

# **Binghamton University Sexual Assault** **Response Protocol**

## **Assumptions Guiding the Protocol**

*Binghamton University does not tolerate sexual assault. This protocol defines and coordinates efforts of various on and off campus units and agencies in order to provide a caring and effective uniform response to the student who reports having been sexually violated. Student victims of sexual violence may seek assistance from any University department.*

This protocol is based on the following understanding of sexual assault:

1. Sexual assault is a broad term that encompasses any sexual activity that occurs without the consent of the student. Sexual assault includes, but is not limited to, unwanted kissing and fondling; forcible vaginal, oral, or anal intercourse; and forcible penetration with an object or a finger. Both student and alleged perpetrators can be male and female.
2. Consent is an agreement reached without force, coercion, or intimidation between persons. Nonconsensual sexual activity occurs when consent is not reached or when the student is mentally incapacitated or physically helpless.
3. Sexually assaulted students need to know what services are available and what offices provide them. Service providers will recognize their own limitations and make referrals when appropriate.
4. Students need clearly defined choices and options because when they were sexually assaulted, they were in a powerless position and denied choice.
5. Timely services are of the utmost importance for students as they may be in crisis and there may be time limits associated with the collection of physical evidence of the crime as well as the effectiveness of some medications.
6. Confidential services are essential to the recovery of the student. Any limits of confidentiality must be explained to the student.
7. You may be a first responder. A first responder is a source of support and referral. Remember, the student may be reporting an old or a new incident, all options should be given no matter what the time frame of the incident.

# **Binghamton University Sexual Assault Response Protocol**

*The following procedures have been designed to assist responding staff, faculty, university departments, and community partnered agency personnel in helping the student of sexual violence, assault, rape or attempted rape obtain the support and services needed during the time of crisis. The students' trauma will be minimized if staff are able to maintain a calm and concerned approach. Remember the staff's role is to advise students of their options and to assist them in accessing services. You should not be making decisions for students, or trying to counsel students on your own.*

*As every situation is different, staff's interview may not happen in this specific order. However, all aspects of this procedure should be addressed.*

**1. Move to a private, calm, safe location that is comfortable for the student. Should you need assistance ensuring safety, call 911.**

**2. Discuss Confidentiality:**

There are limits to confidentiality, especially if the assailant represents a threat to the University community for safety reasons. However, it is of the utmost importance to maintain the student's desire for confidentiality whenever possible.

**3. Assess for Immediate Needs & Physical Well-Being of the Student:**

- If emergency health care is needed, call 911.
- Medical referrals may be made to Binghamton University Health Service as well as the local hospital emergency departments (i.e. Lourdes Hospital, Wilson Memorial Hospital, and Binghamton General Hospital).

*In the event that the student does not need medical intervention(s) and wishes to further discuss the situation:*

**4. Listen to the Student in Non-Judgmental, Caring Way:**

- Give the student the opportunity to speak in their own way and time; do not pressure or confuse them with too many questions.
- Primary concern is the student's emotional state.

**5. Inform Student of their options:**

- a. Provide the student with the BU Campus Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights.
- b. Explain further options to the student:
  - i. Medical
    - 1) Explain the importance of examination for injury, pregnancy, disease prevention and possible evidence collection (especially if the assault was drug facilitated).
    - 2) Tell the student there are trained personnel who can be contacted and will be supportive at the hospital should they choose medical attention.
  - ii. Legal/Judicial
    - 1) Do not try to convince the student to report the assault; only inform them that a variety of options exist, including criminal and/or judicial action and/or no action at all. For further information, they may consult with University Police.
  - iii. Counseling and other support
    - 1) Inform the student that University counseling support is available 24 hours a day, either by calling the Counseling Center or through Crime Victims Assistance Center.
    - 2) Inform the student that crime victim advocates are available by contacting Crime Victims Assistance Center (CVAC); Advocates can assist students with obtaining needed information and assistance.

## **Binghamton University Sexual Assault Response Protocol: (cont'd)**

### **6. Inform Student of Available Support Personnel**

#### **Campus Resources**

- Harpur's Ferry: 607-777-3579; or 911 from any campus phone (24 hours /7days a week).
- University Counseling Center: 607-777-2772 (Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) Staff on-call after hours and contacted by University Police
- Decker Student Health Services Center: 607-777-2221 (Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.).
- New York State University Police at Binghamton: 911 from any campus phone or 607-777-2393.
- High Hopes Crisis Intervention Center: 607-777-4357 (24 hours /7days a week when classes are in session).
- Residential Life: Resident Assistants and Resident Directors on duty daily.
- Residential Life Central office: 607-777-2322 (Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).
- Judicial Affairs: 607-777-6210 (Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).
- University Ombudsman: 607-777-2388 (Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).
- Office of the Dean of Students: 607-777-2804 (Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).

#### **Off Campus Resources:**

- Crime Victims Assistance Center: 607-722-4256 (24 hours / 7days a week).
- SOS Shelter (Binghamton/Johnson City/Endicott area): 607-754-4340 (24 hours / 7days a week).
- New Hope Center (Owego area): 607-687-6866 (Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).
- Planned Parenthood: 607-723-8306 (Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).

### **7. Additional Information:**

Interpreter services may be obtained through friends of the student. If additional interpreter services are needed, the following office may be able to provide information on finding an interpreter, contact:

- The ISSS office 607-777-2510 (Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
- American Civic Association: 607-723-9419.

Safe Zone website: <http://www2.binghamton.edu/dean-of-students/safezone/>

Counseling Center website: <http://www2.binghamton.edu/counseling/>

Voices Against Violence website: <http://www2.binghamton.edu/voices-against-violence/index.html>

Crime Victims Assistance Center: <http://www.cvac.us/>