

## What to Do if it Happens to You

If the assault just occurred:

- Get to a safe place as soon as possible
- Try to preserve all the physical evidence (it may be possible to collect evidence of the offense up to 5 days following the assault)
  - \* **Don't shower or bathe**
  - \* **Don't brush your teeth**
  - \* Save the clothing that you were wearing in a brown paper bag
- If the assault took place in your home, do not rearrange and/or clean up anything
- Seek Support
  - \* Talk with someone you trust to get immediate support (friend, family, RA, advocate)
  - \* MSU VOICE Center has a 24-Hour Confidential Support Line 406-994-7069. Trained advocates are available to talk with you about all your options & provide support.
- Seek medical attention
  - \* The Bozeman Deaconess ER has trained nurses who can meet with you, collect evidence through a forensic rape exam, check for injuries, provide emergency contraception, and limited STD preventative medication.
- Decide whether to report the crime
  - \* **Under Montana's FREPP (Forensic Rape Examination Payment Program)**, you can have evidence collected and stored without reporting the crime. You can have up to one year to decide if you want to report the crime and use the evidence to press charges.
  - \* MSU Police Department has trained and experienced investigators who are members of the Gallatin County Sexual Assault Response Team. They can also speak with you about your options.

## Counseling/Support Options

If you are dealing with an unwanted sexual experience, it may be useful to talk with someone who is knowledgeable about the issue. People in this situation may feel a wide variety of emotions such as being confused, outraged, frightened, overwhelmed, scared, sad, anxious, and depressed.

Being assaulted can create a host of practical and emotional consequences. While you may want to talk to someone you trust, such as a friend or family member, there are also confidential campus resources available including the MSU Counseling & Psychological services, VOICE Center, and MSU **Police Department. MSU's Counseling & Psychological Services** provides free and highly confidential counseling to students which can be an extremely important part of the healing process.

Many survivors seek out a supervisor, professor, or individual in a position of trust to help provide support. Be advised: some of these people may have an obligation to report.

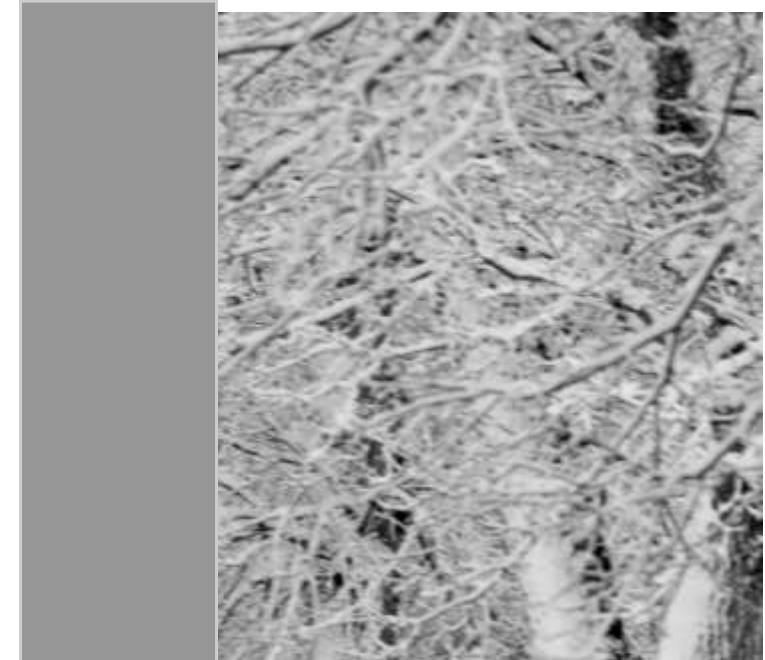
When you seek help from professionals, first ask what level of confidentiality they can provide, who they are required to tell if you were to disclose information regarding an incident. That way, you can make an informed decision.

Some things you might discuss:

- Figuring out what you feel and think about what is going on.
- Getting information that will help you assess the situation, and figure out what you want to do.
- Talking about how to manage your academics or work given your situation.
- Getting help with changing your classes or working with your professors.
- Talking about making a safety plan, if needed.
- Getting medical treatment if you have injuries or are worried about your health.
- Changing where you live to get some space, or safety.
- Reporting to the police, the MSU Dean of Students, or the Title IX Coordinator if appropriate.

MSU Counseling & Psychological Services  
Confidential & Free Counseling 994-4531

MSU VOICE Center  
24-Hour Confidential Support Line 994-7069  
Information, Support, and Advocacy



## SUPPORT SERVICES and OPTIONS In Case of Sexual Assault



## Medical Options

Especially in the first 72 hours, medical concerns like pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STI) or injuries may be important to address. Even after 72 hours have passed, treatment is available and may put your mind at ease. There is a difference between getting treatment from a medical professional and having medical evidence collected for a possible investigation.

**Evidence collection, often referred to as the “rape kit,”** is done at the Bozeman Deaconess Emergency Room by a trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. You can learn more about the forensic rape exam by calling the 24-Hour VOICE Center Support Line at 406-994-7069 or the Bozeman Help Center at 406-586-3333. Advocates are available to meet you at the hospital to offer additional **support and information.** Through Montana’s Forensic Rape Examination Payment Program (FREPP), you can have evidence collected even if you do not know whether or not you want to report the crime to the police. If you think there is a possibility that you will decide to report the assault to the police, it is best to get the forensic exam done as soon as possible. The exam itself will be paid for and you have up to a year to decide if you want to report and use the evidence.

If you have injuries related to an assault, and want treatment, but no evidence collection, please go to the doctor. Keep in mind that if you are under the age of 18 or have significant physical injury, doctors may be required to report the assault to the police. If you want, you can ask about reporting requirements before receiving treatment.

If you do not feel you want or need an emergency room visit or evidence collection, but are concerned about pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections, you have several options:

MSU Student Health Services 406-994-2311,  
Bridger Care 406-587-0681,

or your primary-care physician can provide emergency contraception and/or STI testing and treatment.

For more information about all your options, visit:  
[www.montana.edu/voice](http://www.montana.edu/voice)

## Reporting Options

As a student at MSU, you have several options regarding reporting the crime to authorities.

### University Judicial Procedures

If you were assaulted by a student, you can report the incident to the Dean of Students Office, 406-994-2826, which adjudicates the Student Code of Conduct. The Dean of Students Office is responsible for ensuring that students comply with university policy related to student conduct by promoting student learning and development. Students may file a report with the Dean Of Students office if they have been the victim of an action that violates the Student Conduct Code.

The Dean of Students, with oversight by the Title IX Coordinator (Director of Human Resources and Affirmative Action) will investigate the report and either propose sanctions or conduct a hearing where charges of misconduct are adjudicated by the University Student Conduct Board (comprised of faculty, staff and students). When allegations of sexual violence or misconduct are brought to the Dean of Students office, and a respondent is found to have violated the Code of Conduct, serious sanctions will be issued to help ensure that such actions are never repeated. Depending on the case, the Dean of Students may impose sanctions that include but are not limited to, no-contact orders, educational mandates, suspensions or dismissals from the University. *\* MSU protects victims of sexual assault by not charging them with alcohol or drug violations of the Student Code of Conduct.*

The MSU Judicial process in the Dean of Students office is independent of the Criminal Justice process. Victims of sexual assault can choose to pursue charges in either system, both systems, or to not bring charges against their perpetrator. Advocates can help you assess this option as well. If you would like more information on the Student Code of Conduct and judicial process, you can visit [http://www2.montana.edu/policy/student\\_conduct/cg600.html](http://www2.montana.edu/policy/student_conduct/cg600.html) or contact VOICE Center at 994-7069.

If you were assaulted by a faculty or staff member, you can report to the Director of Human Resources and Affirmative Action **who investigates infractions of University policy and violations of Title IX and the University’s sexual assault policy.** Any student or visitor with questions or concerns about sex discrimination or sexual harassment or who believes that he or she has been the victim of sex discrimination or sexual harassment may contact the Title IX Coordinator for assistance.

### Criminal Investigation/Prosecution

MSU encourages reporting to the police at the earliest possibility; but even if a victim chooses not to report immediately, a report can be made later. Reporting an assault is not the same as pressing charges and does not mean you have to go to court. At the MSU Police Department, you can meet a detective or officer to make a report without immediately triggering a full scale investigation. You can learn more about the process, meet the people involved, and make an informed decision. *\* MSU Police Department protects victims of sexual assault by not charging them with alcohol or drug charges.*

**If you make the decision to press charges, an investigation will occur and the City or County Attorney’s Office will** review the case and determine whether or not to file charges in the case. Investigations can take several weeks and/or months to complete before a decision may be made about whether or not to file charges. If charges are filed, a victim-advocate from the **Attorney’s Office will keep you notified of the case and assist you through the process.**

For more information about reporting a sexual assault to the police, visit <http://www.montana.edu/police/crime%20reporting.shtml>

**You can also file an anonymous report about the crime (or any crime you witnessed) through MSU’s Silent Witness Program** by emailing [switness@montana.edu](mailto:switness@montana.edu). Visit <http://www.montana.edu/police/silent.shtml> for more information.

If the assault happened a while ago, or if you are not sure you are ready to go right to the Dean of Students Office or University Police, you can call the **VOICE Center’s 24-Hour Confidential Support Line** at 406-994-7069 and talk through the issues. If you would like to report, but are apprehensive about talking with the police or the Dean of Students, a VOICE Center advocate can help schedule an interview in a comfortable setting.

# Sexual Assault Statement

Students at Montana State University have the right to live and learn in an academic environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. At MSU, we aim to reduce the occurrence of sexual assault on campus by creating a community intolerant of sexual violence. We strive to empower students to disclose sexual assault and to have access to medical, mental health, and advocacy services.

**MSU's sexual assault policy applies to students, staff, faculty, and other academic personnel.** For complete information about **MSU's sexual assault policy**, visit [http://www2.montana.edu/policy/security\\_report/sexual\\_assault.html](http://www2.montana.edu/policy/security_report/sexual_assault.html)

**MSU's sexual assault and sexual misconduct policies help to facilitate an academic and living environment that is free of sexual violence and harassment while complying with the provisions outlined in the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.** Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by **Title IX**. For more information on **Title IX and MSU's sexual misconduct policy**, visit <http://www.montana.edu/hraa/TitleIX.html>

## Definitions

What is sexual harassment and sexual assault?

- Sexual harassment can include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery and sexual coercion.
- **A violation of a person's physical & emotional well being.**
- A crime prosecutable under Montana law.
- An act of power and control.
- Sexual assault is NOT an expression of love, passion, or sexual desire.
- Sexual assault is NOT your fault

Sexual assault can happen to anyone, regardless of gender, race, class, age, size, appearance, or sexual orientation. Alcohol is the most common predatory (date rape) drug, in approximately 90% of cases either the victim or the perpetrator is intoxicated. The assailant is an acquaintance in the majority of reported cases.

If you have experienced a sexual assault, you may be faced with many decisions to make about your own physical and emotional well-being as well as filing reports through the University or law enforcement. The following information will provide a good overview, but it may be helpful to speak with an advocate or counselor about your options.

## Montana State University Resources

### **VOICE Center** (Victim Options in the Campus Environment)

**24-Hour Confidential Support Line 406-994-7069**

Information, Options, Support, Advocacy

Alanna Sherstad or any VOICE Center Advocate

voice@montana.edu

SUB 370 (Walk-In Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm)

### **MSU Police Department**

406-994-2121 (24-Hour Line) or 911

Silent Witness Program: switness@montana.edu

### **Dean of Students Office**

Matt Caires and/or Erin Macdonald-Peck

mcaires@montana.edu or erin.macdonald3@montana.edu

406-994-2826 SUB174

### **Title IX Coordinator**

Diane Letendre, dletendre@montana.edu

406-994-5326 Hamilton Hall 118

### **MSU Counseling and Psychological Services**

Free, confidential counseling service for Students

406-994-4531 211 Swingle Hall

### **MSU Student Health Service**

Free medical services for eligible MSU students

406-994-2311 Swingle Hall

## Local Bozeman Resources

### **Help Center & Sexual Assault Counseling Center**

A 24-hour confidential community crisis line, to talk about sexual assault, suicide, concerns about a friend, and more 406-586-3333 (24-hour line)

### **HAVEN**

**Bozeman's domestic violence shelter**

406-586-4111 (24-hour line)