

## *On-Campus Emergency*

215-968-8911

## *Medical treatment*

### **Newtown**

St. Mary's Hospital  
1201 Langhorne-Newtown Road  
Langhorne, PA 19047  
215-710-2000

### **Perkasie**

Grandview Health  
700 Lawn Avenue  
Sellersville, PA 18960  
215-453-4000

### **Lower Bucks**

Lower Bucks Hospital  
501 Bath Road  
Bristol, PA 19007  
215-785-9200

Aria Health - Bucks County  
380 Oxford Valley Road  
Langhorne, PA 19047  
215-949-5180

## *Emotional support*

### **Newtown Campus:**

**Student Services Center**  
Charles E. Rollins Center  
215-968-8189

### **Upper Bucks Campus:**

**Student Services Center**  
215-968-8189

### **Lower Bucks Campus:**

**Student Services Center**  
215-968-8189

### **Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA)**

1-800-675-6900,  
Web site: [www.novabucks.org](http://www.novabucks.org)

## *Title IX Coordinator*

### **Executive Dir., Human Resources**

Tyler Hall, Room 130  
215-968-8091

## *Deputy Coordinator*

### **Director, Student Life Programs**

Charles E. Rollins Center, (Rm. 112)  
215-968-8257

## *Police and legal information*

### **Office, Security and Safety**

Bucks County Community College,  
Cottage 4 – 215-968-8911

### **Police Emergencies - 911**

#### **Newtown Township Police**

100 Municipal Drive, Newtown, PA  
215-579-1000 (non-emergency)

#### **Pennridge Regional Police**

1027 Ridge Road, Sellersville, PA  
215-257-5104 (non-emergency)

#### **Bristol Township Police**

2501 Bath Road, Bristol, PA  
215-785-4040 (non-emergency)

#### **District Attorney's Office**

215-348-6344

#### **Bucks County Lawyer Referral Service**

1-888-991-9922

#### **Bucks County Legal Aid Society**

Lower Bucks – 215-781-1111  
Central Bucks – 215-340-1818

## *Educational service/programs*

### **Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA)**

1-800-675-6900,  
web site: [www.novabucks.org](http://www.novabucks.org),  
Provides programs for groups directed  
at sexual assault awareness/prevention and  
victim support.

### **Student Life Programs**

215-968-8257  
Provides programs for large and small  
groups of students directed at many topics  
of student welfare.

# Information Guide for Victims of Sexual Assault

## Resources for College Students



**Bucks County  
Community College**

Newtown • Bristol • Perkasie • Online



## *Campus Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights*

Bucks County Community College will act swiftly to protect the rights of all its members. Students who have been sexually assaulted have a variety of campus and area resources that are available to them. The College supports the victim's right to choose which avenues of assistance are most appropriate. These resources include: the Title IX Coordinator, the Office of Security and Safety, to whom all crimes (including sexual assaults) should be reported, the Student Life office, Counseling Services, the Dean of Student Affairs, the local police agency with jurisdiction, NOVA – Network of Victim Assistance, and the emergency department of the local hospital.

Individuals who have been sexually assaulted have the following rights:

1. To be treated with dignity.
2. To be treated in a confidential manner consistent with applicable legal requirements.
3. To contact local police and/or the district attorney to report the crime. Bucks County Community College will assist the student in notifying proper law enforcement officials, if requested.
4. To be informed of mental health counseling services on campus or in the community.
5. To be free from pressure to not report the crime or to report it as a lesser offense.
6. To be transported to the nearest medical facility approved for the collection of sexual assault evidence.
7. To be informed of any federal or state rights to test sexual assault suspects for communicable diseases.
8. To choose whether or not to have the case adjudicated through the College system, the criminal justice system, or both concurrently.
9. To have the same opportunities for representation as the accused, and to have others present in campus proceedings.
10. To be informed about the outcome of any investigation by the Title IX Coordinator, including any disciplinary action against the accused.
11. To be afforded alternative class assignment or working arrangement, transportation assistance and/or escort to vehicle, and other assistance if requested and reasonably available.
12. To be given a copy of the College's Gender-Based Misconduct Policy. Individuals have the right to have any questions about College policy and the College judicial process answered.

If a police investigation indicates that criminal charges are warranted, the alleged assailant(s) will be charged with the appropriate offense(s) at a preliminary arraignment. Victims do not need to be present at this stage. The defendant(s) may be jailed or released on bail depending upon the circumstances of the crime. Suspects are typically ordered by the Court to have no contact with the victim as a condition of bail. A victim who is contacted by an alleged assailant or who feels threatened in any way should immediately call the police. In such cases, bail can be revoked and additional charges filed, if necessary.

### *Responding to assaults*

If you have been sexually assaulted or harassed, such complaints should be filed with the Title IX Coordinator or other college administrator including the Director of Student Life, Office of Safety and Security, and Vice President of Student Affairs who are available to assist you with this process.

### *Maintaining personal security*

At the victim's request, the college may be able to make special provisions for an alternate class schedule during the period of investigation. Other special support can also be provided upon request.

### *College disciplinary action*

In addition to potential criminal court proceedings, perpetrators of sexual assault face significant potential sanctions under the College's judicial system. If you have been assaulted and are considering whether or not to pursue campus disciplinary action, you are encouraged to discuss the matter with the Title IX Coordinator. This will enable you to review procedures should you decide to file formal charges through the College's disciplinary system. This discussion does not obligate you to pursue official action.

If you decide to pursue the disciplinary process, charges may be filed directly by you or by the college on the basis of your written statement. Such charges would be handled in accordance with the procedures relating to violations of the College's Student Code of Conduct. For more information on these proceedings, consult the student handbook or college catalog.

To recap, a victim of a rape or sexual assault has several options with regard to how the case is handled. The victim may choose to:

- Press charges through the local police;
- Press charges through the college disciplinary system;
- Press charges through both systems concurrently;
- Press no charges but alert the college to the incident



### ***Reporting sexual assaults***

Bucks County Community College takes the well-being of our students very seriously. All incidents of sexual assault should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator (contact info on back of brochure), however in cases of emergency, we recommend that sexual assaults be reported immediately by calling the emergency telephone number 215-968-8911 or visiting Security & Safety in Cottage 4. Here is what to expect: The Director or Assistant Director of Security & Safety will meet with you in a private setting. A statement will be taken from you regarding what occurred. You will be asked to identify your assailant(s) or describe them if they are not known. Questions may be asked about the scene of the crime, potential witnesses, as well as what happened before and after the incident. These inquiries are a standard part investigation. If you wish, you may have a support person with you during the interview.

Unless there are compelling circumstances, the College will typically not file an independent police report without the consent of the Complainant. Victims are encouraged to cooperate with law enforcement in such cases. Depending on your preference, it may be possible for you to make a statement to College Security and the local police at the same time. However, reporting an incident is a separate step from choosing to prosecute. When you file a report you are not obligated to continue with legal proceedings or college disciplinary action. As a victim, you control whether or not the case is adjudicated through the college system, the criminal justice system or both.

### ***Criminal investigation and charges***

Describing an assault is difficult but it is not something a victim must go through alone. Sexual assault victims may choose to have a support person with them during investigative interviews.

An assistant district attorney from the Bucks County Districts Attorney's office will represent the victim at no cost throughout the criminal proceedings. You may choose to have a NOVA representative accompany you to all criminal proceedings. You may speak with your personal or family attorney for legal advice.

The Office of Security and Safety will supply the investigating police agency with a written copy of its report. If you are considering filing a criminal complaint, a police officer will be a part of the interview process.

This does not mean you are obligated to proceed with criminal charges. You may request that your identity be kept confidential until/unless you make a commitment to proceed with criminal or college prosecution.

Due to the violent and extremely serious nature of sexual assault, the College strongly encourages individuals who have been sexually assaulted to contact the police. Reporting the assault to the police soon after the incident occurs may greatly increase the possibility of successful prosecution, should the victim decide to pursue criminal charges. It is extremely important to preserve all evidence of a sexual assault if criminal prosecution is to be considered.

Victims of sexual assault will be offered the opportunity to make a formal complaint through the Title IX Coordinator, if the offender is a member of the Bucks College community. The College may pursue code of conduct charges regardless of whether any criminal charges are filed. However, the College's judicial process is not intended to serve as a substitute for the criminal justice system. The College will initiate internal judicial proceedings in incidents of sexual assault when a student requests it and/or when subsequent investigation produces substantial evidence of a violation of College policy. Students will receive a copy of their rights, as well as a copy of the policy and procedures for such incidents, including possible sanctions or protective measures.

If an individual who reports a sexual assault is harassed by anyone in connection with the incident, the harassment should be reported immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Reporting such harassment will enable the College to investigate the allegations. Individuals have the option to have a victim's advocate and/or any other advisor with them at all times throughout such procedures. Both the accuser and the accused shall be informed simultaneously in writing of the outcome of any institutional disciplinary proceeding alleging a sexual offense. This includes the College's final determination as well as any sanctions against the accused.

### ***If You Are a Victim of Rape or Sexual Assault***

It is an unfortunate fact that many individuals in our society are the victims of personal violence. When this happens, the victim is faced with a number of choices, including taking care of him/herself physically and emotionally, maintaining potential legal options, and becoming aware of resources that are available. The individual's well being is of primary concern if a sexual assault occurs at Bucks County Community College. In such a case, the college's role is to assist the victim in making the best decisions for his or her welfare. In the event that a sexual assault occurs, we want to ensure that the victim receives the kind of support and information that will help clarify the issues and facilitate recovery.

Sexual assault, harassment and rape fall within the parameters of "assault upon another person or the threat thereof while on campus" as well as "violations of any federal, state or local criminal law" as stated in the Bucks County Community College Student Handbook. While most victims of sexual assault are typically women, men may also be victimized. Regardless of gender, all victims have access to the appropriate campus services.





# A Resource for College Students

## *If you are raped or sexually assaulted*

- **Get to a safe place**
- **Try to preserve all physical evidence**  
Do not wash, take a shower, use the toilet or change clothing. If you do change clothes, put all the clothing you were wearing at the time of the attack in a paper rather than a plastic bag.
- **Contact someone you trust**  
If you prefer, you may ask a trusted friend or family member to join and support you through the decision-making, medical treatment, and interviews which will follow.
- **Get medical attention**  
A special examination should be conducted as soon as possible following an assault to determine your physical condition and to collect evidence that may be used in future proceedings. An emergency room physician or gynecologist will perform the examination. Even if you have not been physically injured beyond the assault itself, this examination is recommended to maintain your legal options as physical evidence should be collected within the first 24 hours following an assault. While evidence may be collected later, delay brings the risk that the usefulness of evidence may be diminished. You may request a support person of your choice to be present throughout the procedure. Ordinarily, hospital personnel will contact the local police department when providing treatment for injuries resulting from a sexual assault or other violent crime. However, it is the victim's choice whether or not to proceed with criminal charges.
- **Contact Police by dialing 9-1-1 or call Bucks County Community College Security & Safety at 215-968-8911**
- **Talk with a counselor**  
A counselor can explain your options, give you information, and provide emotional support. Counselors are available on all campuses through Student Services, 215-968-8189 and off campus from the Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) at 800-675-6900 or [www.novabucks.org](http://www.novabucks.org). Counselors will maintain your privacy and confidentiality.
- **If You Need Transportation**  
The Office of Security and Safety will transport sexual assault victims to the hospital if necessary; however the preferred method of transportation is always via ambulance. To request transportation call Security and Safety at 215-968-8911.

## *Non-emergency medical procedures*

Even if you do not have evidence collected at a hospital emergency room, it is still important to get medical attention. An examination in this case will include treatment of any physical problems and various lab tests for sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. Such non-emergency treatment can be arranged through your family doctor or other healthcare provider.

## *Confidential Counseling*

Counseling is available to Bucks County Community College students at all three campuses. Counseling may be accessed by appointment via Student Services 215-968-8189 or [counseling@bucks.edu](mailto:counseling@bucks.edu). Student Services hours of operation may be found at [www.bucks.edu/student/counseling](http://www.bucks.edu/student/counseling). Counselors are available to confidentially discuss crisis or non-emergency matters related to rape, sexual assault, victimization or abuse. They can help you obtain medical assistance, psychological counseling, understand victim's rights and learn coping methods to assist you following the assault. Discussing your concerns with a counselor will help you sort through feelings and make decisions. You may contact the Student Services Center for information without disclosing your name. Counselors will not reveal your identity to anyone without your permission.

Off-campus: Network of victim assistance (NOVA) is a local crisis center with a 24-hour emergency hotline - 1-800-675-6900. Trained volunteer counselors can provide information and confidential options to Victims of sexual assault. NOVA also offers support groups for survivors of rape, incest and other forms of sexual abuse. All services are free. [www.novabucks.org](http://www.novabucks.org)

## *Date Rape Drugs*

Some predators may employ date rape drugs such as Rohypnol and GHB to incapacitate their victims. Such drugs can be easily mixed into drinks. When mixed with alcohol they can be harmful or even fatal. Suggestions for avoiding date rape drugs include: 1) never accept a beverage from a stranger and never leave your drink unattended; 2) if you begin to feel ill or uneasy while on a date or in a social situation, follow your instincts and leave; 3) let friends know where you will be and keep them updated; 4) stay sober and aware.