Responding to Sexual Assault

The Arkansas statute of rape is genderless, which means that both men and women can be rape victims and perpetrators. Sexual assault can occur whenever consent is not freely given by the victim; whenever the victim fears that he or she will be injured if he or she does not submit; whenever the victim is incapable of giving consent or resisting due to alcohol or drugs; and whenever the perpetrator uses physical force, threat, coercion, or intimidation to overpower the victim.

If you are a victim of sexual assault............... 

Your first priority should be to get to a place of safety. You should then obtain necessary medical treatment. You are encouraged to go to a hospital emergency room to receive appropriate medical care and/or evidence collection. NWACC strongly advocates that a victim of sexual assault report the incident as soon as possible. Time is a critical factor for evidence collection and preservation. If the assault is reported within 72 hours of its occurrence and you cooperate with the police in providing information and evidence, the State of Arkansas pays for the medical examination. Also, if the offense is reported to the police, Victims Compensation can pay for the treatment or other injuries that occurred during the rape. An assault should be reported directly to Public Safety and/or the Director of Student Support, and/or the Dean of Students.

NWACC Public Safety/Campus Police
Patrice Whitley, Director of Student Support
Ms. Dale Montgomery, Dean of Students
BH 1205
SC 230 C
SC 225 J
479-619-4229
479-619-4315
479-619-4234

You may also contact one of the local police departments by dialing 911, or listed below are the direct numbers for some of our area police stations:

Bentonville Police: 479-271-3170
Fayetteville Police: 479-587-3555
Rogers Police: 479-621-1172
Springdale Police: 479-751-4542
Filing a police report with an NWACC Public Safety officer will not obligate you to prosecute, nor will it subject you to scrutiny or judgmental opinions from officers. Filing a report if you are a victim of sexual assault will help ensure that you:

- Understand your options
- Are provided with the opportunity for collection of evidence helpful in prosecution, which cannot be obtained later (ideally a victim of sexual assault should not wash, douche, use the toilet or change clothing prior to a medical/legal exam). You should not disturb the area where the assault occurred.
- Obtain access to confidential counseling from counselors specifically trained in the area of sexual assault crisis intervention.
- Receive necessary medical treatment and tests.
- Are advised of the importance of writing down detailed information about the assault – where, when, who, and if the assailant is a stranger to remember his or her height, hair color, scars, and clothing.
- Are advised to seek emotional support from a friend, counselor, or anyone who can help provide that support.

In addition to the above mentioned campus resources, NWACC also has Confidential Advocates available. Some people may choose to start with an Advocate before making the decision on what steps to take..................

Confidential Advocates have been specially trained to provide affirming, empowering, and confidential support. The Advocate will listen and explain options available to you while providing support. It is your decision to pursue available resources or to report an incident to law enforcement or the College. Although rare, there are times when the College may not be able to honor a victim’s request for confidentiality. If a victim discloses an incident to an Advocate but wishes that no investigation into the incident be conducted or disciplinary action taken, the Advocate must weigh that request against the College’s obligation to provide a safe environment for all students, including the victim. The Advocates are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judy Reeves</th>
<th><a href="mailto:jreeves3@nwacc.edu">jreeves3@nwacc.edu</a></th>
<th>CHP 1053</th>
<th>619-4390</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austin Schader</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sschader2@nwacc.edu">sschader2@nwacc.edu</a></td>
<td>WCC 124</td>
<td>725-4663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcus Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mwilliams14@nwacc.edu">mwilliams14@nwacc.edu</a></td>
<td>BH 3024</td>
<td>986-4065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina Johns</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rjohns@nwacc.edu">rjohns@nwacc.edu</a></td>
<td>SC 213B</td>
<td>619-4360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Byrd</td>
<td><a href="mailto:abyrd2@nwacc.edu">abyrd2@nwacc.edu</a></td>
<td>BH 1218.2</td>
<td>619-4336</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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If you are a victim of sexual assault, you may choose for the investigation to be pursued through the criminal justice system and NWACC, or only the latter. A college representative from the Public Safety Department or the Dean of Students will guide you through the available options and will support you in your decision. These college representatives will provide options for support and will assist you in connecting with community resources, and local police
if desired. NWACC may provide you with professional counseling services through a partnership with Ozark Guidance Center.

Community resources include, but are not limited to:

**Northwest Arkansas Rape Crisis Center**  
2367 North Green Acres Road  
Fayetteville, AR 72703  
24 Hour Hotline: 1-800-794-4175  
[www.nwarapecrisis.org](http://www.nwarapecrisis.org)

**Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ACASA)**  
479-527-0900  
[www.acasa.us](http://www.acasa.us)

**Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)**  
National Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

**Ozark Guidance Center**  
2508 SE 20th St.  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
479-273-9088  
[www.ozarkguidance.org](http://www.ozarkguidance.org)

**Benton County Prosecutor’s Office**  
Victim Witness Coordinator  
479-271-1030

**Washington County Prosecutor’s Office**  
Victim Assistance Coordinator  
479-444-1570

NWACC disciplinary proceedings are detailed in the *Student Handbook*. The accused (respondent) and the victim (complainant) will each be allowed to include someone to accompany them throughout the investigation and hearing procedures. Both the complainant and the respondent will be informed of the outcome of the investigation. NWACC possible sanctions imposed for disciplinary purposes against the perpetrators of a sexual assault in the event of a finding of “in violation” include expulsion, suspension, dismissal, disciplinary probation, educational sanctions, denial of certain privileges, and counseling. The perpetrator could also be subject to criminal prosecution in the state courts. Retaliation against a complainant for reporting an offense is not permissible.

Student victims have the option to change their academic situation after an alleged sex offense, if such change is reasonably available. The VP for Learner Support Services or the Dean of Students can provide information about this option and assist you with the process.

Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) makes available literature on date rape and
sexual assault through the Student Information Center brochure rack and the Washington County Center. The Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault:  www.acasa.us  is an informative resource for sexual assault issues.

The registered sex offender’s website is accessible for viewing by going to the PUBLIC SAFETY link:  http://www.nwacc.edu/publicsafety. Simply click on the Arkansas Crime Information Center link. NWACC’s Department of Public Safety (DPS) maintains a folder of all registered sex offenders. To view this folder, visit the DPS office between the hours of 8:00am and 4:30pm.