Immediate Steps to Consider if a Sexual Assault has Occurred

Medical Resources
Mt. Sinai/St. Luke’s Hospital Crime Victims Treatment Center is located on W. 113th st. and Amsterdam, contact number 212-523-4728. Students can go to the ER on their own or call an Advocate from the Sexual Violence Response & Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center (212-854-HELP [4357]) for more information or accompaniment.

- Mt. Sinai/St Luke’s offers a comprehensive medical/GYN exam, treatment (including STI and HIV prophylaxes) and forensic evidence collection by a physician who is certified to handle cases involving sexual assault (SAFE examiner).
- If a student identifies themselves as a survivor of sexual assault upon arrival at the ER, they will be taken to a separate, private room in the ER.
- The Crime Victims Board (CVB) covers all medical costs and students will not be charged as long as they complete the appropriate paperwork. If the student identifies themselves as a survivor of sexual assault at the ER, this paperwork should be provided automatically at the ER. No NYPD report is required for compensation.

Columbia Health Services (212-854-7426 [by appointment or walk-in])
- Provides comprehensive medical/GYN exam and treatment (incl. STI prophylaxis).

A note about confidentiality. Most Columbia, Teachers College, and Barnard staff and faculty are obligated reporters who will respect the privacy of information, but cannot generally promise complete confidentiality, as they are required to report to the Title IX Coordinator.

Confidential Resources:
Sexual Violence Response & Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center 212-854-HELP (4357)

1. GET TO A SAFE PLACE

After experiencing a traumatizing event such as a sexually assault, it can be important to find a place where you feel comfortable and safe from harm.

What to do if you have been sexually assaulted?

2. CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

Call 911 or Public Safety for immediate police protection and assistance; OR
Call an Advocate from the Sexual Violence Response and Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center, 212-854-HELP (4357).

3. SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION

- To check for injuries; to prevent sexually transmitted infections; to prevent pregnancy
- To collect evidence (evidence collection in NYC does not require you to file a police report)
- Mt. Sinai/St. Luke’s Hospital Crime Victims Treatment Center at 212-523-4728; 24hr specialized sexual assault forensic examiners (SAFE)

4. PRESERVE EVIDENCE

For the purposes of evidence collection we suggest that you avoid:
- drinking
- eating
- showering
- combing your hair
- brushing your teeth
- changing your clothes
- brushing your teeth
- changing your clothes

If you have done any of these things, evidence can still be collected and remains important to seek medical attention.

If you have changed your clothes, take the clothes you were wearing at the time of the assault to the hospital in a paper bag (not a plastic bag).

If you have not changed your clothes, it may be a good idea to bring a change of clothes to the hospital.

5. CONSIDER TALKING WITH A COUNSELOR

Counseling is often helpful for survivors because it provides a safe place to talk about your experience and your feelings.

Counseling services/resources on campus:
- Advocates (Sexual Violence Response & Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center)

6. CONSIDER

- Reporting the crime to NYPD or filing a complaint
- Filing a complaint with the college
- Remembering it’s not your fault

8/21/2014

More information visit: health.columbia.edu/emergency/sexual-assault

Teachrs College Preventing Sexual and Gender Discrimination Harassment and Sexual Assault - Title IX is on the web at http://www.tc.columbia.edu/titleix/
Definitions of Gender-Based or Sexual Misconduct

Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment

Sexual Assault: Any form of sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object or any intentional sexual touching, however slight, with any object without a person's consent. Intentional sexual contact includes contact with the breasts, buttocks, groin, or touching another with any of these body parts, or making another person touch any of these body parts; any intentional bodily contact in a sexual manner.

Sexual Harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, physical, or visual conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's education or educational activities; or
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting that individual; or
3. Such conduct has the effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's employment, academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, demeaning, offensive, campus or living environment.

Sexual harassment can occur regardless of the relationship, position or respective sex of the parties. Same sex harassment or harassment because of one's sexual orientation or gender identity also constitutes a violation of this policy.

Sexual misconduct also includes dating or domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and sexual assault.

Consent: The presence of consent involves unambiguous communication and mutual agreement for the act in which the parties are/were involved. An incapacitated person never can give consent.

Sexual misconduct between faculty, staff, and students also violates this policy.

Examples of Gender-Based or Sexual Misconduct include:

- Pressure for a date or a romantic or intimate relationship
- Unwelcome touching, kissing, hugging, or massaging
- Pressure for or forced sexual activity
- Unnecessary and unwelcome references to various parts of the body
- Belittling remarks about a person's gender or sexual orientation based in gender stereotyping
- Inappropriate sexual innuendos or humor
- Videotaping and photographing someone without consent
- Obscene gestures of a sexual or gender-based nature
- Offensive sexual graffiti, pictures, or posters
- Sexually explicit profanity
- Use of email, the Internet, or other forms of digital media to facilitate any of the above referenced behaviors

For more information about policy and grievance process, as well as relevant contact information, review the Gender-Based Misconduct Policy at: ssgsm.columbia.edu

Reporting / Institutional Response to Gender-Based and Sexual Misconduct

Reporting Options

These on-campus offices will make every effort to keep information private to the extent possible, and provide guidance regarding what privacy limitations may be. Absolute confidentiality CANNOT be promised. The College offers multiple options for reporting.

TC Public Safety (212-678-3333)

TC Title IX Coordinator (212-678-3391)

Reports of alleged violation of the College's Protection from Harassment Policy and Gender Based Misconduct Policy for Students may be filed with the TC Title IX Coordinator. Her email is jrobinson@tc.columbia.edu and her office is in 128 Zankel.

Gender-Based Misconduct Office

(212-854-1717) - Columbia University

Reports for alleged gender based misconduct by a student can be filed with the Columbia University Gender-Based Misconduct Office. Report online at ssgsm.columbia.edu

Human Resources (212-678-3196, 120 Whittier Hall)

Randy Glazer, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources - TC glazer@tc.columbia.edu

Provost Office and Harassment Panel (212-678-3991)

Dr. Katie Embree, Associate Provost embree@tc.columbia.edu

Institutional Response

TC takes all reports of harassment and gender-based misconduct very seriously. We strive to prevent, educate, and respond regarding these matters. The offices listed above can discuss both interim measures and longer term options. TC also addresses other forms of discriminatory harassment.

Teachers College Protection from Harassment Policy

http://www.tc.columbia.edu/policylibrary/Protection_From_Harassment

Students may also to file a report with the New York City Police Department. The College system and police work independently from one another. Students can file reports with the College, with NYPD, or with both.

The College does not limit the time frame for filing a report of gender-based misconduct. Reports can be submitted at any time following an incident, although the College's ability to investigate and take any action may be limited by the length of time between the alleged incident and the report.

Reporting and Community Support

Criminal Justice (Off-campus)

Students may file a report with the Sex Crimes Unit of the NYPD 212-267-RAPE (7273). The unit can open a case and initiate an investigation. The case materials are sent to the District Attorney, who decides whether to prosecute. The complainant should be notified if the DA decides to proceed with the case.

The complainant can contact the DA directly by phone or visit to inquire about the likelihood that the case will be pursued without contacting the police first. NYC District Attorney’s Crime/Special Victims Bureaus:

- Manhattan (sex crimes hotline) 212-335-9373
- Manhattan (child sexual abuse) 212-335-4300
- Brooklyn (sex crimes bureau) 718-250-3170
- Brooklyn (counseling) 718-250-3820
- Bronx 718-590-2195
- Queens 718-286-6505
- Staten Island 718-556-7125

We strongly recommend that complainants bring someone for support when filing a police report and/or talking to the DA. They can contact a CU Advocate at 212-854-HELP (4357) or TC Public Safety at 212-678-3333 for more information.

Hotlines

- Sexual Violence Response & Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center for TC, Columbia, and Barnard (La'Shawn Rivera, Director): 212-854-HELP (4357) with 24/7 on-call Advocates available. Location Hours (walk-ins)
  - Lerner Hall 9:00 am - 8:00 pm
  - Hewitt Hall (Barnard) 9:00 am - 11:00 pm

- Rape Abuse and Incest National Network 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) confidential 24 hrs or their online hotline at https://ohl.rainn.org/online/.

- NYC Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project 212-714-1141, 24 hours

- Safe Horizon Rape and Sexual Assault Hotline 212-227-3000

- SAKHI for South Asian Women 212-868-6741, weekdays between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm EST

- New York City Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-621-HOPE (4673), 24 hours

- National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), 1-800-787-3244 (TTY), 24 hrs

- National Center for Victims of Crime Stalking Resource Center 1-800- F-YI (394)-CALL (1155), M-F, 8:30am- 8:30 pm EST

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