

DREW UNIVERSITY



SEXUAL ASSAULT INFORMATION SHEET

Drew University Health Service

Sexual assault is a crime of violence, not sex.

There are trained professionals available to provide support, health care, and legal recourse.

Immediately following an assault, what should I do?

On campus call Public Safety at 973-408-4444. Public Safety officers are available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. If you decide you want immediate medical treatment a Public Safety officer will assist you to Morristown Memorial Hospital. Try not to shower, brush your teeth or go to the bathroom (urinate) before you go. If you have already showered or feel you cannot wait to bathe, place your clothing in a paper (not plastic) bag and bring it with you to the hospital.

What decisions do I need to make?

There are a few things to think about.

Do I want medical treatment such as emergency contraception and/or help in preventing sexually transmitted diseases?

This service is available at the Health Service. Either call the Health Service at 973-408-3414 or come to the Health Service located in the annex of Holloway Hall. Ask to speak with a nurse practitioner.

Do I want to have a rape kit done at the hospital?

A Registered Nurse with special training in the treatment of sexual assault survivors will be called once you arrive in the emergency department. If you are considering reporting the crime to law enforcement you should have a rape kit done. You do not *have* to report to law enforcement if you have a rape kit done. Even if you have not yet decided to report this you can have a rape kit done.

Do I want to speak with a counselor to talk about what happened?

There are many feelings and reactions that survivors of sexual assault experience: shock, inability to concentrate, fear, guilt, depression, self blame, guilt, and shame are but a few of these emotions. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms counselors are available to speak with you in confidence to help develop a plan for your healing. On campus you can contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 973-408-3398. Off campus trained professionals are also available to help you by contacting the Morris County Sexual Assault Center (Emergency hotline: 973-829-0587; Office: 973-971-4715).

Do I want to report the assault to Drew Public Safety, Drew University Human Rights Committee, or the Madison Police Department?

You do not have to decide whether to report the assault to law enforcement immediately—you can decide later.

What type of medical treatment should I consider?

You may want to consider medical treatment to prevent pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted infections including HIV infection. With the exception of HIV testing these tests are available at Drew University Health Service or Morristown Memorial Hospital. HIV testing is available at no charge at the HIV Counseling Center in Morristown (973-889-6810).

What are the timelines for medical interventions?

If you have been sexually assaulted there are some important time lines to keep in mind. If you decide you want these services it is best to ask for them as early as possible after the assault.

- A rape kit can only be done within 5 days of the assault. Evidence degrades rapidly; if you decide you want this service it is best to ask for it as soon as possible after the assault.
- Evidence collected during a rape kit is saved in a secure location anonymously for 90 days to allow you time to consider reporting to law enforcement before the evidence is destroyed.
- HIV prophylactic treatment needs to be started within 36 hours of assault.
- Emergency birth control is most effective if started within 72 hours of the assault.
- An IUD inserted within 1 week after an assault can help prevent pregnancy.

What is a rape kit, and should I have one done?

A rape kit consists of a set of tests performed at a hospital that is used to help collect evidence after either a man or woman is sexually assaulted. It contains forensic equipment appropriate to detect, collect, and preserve evidence. The evidence collected may later be used in court if you decide to press charges against the person who assaulted you. It is important to know that you can have a rape kit done even if you do not yet know if you will want to report the assault to law enforcement and press charges.

What will happen if I decide to go to the hospital?

A Public Safety officer can go with you to the hospital. You can also have a friend accompany you to the hospital. Once at the hospital you can decide to:

- Have a rape kit done (if it is within 5 days of the assault)
- Talk with a Sexual Assault Victim Advocate
- Receive treatment for sexually transmitted infections

- Receive prophylactic treatment for HIV
- Receive a hepatitis vaccination
- Receive emergency birth control
- Speak with someone from the Morris County Sex Crimes Unit

You can choose to decline any test and medication. You can have a Sexual Assault Victim Advocate with you during any test and exam.

Should I report the assault to law enforcement?

For many survivors, the first contact after the sexual assault will be with a law enforcement officer. Survivors of sexual assault are provided with thorough, compassionate and objective assistance from all law enforcement officers responding to and investigating an incident of sexual assault. If appropriate, the officer informs the survivor about the Morris County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), their right to immediate medical attention and the value of immediate forensic evidence collection. The SART program is a multidisciplinary team of professionals consisting of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, the Sexual Assault Victim Advocate, and a Law Enforcement Officer. The SART is available to provide complete information about all options that are available to survivors so they can make informed decisions about services they choose to receive.

RESOURCE CONTACT NUMBERS

Drew University Health Service	973-408-3414
Counseling and Psychological Services	973-408-3398
Drew University Public Safety	973-408-4444
Morris County Sexual Assault Center	973-971-4715 (Emergency Hotline) 973-971-4715 (Office)
Sheriff’s Communication Center	973-285-2900
HIV Counseling Center	973-889-6810
Jersey Battered Women’s Services, Inc.	973-267-4763
Victim Witness Unit-Morris County Prosecutor’s Office	973-285-6200

Provides emotional and economic assistance for the victim during the legal process.