

Actions to be considered immediately following a sexual assault

1) Contact an advocate

Call (513) 745-1000.

As with any traumatic event, survivors can experience an array of feelings and reactions. Xavier advocates are available to assist you immediately by providing:

- Confidential, emotional support
- Assistance in identifying your options
- Help explaining processes like reporting, University disciplinary procedures and/or obtaining a forensic exam
- Accompaniment to the hospital, police, etc
- Referrals to campus and community resources
- Follow up support and advocacy

2) Medical attention/Evidence collection exam (Rape Kit)

University of Cincinnati Hospital SANE Program

After you have been sexually assaulted, consider going to UC Hospital for a forensic evidence collection exam or a rape kit. *Washing, taking a shower, going to the bathroom, brushing your teeth, etc may diminish the ability of an examiner to collect evidence.* To preserve evidence, you may want to postpone doing these things until you have received an exam. (Clothes worn during the assault should also be stored in a brown paper bag to preserve as evidence.) Remember, the physical evidence can be preserved by law enforcement in case you decide to make a report later. Having a family member, friend or advocate with you during the examination may help you feel more at ease. UC will also provide medical attention including treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's), and physical injuries.

Medical Exam-from a private physician, hospital or clinic

Even if you decide not to have a forensic evidence collection exam, receiving medical attention is important. The idea of seeing a doctor may seem unpleasant, but medical attention can help your immediate physical health and may prevent further damage to your health. Many sexual assault survivors find that receiving medical attention helps them to regain a sense of control over their bodies. Make sure your doctor understands your situation. You may be more sensitive than a person who hasn't been assaulted and may need more time and reassurance during medical procedures, no matter how routine. You can get treatment for your physical injuries and be tested for sexually transmitted infections (STI's), including HIV, either at a hospital or by your private doctor.

3) Consider Reporting the Crime to Law Enforcement:

One of the most important decisions with which you may struggle is whether to report the crime to the police. Whether you decide to report or not, you deserve to know your options and what services are available. If you are considering reporting, talk with an advocate to learn more about the reporting process. Additionally, a victim has many other general rights. Explore these with someone you trust who knows the law.

- Sexual assaults occurring on campus can be reported to Campus Police at 745-1000.
- Crimes occurring off-campus can be reported to the police agency with jurisdiction where the assault occurred.

4) Consider Reporting to Xavier University

Sexual violence committed by a student is a violation of the student conduct code. Students or employees who commit a sexual assault against another student or employee can be reported to the University. To explore this option in more detail, please contact an advocate.