taken within 72 hours of the assault. Even if you do not disclose the sexual assault within 96 hours, you can still report it to law enforcement and/or the University. Consenting to a SAFE kit DOES NOT mean you have to press...
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criminal charges at that time, but ensures the collection of evidence if you later decide to do so. To preserve evidence for a kit, it is important not to shower or change your clothes. (Even if you have showered or changed your clothes, you can still request a rape kit within 96 hours.) Clothes may be collected as part of a rape kit, so bring a change of clothes with you to the hospital if possible. Please don’t eat or drink anything, or brush your teeth before going to the hospital, in order to preserve evidence. Although you can go to any hospital, WVU Ruby Memorial Hospital (304) 598-4172 will waive the cost of the medical examination if you identify yourself as a WVU student at the time of the examination.

3. Report the sexual assault to law enforcement. You may decide that you want to press criminal charges related to your assault. Contact the police department that has jurisdiction where the assault occurred. (If you are unsure of the jurisdiction, contact any police department for help.) If the sexual assault was perpetrated by another student, the police department will share your report with WVU as well. Once the criminal investigation is complete, the prosecutor’s office will decide whether or not to press charges against the perpetrator. Even if the perpetrator is arrested, he or she may be released on bail pending his or her criminal hearing. The Monongalia County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office has a victim Assistance Program to help victims navigate the criminal system: (304) 291-7286. Even if you sign a form indicating that you do not wish to file criminal charges, you still have the right to do so at a later time.

4. Report the sexual assault to the WVU Title IX Coordinator. They are able to do an internal investigation and access temporary accommodations if needed: 304-293-5600. Sexual misconduct is prohibited by WVU, and students found “responsible” will be subject to sanctions from the University, including suspension or expulsion. Once the Title IX Coordinator receives a report about a sexual assault, he will ask you to meet with an investigator to discuss the details of the assault and the possibility of temporary protective actions. Temporary protection actions may include: prohibiting the alleged perpetrator from contacting you, moving the alleged perpetrator or you to a different residence hall, changing class schedules for the alleged perpetrator or you so that you do not have to be in the same classroom, providing you with an escort between classes and activities, providing you with academic support services, such as tutoring, helping you with your academic record, and providing you with counseling services.

Finally visit the [WVU Title IX page](http://wvupolice.wvu.edu) and watch the [it’s on us video](http://itsonus.org/).

Go to [http://itsonus.org/](http://itsonus.org/) and take the pledge be part of the solution!