

Sexual Assault Response and Prevention
at Shasta Bible College and Graduate School

Overview

Shasta Bible College prohibits the offenses of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking and reaffirms its commitment to maintain a campus environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of all members of the college community.

The Save Act law was passed into law on March 7, 2014. Among other requirements, the Save Act mandates universities and colleges to provide training and educational guide to students addressing crimes and misconduct associated with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on college campus. This page shall serve as one of the means the university uses to educate students on the crimes and misconduct regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Reporting Procedure

If you have been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whether you file a report with the Shasta County Sheriff's Department via 911 or not, you should report **all incidents** promptly to the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students (or Dean of Women) shall conduct a prompt investigation and shall work with any other applicable person to resolve the situation. Please include the following information:

- Nature of the incident and persons involved (if known)
- Date, time and location of the incident
- The Complaint Form can be found in the Dean of Students Office and the Financial Aid Office.

Resources for Victims

The Dean of Students conducts the initial investigation and follow-up on all incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, and works in conjunction with any person deemed to provide victim support.

On-Campus Resources

Dean of Students, Mr. Benjamin King, is available to all students. Cell phone number is 503-508-9198.

Dean of Women, Mrs. Donna Nicholas, is available to all students. Cell phone number is 530-351-4746. Home phone is 530-244-3321.

President, Dr. David Nicholas, is available to all students. Cell phone number is 530-227-4275. Home phone is 530-244-3321.

Off-Campus Resources

Higher Ground Counseling, 2400 Washington Ave. Suite 401, Redding, CA 96001. Phone 530-941-9003.
Guy Ascherman, Supervisor.

One Safe Place, 2250 Benton Drive, Redding, CA 96003. Phone 530-244-0118.

Definitions

Sexual Assault

“Sexual assault” means an offense that meets the definition of rape, fondling, incest, or statutory rape as used in the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting system. A sex offense is any act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

Domestic Violence

This is a crime committed by:

- By a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim
- By a person with whom the victim shares a child in common
- By a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner
- By a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred
- By any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred.

Dating Violence

Dating violence is a crime committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim and the existence of such a relationship shall be based on the reporting party’s statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Stalking

Stalking is a crime in which someone repeatedly harasses, threatens, and controls another person causing the victim to fear for their safety. Examples include someone:

- Showing up at places where you are even though there is no reason for them to be there;
- Leaving unwanted items for you to find
- Making unsolicited phone calls or e-mails
- Following or spying on you
- Vandalizing your property
- Making threats against you or your family and friends
- Monitoring your telephone and computer activity
- Tracking you using global positioning and other devices

Consent

The State of California has adopted an affirmative consent standard in the determination of whether consent was given by both parties to sexual activity. "Affirmative consent" means affirmative, conscious, and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity. It is the responsibility of each person involved in the sexual activity to ensure that he or she has the affirmative consent of the other or others to engage in the sexual activity. Lack of protest or resistance does not mean consent, nor does silence mean consent. Affirmative consent must be ongoing throughout a sexual activity and can be revoked at any time. The existence of a dating relationship between the persons involved, or the fact of past sexual relations between them, should never by itself be assumed to be an indicator of consent.

Bystander Intervention

- Watch out for your friends and fellow students/employees. If you see someone who looks like they could be in trouble or need help, ask if they are okay.
- Confront people who seclude, hit on, try to make out with or have sex with people who are incapacitated.
- Speak up when someone discusses plans to take sexual advantage of another person.
- Refer people to on or off campus resources listed in this document for support in health, counseling, or with legal assistance.
- If you or someone else is in immediate danger, dial 911.

Risk Reduction: Domestic and Dating Violence

Domestic and Dating Violence

- Avoid abusive relationships
- **Trust your instincts.** If you feel unsafe in any situation, go with your gut. If you see something suspicious, contact law enforcement immediately (local authorities can be reached by calling 911 in most areas of the U.S.).
- If something feels wrong, get out of the relationship/ situation. Get help from a hotline.
- Be assertive and speak up. Clearly communicate your feelings and desires to your partner.

Risk Reduction: Sexual Assault

- **Be aware of your surroundings.** Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you find a way to get out of a bad situation.
- Try to **avoid isolated areas.** It is more difficult to get help if no one is around.
- Trust your instincts. If you find yourself in a situation where something feels wrong, look for a way out of the situation — move closer to other people or seek out a safe way to get home.
- Do not ignore sudden feelings of mistrust just because you have known someone for a long time. You can't tell if a person has the potential to rape based on past behaviors.
- Never leave a drink unattended or accept a drink that you did not see poured. Date-rape drugs can leave you unable to protect yourself, or even know what is happening to you.
- If you're going to drink, stop when you begin to feel the effects of alcohol. The more you drink, the harder it is to know when to stop. When you're drunk, you are more vulnerable.
- Take assertiveness training and self-defense classes. Passive and submissive behaviors can be dangerous. If you become frightened, do your best to be assertive. Speak loudly and firmly, or yell.
- If you are with friends at social gatherings, watch out for each other, and check in from time to time to make sure you're both comfortable with how things are going.
- Say what you expect from your date. Be up front.

Risk Reduction: Stalking

Stalking is unpredictable and dangerous. No two stalking situations are alike. There are no guarantees that what works for one person will work for another, yet you can take steps to increase your safety.

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- If you are in **immediate danger**, call 911.
- Trust your **instincts**. Don't downplay the danger. If you feel you are unsafe, you probably are.
- Take **threats** seriously. Danger generally is higher when the stalker talks about suicide or murder, or when a victim tries to leave or end the relationship.
- Contact a crisis hotline, **victim services agency**, or a domestic violence or rape crisis program. They can help you devise a safety plan, give you information about local laws, refer you to other services, and weigh other options.
- Develop a **safety plan**, including things like changing your routine, arranging a place to stay, and having a friend or relative go places with you. Also, decide in advance what to do if the stalker shows up at your home, work, school, or somewhere else. Tell people how they can help you.
- **Don't communicate** with the stalker or respond to attempts to contact you.
- Keep **evidence** of the stalking. When the stalker follows you or contacts you, write down the time, date and place. Keep emails, phone messages, letters or notes. Photograph anything of yours the stalker damages and any injuries the stalker causes. Ask witnesses to write down what they saw.

Victim's Rights

- In California, known as Marcy law of 2008, a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking has rights which include the right to protection from the defendant.
- Any person who obtains an order of protection from California should provide a copy to the Dean of Students to develop a Safety Action Plan.
- Shasta Bible College would provide necessary information on how to obtain a legal protection/restraining order for a victim.
- Shasta Bible College may issue an institutional no contact order if deemed appropriate or at the request of the victim or accused.
- If the complainant gives consent, College offices will work cooperatively to ensure that the complainant's health, physical safety, work and academic status are protected, pending the outcome of a formal university investigation of the complaint.
- If reasonably available, a complainant may be offered changes to academic, living or working situations in addition to counseling, health services, visa and immigration assistance, and assistance in notifying appropriate local law enforcement.

Educational Programs

Shasta Bible College and Graduate School provides annual information and education on the issue of assault and prevention through its Life Skill Chapel program.

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Sexual Harassment Prevention Training for Employees is encouraged and addressed each year at the teacher training in August.

Sex Offender Registry

The federal Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act, enacted on October 28, 2000, requires institutions of higher education to issue a statement advising the campus community where law enforcement agency information provided by a State concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained. It also requires sex offenders already required to register in a State to provide notice, as required under State law, of each institution of higher education in that State at which the person is employed, carries on a vocation, volunteers services or is a student.

In California, convicted sex offenders must register with the local law enforcement agency for the jurisdiction in which they live. You can link to this information, which appears on the California Department of Justice's official Internet web site www.meganslaw.ca.gov or by calling the Shasta County Sheriff at 530-245-6015. The Redding City Police Department can be reached at 530-225-4200.

Frequently Asked Questions:

The perpetrator got scared away before finishing the attack. Can I still report it?

Yes. Attempted sexual assault is still a serious crime and should be reported.

Can I report even if I have no physical injuries?

Yes. In fact, most sexual assaults do not result in physical injuries. So, the lack of such injuries should not deter you from reporting.

It's also important to get medical care and to be tested for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy, even if you think you aren't injured. And keep in mind that sexual assault can cause injuries, often internal, that aren't visible. Many hospitals have special equipment that can detect such hidden injuries.

I knew the person who sexually assaulted me and invited him/her in. Can I still report it?

Yes. About 2/3 of victims know their attacker. And the fact that you were voluntarily together, or even invited him/her home with you, does not change anything. Sexual assault is a serious crime, no matter what the circumstances.

Does it make a difference if the sexual misconduct occurs on- or off-campus?

No.

Am I required to report to police?

No, you are not legally obligated to report. The decision is entirely yours, and everyone will understand if you decided not to pursue prosecution. You should be aware that the district attorney's office retains

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the right to pursue prosecution whether or not you participate, though it is uncommon for them to proceed without the cooperation of the victim. There are also times when a third party, such as a doctor or teacher, is required to report to authorities if they suspect sexual abuse of a child, or an elderly or disabled person.

Many victims say that reporting is the last thing they want to do right after being attacked. That's perfectly understandable — reporting can seem invasive, time consuming and difficult.

Still, there are many good reasons to report, and some victims say that reporting helped their recovery and helped them regain a feeling of control.

How do I report the sexual assault to police?

Call 911 (or ask a friend to call) to report your sexual assault to police. Or, visit a hospital emergency room or your own doctor and ask them to call the police for you. If you visit the emergency room and tell the nurse you have been sexually assaulted, the hospital will generally perform a sexual assault forensic examination. This involves collecting evidence of the attack, such as hairs, fluids and fibers, and preserving the evidence for forensic analysis. In most areas, the local sexual assault crisis center can provide someone to accompany you, if you wish. Call 1(800) 656-HOPE to contact the center in your area.

Is there a time limit on reporting to the police?

There's generally no legal barrier to reporting your attack even months afterwards. However, to maximize the chances of an arrest and successful prosecution, it's important that you report as soon as possible after the sexual assault. If you aren't sure what to do, it's better to report now and decide later. That way, the evidence is preserved should you decide to pursue prosecution; many hospitals will not attempt to gather evidence if more than five days have passed since the assault.

What if I need time to think about whether I want to pursue prosecution?

Understandably, many people aren't ready to make the decision about prosecution immediately after an attack. It's normal to want time to think about the decision and talk it over with friends and family.

If you think you might want to pursue prosecution, but haven't decided for sure, we recommend that you make the police report right away, while the evidence is still present and your memory is still detailed. The district attorney will decide whether or not to pursue prosecution, however it is unusual for cases to proceed without the cooperation of the victim. And if prosecution is pursued, the chance of success will be much higher if you reported, and had evidence collected, immediately after the attack.

There's one additional consideration: If you are planning to apply for compensation through your state's Victim Compensation Fund, you will generally first have to report your attack to police to be eligible. Contact your local sexual assault crisis center at 1(800) 656-HOPE to learn about the rules in your state.

Do I have to go through the police interview alone?

In most areas, a trained volunteer from your local sexual assault crisis center can accompany you to the police interview. The volunteer can also answer your questions about the process and explain how it will work.

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What's the police reporting process?

In most cases, the police will come to you and take a statement about what occurred. It helps to write down every detail you can remember, as soon as possible, so you can communicate the details to the police.

In addition to taking a statement, police will collect physical evidence. Also, your nurse or doctor may conduct an exam to collect hair, fluids, fibers and other evidence.

The police interview may take as long as several hours, depending on the circumstances of your case. Some questions will probably feel intrusive, and the officer will probably go over the details of your attack several times. The extensive questioning isn't because the police don't believe you; it is the officer's job to get every detail down precisely, to make the strongest possible case against your attacker.

Do most sexual assault victims report their attack to police?

Just over half of sexual assault victims don't report the crime. However reporting is up substantially in the last decade.

Why don't more people report their sexual assault?

The most common reason given by victims (23%) is that the sexual assault is a "personal matter." Another 16% of victims say that they fear reprisal, while about 6% don't report because they believe that the police are biased.

Is my sexual assault serious enough to report to police?

The FBI ranks sexual assault as the second-most violent crime, behind only murder. Every sexual assault is a very serious crime, even if no physical injuries occur during the assault.

If I report, will I regret it?

That's certainly possible. It's true that some people have a bad experience and wish they had never reported. But it is also the case that many people who don't report later regret that decision. In the end, this is a personal decision that only you can make.

What if my actions are scrutinized and I have to testify about intimate details of my personal life?

Many successful prosecutions end in a plea agreement, without trial, which means that the victim will not have to testify. However if your case does go to trial, you will generally have to testify. Although there are no guarantees, prosecutors have legal tools they can use to protect you in court. One tool is called a rape shield law, which limits what the defense can ask you about your prior sexual history. The prosecutor can also file legal motions to try to protect you from having to disclose personal information

If you are worried about having to testify about intimate matters such as your own sexual history, let the police or prosecutor know about your concerns. They can explain the laws in your state and help you understand what might happen if you do go to trial.

What if the police won't take it seriously?

There has been great investment in police training in recent years. While there are occasional exceptions, most law enforcement officers are understanding and on your side. Many police departments participate in what are known as SARTs (Sexual Assault Response Teams), which provide a victim-sensitive, coordinated response to sexual assault that incorporates medical personnel, law enforcement and a crisis center representative to organize questioning, reduce repetition and facilitate communication among all the agencies involved.

If you do encounter someone who isn't taking your case seriously, it's important to complain to his/her supervisor. You should also tell your local sexual assault crisis center, which has people trained to advocate on your behalf.

Will I get in trouble with my school?

It is common for students to be afraid of getting in trouble for doing something they weren't supposed to be doing when the assault took place, such as drinking or drugs. However, the college's primary concern is for the safety of its students and, accordingly, encourages students to report instances of sexual misconduct no matter what else may have been taking place at the time of the assault. Violations of the college's lifestyle covenant may be addressed separately from the reported incident but would be approached with great care and a posture of development. No punitive disciplinary would take place.

What if I decide not to report?

Reporting is a very personal decision, and you should make the decision that's right for you. While we encourage you to report, if you decide not to, for whatever reason, that's perfectly understandable and there's no reason to feel bad about your decision. However (and we can't stress this enough!) you still should follow-up with a counselor and get help for yourself; you've been through a serious trauma.