

## What should I do if a student tells me that s/he was sexually assaulted?

- Listen
- Communicate that you believe them
- Help to clarify what you think the student is saying
- Let the student decide what s/he wants to talk about
- Don't ask accusing questions
- Don't make decisions for the student
- Show that you care

*Suggested supportive comments:*

- "It's not your fault."
  - "I'm glad that you told me."
  - "You have a lot of courage to come forward."
- Remind the student to have compassion for herself/himself
  - Encourage the student to seek medical attention, if s/he hasn't already
  - Encourage the student to get support from on- and off-campus resources (*enclosed*)
  - Complete the Sexual Assault Anonymous Reporting Form  
<http://www.umassd.edu/publicsafety/sexualassaultform/sexualassaultanonymousreport.cfm>

*Any member of the campus community may use the online Sexual Assault Anonymous Reporting Form to file a report about an assault that one has either experienced or heard about without having to disclose the names of either the person who has been assaulted or the person who committed the assault. It is a mechanism for bringing the incident to the attention of the University in order to better understand the extent of the problem, plan more effective prevention and response efforts, and create a safer campus community.*

***The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act requires most staff and faculty (except for staff in the Counseling Center and Religious Resource Center) to report, anonymously at a minimum, an assault if one is brought to their attention.***

*This form is one option for reporting a sexual assault or rape. Survivors may choose whether or not they also wish to file a police report or pursue judicial action.*

(Above adopted from "What you need to know about rape and sexual assault", a publication of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, <http://www.barcc.org>.)

# On- and Off-Campus Resources for Sexual Assault Survivors

(Additional resource information is available online at <http://www.umassd.edu/livewell/wellness/sexualassault.cfm>)

## **Campus Resources:**

The following UMass Dartmouth Departments are prepared to: listen attentively and supportively to survivors; review all support resources available and assist with contacting the resources; review all possible options for reporting/filing a complaint; answer questions; explain the Anonymous Reporting Form.

- Counseling Center: 508.999.8650
- Health Services: 508.999.8982
- Judicial Affairs: 508.910.6402
- Public Safety: 508.999.9191
- Residential Life: 508.999.8995

Residential students may also seek assistance from their Resident Director (RD) or the RD on duty.

- Student Affairs Office: 508.999.8600
- Women's Resource Center: 508.910.4584

## **Off-campus Resources:**

### *Hospitals:*

- St. Luke's Hospital, New Bedford: 508.997.1515
- Charlton Memorial Hospital, Fall River: 508.679.3131

### *Local Law Enforcement/Police:*

- Dartmouth Police: 508.910.1700
- Fall River Police: 508.676.8511
- New Bedford Police: 508.991.6340
- Westport Police: 508-636-1122

### *Sexual Assault Service Providers & Hotlines:*

- The Women's Center, Inc. 24-Hour Hotline: 508.999.6636 (99WOMEN)
- SafeLink, Statewide 24-hour Sexual Assault & Intimate Partner Violence Hotline: 1.877.785.2020
- National 24-Hour Sexual Assault Hotline: 1.800.656.HOPE
- Other      Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Suggested Supportive Comments/Actions:**

- Tell survivor it wasn't their fault
- Tell survivor that you are glad they told you
- Tell survivor they have a lot of courage to come forward
- Encourage survivor to seek medical attention if they haven't yet
- Encourage survivor to seek counseling if they haven't yet
- Encourage survivor to seek support from friends, family and/or other agencies