

# Sexual Violence, Domestic or Dating Violence and Stalking

Education and Resources  
2020-2021



THE CITADEL

THE MILITARY COLLEGE  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*This handbook is designed for students or employees who have experienced sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.*

*The Citadel cares about you, your safety, and your well-being. We want you to be informed and to understand your rights and options.*

*If you have any questions about the material in this brochure, feel free to contact The Citadel Title IX Coordinator, Valerie Mercado, at (843) 953-6881 or [vmercado@citadel.edu](mailto:vmercado@citadel.edu).*

## **Confidentiality**

Survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking may have questions about how their information will be safeguarded. Survivors are not required to file a Formal Complaint of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking to the police or The Citadel. You can receive support services from The Citadel regardless of whether you file a Formal Complaint, but are encouraged to do so.

The Citadel recognizes and honors privilege granted by applicable statutes. Citadel licensed psychologists, mental health counselors, and physicians and nurses working in the Infirmary are not required to disclose any information concerning a survivor or sexual violence, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking to The Citadel Title IX Coordinator without the survivor's consent.

Our Victim Advocate, Janet Shealy, is recognized with institutional confidentiality. Although a legally recognized privilege does not attach to her role, The Citadel respects the survivor's expectation of privacy to the extent permissible by law while ensuring compliance with other reporting obligations. Individuals with institutional confidentiality are required to report the nature, date, time and general location of an allegation to the Title IX Coordinator. Unless a survivor consents to the release of his/her name, their personally identifiable information will not be released to the Title IX Coordinator.

# Misconduct Violations

## Sexual Harassment

Sexual Harassment is unwelcome, sexual, sex-based, and/or gender-based verbal, written, online, and/or physical conduct.

Examples of Sexual Harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- Hostile environment harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation (see definitions below);
- Lewd or sexually suggestive comments, jokes, or innuendoes;
- Asking or commenting about a person's sexuality or spreading rumors about a person's sexual activities;
- Performing sexual gestures or touching oneself sexually in front of others or publicly exposing one's own parts or those of another;
- Persistent, unwelcome flirtation, requests for dates, advances, propositions, or demands of a sexual nature that are not mutually agreeable to both parties;
- Intentionally blocking or cornering another's passage or other intimidating types of restrictive behavior;
- Commenting about or inappropriately touching, fondling, patting, pinching, or deliberate brushing against a person's body (involving body parts other than genitalia; if any form of touching involves genitalia, this constitutes sexual assault); and
- Sending sexually obscene messages or spreading rumors by computer, email phone and/or social networking sites.

## Sexual Assault

Sexual Assault is any intentional sexual touching, however slight, with any object, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by force.

Consent to any one or prior sexual act does not constitute consent to any other or future sexual act. Consent to sexual contact or activity may be withdrawn at any time, in which case the activity must cease immediately. Consent cannot be obtained by physical force, threats, or intimidation. Consent is required regardless of

whether the person *initiating* the act is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Consent cannot be given when a person is incapacitated, which occurs when an individual lacks the ability to knowingly choose to participate in sexual activity. Incapacitation may be caused by a lack of consciousness or being asleep, being involuntarily restrained, or can exist if an individual's ability to make decisions is otherwise compromised. Depending on the degree of intoxication, someone who is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicants may be incapacitated and therefore unable to consent.

### **Sexual Exploitation**

Sexual Exploitation occurs when one person takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for his/her own advantage or benefit, or to benefit or advantage anyone other than the one being exploited.

### **Hostile Environment**

A hostile environment is created when sexual harassment is severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it interferes with, denies, or limits someone's ability to participate in or benefit from The Citadel's educational programs or activities.

### **Intimate Partner Violence**

Intimate partner violence, which is also referred to as dating violence, domestic violence, and relationship violence, includes any act of violence or threatened violence against an individual by a person who is, or has been, involved in a sexual, dating, domestic, or other intimate relationship with that individual. Intimate partner violence can encompass a broad range of behavior, including, but not limited to, physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence, and economic abuse. It may take the form of threats, assault, property damage, and violence or threat of violence to one's self, one's sexual or romantic partner, or to the family members or friends of the sexual or romantic partner.

### **Stalking**

Stalking is generally a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, communications, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a

reasonable person to become alarmed or be in fear of harm or injury, including physical, psychological, or emotional harm. Stalking may include repeatedly telephoning or following someone in a way that causes them alarm or discomfort, or cyber stalking, a particular form of stalking in which electronic media such as the internet, social networks, blogs, cell phones, texts, or other similar devices or forms of contact are used to pursue, harass, intimidate, threaten, or make unwelcome contact with another person. Stalking generally involves one person's obsessive and unwanted behavior toward another person.

## **Retaliation**

Any action, directly or through others, which is aimed to deter a reasonable person from reporting sexual misconduct or participating in an investigation or hearing or action that is done in response to such activities. This includes but is not limited to intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any individual (i) for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 or its implementing regulations; or (ii) because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing.

## **PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE**

In the immediate aftermath of a sexual assault, the most important thing for you to do is to get to a safe place. Whether it be in your home, with a friend, or a family member, your immediate safety is what matters most. We urge you to seek medical attention as soon as it is safe to do so, including a specialized medical examination, to collect important evidence that may help confirm the identity of your attacker. In addition, to preserve important DNA evidence after a sexual assault, you should make every effort to NOT:

- Bathe or shower
- Use the restroom
- Change clothes
- Comb hair
- Clean up the crime scene
- Move anything your attacker may have touched

Even if you have not yet decided whether to report the crime, receiving a specialized medical exam soon after your attack and preserving important evidence will improve the chances that the police can access and evaluate the stored evidence in the future. For more detailed information on this important topic, go to the Rape, Abuse, and Incest Network website <https://rainn.org> .

## REQUESTING ACCOMODATIONS

Persons can request accommodations if their safety or well-being is at risk by contacting the Title IX Coordinator or Janet Shealy, Director of CARE. Examples of accomodations include changing academic schedules or on-campus housing assignments, campus escorts, and adjustments to work assignments.

## ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES

### Confidential Reporting Options

Students who wish to obtain confidential assistance or assistance in accessing off-campus resources without making a Formal Complaint to The Citadel may do so by speaking with a confidential resource as identified in the list below:

#### **Janet Shealy**

*Director of Campus Advocacy, Response, and Education (CARE)*

105 Thompson Hall

(843) 953-7277 (office)

(843) 425-1315 (cell)

[Shealyj1@citadel.edu](mailto:Shealyj1@citadel.edu)

#### **The Citadel Counseling Center**

203 Richardson Ave.

(843) 953-6799

#### **Ombudspersons**

Colonel Robert Pickering, Jr.

37 Thompson Hall

(843) 953-5096 (office)

(843) 437- 9645 (cell)

[robert.pickering@citadel.edu](mailto:robert.pickering@citadel.edu) or [ombud@citadel.edu](mailto:ombud@citadel.edu)

Dr. Grant Goodrich  
The Krause Center  
201 Richardson Ave.  
(843) 953-4366 (office)  
(843) 641-8305 (cell)  
[ggoodrich@citadel.edu](mailto:ggoodrich@citadel.edu) or [ombud@citadel.edu](mailto:ombud@citadel.edu)

Major Shamus Gillen  
120 Bond Hall, Admissions Office  
(843) 953-4830 (office)  
(843) 743-9847 (cell)  
[Shamus.gillen@citadel.edu](mailto:Shamus.gillen@citadel.edu) or [ombud@citadel.edu](mailto:ombud@citadel.edu)

### **The Citadel Chaplain to the Corps of Cadets**

CDR Joe Molina  
Summerall Chapel

## **Non-Confidential Reporting Options**

### **Title IX Coordinator**

Valerie Mercado  
*Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer*  
Bond Hall Rm 192  
(843) 953-6881/(724) 433-0462  
[vmercado@citadel.edu](mailto:vmercado@citadel.edu)

### **Deputy Title IX Coordinators**

Kathy Kroupa  
*Sr. Associate Athletic Director*  
(843) 953-6604  
[kkroupa@citadel.edu](mailto:kkroupa@citadel.edu)

Shawn Edwards  
*Chief Diversity Officer*  
(843) 953-6989  
[Shawn.edwards@citadel.edu](mailto:Shawn.edwards@citadel.edu)

Sergeant Major Jason P. Moffitt  
*United States Marine Corps (Ret)*  
1 BN TAC NCO, Murray Barracks  
(843) 953-0503 | (561) 704-8590  
[jmoffitt@citadel.edu](mailto:jmoffitt@citadel.edu)

Chief Master Sergeant Jennifer jk Kersey  
*United States Air Force (Ret)*  
1 BN, B Co. TAC, Murray Barracks  
(843) 953-5535 | (253) 495-7615  
[jkersey@citadel.edu](mailto:jkersey@citadel.edu)

Major Matthew D. Raines  
*United States Marine Corps Reserve*  
5 BN, P Co. TAC, Stevens Barracks  
(843) 953-8171 | (843) 901-1488  
[rainesm1@citadel.edu](mailto:rainesm1@citadel.edu)

Captain Wouter Sijtsma  
*Royal Netherlands Air Force*  
1 BN, A Co. TAC, Murray Barracks  
(843) 953-0505  
[wsijtsma@citadel.edu](mailto:wsijtsma@citadel.edu)

Pam King  
*Office of Institutional Research*  
Bond Hall 366  
(843) 953-6790 | (843) 670-1898  
[kingp1@citadel.edu](mailto:kingp1@citadel.edu)

### **Office of the Commandant**

COL Heyward Hutson  
*Assistant Commandant for Discipline*  
(843) 953- 6931  
[hhutson@citadel.edu](mailto:hhutson@citadel.edu)

### **The Citadel Department of Public Safety**

Off Campus: 9-1-1 | On Campus: 8-1-1 (campus phones only)  
Office (843) 953-5114  
[psaf@citadel.edu](mailto:psaf@citadel.edu)  
208 Richardson Ave.  
Charleston, SC 29403

## OFF-CAMPUS RESOURCES

- South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), (803) 737-9000 (24/7); or the Ninth Circuit Solicitor.
- People Against Rape, a local, non-profit community agency specializing in assisting victims of sexual assault, (843) 745-0144 (24/7);
- Medical University of South Carolina Emergency Room (MUSC), (843) 792-9127. MUSC provides triage, medical treatment, and, within 120 hours of the assault, a free Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE). Recipients of the exam do not have to file criminal charges.
- My Sister's House domestic abuse emergency shelter: Crisis Line: 843-744-3242 Admin Office: 843-747-4069
- Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) <https://www.rainn.org/get-help>
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-HOPE (4673)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- To locate additional information and resources in your area visit: <https://www.itsonus.org>

## HOW TO HELP A FRIEND

### IF THE ASSAULT JUST OCCURRED

Make sure your friend is safe and gets help, for example, medical attention; filing a police report; or contacting rape advocacy services. But don't push. Just make sure your friend knows the available options, and that you will provide support in any way you can.

## **AT ANY TIME AFTER THE ASSAULT**

### **Listen**

Sometimes assault victims just need to talk about their attack. Some victims will want to talk more than others. Allow your friend the freedom to choose when, where, and how to talk about the trauma. Avoid judging your friend. Just listen and assure your friend that you are there for support.

### **Believe**

Believe what your friend tells you and make certain to communicate that belief repeatedly. Expect a friend in crisis to be, and act, confused.

### **Do Not Interrogate**

Do not pressure your friend to talk. Limit the number of questions you ask; asking too many probing questions might make your friend feel that you are doubtful or that you need proof of what happened.

### **Do Not Blame**

Reinforce that your friend is NOT to blame for the attack and that a range of feelings (whatever they may be) are normal.

### **Protect Your Friend's Privacy**

Do not share what was told to you in confidence. Get your friend's permission before you disclose anything to anybody.

### **Be Patient**

Recovery from sexual assault trauma can seem slow; let your friend determine the pace of recovery.

### **Educate**

Educate yourself and your friend about common reactions associated with sexual assault. These reactions can be physical, emotional, social, or academic. Common reactions may include, but are not limited to, shame, withdrawing socially from other friends, sadness, crying spells, anger, and irritability.

### **Know Your Limits**

If you are uncomfortable talking about sexual assault, that's OK. Helping your friend identify who might be the right person to talk to about the attack can also be supportive. There are times when professional help is best and you can help your friend find a trained counselor, when ready.

## PREVENTING VIOLENCE

### TAKING ACTION TO STOP VIOLENCE

Everyone can play an active role in stopping domestic violence and sexual assault before it occurs by becoming an engaged bystander and helping to establish an environment where healthy and positive relationships are based on respect, safety, and equality.

Moreover, taking steps to stop harassment or violence can make a significant difference in someone's life, and send a powerful message to The Citadel community as a whole about which social norms are acceptable and which are unacceptable.

### SO, WHAT DOES AN ENGAGED BYSTANDER LOOK LIKE?

An engaged bystander is someone who intervenes when witnessing behaviors that promote, condone, or encourage domestic or sexual violence. Intervening does NOT mean putting yourself in danger or increasing the risk to others. Safety is key in deciding when and how to respond to any type of violence.

Over time, intervening can help eliminate the following negative social norms that perpetuate domestic and sexual violence in our culture:

- Glorifying abusive power over other individuals
- Objectifying or demeaning individuals
- Tolerating violence and aggression
- Promoting gender dominance
- Sexually abusive or physically violent hazing
- Blaming victims for what happened to them

**If you see or hear something that does not feel right, speak up. If you do not feel safe, call the police or go to the authorities.**

Above all, trust your gut. A gut feeling can be your best guide if a situation just doesn't seem right.

**IF YOU SEE, HEAR, OR SUSPECT THAT SOMEONE IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER  
CALL 911**

**Bookmark Citadel Emergency, Support, and Resource  
information on your smartphone by scanning the  
below QR Code:**

