

# YOU ARE NOT ALONE

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Each year, millions of teenagers head to college, dreaming of new friends, interesting classes and good times. For most of them, this will be their reality. But for 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men, their memories of college will be forever shadowed by a sexual assault. Most of these assaults will be committed by someone that they know. Sadly, less than 5% will report their assault to the police or seek help from a rape crisis center. Nearly half will tell no one. Education is key to responding to and healing from a sexual assault. Here is a good place to start...

## WHO CAN YOU TALK TO?

**VMI POLICE DEPARTMENT** MAY BE CONTACTED, EVEN IF THE ASSAULT DID NOT OCCUR ON VMI PROPERTY. DETECTIVE HUNT IS SPECIALLY TRAINED IN SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE AND CAN RESPOND ANY TIME, TO TAKE A REPORT, ANSWER QUESTIONS OR SERVE AS A LIAISON TO OTHER AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. VMI POLICE CAN BE REACHED AT 540-463-9177 OR BY CALLING 911.

**PROJECT HORIZON** IS A SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE CENTER WITH ADVOCATES AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY. THEIR HOTLINE IS 540-463-2594.

**CADET COUNSELING** MAY BE CONTACTED IN PERSON OR AT 540-464-7667.

**VMI TITLE IX COORDINATOR** COL. JEFF BOOBAR CAN BE REACHED BY CALLING 540-464-7072.

**ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** MAY BE REACHED BY CALLING 540-463-7328.

**LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT** MAY BE REACHED BY CALLING 540-462-3705.

Virginia Military Institute  
Police Department

# SEXUAL ASSAULT

IF IT  
HAPPENS TO  
YOU...



## KNOWING YOUR RESOURCES AND YOUR RIGHTS...

### IMMEDIATELY

GO SOMEWHERE SAFE.

TELL SOMEONE WHAT HAPPENED.

### MEDICAL ATTENTION

DO NOT PUT OFF SEEKING MEDICAL ATTENTION. HOSPITALS DO NOT HAVE TO CONTACT LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR A SEXUAL ASSAULT IF YOU ASK THEM NOT TO. THEY CAN, HOWEVER, TREAT YOUR INJURIES, CONNECT YOU WITH A SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVOCATE, PROVIDE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION, AND TEST YOU FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES.



SPECIAL NURSES, CALLED FORENSIC NURSES, ARE TRAINED IN TREATING THE VICTIMS OF CRIME. THESE NURSES ARE SENSITIVE AND EMPATHETIC TO WHAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED, AND HAVE SPECIAL TRAINING IN COLLECTING AND DOCUMENTING EVIDENCE IN CASE YOU DECIDE THAT YOU DO WANT TO MAKE A POLICE REPORT.

YOU CAN HAVE A PHYSICAL EVIDENCE RECOVERY KIT COLLECTED AT NO COST AND WITHOUT MAKING A POLICE REPORT. IT WILL BE STORED TO GIVE YOU TIME TO MAKE THAT DECISION.

### DO YOU WANT TO REPORT THE ASSAULT?

SEXUAL ASSAULT IS PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND PHYSICALLY TRAUMATIC. YOU MAY FEEL HYSTERICAL OR NUMB. YOU MAY CRY OR LAUGH UNCONTROLLABLY. YOU MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY MAKING EVEN THE SIMPLEST DECISIONS.

### **THIS IS NORMAL.**

FORTUNATELY, SOME DECISIONS DO NOT HAVE TO BE MADE IMMEDIATELY. THIS INCLUDES THE DECISION TO PRESS CHARGES AGAINST YOUR ATTACKER. YOU HAVE SEVERAL OPTIONS:

- ◇ HAVE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE COLLECTED AT THE HOSPITAL WITHOUT SPEAKING TO THE POLICE.
- ◇ SPEAK TO THE POLICE TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT YOUR OPTIONS ARE, WITHOUT FILING AN OFFICIAL POLICE REPORT.
- ◇ MAKE A POLICE REPORT NOW, BUT WAIT TO DECIDE WHETHER YOU WISH TO PRESS CHARGES.
- ◇ FILE A POLICE REPORT AND PRESS CHARGES AGAINST YOUR ATTACKER.



### IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

YOU **WILL** BE BELIEVED.

YOU **WILL** BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT.

YOU **WILL** BE PROVIDED WITH ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE AND AN ADVOCATE TRAINED IN SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE.

YOUR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING **WILL** BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY.

YOU **WILL NOT** BE JUDGED.

YOU **WILL NOT** BE PRESSURED TO MAKE DECISIONS OR TAKE ACTIONS THAT YOU ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH.

YOUR INFORMATION AND DETAILS OF YOUR EXPERIENCE **WILL NOT** BE SHARED WITH ANYONE WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION.

NO MATTER HOW YOU WERE DRESSED, HOW MUCH YOU HAD TO DRINK, OR ANYTHING THAT YOU SAID OR DID,

**SEXUAL ASSAULT IS NOT YOUR FAULT!**

