

April 2026

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Women's
RIGHTS IN
HEALTHCARE

MONTHLY MEMO:

SEXUAL ASSAULT: REPORTING AND RESOURCES



WARNING!

April is sexual assault awareness month. This memo will include details and statistics surrounding the topic. Because this can be distressing to some readers, discretion is advised. Please take care of yourself and contact law enforcement if you are in danger. This memo will go over the steps of reporting and what to expect when gathering evidence.

What to expect in the ER

- **Sexual assault forensic exam:** if the patient chooses to do this exam, medical professionals can perform procedures to collect evidence. This may include swabs, collections under the fingernails, combings of pubic hair, and other case-specific tests. Doing this does not require a report to law enforcement if the patient is 18 or older.
- **Law enforcement at the ER:** medical professionals are mandatory reporters. This means that they have to tell law enforcement when they see someone for sexual assault. The police will come to the emergency room and ask if the patient would like to share information about their assault for a report. If the patient is 18 or older, they have the right to refuse this. However, if the patient decides to report it, it can build a case against the perpetrator.

What to expect in the ER

- **Arrival at the ER:** when arriving at the ER, it is important to inform the receptionist, and they will provide paperwork to be filled out. This will include patient information, consent to medical examination and treatment, and consent to forwarding the sexual assault information to law enforcement. All sexual assault victims have the right to a rape crisis center advocate in these situations. To request for an advocate, the patient can ask the receptionist, and they will call one into the emergency room. The advocate will help with filling out forms and supporting the patient through the entire process.
- **Medical examination:** after the forms are completed, a medical professional will take the patient to a private room. They will ask questions to understand the case. With the patient's consent, the professional may test for physical or mental trauma, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and/or pregnancy. They can prescribe treatments to prevent STIs from developing. They will also give the patient the option of doing a sexual assault forensic exam, also known as a rape kit. This exam collects evidence from the assault, and it is free in Oklahoma.

Resources and Support Hotlines

- Oklahoma Safeline: Safeline for anyone who has experienced sexual assault, stalking, relationship violence, or human trafficking
-1-800-522-SAFE (7233)
- Norman: Women's Resource Center/Rape Crisis Center
-24-Hour Domestic Violence Crisis Line: (405) 701-5540
-24-Hour Sexual Violence Crisis Line: (405) 701-5660
- Oklahoma City: YWCA Oklahoma City
-24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline: (405) 917-9922
-24-Hour Sexual Assault Hotline: (405) 943-7273
- National Domestic Violence Safeline: (800) 799-SAFE (7233)
- Crimes occurring on campus may be reported to OUPD.
- Norman Campus: Call 911 or (405) 325-1911
-Health Sciences Center: Call 911 or (405) 271-4911
- Crimes occurring off campus within the city limits of Norman, Oklahoma City, or Tulsa may be reported to that city's police department.
- Norman Police Department: (405) 321-1600
-Oklahoma City Police Department: (405) 231-2121
-Tulsa Police Department: (918) 596-9222

*Sources & links to corresponding websites are cited at the end of this email.

Reporting on College Campuses

In any setting, the first thing to do after being assaulted is seek safety and medical attention. After ensuring both of these needs are met, reporting is the next crucial step. Many institutions and workplaces have their own processes for investigating sexual assault.

College Campuses:

- The University of Oklahoma, as required by the educational amendments, adheres to the Title IX policy.
 - "Gender cannot be a basis for a person's exclusion from participation in, denial of benefits, or subjecting him or her to discrimination under any education program or activity, including employment." (Institutional Equity Office)
- When filing a report, it is necessary to contact the Title IX coordinator to begin the process. Included below is the contact for the Title IX coordinator for the Norman Campus, as shown on the Title IX policy page: marci.gracey@ou.edu
- It is important to remember that everyone is a mandated reporter, and can be held liable if they fail to report abuse of a minor. Employees who fail to report Title IX misconduct of any kind can also face consequences.
- After a report is filed, investigation will begin and if charges should be filed, the Title IX coordinator will contact Student Conduct.

Workplace:

- Know your rights - under the [Sex Discrimination Act of 1984](#), sexual harassment and assault within the workplace is illegal. It also falls under direct violation of Title VII: prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of identity and background.
- Document everything. If asked to give evidence, it is important to have documentation of place, time, and who was involved.
- It is important to report to law enforcement, but when choosing to report internally it is necessary to know who to go to. In this case the individual has the choice of reporting to their immediate supervisor, or straight to the HR department.
- Employers are required to investigate any complaints of sexual assault under the [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#) and take necessary action with law enforcement. [There are 180 days after the incident to file a charge, but this may vary by state.](#)

Reporting to law enforcement

Step 1: Make sure you're in a safe environment. If you're in any immediate danger call 911 and law enforcement will show up to where you are and help you get to safety.

Step 2: Preserving evidence for the assault is important for sexual assault case and forensic analysis. If you're able to preserve any evidence, avoid showering and bathing, changing clothing, eating, smoking, and drinking.

Step 3: Go to a hospital and visit the emergency room and request for a sexual assault forensic examiner (SAFE). From there, the hospital will be able to collect evidence and contact law enforcement.

Or if you're immediately wanting to go to the police rather than taking the hospital route, you can go to the police station and request a specialized detective for sexual crimes.

Step 4: Once law enforcement arrives, they will ask you questions about the incident. This is a hard part of the process, but remember you have the right to privacy, can take a break, and are allowed to have someone there with you for emotional support.

Step 5: If your assault happened within five days, a forensic exam will be given to collect evidence.

Step 6: Once evidence is collected, a detective will be assigned to your case and will follow up with interviews and gather any additional evidence that might be needed.

[You can still report sexual assault even days, months, weeks, and years after it occurred:](#)

- Since DNA evidence may not be available and no forensic analysis test will be taken, gathering information and evidence regarding the assault is important. This can include: messages, witnesses, medical records, and documentations, such as photos of your injury or any items that might still possibly contain DNA.
- Report to the police station where the crime took place. You can request for a special unit where you will be asked to provide a statement and try and recall the details of the crime.
- In a delayed report there are things you can expect, such as investigation and evidence, and delayed reporting challenges. Medical care and other resources can still be given such as, STI testing, and pregnancy tests. If you feel that you are unsafe there are civil protective orders to help you file against the offender which doesn't require any criminal conviction, there are other legal actions that you can take even if a criminal case is not pursued.

Keep up with us!

Email us if you need us:
wrho.ou@gmail.com

Get access to more
content on our
Instagram: [@wrhoou](#)

26.4%

of female undergraduates experience some form of sexual assault in their time on campus, involving harassment, physical violence, or rape.

Only 20%

of all students who experienced some form of sexual assault actually report to law enforcement.

9.7%

of female graduate and professional students experience some form of sexual assault in their time on campus, involving harassment, physical violence, or rape.

SOURCES

[A Guide to Reporting Sexual Assault Webpage » www.ncedsv.org](http://www.ncedsv.org)

[Civil Rights Division | What You Should Know About Sexual Harassment in the Workplace](#)

[Home – Palomar](#)

[Reporting Options – Sexual Assault – Anonymous Reporting](#)

[Reporting Sexual Assault to Law Enforcement – RAINN](#)

[SAKT Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Sexual Assault / Rape: What can I do if I was sexually assaulted in the past? | WomensLaw.org](#)

[Sexual Harassment | U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#)

[Title IX](#)

[What Happens If I Go to the ER After a Sexual Assault? – CAASE](#)