

Sexual Violence Response Guidelines

**Information to assist members of the Ohio State
community who have experienced sexual violence**

The Ohio State University is committed to creating a community free from sexual violence.

Sexual violence can affect anyone. All students have full and equal access to the information and services related to sexual violence, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, nation of origin, religion, age, disability or living arrangement.

Services are available to any student, no matter where an incident occurred, and survivors are given the ability to determine which resources they would like to utilize.

Updated – May 2013



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Sexual Violence Quick Resource Guide

For OSU students who have experienced sexual violence

MEDICAL CENTERS:

Seek medical attention and/or evidence collection at the following hospitals if the violence/sexual assault occurred with the last 96 hours. A specially trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) is usually available, and an advocate will be called to assist you. All central Ohio emergency departments should be able to provide these services. This is just a partial list of emergency departments.

OSU Medical Center	293-8333
Grant Medical Center	566-9270
Riverside Methodist Hospital	566-5321

The Wilce Student Health Center 292-4321

This Student Life department provides medical care, addresses concerns about sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy, discusses resources, and provides follow-up care. The SHC does not collect evidence.

REPORTING AGENCIES:

To report an assault that happened on-campus, to a legal authority contact the OSU police department. If the assault occurred off-campus, please contact the Columbus Police Department (CPD).

OSU Campus Police	292-2121
CPD Sexual Abuse Unit	645-4701
CPD Domestic Violence & Stalking Unit	645-6232

Student Conduct 292-0748

This Student Life department manages the disciplinary process for incidents of misconduct involving OSU students. This process can be discussed with staff in this office without filing a complaint.

SUPPORT & ADVOCACY:

It's important to get help when dealing with issues related to sexual assault, intimate partner violence, or stalking in order to heal from the effects of these issues.

Counseling & Consultation Service 292-5766

This Student Life department provides free, confidential services for students at any time during the recovery process.

Sexual Violence Education and Support 292-4527
Student Wellness Center (Office of Student Life)

- Provides advocacy and support for students dealing with sexual violence
- Provides information about medical and legal options
- Offers support throughout the criminal or OSU conduct proceedings

Student Advocacy Center 292-1111

This Student Life department assists with academic, housing, and financial concerns

Residence Hall Staff

Student Life's Hall Directors can provide support and help identifying and connecting to resources on and off-campus

SARNCO 24-Hour Rape Helpline 267-7020

CHOICES 24 Hour Domestic Violence Hotline 224-4663

Sexual Violence Assistance Fund 292-4527

Provides financial assistance for students who have experienced sexual assault, intimate partner abuse and/or stalking. OSU students can apply for up to \$500 to assist with related expenses. More information at go.osu.edu/svaf.

Introduction

This document was created by members of the Sexual Violence Committee at The Ohio State University to assist students who have experienced sexual violence. It is our goal to provide information and to encourage those who would like to access services. Staff, faculty, family and friends are all encouraged to seek out information as they support people who disclose to them. This document can be used to help any individual connected with the Ohio State University come up with a plan on how to address sexual violence situations.

The Ohio State University is committed to creating a community free from sexual violence. Please note that we are using “sexual violence” to denote incidents which can be defined as sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and/or intimate partner violence/domestic abuse. The University strives to achieve this goal through prevention, survivor support, the student conduct process, and referrals to the criminal justice system. It is understood that any person may be affected by sexual violence. The University therefore implements relevant policies in such a manner that all students and groups have full and equal access to the information and services related to sexual violence, regardless of factors such as gender, race, and sexual orientation, nation of origin, religion, age, disability, or living arrangement. Applicable services are available to any student, whether the assault occurred on or near campus, or elsewhere.

It is up to a survivor to decide how to cope with their experience. Each person decides which “first step” to take. An initial response may include immediately calling the police. However, it is very common for a person to seek out medical care or other information first. If a person has recently experienced an assault, please skip ahead to the “medical care/treatment” or “reporting” sections for more information about these options. Regardless of the decision to report, in any instance where physical contact and/or injury has been experienced, all survivors should be encouraged to seek medical care.

At the University, when a “university official” is told about an instance of sexual violence, it is important that both the university employee and the student understands what will happen. University officials can be found in a wide range of roles in different offices/departments. Staff or faculty will need to report their knowledge of what has happened (when they are given specific information) to police or to the Office of Human Resources. Exceptions do exist. For example, counselors with Student Life’s Counseling and Consultation Service are required to keep information confidential.

A university official is required to balance their requirements as a staff or faculty member with the obligation to insure public safety and the needs of a survivor. It is important for a staff member to check with their department's policy regarding disclosures of sexual violence. Staff and faculty are also encouraged to contact some of the university offices listed in this document to consult about situations when they arise. Staff and faculty may also contact a Sexual Violence Advocate from Student Life's Student Wellness Center.

Definitions

Survivor: In this document, we will refer to those who have experienced sexual violence as “survivors” of these experiences. In other contexts this person may be referred to as a “victim”, a “client” or a “patient”. We use “survivor” as a term of respect and to acknowledge that people who experience sexual violence have survived an event or events that can be life-changing.

Please note that these definitions of sexual violence are behavioral definitions and not legal ones. Police and prosecutors will determine whether a crime occurred based on legal definitions from the Ohio Revised Code.

A **sexual assault** occurs when a person experiences a sexual act or acts against their will. Sexual assault includes a number of acts (e.g. rape, incest, molestation, etc.) and may be defined based on the specific factors of a situation. It's important to acknowledge that experiencing a sexual assault is not the victim's/survivor's fault. Sexual abuse is used to denote a pattern of sexual assaults that occur over time.

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature when it meets any of the following:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic status.
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting such individual.
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for working, learning, or living on campus.

Stalking occurs when a person repeatedly behaves or acts in a way that invades your life and causes you mental distress and/or fear of bodily harm. Stalking may even look “romantic” or non-threatening (like sending flowers, cards, “friendly” e-mails or instant messages, etc.). It is important to understand the context and impact of the stalking behavior. Stalking occurs when the contact is known to be unwanted and causes distress to the recipient. Common stalking behaviors may include:

- Following you,
- Calling or texting,
- Damaging your property,
- Threatening to hurt you or your friends/family/pets/etc.

Intimate Partner Violence is a pattern of controlling behavior with a current or former dating partner or spouse. Abuse knows no boundaries and occurs regardless of age, income, culture, religion, education and race. It often begins with isolation, jealousy, threats or name-calling and may include emotional, sexual or verbal abuse. Physical violence may or may not be part of this pattern.

Domestic violence/abuse is a broader term which acknowledges that abuse and control can happen within a family structure or between members of the same household. A domestic violence survivor can be someone who grew up in a family or household where this occurred or someone who is currently in this situation.

An **advocate** is a person who has been trained on issues related to sexual violence and who provides support services through their work with a community organization (e.g. the local rape crisis center) or at the university (e.g. the Student Wellness Center). It is the role of the advocate to provide information, discuss options with a survivor, connect them with resources and offer assistance as a one-time occurrence (e.g. during the evidence collection exam) or on an ongoing, longer-term basis (e.g. reporting to police and going through the criminal justice and/ or student conduct processes).

Victim blame is the phenomenon where the survivor is held responsible for causing or not avoiding the attack or violence. This includes blaming the survivor for “risky” behavior such as walking alone at night, drinking and/or taking drugs, wearing “provocative” clothing, having multiple sex partners, doing things that “imply” consent like flirting or going to the other person’s room, etc. It is important to note that what a person does or doesn’t do is NOT what causes an assault to happen. It is the presence of someone willing to commit a crime that causes an assault.

How to Help a Survivor

A survivor has had an experience where they have lost control over the situation. It is natural to feel a tremendous loss of power and control over life during these times. It can be hard to know what to do or say to help a friend or family member who is a survivor of sexual violence. In addition to seeking assistance from the resources in this guide, below are some suggestions about how you can help.

What to say to a survivor:

- I'm sorry this happened to you
- It wasn't your fault
- You survived; obviously you did the right things
- Thank you for telling me
- I'm always here if you want to talk
- Can I do anything for you?

What NEVER to say to a survivor:

- It was your fault
- You could have avoided it had you _____
- It's been so long! Get over it!
- You wanted it
- It's not that big of deal; it happens to lots of people
- I don't believe you

Other Suggestions:

- **Do not judge the survivor.** An individual is likely examining him or herself very critically during this time. Asking questions regarding details of the assault, why the individual was at a specific place, doing a specific behavior, etc. only places blame on the survivor for the actions of the perpetrator. No matter what their behavior prior to the assault, they are NOT responsible- the perpetrator is. Following sexual violence, an individual may try to understand their role in what happened, but it's important to be clear that they are not responsible for the actions of others.
- **Do not attempt to impose your explanation of why this has happened or try to "fix" the situation.** It may come across to the survivor as victim-blaming. The only real explanation is that the perpetrator chose to act as they did. Additionally, you don't have to fix the situation; you just have to be supportive.

- **Remind survivors that their feelings are understandable.** There are many symptoms that the individual may experience; these are typical reactions to traumatic events. If they are experiencing feelings, emotions, or physical symptoms that are out of the ordinary, it is due to the fact that they have just experienced a horrific and traumatic event.
- **Do not attempt to reassure the person that everything is “Okay” or tell them you know how they feel.** Because at this time, everything is not “okay”. Making statements such as “Don’t worry about it,” “You’re going to be fine,” etc. may serve to minimize the victimized person’s feelings and downplay the seriousness of the event(s) which occurred. Also, chances are you don’t know exactly how they feel. You may know what it feels like to be hurt, to be violated, or to be angry. However, you probably don’t know quite how they feel at this moment.
- **Do offer to gather information about their options and who may be able to help.** Once you educate yourself and have information to share, encourage them to take a step. It’s okay to offer your support in taking a step but be mindful of not taking over or pressuring the survivor to do what **you** think they should do. Whatever step they take will reinforce that they can take another.
- **Be willing to say nothing.** Just being there is often the biggest help.
- **Do not feel intimidated by the intense emotions of survivors.** Remember: you don’t have to fix the situation, just be supportive. There are many people at our university who can help provide support.
- **Encourage the survivor to seek counseling and post-trauma services.** There are specially trained mental health professionals that can assist the survivor on many levels. Counseling is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of strength and of taking control of the situation.
- **Find your own support. You are also affected by this situation.** You can’t support someone else if you aren’t supported as well. You cannot expect the survivor to provide support for you, find other friends, support people, or counseling to share your own feelings related to what happened to your friend.

Medical Options

Medical Care/Treatment & Evidence Collection

For the person who has just experienced an assault, it's important to get to a safe place and make a decision about what to do next. Some options include calling the police, going to the hospital, making a doctor's appointment and/or telling a friend or support person.

A medical examination is also recommended for cases of possible sexual assault and where injuries have resulted from an incident of intimate partner abuse/domestic violence. A medical examination can occur at the Student Health Center, a doctor's office, hospital or health clinic. However, a hospital is the location where both an advocate can be called and evidence can be collected.

If an individual is uncertain about whether or not they want to report what has occurred, they can still get evidence collected. In cases of sexual assault or severe injuries, the police will be called by the hospital. The survivor can decide if they want to speak with the police at that time to officially report what has happened.

While evidence may be collected anonymously (i.e. without the survivor's name attached to it) and/or when there is no report made to police, these cases are handled differently. A discussion about the merit of collecting evidence "anonymously" and in instances where the survivor does not want to report, should be discussed with medical personnel and/or an advocate.

At local emergency departments, the evidence collection exam may be performed by a doctor, a nurse or a specially trained nurse: a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE). In cases of sexual assault, within the first 96 hours of an assault is the best time for evidence to be collected. Under certain circumstances, it may be collected after this time frame. It is not necessary for evidence to be collected in order for a case to be reported. It is easier to investigate and prosecute cases that have physical evidence but it is not impossible to go forward without it.

If an individual wants to get evidence collected, it is best not to bathe and to take the clothes that they were wearing at the time of the assault to the hospital with them. It is also recommended to avoid eating, drinking, and going to the bathroom. However, a lot

of people do all of these things before going to the hospital and evidence can still be collected.

The sexual assault evidence collection exam is paid for by a fund within the Ohio Attorney General's office. However, other medical care may be needed and in that instance, insurance will be billed or an individual can arrange to "self pay". Assistance with additional medical bills may be provided through accessing Victims of Crime Compensation &/or through the Sexual Violence Assistance Fund. For more information about these options, individuals can contact the Student Wellness Center (614) 292-4527 or find more information at go.osu.edu/sves and go.osu.edu/svaf. More information about Victims of Crime Compensation can be found at <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Services/Victims>.

Follow up medical care can happen at an individual's doctor, Student Life's Wilce Student Health Center or other medical facility, including the OSU Wexner Medical Center. Information about STI testing sites on campus and in the community can be found in the "Other Resources" section of this guide.

The Wilce Student Health Center (Office of Student Life) (614) 292-4321

Student Health can provide confidential information and services concerning sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and general medical issues and can refer survivors to the OSU and local ERs for evidence collection. SHS can also test for drugs if a survivor feels that they may have been drugged.

OSU Wexner Medical Center (614) 293-8333

The emergency room will provide survivors the opportunity to have evidence collected by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) and connect them with a Sexual Violence Advocate from the OSU Student Wellness Center or SARNCO (see "Support Services" for more information about SARNCO).

Reporting Sexual Violence

Reporting to the Police

An individual who has experienced an incident of sexual violence may report this to the police (as many of these incidents may be a crime). Individuals who file a report can have a support person and/or advocate with them.

Reporting to police can be done by calling 9-1-1 or the non-emergency number of the appropriate police department listed below. Assistance in reporting can be provided by a Sexual Violence Advocate from Student Life's Student Wellness Center.

OSU Police Department
Columbus Police

(614) 292-2121 or 9-1-1
(614) 645-4545 or 9-1-1

Reporting a crime is the process of officially documenting what has occurred with the police and does not necessarily mean that an investigation will occur and that criminal charges will be filed. It is ultimately up to the police and the prosecutor to determine if charges will be pursued. A survivor can provide input about what they would like to see happen and has rights within the criminal justice system. More information about victim's rights can be provided by police, advocates, and/or prosecutors. Reporting a crime may occur at the hospital, the police station or at the site of the crime.

Following the report, an investigation may occur. During an investigation, police/prosecutors may use their discretion in informing survivors of the progress. Survivors may contact the department, and may be given updates. Following an investigation, a charge may be filed and/or the matter forwarded to the prosecutor's office or Grand Jury. If the case does not move forward, information will be made available about the investigation via public records request. Additionally, an arrest of a suspect may or may not occur at any point in the process.

OSU Police investigate crimes which occur on OSU property, and may be consulted about possible sexual violence incidents. Police will look at the specific behaviors involved and could take a report, begin an investigation, discuss safety planning or offer other thoughts/remedies.

Ohio State University Police Department Survivor's Rights Guarantee

If you feel you are the survivor of a sexual assault on campus, the OSU Police Department will guarantee you the following:

1. We will meet with you privately, at a place of your choice in this area, to prepare a Police Report.
2. We will not release your name to the public or to the press during the course of the criminal investigation, without your consent.
3. Our officers will not prejudge you, and you will not be blamed for what occurred.
4. We will treat you and your particular case with courtesy, sensitivity, dignity, understanding, and professionalism.
5. If you feel more comfortable talking with a female or male officer, we will do our best to accommodate your request.

6. We will assist you in arranging for any hospital treatment or other medical needs, including transportation to a local hospital with appropriate survivor services.
7. We will assist you in privately contacting counseling, safety, advising, and other available resources.
8. We will fully investigate your case and will help you to achieve the best outcome. This may involve the arrest and full prosecution of the person responsible. You will be kept up-to-date on the progress of the investigation and/or prosecution.
9. We will continue to be available for you to answer questions, explain the processes involved (prosecutor, courts, etc.) and to be a listening ear if you wish.
10. We will consider your case seriously regardless of your or any suspect's race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, and age, disability, or Vietnam-era veteran status.

Reporting to Student Conduct

If the alleged perpetrator of sexual violence is a student, survivors can report the incident to Student Life's Student Conduct department which administers the Code of Student Conduct. OSU has a disciplinary hearing process for incidents of misconduct involving OSU students. This process can be discussed with the Director of Student Conduct (or designee) without filing a complaint. It is not necessary that the person filing the complaint is a student.

OSU Student Conduct (Office of Student Life)

(614) 292-0748

Like the police, Student Conduct can be consulted about a situation, take a complaint/report and initiate an investigation. This office serves as a neutral fact-finder, once a complaint has been reported. If there is enough evidence to move forward, a hearing may result.

If a student is found in violation of the Code of Student Conduct, there are a range of possible sanctions from an official reprimand to expulsion. However, when students are found in violation of sexual misconduct provisions, more common sanctions involve possible suspension, probation and "no contact" directives. Depending on the facts of the case, sanctions are designed to address the behaviors and are both educational and punitive in nature.

All information is kept private and notification of the finding is provided to both the accused student and the person who filed the complaint. However, this finding is part of the private record of the accused student and can only be attained through a subpoena.

Individuals who file a complaint and go through this process may have a support person and/or advocate with them. Assistance in filing a complaint can be provided by a Sexual Violence Advocate from Student Life's Student Wellness Center, who can be contacted at (614) 292-4527. An individual can also call Student Conduct independently at (614) 292-0748 to schedule an appointment.

More information about the Code of Student Conduct can be found at studentconduct.osu.edu/. The Sexual Misconduct portion of the Code of Student Conduct can be found at go.osu.edu/sm-policy.

Reporting to the Office of Human Resources (OHR)

If an OSU staff or faculty member committed the incident of sexual violence, a complaint can be made to the Office of Human Resources. In some ways, the Office of Human Resources functions like the student conduct process and the police. This office may be consulted about situations, takes reports/complaints, initiates investigations, and makes a determination. This office investigates complaints of discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment) as well as other employment issues/disputes.

24-Hour Anonymous Reporting Line

(866) 294-9350

Individuals can also file a complaint online at

<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/7689/index.html>

During the investigation, an individual who has filed a complaint may have a support person and/or advocate with them when meeting with OHR. The office makes an effort to complete the investigation within 45 calendar days. If the outcome of the investigation warrants corrective action, OHR determines that action.

This office takes steps to protect the confidential nature of reports, while remaining attentive to any concerns around retaliation. There are a number of ways to initiate a case with Human Resources. Assistance can be provided by a Sexual Violence from Student Life's Student Wellness Center.

The University cannot promise complete confidentiality. Each situation is resolved as discreetly as possible. Ohio State is obligated to follow-up on all allegations. There are times that a one-on-one conversation with the alleged harasser can resolve the situation without revealing the complainant's identity (e.g. investigating an anonymous report). If this doesn't work, it may be necessary to reveal the complainant's identity in order to conduct an investigation.

For more information about OHR policies or processes, visit <http://hr.osu.edu/hrpubs/guidelinesdiscrim.pdf>

Support Services

Note of Caution: For individuals dealing with a stalker or intimate partner/domestic violence situation, it is important to take precautions when accessing any kind of support. In some circumstances, stalkers and/or abusers may access phone or computer records. When possible, people in these situations may want to use public computers or phones to seek out information. It is also good to safeguard your information by frequently changing passwords to random, unpredictable ones. It may also be helpful to think about steps that can be taken to keep information away from a stalker or intimate partner (e.g. keeping things with a friend or getting mail at a different address).

Confidentiality: Medical services provide confidentiality to patients. Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service and Wilce Student Health Center and Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center offer confidential services. In general, a medical/health professional is required to keep a patient's information confidential. That is, no information can be shared without explicit permission by the survivor unless it is subpoenaed due to a court case. Please note, however, that if someone presents a danger to themselves or others, medical/health professionals may break confidentiality to insure safety.

Various areas within the Office of Student Life including the Student Wellness Center, Hall Directors or Assistant Hall Directors, the Student Advocacy Center and other University departments can provide services which aren't confidential, but where privacy is protected. Information can only be shared within the University if there is a "legitimate educational need." In order for information to be shared outside of the University, a survivor would need to give explicit permission or that information would need to be subpoenaed. If a survivor or co-survivor has any questions about what will happen if they share information with any university employee, it is important to ask.

Student Wellness Center (SWC)

(614) 292-4527

Student Life's SWC Sexual Violence Education and Support (SVES) team, located in the RPAC, offers prevention and educational programming as well as survivor services for issues of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking and sexual harassment. Survivors and co-survivors can speak with a Sexual Violence Advocate for support in

understanding medical and legal options, and for support throughout criminal or OSU conduct proceedings. SVES administers the Sexual Violence Assistance Fund, which provides financial assistance to OSU students who are survivors of sexual violence. Learn more and apply for assistance at go.osu.edu/svaf.

Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS)

(614) 292-5766

Student Life's CCS provides counseling and consultation to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students and their spouses/partners covered by the students' Comprehensive Student Health Insurance. CCS offers counseling and therapy to help students address personal, academic, and career concerns. Both individual and group counseling are available. In counseling, they work to help to develop more personal awareness and the skills needed to overcome problems and help them grow and develop in ways that allow them to take advantage of the educational opportunities at the university.

Their diverse staff specializes in a number of issues, including (but not limited to) substance abuse, eating disorders, sexual assault, relationship violence, international student concerns, LGBTQIA issues, and multiculturalism.

Student Advocacy Center

(614) 292-1111

Student Life's Student Advocacy Center can assist you with academic, housing, and financial concerns. The Student Advocacy Center is committed to assisting students in cutting through campus bureaucracy. Its purpose is to empower students to overcome obstacles to their growth both inside and outside the classroom, and to help them maximize their educational experience while pursuing their degrees at The Ohio State University.

University Housing

Student Life's University Housing team provides services to the students who live in residence halls ("on-campus"). Staff assesses both initial and long term needs. Housing staff, including RA's, Hall Directors and other full time staff are available to assist. While there is a hearing process for non-suspendable infractions, situations which could result in a suspension are typically forwarded to Student Conduct. University Housing also provides educational programming to enhance academic studies and foster student development.

Faculty/Staff Assistance Program provides free, confidential counseling services to OSU staff and faculty.

Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO)
Anonymous 24-Hour Helpline

(614) 267-7020

24-Hour Emergency Room Advocacy – Trained advocates provide emotional support, crisis intervention and community referral information to survivors of sexual violence in local hospital emergency departments. In addition, SARNCO works with Deaf World Against Violence Everywhere (DWAVE) to provide culturally appropriate advocacy to survivors who are Deaf.

24-Hour Rape Helpline – Trained advocates provide emotional support, crisis intervention and community referral information over the telephone to survivors of sexual violence, co-survivors and the community.

Sexual Violence Prevention Program – SARNCO provides prevention education and outreach about sexual assault, dating violence and sexual harassment in the community.

Long-Term Advocacy and Recovery Resources – SARNCO provides services to survivors and co-survivors to assist in working with law enforcement, navigating the criminal justice system and linking to other community services. Recovery books for healing from sexual violence are available at no cost. Long-term advocacy services and free recovery materials can be accessed by calling the helpline at (614) 267-7020. SARNCO also maintains a Resource Center which has hundreds of books, journals, videos and resource materials on sexual assault and relationship violence that can be checked-out by survivors, co-survivors and members of the community.

Other Resources

Sexual Violence Assistance Fund

This fund was created with the support of the Office of Student Life, Undergraduate Student Government and Women and Allies Rising in Resistance to provide financial support to OSU students who have experienced sexual violence. Funds are used to supplement, not replace, existing sources of financial support, such as Victims of Crime Compensation, health insurance, the Margaret Herlan Busch Student Assistance Fund, etc.

Any OSU student who has alleged to a university official that they have experienced sexual violence can apply for assistance. A police report is not necessary in order to qualify for the Sexual Violence Assistance Fund.

For information about funding eligibility, the application process and to apply, visit go.osu.edu/svaf.

HIV Antibody & Other STI Testing Sites in Columbus

There are two forms of testing that are available: Anonymous and confidential. You have a right to choose which form of testing is right for you. Anonymous testing means your name is not linked to your blood sample. People who choose the anonymous test are given a number code to bring back or are asked to call at a specific time to get the test result. With **anonymous testing**, your HIV status will not be documented.

Confidential testing means your name is linked to your blood sample. The test results are protected to a certain extent by state laws, agency policies and staff commitment to confidentiality. The test results may become part of your permanent medical record. The health department is also required by law to notify any previous or current partner(s) of a positive HIV status.

OSU Student Wellness Center (Office of Student Life) (614) 292-4527

Anonymous or confidential HIV testing (oral swab) and confidential Chlamydia/Gonorrhea testing (urine sample)
B130 RPAC, 337 W. 17th Avenue (on campus)
www.swc.osu.edu

OSU Wilce Student Health Center (Office of Student Life) (614) 292-4321

Confidential HIV & STD Testing. Cost is based on insurance, phone ahead to see if your insurance is accepted. Phone your insurance company to check if testing is a covered service with or without signs/symptoms.
1875 Millikin Road (on campus)
www.shc.osu.edu

Columbus Public Health (CPH) (614) 645-6446, 24-Hours: (614) 645-7772

STD Testing: \$20-60, based on income. Free Anonymous or Confidential HIV Testing
240 Parsons Avenue
www.publichealth.columbus.gov

Planned Parenthood – OSU Campus**(614) 222-3604**

18 E. 17th Avenue

www.plannedparenthood.org**Mt. Carmel Crime & Trauma Assistance Program****(614) 234-5900**

The Mount Carmel Crime and Trauma Assistance Program provides specialized professional assistance to victims of crime and trauma. Available to both adults and children, the program facilitates recovery through education and therapeutic intervention, with personal and empathetic opportunities for support and healing in both group and individual settings. Mt. Carmel provides free counseling services and begins their intake process by phone. Please call them for more information.

Asian American Community Services**(614) 312-0337**

The Family Support Program (FSP) is a volunteer-based program that addresses issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and hate crimes. FSP assists Asian victims and their families who suffer from any types of above violence in the community by helping them to understand their options in making important decisions with regard to the American social system including legal/court, medical and educational systems. They have trained staff and volunteers who are bilingual in Cambodian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Laotian, and Vietnamese. FSP provides necessary intervention, ensuring confidential, efficient, accurate and client-friendly services.

Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO)**(614) 294-7867**

BRAVO provides survivor advocacy and assistance to the LGBTQ community regarding hate crimes, discrimination, domestic violence and sexual assault. BRAVO is a founding member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP). Each year, BRAVO documents incidences of hate crimes and domestic violence along with similar agencies across the United States.

CHOICES**(614) 224-4663**

CHOICES is a local resource for victims of domestic violence/intimate partner violence. Like SARNCO, CHOICES has a hotline which is staffed by individuals with expertise on relationship abuse. CHOICES also has emergency shelters for survivors.

Columbus Urban League**(614) 257-6300**

The Columbus Urban League offers free support and education services for African American clients and provides community education and support services for rape and sexual assault victims. They may also help victims/survivors file for Victims of Crime Compensation and offers a school-based curriculum on rape and sexual assault.

Columbus Police Department Sexual Abuse Squad (614) 645-4701

Takes reports and investigates sexual assault cases which occur off-campus in the city of Columbus. Columbus police detectives may meet a victim/survivor in the emergency department of central Ohio hospitals, at the location of the crime, in the victim's/survivor's home (if they reside in Columbus) or at the police station located in downtown Columbus.

Columbus City Attorney's Domestic Violence & Stalking Unit (614) 645-6232

This office takes reports, investigates cases and assists with needs of victims/survivors during the court process for misdemeanor domestic violence and stalking cases. A referral may be made for those seeking a protection order. If you wish to file a criminal complaint you must appear in person at the Prosecution Resources Unit, Intake Section which is located on the 7th floor of 375 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Franklin County Prosecutor's Office

Victim/Witness Assistance Unit (614) 462-3555

The Victim Witness Assistance Unit provides information regarding the practices and procedures of the criminal justice system to victims and/or witnesses. The unit assists victims, witnesses, and the Assistant Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney assigned to the cases. The Victim Witness Assistants in the Adult Criminal Division assist victims in cases where the defendant is an adult accused of certain felony crimes, including sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, stalking, homicide and others.

Capital University Law School's Family Advocacy Clinic (614) 236-6500

The Clinic serves victims of domestic violence who do not meet eligibility criteria to receive legal aid assistance, but who are still unable to afford a private attorney. The Clinic's partners include the Legal Aid Society, CHOICES Shelter, and the Columbus City Attorney's Office. If students meet their criteria, they may assist with attaining a protection order.

Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Program (877) 584-2846, (614) 466-5610

This office can provide financial compensation for those who have experienced crimes and meet the requirements for the program.

Suicide Prevention Services 24-Hour Hotline (614) 221-5445

Stalking Resource Center 1-800-FYI-CALL

M-F 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM EST

e-mail: gethelp@ncvc.org

Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN)**(800) 656-4673**

National hotline that connects callers to their nearest rape crisis line.

FirstLink 24-Hour Information & Referral Services TTY# 341-2272, (614) 221-2255

A general referral resource to help address a wide range of needs like clothing, housing, food, etc.

Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation – Attorney General’s Office (800) 582-2877

The following was excerpted from information which can be found online at

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Services/Victims/Victims-Compensation-Application>

If you or your family members are innocent victims of a violent crime, financial assistance may be available. The following is a list of guidelines to help you determine whether you might be eligible for a payment.

Crime Victims Compensation Guidelines

Who may be eligible to receive a payment:

- Those injured during a violent crime.
- Dependents of people killed in crimes.
- Anyone responsible for a crime victim’s finances, such as a parent or guardian.

Who cannot receive a payment:

- Anyone convicted of a felony offense within 10 years before the crime, or while the compensation application is pending.
- Anyone convicted of child endangering or domestic violence within 10 years before the crime, or while the compensation application is pending.
- Anyone who engaged in misconduct that caused or contributed to the injuries.

Payments can cover:

- Medical and related expenses.
- Counseling for immediate family members of victims of homicide, sexual assault or domestic violence.
- Wages lost because of the crime.
- Crime scene cleanup for personal security.
- The cost to replace items taken as evidence.
- Lost wages and travel expenses for family members of a deceased victim to attend court proceedings.
- Financial support for dependents of a deceased victim.

- Funeral and burial expenses.

Total payments are limited to \$50,000, and payments cannot be made for pain and suffering or for stolen, damaged or lost property. The Attorney General's Office will not pay victims for expenses that can be covered by other sources, such as insurance. Make sure to report the crime to law enforcement within 72 hours of the crime and to [file an application for payment](#) within two years

**Please note that assistance in filing an application for Victims of Crime Compensation is provided through SVES staff at the Student Wellness Center. For more information, please call 614-292-4527 or visit go.osu.edu/sves*

VINELink

The following was excerpted from: <https://www.vinelink.com/vinelink/initMap.do>

VINELink is the online version of VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), the National Victim Notification Network. This service allows crime victims to obtain timely and reliable information about criminal cases and the custody status of offenders 24 hours a day. Some states have the ability to display this website in Spanish. Victims and other concerned citizens can also register to be notified by phone, email, text message (SMS) or TTY device when an offender's custody status changes. Users can also register through their participating state or county toll-free number.

Protection Order Information

For more information about protection orders, please visit the Columbus City Attorney's website at: <http://www.columbuscityattorney.org/prosecution/guidetoprotection.aspx>

Important notes about Protection Orders:

An order of protection (protection order) is a temporary order intended to help provide safety and protection to victims of certain crimes. If you have a protection order against someone and they show up or violate the protection order in any way, the police can arrest them and charge them with this violation. Do not warn the person that you are calling the police, do it as quickly and quietly as possible.

Types of Protection Orders that can be enforced by the police

- DV Temporary Protection Order (DVTPO) - requires a criminal charge
- Criminal Stalking Protection Order (CRPO) - requires criminal charge
- Civil Protection Order (CPO) - civil case does not require charges
- Civil Stalking or Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Order (SSOOPO) - civil case does not require charges

OSU police or a Sexual Violence Advocate from Student Life's Student Wellness Center can assist in obtaining a protection order. There is no court fee for protection orders and individuals at the courthouse can explain the process and assist you with attaining one. However, it does help to have a lawyer advise you and represent you with Civil Protection Orders.

Once a protection order is issued, the person can have no contact with you – even with your permission. Only a judge can change the terms and conditions of the order. A protection order is intended for persons who are in fear for their safety.

It is also good to try to be out of town or in an unknown location when the protection order is served. If possible, allow a couple of days away from locations where you may be easily found by the individual who is being served with the protection order.

If you have questions about criminal or civil protection orders, please call the Columbus City Prosecutor's Domestic Violence & Stalking Unit (614-645-6232).

When you have a Protection Order, it is helpful to keep a copy with you at all times.

- If possible, have someone stay with you or you stay with them – especially around court dates.
- Do your best to have absolutely no contact with the abuser/stalker (or someone acting on their behalf). This includes social networking sites and other online resources. Block all access to you.
- Do not go where the person is staying or places he/she may be – if you are able to anticipate this.
- Take a copy of the Protection Order to your neighborhood police station and/or OSU police, to notify them of your situation. Call the police if there is any violation, however minimal, to the order.
- If possible, you may want to change your routines, change your door locks and keep your doors and windows locked at all times and change any passwords.
- Notify friends, family and co-workers of the situation and your desire to have no contact with the abuser/stalker. Ask them to do the same, if possible.
- Plan your escape route and think about what you would do in each room if you were to be confronted by the abuser/stalker (How you could get out? What you could do to draw attention to the situation? What you could use to defend yourself and/or buy you time to leave?).
- Alert neighbors to call the police if they see the abuser/stalker at your home or if they hear or see anything suspicious.