

IMMEDIATE GUIDELINES IN THE EVENT YOU ARE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

1. GO TO A SAFE PLACE AND NOTIFY SOMEONE IMMEDIATELY AND SEEK ADVICE.

The purpose of notifying someone immediately is for you to receive information regarding the options available to you after you have been sexually assaulted. The options include seeking medical care, seeking psychological assistance, requesting informal mediation, filing a formal complaint, and/or filing criminal charges. It may be helpful if a friend or neighbor accompanies you when you notify one of the resources listed below and on the next page. You are strongly urged to go to The Citadel Infirmary immediately after the incident. They have procedures in place to have you seen and evaluated promptly by a psychologist, a gynecologist, People Against Rape, etc. Medical decisions need to be made as soon as possible regarding evaluation and/or treatment of potential sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and whether to take the “morning after” birth control therapy. Counselors can help you decide whether you want to press charges, etc.

A. Resources to contact, in the recommended order for assistance and advice include:

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| 1) The Citadel Infirmary: | 953-5447 |
| 2) The Citadel Counseling Center: | 953-6799 |
| After Hours (Infirmary): | 953-5447 |
| 3) The Citadel Public Safety: | 953-5114 |
| 4) Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC): | |
| ▪ Lt. Colonel Kathy Jones, Asst. Dir. of Admissions | 953-5975 |
| ▪ Assistant Commandant of Cadets for Administration and Coeducation | 953-6707 |
| ▪ Major Robert Pickering, Director of Multi-Cultural Student Services | 953-5096 |
| ▪ Ms. Mary Ellen Huddleston, Director of Intramural Programs | 953-7955 |
| ▪ Ms. Kelly Simpson, Senior Women’s Administrator | 953-6604 |
| ▪ Ms. Bridgette Beasley, Deputy Director, Human Resources | 953-6989 |

- 5) The Citadel Ombudsperson: 953-7953 */367-8340 (cell)
- 6) The Citadel Chaplain to the Corps: 953-5049 *
- 7) Your Cadet Human Affairs Team Members

B. Additional resources for cadets to contact for assistance include:

- 1) the officer-in-charge (OC) in your battalion
- 2) your company or battalion tactical officer
- 3) your cadet chain of command

C. Off-campus resources to contact for assistance include:

- 1) Charleston Police Department: 911
- 2) "People Against Rape," a local, non-profit community agency specializing in assisting victims of sexual assault; 24 hour phone #: 722-RAPE
- 3) RAPE CRISIS CENTER – Medical University of South Carolina Emergency Room (MUSC): 792-9127

- 2. **DO NOT STRAIGHTEN OR CLEAN UP THE SCENE OF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DO NOT BATHE, DOUCHE, OR CHANGE CLOTHES.** The purpose of this guideline is to maintain any physical evidence of the sexual assault. If you choose to file a formal complaint or a criminal charge, physical evidence can support your complaint. If you clean up the scene of the sexual assault, or if you bathe, douche, or change clothes, you may destroy evidence needed to support a formal complaint or criminal charge. For example, physical evidence from your clothing, skin, or blood, hair samples on your body, clothing or fabric from the scene of the assault, evidence under your fingernails, semen stains on you, your clothing, or from the scene of the assault, etc. can all be preserved and noted in a police report. Similarly, physical evidence includes any injuries sustained during the assault including bruises, abrasions, swelling, teeth marks, and lacerations that can be documented in a medical chart. Formal documentation of evidence and injuries in a police or medical chart can be critical if you choose to file either a formal complaint or a criminal charge.
- 3. **WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL, DECIDE WHETHER YOU WISH TO NOTIFY THE POLICE.** A qualified professional may include a doctor, nurse, counselor, ombudsperson, either at The Citadel or off-campus. The Citadel strongly encourages individuals to formally report crimes. Keep in mind that reporting the crime does not require you to file criminal charges. Three key points include:

- A. You may be in shock immediately after the assault and find it difficult to think clearly. Obtaining assistance with decision making from a qualified professional is important. Reporting to police and preserving evidence will allow you to file criminal charges later should you choose to file charges.
 - B. If you have a preference regarding the gender of police officer you would like to speak with, state your preference clearly. Most police departments attempt to accommodate such requests to the greatest degree possible.
 - C. Even if you do not file criminal charges, information provided to the police may help protect others. Remember, many perpetrators of sexual assault will attempt to commit this crime repeatedly.
- 4. HOSPITAL INFORMATION:** If the sexual assault occurred within 72 hours of the incident, all Citadel personnel will encourage you to go to a hospital emergency room for a medical evaluation. Emergency room personnel consider individuals who have been sexually assaulted to be a high priority for evaluation, but keep in mind that life-threatening cases are their first priority, so you may have to wait. However, if you wait beyond 72 hours after the sexual assault, evidence will no longer be available and will make prosecution, if desired, at a later time very difficult. Some suggestions include:
- A. Bring a friend to wait with you, if possible.
 - B. Bring a change of clothes to wear after the medical evaluation, since the clothes worn during the assault will be taken, if you choose to request the collection of physical evidence. If you removed the clothes you were wearing at the time of the sexual assault, put them in a paper bag and bring them with you to the hospital.
- 5. THE PHYSICAL EXAM AT THE HOSPITAL:** You most likely will be evaluated by an emergency room resident, physician, or a nurse practitioner for any injuries that may have occurred during the sexual assault. You will be taken to the General Clinical Research Clinic (GCRC) on the second floor, where you will be seen by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, and receive an exam to assess possible internal injuries. Women may also have a blood sample taken in order to be tested for a pre-existing pregnancy. Women and men may also have a blood sample taken in order to be tested for any sexually transmitted diseases. With regard to treatment, you will be offered treatment for external and internal injuries and medication to prevent and/or treat any possible sexually transmitted diseases. Women may be offered “morning after” birth control, in order to help prevent pregnancy which may result from a rape. During your visit, you may request to speak with a psychiatric nurse, psychologist, counselor, or social worker to help you begin to cope with the experience. If the sexual assault occurred more than 72 hours before you arrive at the hospital, or if you refuse to open a police report, then you will be sent directly to the follow-up clinic for treatment.
- 6. THE COLLECTION OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AT THE HOSPITAL:** You may request that a hospital staff member complete the procedure to collect physical evidence of the sexual

assault. This procedure, which is sometimes referred to as completing a “rape kit,” may involve photographing physical injuries, preserving samples of semen, blood or other bodily fluids, and/or collecting hair samples from your body or clothing. It is important to note that you can choose to receive medical treatment at a hospital and choose NOT to allow the collection of physical evidence of the sexual assault. A “rape kit” can only be opened if the victim agrees to filing a police report and less than 72 hours has expired from the time of the sexual assault and the victim’s exam at the hospital.