

# Smith College Sexual Assault Policy

The Smith College Sexual Assault Policy was created to provide appropriate services and support to survivors of sexual assault. This policy works in conjunction with educational programs designed to increase student awareness about sexual assault on college campuses. Educational programs are sponsored throughout the year by the Health Education office of Smith College Health Services, residence life staff, and various student groups.

## **Reporting an Assault**

The college encourages a student to report a situation in which she believes a sexual assault occurred in order to ensure that appropriate support and resources are provided. It is also important that a sexual assault survivor consider contacting Public Safety immediately (before showering, washing clothing, etc.) so as to preserve evidence for the proof of a criminal offense. Any information regarding a sexual assault on or off the Smith campus can be reported to the Department of Public Safety, College Health Services, or the Dean of Students. Once an incident is reported, the survivor generally determines who is notified. Public Safety will gather information that does not identify the survivor, but which must be reported through the Jeanne Clery Act (sometimes known as the Campus Security Act). Massachusetts law limits the disclosure and dissemination of the identity of survivors of violent sexual crimes.

## **Types of Support Available**

Medical Services are provided by both College Health Services and Cooley Dickinson Hospital. Health Services provides medical evaluation, preventative treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, and emergency contraception. At the request of the survivor, Health Services can coordinate with Public Safety to provide transportation to Cooley Dickinson Hospital. Smith College Health Services provides coverage 24 hours per day, seven days per week when the college is in session.

Cooley Dickinson Hospital provides sexual assault exams, including collection of forensic evidence, clinical evaluation, assessment, and treatment of injuries. Cooley Dickinson Hospital is open twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year.

Counseling Services are provided by the Smith College Counseling Services staff. They provide counseling for crisis and healing, as well as referral to agencies off campus, when applicable. Community resources utilized by the campus community include Everywoman's Center, Victim/Witness Assistance, and the Men's Resource Center. Counseling Services is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week when college is in session.

**Community Services utilized by the campus community include:**

Everywoman's Center - Nelson House, UMass, (413) 545-0800 or 1-800-337-0800

Victim/Witness Assistance Program - Northampton (413) 586-5780 or 0992

Men's Resource Center - Amherst (413) 253-9508

Public Safety provides professionally trained officers, including several state certified sexual assault investigators. Public Safety will assess the situation to provide a safe space for the survivor, to arrange for emergency housing when necessary, to arrange for a hearing on emergency restraining orders, to issue trespass notices against alleged perpetrators, and to offer medical and counseling referrals. In addition, survivors may access other on-going safety options, such as security escorts provided by Public Safety, the change of phone number and privacy restrictions (including restriction of computer and directory information). Public Safety will also attempt to respond to special requests and needs as appropriate. When the survivor decides to file a criminal complaint, Public Safety will conduct an investigation and/or work with appropriate legal authorities including the Hampshire District Attorney's Office and the Victim/Witness Office. Change in Academic and Living Situations may occur upon request by the survivor, if those changes are reasonably available.

**Disciplinary Procedures**

Complaints regarding violation of rules of conduct by Smith College students should be directed to the Dean of Students, and will be processed in accordance with the College Judicial Board procedures. More complete information concerning the judicial process, rights of the student who is the subject of the complaint, rights of the student bringing forward the complaint, and possible sanctions can be found in the Student Conduct and Social Responsibility section of this Handbook. In the case of an alleged sexual assault, the student bringing the complaint forward has the right to be notified about the outcome of the judicial hearing and any sanctions imposed. There is no established time frame for filing a complaint, however survivors are urged to file a complaint as soon as possible.