



Sexual Assault Response Protocol: Shaw University

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Adapted from Sexual Assault Protocol: University of California, Irvine

Sexual Assault Protocol: North Carolina Central University

Section I: Responding to Sexual Assault

Part 1: Helpful immediate responses and ways to make referrals

As a first point of contact, it is important to provide sensitive care and support, to ensure that the student is not re-traumatized as a result of reporting the incident.

1. When you are made aware of a sexual assault, your first responsibility is ALWAYS to ensure the immediate safety and well-being of the victim. *Regardless of when the assault occurred*
2. Once the victim is safe: It is important to remember that your roles are NOT to assess or to define the assault, or to determine whether or not the assault actually occurred. Your primary responsibility is to remain supportive of the victim, while **referring the student to campus or community agencies (see list of contacts, Section 3)** that are trained in providing assistance and intervention for survivors of sexual violence.
3. **Follow the flow-chart** in Section 2 to help the student navigate options both on and off campus.
4. **You do not have to have all of the answers.** If someone is disclosing to you, it typically means that you are someone they trust and oftentimes they just want to be heard. Don't be afraid to tell them that you don't know the answers, and use that as a point of referral. It is not your responsibility to "fix" the problem.

While you are not expected to act as a counselor, when you are present with someone who has been assaulted, you should be aware that the supportiveness of your response can be critical in the healing process. Though there is not "one" right way to respond to someone who has been sexually assaulted, the following may serve as a guide in identifying more or less helpful responses.

Helpful Responses:

- ❖ Listen without interrupting. Encourage the student to take his/her time, if necessary.
- ❖ Don't panic. Remain calm and concerned.
- ❖ Accept the student's recounting of their experience as truth. **Remember, it is not your responsibility to assess, define, or determine the assault or its occurrence.**
- ❖ Respect the language the student uses to identify what's happened.
- ❖ Understand that individuals from different backgrounds may express or experience their reactions to an assault in different ways.
- ❖ Allow for tears and expression of feelings.
- ❖ Validate the student's experiences or reactions.

- ❖ Acknowledge courage and discomfort.
- ❖ Remind the student that he/she is not at fault.
- ❖ Help the student identify safe individuals within his/her support system.
- ❖ Encourage the student to seek medical attention and/or counseling.
- ❖ Allow the student to make his/her own decisions.
- ❖ Ask what you can do to be supportive.
- ❖ Provide resources and options.

Unhelpful Responses:

- ❖ Asking “why” questions or other questions that might imply blame.
(i.e. “Why didn’t you yell?”, “What were you doing there?”)
- ❖ Blaming or judging the student’s actions.
(i.e. “You shouldn’t have had so much to drink”)
- ❖ Dismissing the student’s feelings or minimizing his/her experience.
(i.e. /you should just forget about it”)
- ❖ Trying to fix the problem.
(i.e./pressuring them to report and/or telling them what to do)
- ❖ Requiring the victim to retell the account multiple times.

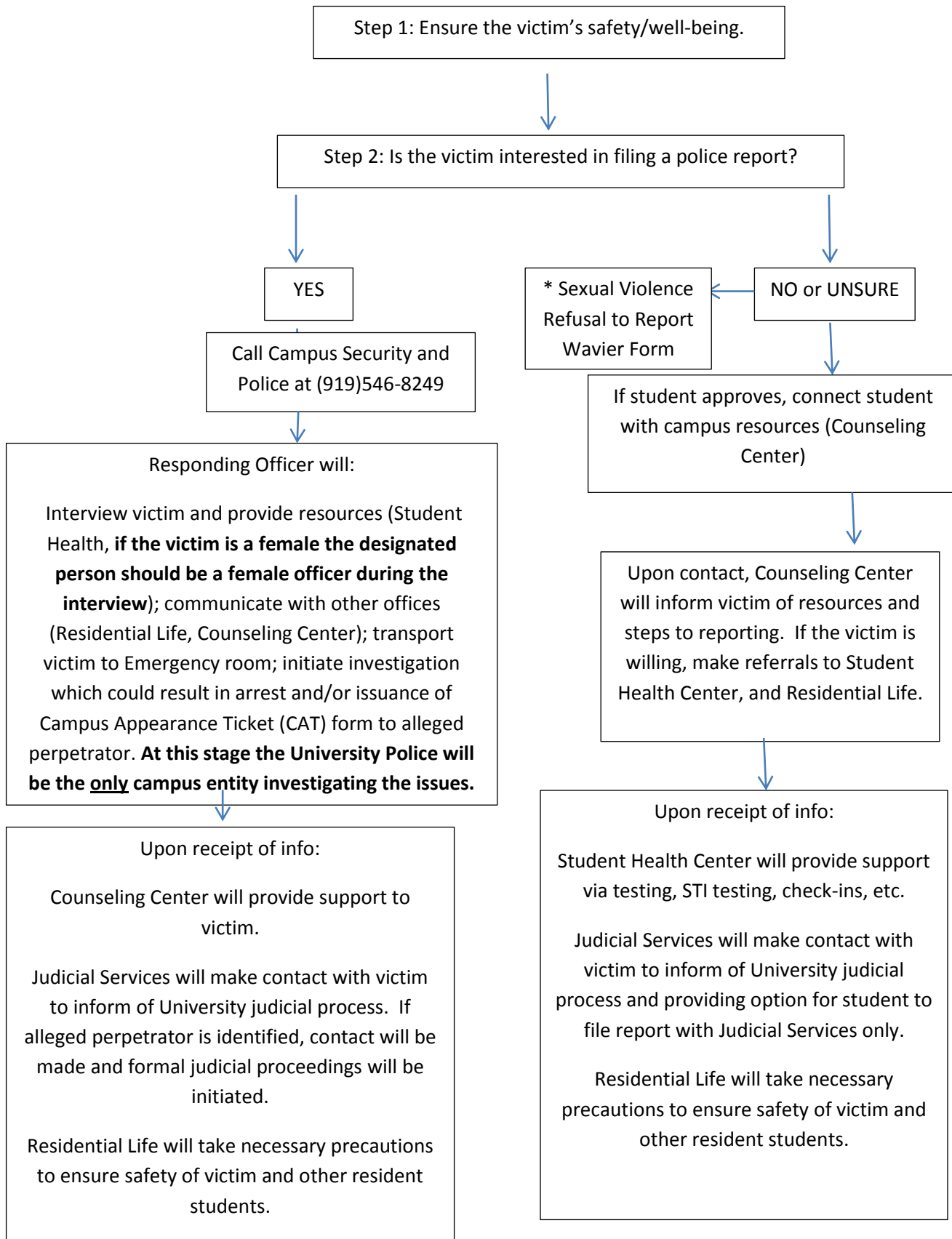
Above all, do no harm. When encountered with issues such as these, individuals can easily feel overwhelmed by just having heard someone’s story and feel pressured to do something. When this happens, oftentimes people unintentionally say things that could be hurtful. You don’t have to say anything.

How to make a referral:

An important part of being helpful to a survivor of sexual assault is providing information about options and resources. You may do this by helping the student get connected with one or more of the resources listed in Section 3 of the protocol. Some examples of ways to facilitate a referral for a victim of sexual assault are provided below:

1. I am here to listen and support you, but it would also be helpful for you to talk to someone who has a specialized knowledge in this area.
2. There are places that you can go anonymously to get information or support.
3. Even if you don’t know what you want to do right now, it can be helpful to talk to someone about your options.
4. I would be happy to go with you to talk to someone.
5. What would make it feel safe for you to go talk to someone?

Section 2: Responding to Sexual Assaults



Section 3: Initial Points of Contact

The following is a list of contact information for individuals and/or agencies that may be contacted should the student decide that additional support and/or information is needed. Please contact these sources resources in the order listed on the flow chart in Section 2 of this document. All are available Monday-Friday between 8:00AM and 5:00PM with the exception of University Police (24 hours) and Counseling Center (after hour on-call rotation).

Medical Assistant

Wake Medical Center (919)350-8000

300 New Bern Avenue

Raleigh, NC 27610

- ❖ Rape exam to collect forensic evidence (Police involvement required)
- ❖ Testing for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections
- Blind reporting /rape exam to collect forensic evidence, you will not have to reveal your identity

Rex Healthcare (919)784-3100

4420 Lake Boone Trail

Raleigh, NC 27607

- ❖ Rape exam to collect forensic evidence (Police involvement required)
- ❖ Testing for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections
- ❖ Blind reporting /rape exam to collect forensic evidence, you will not have to reveal your identity

Duke Raleigh Hospital (919) 954-

3000

3400 Wake Forest Road

Raleigh, NC 27609

- ❖ Rape exam to collect forensic evidence (Police involvement required)
- ❖ Testing for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections
- ❖ Blind reporting /rape exam to collect forensic evidence, you will not have to reveal your identity

Shaw University Student Health Center..... (919)719-6324

- ❖ Testing for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection
- ❖ For testing without police involvement, ask for “Gynecological exam with full STD screening” (do not disclose that you have been rape)

Emotional Support

Interact (919)828-7740(Main Line)

Interact 24 Hour Crisis Line Numbers... (919)828-3005 (Sexual Assault) and (919)828-7740(Domestic Violence)

1012 Oberlin Road

Raleigh, NC 27605

- ❖ Provide confidential services: identify options for reporting sexual assault, medical treatment, peer services, professional counseling and emotional support

Shaw University Counseling Center

(919)546-8525(Director of Counseling Center)

(919) 546-8283 (University Counselor)

(919)546-8203 (Project Coordinator for RISE Project)

Student Counseling Center Mobile #144

- ❖ Counselors are available to provide emotional support
- ❖ Walk-In/Same-day service available to students Monday-Friday
- ❖ Provide confidential services including community resources and options for reporting sexual abuse and violence

Legal

Campus Security and Police (919)-546-8249

Shaw University

- ❖ Take report from student(s) if incident occurred on campus, or student will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement institution off campus
- ❖ Transport victim(s) to hospital for medical examination

Note: If incident occurred in a city outside of Raleigh, North Carolina, it is better to contact the law enforcement agency in the city where the incident occurred.

Legal Aid of North Carolina (919)856-2564

224 S. Dawson St.
Raleigh, NC 27601

Campus Disciplinary Process

Judicial Services (919)546-8618

Shaw University

2nd Floor Willie E. Gary Student Center

- ❖ Provide information about filing a criminal complaint or pursuing a complaint through established campus disciplinary process
- ❖ Provides resource information

Title IX Coordinator..... (919)278-2666

Shaw University

Yancy Bldg., Second Floor, Room 229

- ❖ Oversees all matters related to gender equity, including sexual misconduct
- ❖ Works collaboratively throughout the University to enforce and monitor sexual misconduct proceedings and or cases