



SEXUAL ASSAULT PROCEDURES

In compliance with Mississippi state law and the duty to report statute, all Hinds Community College employees are required to report all crimes committed on campus, including sexual assault. The only exception to this clause is with agencies that have an established client/patient confidentiality relationship. In addition to criminal and legal penalties, sexual assault charges may result in sanctions including expulsion from the College; or termination of employment for faculty and staff.

Available Prevention Programs

The Campus Police department will host or conduct presentations relating to crime prevention and safety policies when requested by staff or students.

Preserving Evidence of a Sexual Assault

After a sexual assault, it is very important that the victim receive a medical examination for health and evidentiary reasons. A victim should not wash, use the toilet, or change clothes before seeing trained medical personnel. If clothes are changed, those worn during the assault should be placed in a paper bag and be taken to the examination. Even if the victim is certain that he/she will not prosecute, it is important to gather as much evidence as possible in the event the victim decides to pursue criminal charges at a later date.

Reporting a Sexual Assault

Any student, employee or visitor who is the victim of a sex offense, forcible or non-forcible, is encouraged to report the assault to college authorities or the Campus Police Department. If a victim chooses, he/she may be assisted by college authorities in reporting the assault to the proper law enforcement authorities. After making the report, the victim is not obligated to continue with legal or college disciplinary action.

The assault may be reported to the Campus contact office as listed on the Campus Police Webpage https://www.hindscc.edu/Departments/campus_police/default.aspx or to the local police where the assault occurred.

What should you do if sexually assaulted?

- Find a safe environment away from the attacker. Ask a trusted friend to stay with you for moral support.
- Call your Campus Police department or dial 9-1-1. Report the rape to law enforcement authorities. A counselor can provide the information you will need to understand the process.
- Preserve evidence of the attack. Do not bathe, change clothes or brush your teeth. Write down all the details you can recall about the attack and the attacker.
- Get medical attention. Even with no physical injuries, it is important to determine the risks of STDs and pregnancy.
 - To preserve forensic evidence, ask the hospital to conduct a rape kit exam.
 - If you suspect you may have been drugged, a urine sample should be collected.

- Call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE for free, confidential counseling, 24 hours a day. This service is operated by RAIN N.
- Call Jackson's Catholic Charities Rape Crisis 24-hour crisis hotline 601.982.RAPE.

College Response to a Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is a criminal act which subjects the perpetrator to criminal and civil penalties in state and federal courts. Besides the sanctions that can be imposed in court, Campus Police will respond administratively if a sexual assault or other criminal offense involves a student or employee as the offender. Students and employees are subject to applicable college policies and disciplinary procedures, including policies prohibiting sexual harassment. Students who report they have been a victim of sexual abuse, assault or rape are appropriately moved to another residence hall room or to a women's shelter that provides them a place to live that is known only to very few trusted individuals. Most often these referrals are made by the Dean of Students, Campus Police Investigator, Chief of Police or the Director of Counseling.

Possible Sanctions Against Offenders

Victims may begin disciplinary action by submitting a written, signed statement detailing the incident to the Dean of Students/Operating Campus Dean. The accuser and accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during the disciplinary hearing. In the case of sexual assault, both the accuser and the accused shall be informed of the outcome. In addition to any criminal remedies available, a sexual assault perpetrator is subject to appropriate faculty, employee or student disciplinary procedures.

1. Faculty and Staff: the range of penalties for faculty and staff includes, but is not limited to one or more of the following: counseling, written reprimand, suspension or termination of employment.
2. Students: Students who violate federal, state or local laws are subject to criminal charges. In addition to any criminal remedies available, an alleged or adjudicated perpetrator who is a Hinds Community College student may be subject to penalties from the college as set forth in the Student Disciplinary Codes. The ranges of sanctions in this Code include, but are not limited to one or more of the following: suspension or expulsion, alteration of a class schedule, disciplinary probation, or loss of privileges. Suspension and expulsion are the standard recommendation if a student is found guilty of sexual assault or other acts of violence.

Coping with Sexual Assault

Remember, assaults – sexual or otherwise – are crimes; they are not the victim's fault. Victims of sexual assault may find it helpful to discuss their experience with a counselor. Crisis Counselors are available on campus to meet with victims in an informal and private setting. Counselors can assist by changing a student's academic situation, by serving as a source of referral to outside agencies, and by providing information about on and off campus reporting, prosecution procedures, and the college disciplinary process.

- Remember it was not your fault.

- Recognize that healing from rape takes time. Give yourself the time you need.
- Talk with a Hinds counselor (contact numbers on Counseling Webpage)
https://www.hindsc.edu/CurrentStudents/student_services/Counseling.aspx?type=default
- Contact Family Crisis Services 24-hour hotline 601.234.9929 or toll-free 1.800.230.9929.
- Jackson's Catholic Charities Rape Crisis 24-hour crisis hotline – 601.982.RAPE or
<http://www.catholiccharitiesjackson.org/services/rape.crisis.html>

Rights of a Victim

A person who reports having been sexually assaulted has the right to:

1. Request a female or male officer to take the report.
2. Have his/her identity protected, consistent with legal requirements.
3. Be treated professionally and with sensitivity, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation of the victim or the perpetrator.
4. Assistance with medical treatment, counseling, and other resources if desired, including transportation to a hospital.
5. Have one primary investigator assigned to the case and have his/her case investigated fully, if he/she chooses to report the assault to the Campus Police.
6. Be informed of the outcome of a police investigation.
7. Request an alternative academic or employment situation if such an alternative is available, feasible, and appropriate to the facts of the sexual assault reported.
8. Have all questions answered fully.

How to Reduce the Risk of a Sexual Assault

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, Washington, DC (2006). <http://www.rainn.org/get-information/sexual-assault-prevention>

1. Do not leave your beverage unattended or accept a drink from an open container.
2. When you go to a party, go with a group of friends. Arrive together, watch out for each other and leave together.
3. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
4. Do not allow yourself to be isolated with someone you do not know or trust.
5. Think about the level of intimacy you want, and clearly state your limits.