



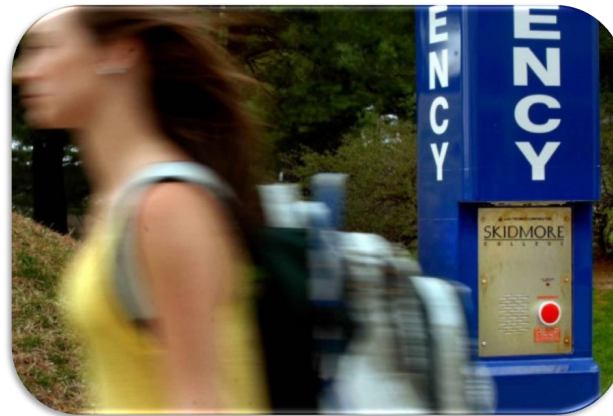
**If you are a survivor of sexual assault and you are:**

- ◆ Concerned about your privacy and others finding out about the assault;
- ◆ Worried about your job or school;
- ◆ Concerned about your immigration status;
- ◆ Worried about your physical safety; or
- ◆ Confused about the criminal or civil justice systems;

**Legal assistance may be available for you.**

The Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault provides legal assistance to victims of sexual assault. In addition to employing two staff attorneys, IowaCASA has established relationships with many attorneys across the state of Iowa who may offer legal services at no cost to survivors of sexual assault. Contact your local sexual assault crisis center or staff at IowaCASA.

## *Surviving Campus Sexual Assault*



### You Have Rights

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*to promote a society free from sexual violence ...*



# SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS

Sexual violence on campus is a pressing civil rights issue; when students suffer sexual assault or harassment, they are deprived of equal and free access to an education.

### The Scope of the Problem

- ◆ Sexual assault is widely considered to be the most underreported violent crime in America.
- ◆ 1 in 5 college women experience rape during college. (2005 National Institute of Justice Report)
- ◆ Most sexual assaults on campus are committed by an acquaintance of the victim, which explains, in part, why these crimes are underreported.
- ◆ In between 80-90% of rape cases, the victim and the assailant knew each other. (2005 National Institute of Justice Report)

### Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is any forced or unwanted sexual contact or activity. It may also involve verbal or visible behaviors, or any type of pressure designed to coerce or force someone to join in the unwanted sexual contact or activity. Sexual assault can be perpetrated by a friend, acquaintance, or dating partner; a stranger; a family member; counselors, teachers or other persons in positions of authority.

### Sexual Harassment

When a student is subjected to sexual conduct that creates an offensive, hostile or intimidating atmosphere that student has been sexually harassed.

### Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to:

- ◆ Making sexual comments, jokes, gestures, or commenting about a person's body or sex life;
- ◆ Touching, grabbing, or brushing up against someone in a sexual way;
- ◆ Spreading rumors about a person's activities or relationships;
- ◆ Using computers, text messaging, or other technologies to circulate demeaning information or pictures;
- ◆ Forcing kisses or other sexual advances.



## Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault

515 28th Street, Suite 107  
Des Moines, Iowa 50312-5259

Phone: 515-244-7424  
Fax: 515-244-7417  
www.iowacasa.org

## What Should You Do if You are Sexually Assaulted?

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### Seeking Medical Attention

If you are in danger or need emergency medical attention call 911. If you were sexually assaulted recently, you may want to go to a local hospital for a sexual assault evidentiary examination. **The exam is paid for by the State of Iowa.**

Whether you want to seek medical help is your decision. It can be common for survivors to question the reality of their assault, regardless of the circumstances, right after the incident. This is one form of coping with the trauma of sexual violence. To check out your physical well being and to preserve critical physical evidence of rape, a medical examination can be a good option.

This examination is also a time when you can get medical advice and medication in case you have contracted a STD or the assault has resulted in an unwanted pregnancy.

Call your local rape crisis center or sexual assault program to find out about hospitals near you who can perform the exam.



**To locate a crisis center or sexual assault program near you call: 1-800-284-7821**

### Crime Victim Compensation Program

The Iowa Crime Victim Compensation Program (CVC) provides financial assistance to victims of crime, including sexual assault, and allows for specific reimbursement of certain expenses incurred.

To be eligible for CVC a victim of sexual assault must report the crime to law enforcement within 72 hours of its occurrence and must cooperate with reasonable requests of law enforcement.

## Colleges & Universities are Legally Obligated to Help You

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Colleges and universities have both federal and state obligations to help students impacted by sexual violence.

### Campus-Based Remedies

Often colleges can accommodate victims of sexual assault by allowing changes in a victim's housing, class schedule and exam schedule. A student should consult their Dean of Students to request such assistance.

The student victim may also choose to initiate disciplinary actions against the assailant. If the victim is successful in demonstrating a violation of the student code of conduct, a disciplinary board may impose sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion.

### Campus Safety

#### The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act

The *Clery Act* requires postsecondary institutions to provide timely warnings of crimes that represent a risk to the safety of students or employees and to make public their campus security policies. It also requires that crime data be collected, reported, and disseminated to the campus community and to the Department of Education annually.

The *Clery Act* is intended to provide students and their families with accurate, complete and timely information about safety on campuses so that they can make informed decisions. Such disclosures are permitted under FERPA. Institutions that fail to comply may be fined or lose eligibility to participate in federal student aid programs.

## Protecting Students' Privacy Rights

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### Federal Remedies

Federal laws prescribe particular duties of educational institutions, including:

#### Family Education Rights & Privacy Act

(FERPA) prohibits disclosing the content of educational records to persons other than the student. Victims may file complaints with the Department of Education. Colleges must have written permission from the student to release any school records. However, "directory" information may be disclosed.

#### Title IX of the Civil Rights Act

The federal law prohibiting sexual harassment in all schools is Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits any person, on the basis of sex, to be subjected to discrimination in an educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Before a complaint may be filed school-based remedies must have first been exhausted.

### Additional Remedies

In addition to campus-based remedies, student victims may qualify for civil orders of protection under Iowa law or pursue an Anti-Harassment Order. A student should seek legal assistance when attempting to file for these protective measures and to assess the viability of available remedies.



## Assistance For Sexual Assault Survivors

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### Advocates Can Help You

Victims in Iowa are entitled to a Sexual Assault Advocate from a local rape crisis center. Under Iowa law, you are entitled to have your Advocate present with you during the entire investigatory process—including medical examinations, police interviews, school interviews, meetings with the county prosecutor, and when you go to court.

### Reporting an Assault to the Authorities

If you chose to report an assault you should contact the law enforcement agency that covers the area where the assault happened. You can also call a county attorney about the assault if you choose.

If you are confused about where to report the assault or require an Advocate, you can contact the Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline (1-800-284-7821). You can also contact your local sexual assault crisis center or staff of IowaCASA.

**For survivors of sexual assault, the Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline is a free 24-hour crisis line that provides information, support, and referral to appropriate agencies and programs across the state. Call 1-800-284-7821**

**Or Visit:**

**[iowacasa.org](http://iowacasa.org) and click "Get Help Now"**