

## Sexual Assault

### **Policy**

Vincennes University is committed to maintaining an environment free from all exploitation and intimidation based on sex. The University will not tolerate sexual assault or sexual harassment in any form. Vincennes University pursues a variety of initiatives designed to combat incidents of rape, sexual assault, or other forms of non-consensual sexual activity. Non-consensual sexual activity shall include, but not be limited to, situations in which the victim is unable to consent because he or she is physically helpless, mentally incapacitated due to drug or alcohol consumption, or unconscious, regardless of whether the consumption was with the victim's consent.

### **Prevention and Awareness**

A variety of University offices provide educational programming and information designed to increase awareness and prevention of sexual offenses.

- Student Activities (812) 888-4301
- Counseling Center (812) 888-4374
- Campus Police (812) 888-5555

### **If You or a Friend Are the Victim of a Sexual Assault**

1. Get to a safe place and contact the Vincennes University Police immediately at (812) 888-5555 from any phone, or 5555 from an on-campus phone. If the assault occurred off-campus, call 911 immediately.

Upon reporting the incident, the VU Police Department or appropriate law enforcement agency can assist the victim in obtaining medical and counseling services. Although reporting to the appropriate law enforcement agency is recommended, victims may also confidentially report sexual assaults to the Counseling Center at (812) 888- 4374 or seek assistance from other members of the University community.

2. Preserve physical evidence, such as clothing, sheets, and beverages (for date rape drug testing). Do not bathe or shower.
3. Seek medical attention. For evidence collection purposes and for emergency contraception seek medical attention within 72 hours of the assault. The Good Samaritan Hospital Emergency Room provides medical assistance, emergency contraception, HIV testing, and treatment for STDs, and can perform sexual assault evidence collection for prosecution purposes. The Counseling Center can also assist victims in applying for victim's compensation to cover the costs of treatment and counseling.

Good Samaritan Hospital	520 S 7 <sup>th</sup> Street	(812) 882-5220
Knox County Health Department	520 S. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street	(812) 882-8081
(free HIV and Syphilis Testing)		

4. Contact counseling services and/or victims assistance agencies:

- Vincennes University Counseling Center (812) 888-4374
- Hope's Voice (victim assistance program) (812) 899-4673
- Samaritan Center (local mental health center) (812) 886-6800
- IN Coalition Against Sexual Assault 1-800-691-CASA (2272)

5. Victims of alleged sexual assault may seek to have their academic and living situations changed if such changes are reasonably available. Class schedule changes may be requested by contacting the Dean of Students, Beckes Student Union 2<sup>nd</sup> floor or at (812) 888-4301. Living arrangement changes may be requested by contacting the Housing Office, in Clark Hall or at (812) 888-4225.

**Whatever avenue the victim decides to follow for filing a complaint, it is important to follow these steps in order to ensure the possibility of criminal prosecution and/or University student judicial finding.**

### **On Campus Disciplinary Proceedings**

Judicial Affairs within the Dean of Students Office handles all on campus disciplinary proceedings for sexual assault complaints. Both the complainant and the accused student in any non-consensual sexual activity case are entitled to the following rights:

- To be assisted by a procedural advisor during a disciplinary hearing and
- To be informed of the outcome of any disciplinary proceedings conducted within the judicial system

For more information concerning these procedures, contact the Dean of Students Office, Beckes Student Union Room 201, or call (812) 888-4301. Students may also refer to the Standards of Student Behavior within the University Catalog.

Sanctions for violations of University policies regarding sexual assault may include:

- Relocation or loss of campus housing privileges
- Reassignment of academic courses to avoid contact with the complainant and
- Status sanction, including disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion

### **Sex Offender Directory**

Indiana State law requires that all convicted sex offenders register with the county Sheriff in their county of residence. A list of registered sex offenders in Indiana is available from the Indiana Sheriffs' Sex and Violent Offender Registry, which can be found at <http://www.insor.org/insasoweb/>.

## **Sexual Harassment**

### **Policy**

Vincennes University is committed to creating and maintaining a positive learning and working environment for its students and employees and will not tolerate sexual harassment. Vincennes University is committed to preventing sexual harassment and to promptly addressing any violations of the policy.

Sexual harassment is prohibited because it is demeaning and degrading and a form of prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex. It is an affront to an individual's dignity, sense of self, and self-esteem. As such it can have a negative impact on performance at work or in an academic setting. Sexually harassing behaviors are prohibited by the University and will not be tolerated.

Sexual harassment is illegal as a violation of several state and federal laws including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. As a recipient of federal funds, VU must comply with these statutes. Sexual harassment is also prohibited in the Equal opportunity and Affirmative Action Policy adopted by the VU Board of Trustees.

This policy applies to all persons at the University or attending University sponsored classes, events and programs. Visitors to the campus and workers employed by private firms engaged in business on the campus are expected to comply with this policy. The Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action is charged with distributing this policy to the University community and providing educational opportunities appropriate to faculty, staff, and students.

## **Student Bill of Rights**

### **Introduction**

The Vincennes University Student Creed states *"As a Vincennes University student, I commit to a code of civilized behavior. I will practice personal academic integrity; I will respect the dignity of all persons, including myself; I will respect the rights of others; I will not condone bigotry; I will strive for the openness to learn from differences in people, ideas and opinions; I will demonstrate concern for others, their feelings, and their need for conditions which support their work and development. Allegiance to these ideals requires me to refrain from behavior that threatens the freedom and respect every individual deserves."* The Campus Sexual Assault Victim Bill of Rights is a federal law that exists as part of the Higher Education Act.

### **Bill of Rights**

The following Rights shall be accorded to victims of sexual assault that occur:

- On the campus of any public institution of higher education,
- Where the victim or alleged perpetrator is a student at that institution, and/or
- When the victim is a student involved in an off campus sexual assault.

Students have the following rights:

### **Human Dignity Rights**

- To be free from any suggestion that victims must report the crimes to be assured of any other right guaranteed under this policy.
- To have any allegations of sexual assault treated seriously; the right to be treated with dignity.
- To be free from any suggestion that victims are responsible for the commission of crimes against them.
- To be free from any pressure from campus personnel to:
  - report crimes if the victim does not wish to do so,
  - report crimes as lesser offenses than the victim perceives the crime to be,

- refrain from reporting crimes, or
- refrain from reporting crimes to avoid unwanted personal publicity.

### **Rights To Resources On and Off Campus**

- To be notified of existing campus and community based medical, counseling, mental health and student services for victims of sexual assault whether or not the crime is formally reported to campus or civil authorities.
- To have access to campus counseling under the same terms and conditions as apply to other students in their institution seeking such counseling.
- To be informed of and assisted in exercising:
  - any rights to confidential or anonymous testing for sexually transmitted diseases, human immunodeficiency virus, and/or pregnancy
  - any rights that may be provided by law to compel and disclose the results of testing of sexual assault suspects for communicable diseases.

### **Campus Judicial Rights**

- To be afforded the same access to legal assistance as the accused.
- To be afforded the same opportunity to have others present during any campus disciplinary proceeding that is allowed the accused.
- To be notified of the outcome of the sexual assault disciplinary proceeding against the accused.

### **Legal Rights**

- To have any allegation of sexual assault investigated and adjudicated by the appropriate criminal and civil authorities of the jurisdiction in which the sexual assault is reported.
- To receive full and prompt cooperation and assistance of campus personnel in notifying the proper authorities.
- To receive full, prompt, and victim sensitive cooperation of campus personnel with regard to obtaining, securing, and maintaining evidence, including a medical examination when it is necessary to preserve evidence of the assault.
- To be free from any suggestion that victims were contributory negligent or assumed the risk of being assaulted.

### **Campus Intervention Rights**

- To require campus personnel to take reasonable and necessary actions to prevent further unwanted contact of victims by their alleged assailants.
- To be notified of the options for and provided assistance in changing academic and living situations if such changes are reasonably available.

### **Statutory Mandates**

Each campus must guarantee that this Bill of Rights is implemented. It is the obligation of the individual campus governing board to examine resources dedicated to services required to implement the Bill of Rights and to make appropriate requests to increase or reallocate resources where necessary to ensure implementation. Each campus shall make every reasonable effort to

ensure that every student at that institution receives a copy of this document. Nothing in this "Campus Assault Victim's Bill of Rights" shall be construed to preclude or in any way restrict any public or independent institution of higher education in the State from reporting any suspected crime or offense to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.