



Sexual Violence

Rights and Options
for All Parties

If you have been affected by sexual violence, figuring out next steps can be overwhelming.

You are not alone, and this guide provides information and resources for the complainant (accuser), respondent (accused) and any family members, friends or bystanders.

The Community College of Rhode Island is dedicated to a safe and inclusive environment and prohibits all forms of sexual discrimination and harassment. Acts of sexual violence, such as rape, fondling, dating/domestic violence and stalking have no place on our campus or in our community.

Please see our Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy for more information.

- Definitions of prohibited behavior: www.ccri.edu/hr/handbook/pdfs/SexHarassPolicy.pdf
- Complaint procedures: www.ccri.edu/hr/handbook/pdfs/BOG_DiscrimPolicy.pdf
- How the college will handle allegations of sexual misconduct: www.ccri.edu/advising/new_students/student_handbook/

All CCRI staff and faculty want to make sure you are safe and can help you in a time of crisis. Be aware that most faculty and staff are “mandated reporters,” meaning they are required to report a possible violation of college policy. If you are worried about confidentiality, contact the departments below, as these are the only confidential staff at CCRI.

Advising and Counseling (free for students)

Flanagan Campus, Lincoln: Room 1130, 401-333-7160

Knight Campus, Warwick: Room 1054, 401-825-2301

Liston Campus, Providence: Room 1145, 401-455-6063

Newport County Campus: Room 143, 401-851-1625

Health Services (free for students)

Knight Campus, Warwick, Room 1240

nurse@ccri.edu

401-825-2103

Employee Assistance Program (free for employees)

Knight Campus, Warwick, Room 1240

<https://stateofrhodeisland.mybeaconwellbeing.com/>

866-987-3705

MEDICAL ATTENTION AFTER SEXUAL ASSAULT OR OTHER VIOLENCE

CCRI recommends any person who experiences sexual violence obtain medical assistance at a hospital immediately after, or at least within 96 hours of, a sexual assault. Generally, one may discuss the incident with licensed medical personnel on a confidential basis. If you are concerned about confidentiality, discuss it with medical personnel to be sure.

Why have a sexual assault medical exam?

A sexual assault medical examination is beneficial for two reasons:

- collecting evidence important in criminal prosecution or a civil case.
- treating possible injuries or illness sustained from the offense.

Having a sexual assault medical exam allows you to obtain any possible evidence necessary to support your case should you choose to handle the matter through the criminal justice system or other legal process. This examination is a voluntary procedure, and it does not commit you to any legal action. Police involvement is not required for an exam to be performed. The Rhode Island Department of Health stores evidence so it will be available should you ever choose to pursue criminal charges. You can also ask for a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) to perform the examination if you are at a hospital with this program. These nurses are specially trained to collect and preserve evidence in a possible crime. Institutions with SANE nurses are indicated in the list of hospitals in the Resources section of this booklet.

Why preserve evidence?

Any person who has experienced sexual violence is encouraged to take steps to preserve evidence of the incident, as doing so may be necessary to prove a crime or obtain a protective order. To preserve evidence, try to refrain from:

- Going to the bathroom (unless you save a urine specimen in a clean container).
- Drinking or brushing your teeth.
- Showering, bathing or douching.
- Combing your hair.
- Changing your clothing (unless you place each garment worn during the incident in a separate paper – not plastic – bag).
- Straightening up anything.
- Throwing away or deleting any written or electronic communication like texts, pictures, videos, social media posts or voice mail messages or letters.

It is natural to want to do these things, but your clothing and surroundings may contain valuable evidence, and it is important that a physician be able to examine you as you are from the incident. If the incident involves any written or electronic communications (such as texts, pictures, videos, social media posts, phone calls), try to preserve copies and do not delete the originals.

Day One, an agency that specifically deals with helping people who experience sexual violence, has frequently asked questions and responses about steps to take after a sexual assault on their website: <https://www.dayoneri.org/task-force/index.html>.

What if I don't have any noticeable injuries?

Medical attention is needed to treat any possible injuries, including internal injuries or infections, even if there is no visible injury. Please note that there are some medical actions that are more effective if done within a few days after an offense:

- Treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Pregnancy testing.
- Evidence collection.
- Toxicology testing.

Prompt medical attention may be especially helpful to prevent the transmission of certain STIs, such as HIV, as long as medications are administered within the first 24-96 hours following an assault.

Will I have to pay?

To cover the cost of your medical expenses, you may be entitled to compensation from the Crime Victim Compensation Fund. This fund may retroactively pay for expenses incurred as a result of a sexual assault that a victim has suffered.

Day One can help you apply for the Victim Compensation Fund: 800-494-8100.

You do not have to provide your health insurance information to the hospital, and the hospital cannot refuse to treat you because you do not give them your insurance. However, if you provide this information, the hospital will bill your insurance for your care. If you do not want your insurance company to be billed, you should tell the hospital that you are "self-pay" and do not want to use your insurance.

You can also speak with a nurse at CCRI's Health Services: nurse@ccri.edu or 401-825-2103. Health Services is located at the Knight Campus in Warwick, Room 1240.

FILING A REPORT

Individuals have options when deciding whether or not to file a report.

- CCRI complaint
- Criminal complaint

Individuals may choose to pursue complaints via one or both options.

CCRI complaint

The Title IX Coordinator, Dean of Students or College Police can take reports on behalf of CCRI, explain the reporting process, and assist all parties with support and resources. Again, all CCRI staff and faculty are here to help, but some staff and faculty are “mandated reporters,” which means that if they know of an incident or crime on campus, they are obligated to report it. If you are worried about confidentiality, speak with confidential staff, listed on page 1.

Title IX Coordinator

Sheila Wahl

Knight Campus, Warwick, Room 3118

swahl1@ccri.edu or 401-825-2311

Dean of Students

Michael Cunningham

Knight Campus, Warwick, Room 0060

deanofstudents@ccri.edu or 401-825-2218

Gender Equity Initiative

Nancy Forsstrom

Flanagan Campus, Lincoln, Room 1312

nforsstrom@ccri.edu or 401-333-7162

College Police*

Flanagan Campus, Lincoln (24 hours: 401-333-7035)

Knight Campus, Warwick (24 hours: 401-825-2109)

Liston Campus, Providence: 401-455-6063

Newport County Campus: 401-851-1625

**If you have an emergency on the Liston or Newport campuses after hours, please contact Warwick College Police for assistance.*

There is also a online form for anonymous reporting:

www.ccri.edu/campuspolice/forms/anonymous-crime-report.html.

Standard of Proof

When an incident is reported, the investigator has to look at the facts in each case and make a decision based on something called the “preponderance of evidence”. This means looking at the evidence and deciding whether it’s more likely than not that an incident occurred. This is a different standard than used in a criminal trial, and is not equal to a finding of criminal violation. All findings and determinations of responsibility under the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy and Student Code of Conduct will be made using a preponderance of the evidence standard, requiring the determination of whether it is more likely than not that a fact exists or a violation of the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy occurred.

Amnesty and Fear of Potential Consequences

The health and safety of every student at the Community College of Rhode Island is of utmost importance. CCRI recognizes that students who have been drinking and/or using drugs (whether such use is voluntary or involuntary) at the time that an incident of violence occurs, including, but not limited to, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault, may be hesitant to report such incidents or participate in a college process as a complainant, respondent or witness due to fear of potential consequences for their own conduct. CCRI strongly encourages students to report incidents of violence to institution officials. A bystander acting in good faith or a reporting individual acting in good faith that discloses any incident of violence to CCRI’s officials or law enforcement will not be subject to CCRI’s code of conduct action for violations of alcohol and/or drug use policies occurring at or near the time of the commission of the incident of violence.

Criminal Complaint

A report to College Police is not automatically a report to the local police. Parties must tell the College Police when they report an incident if they wish to have the matter reported to the local police. CCRI encourages individuals to report incidents so the local police can help victim-survivors and prevent future crimes. However, individuals are never required to report an incident to College Police or the local police department.

Emergency: 911

Lincoln Police: 401-333-8281

Newport Police: 401-847-1306

Providence Police: 401-272-3121

Warwick Police: 401-468-4200

INFORMATION FOR BOTH PARTIES

Privacy and Confidentiality

Some individuals request the college keep their name confidential or anonymous and/or not investigate an alleged incident. There are certain instances in which CCRI has a broader obligation to the college community and may need to override an individual's request for privacy or that the college not investigate a matter. Because confidentiality or privacy requests can affect the college's ability to appropriately address and resolve the behavior in question, we will weigh these requests very carefully and will act discreetly with regard to individual privacy and sensitivity to any situation that could violate the Code of Conduct or Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy. Absent special circumstances, the Title IX Coordinator or Dean of Students will share information with college personnel who assist in implementing these policies and procedures.

Interim Actions Taken During an Investigation

The College Police Chief, or someone chosen by the chief, assesses reported conduct to determine whether circumstances pose a threat to the health or safety of the college community, and if they warrant a warning, stay-away order for any persons, or any other interim protections. These interim protections can include, but are not limited to, suspending a student, placing an employee on leave or restricting any individual from other privileges. During the interim action, CCRI reserves the right to prohibit any individual from entering the college's property or participating in any college activities, unless they have written authorization from an appropriate CCRI official.

Prohibition Against Retaliation

Retaliation against any party or witness is prohibited and shall be treated as a separate violation of the college's community standards and/or policy. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to: intimidation, threats, coercion or discrimination against any individual for filing a complaint or participating in any investigation or proceeding brought pursuant to this policy.

Good Faith

There shall be no disciplinary action, retaliation or reprisal for bringing a complaint in good faith. Individuals shall not, however, knowingly make false charges of retaliation or sexual violence.

Advisors

All parties who meet with the Title IX Coordinator can bring an individual of their choice (who may be an attorney) for support and/or advice. This individual

may not address or question the investigator, other parties or witnesses; may not present evidence or make arguments; and shall not have any role other than to accompany and communicate with the party requesting support.

Accommodations

Reasonable measures, assistance, accommodations and resources are available to both the complainant and respondent. A complainant may request accommodations and resources regardless of any decision to pursue an investigation with the college or law enforcement. CCRI will make accommodations and provide protective measures if either party requests them and the accommodations are reasonably available. We encourage parties to seek accommodations that best support them.

Common accommodations

Academic: Students finding their academic progress affected by an incident or allegation can request assistance from Title IX Coordinator or Dean of Students, who will help arrange appropriate accommodations. These can include incompletes, class changes, additional time for work, and other academic accommodations.

No contact directive: We will issue No Contact Directives when appropriate including, but not limited to, when it is necessary to minimize interactions between the parties or preserve the safety of the parties and other community members.

Financial Aid: If you have questions or concerns about student financial aid-related issues, please contact CCRI's Office of Financial Aid: ccrifafaq@ccri.edu or 401-825-2468.

Visa and Immigration Assistance: If you have questions or concerns about how your experience and needs may intersect with your visa and/or immigration status, please contact CCRI's Office of Financial Aid (ccrifafaq@ccri.edu or 401-825-2468) and/or the immigration resources available in the Legal Resources section of this booklet.

CCRI Disability Services for Students: DSS coordinators and support staff are available on each of CCRI's four campuses to meet with students with disabilities and provide the necessary and reasonable accommodations students need to be successful. 401-825-2164 | www.ccri.edu/dss/contacts.html

Additional Measures: Other arrangements, such as work accommodations or transportation options can be made on a case-by-case basis to provide students and employees with additional distance from the other party or to address other needs related to the experience, such as attendance at court dates. We encourage you to share your needs with the Title IX Coordinator so that we can work with you to address them.

RESOURCES

Hospitals

The providers below offer physical exams and provide sexual and reproductive health services. SANE nurses are available at the institutions marked with an asterisk to collect evidence in the event the individual seeks to pursue criminal charges or a protective order. In addition, Women & Infants provides the only dedicated post-assault follow-up clinic for victims in Rhode Island at their Center for Women's Medicine in Providence.

Fatima Hospital

200 High Service Avenue North Providence, 401-456-3000

Kent County Memorial Hospital*

455 Toll Gate Road Warwick, 401-737-7000

Landmark Medical Center – Woonsocket Unit

115 Cass Avenue Woonsocket, 401-769-4100

Landmark Medical Center – Fogarty Unit

Eddy Dowling Highway North Smithfield, 401-769-2200

Miriam Hospital

164 Summit Avenue Providence, 401-793-2500

Newport Hospital

11 Friendship Street Newport, 401-846-6400

Pawtucket Memorial Hospital

111 Brewster Street Pawtucket, 401-729-2000

Rhode Island Hospital*

593 Eddy Street Providence, 401-444-4000

Roger Williams Medical Center*

825 Chalkstone Avenue Providence, 401-456-2000

St. Joseph's Hospital

21 Peace Street Providence, 401-456-3000

South County Hospital

100 Kenyon Avenue Wakefield, 401-782-8000

Westerly Hospital

25 Wells Street Westerly, 401-596-6000

Women & Infants Hospital*

101 Dudley Street Providence, 401-274-1100

*SANE nurse available

Legal

Restraining Orders

Information regarding how to obtain a temporary restraining order in the State of Rhode Island may be found at the Restraining Order Office for Providence County. After business hours, on weekends or during holidays, emergency restraining orders can be obtained at your local police department.

*Providence County Restraining Order Office: Garrahy Judicial Complex
1 Dorrance St., Second floor, Providence, 401-458-3372*

Law Enforcement Advocates

A law enforcement advocate helps victims of sexual assault navigate the criminal justice process. They explain the victims' rights, provide assistance throughout criminal proceedings, assist in developing safety plans and accompany victims to police interviews, court proceedings and hospital visits.

Rhode Island State Police: 401-331-1350, ext. 3200

City of Warwick: 401-468-4372

*City of Providence: 401-243-6344, 401-243-6338 (bilingual Spanish),
401-241-2166 (cell phone)*

Rhode Island Attorney General's Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault Unit

www.riag.ri.gov/criminalunit/dvsa

The Rhode Island Attorney General's Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Unit (DV/SA) addresses crimes of violence committed throughout the State of Rhode Island. In addition to handling felony trials and misdemeanor appeals in Superior Court, DV/SA prosecutors handle bail hearings, violation hearings and motions to reduce or set bail. Unit prosecutors also regularly address victims' no contact orders.

Rhode Island Attorney General: 150 South Main Street, Providence, 401-274-4400

*Kent County Office: Noel Judicial Complex, 222 Quaker Lane, Warwick,
401-822-6800*

*Newport County Office: Murray Judicial Complex, 45 Washington Square,
Newport, 401-841-8310*

*Providence County Office: Licht Judicial Complex, 250 Benefit Street, 2nd Floor,
Providence, 401-274-4400*

*Washington County Office: McGrath Judicial Complex, 4800 Tower Hill Road,
Wakefield, 401-782-4150*

Community Mediation Center of Rhode Island

Since 1995, has trained more than 300 racially and ethnically diverse mediators, who help increase peaceful resolutions of conflicts and decrease violence throughout Rhode Island.

500 Broad Street, Unit 4B, Providence
401-273-9999 | www.cmcri.org

International Institute of Rhode Island

Serves as a first stop, full-service immigration checkpoint and referral center, providing education, legal, interpreting, translating and social services to immigrants and refugees throughout Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts.

401-461-5940 | www.iiri.org

Rhode Island Bar Association

Partners Overcoming Domestic Violence Project

A dynamic new pro bono (free) partnership between the Rhode Island Bar Association, Rhode Island Legal Services, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Roger Williams University School of Law, providing direct representation to domestic violence survivors in their divorce, custody, and visitation cases.

Public Services Director Susan Fontaine
401-421-7799 | sfontaine@ribar.com

Volunteer Lawyer Program

The Rhode Island Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer Program (VLP) provides pro bono (free) legal services to qualified low-income Rhode Islanders. Participating attorneys provide legal assistance, at no charge. The client's income must qualify under federally regulated guidelines to receive pro bono assistance, and the case must fall under one of the areas of law handled by the VLP. Clients may be responsible for filing fees, court costs and other out-of-pocket expenses.

401-421-7758 or 1-800-339-7758 | jellis@ribar.com

Lawyer Referral Service

The Rhode Island Bar Association has a Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) to refer competent and reliable lawyers. Under the LRS plan, a lawyer will consult with you, up to a half hour, free of charge. If additional legal work is recommended, you can decide whether to continue, and discuss the lawyer's fees. Reduced fee and legal assistance is available for those who qualify under federally regulated income guidelines. If your initial contact cannot handle your problem, you may request an additional referral.

401-421-7799 | www.ribar.com/LRS/Referral.aspx

Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc.

A nonprofit corporation providing free civil defense and community legal education services to the indigent (poor or needy), ensuring low-income people have food, shelter, income, medical care, and freedom from domestic violence by providing a full range of legal assistance, including advice and brief service, investigation, negotiation, and litigation in all state and federal trial and appellate courts.

56 Pine Street, Fourth Floor, Providence
401-274-2652 | www.rils.org

Rhode Island Public Defender

www.ripd.org

The Rhode Island Public Defender provides free representation of the accused in all criminal proceedings, certain civil proceedings involving incarceration, juvenile prosecutions, and parental rights proceedings alleging unfitness of a parent.

Rhode Island Public Defender: 160 Pine Street, Providence, 401-222-3492

Kent County Office: Noel Judicial Complex, 222 Quaker Lane, Suite 100, Warwick, 401-822-6875

Newport County Office: Murray Judicial Complex, 45 Washington Square, 3rd Floor, Newport, 401-841-8320

Providence County Office: Garrahy Judicial Complex, 1 Dorrance Plaza, 1st floor, Providence, 401-458-3050

Licht Judicial Complex: 250 Benefit Street, 4th Floor, Providence, 401-222-1312

Washington County Office: McGrath Judicial Complex, 4800 Tower Hill Road, Suite 243, Wakefield, 401-782-4180

Counseling

Butler Hospital

A private, non-profit, psychiatric and substance abuse hospital for children, adolescents, adults and seniors.

Rhode Island Area: 401-455-6200 | Providence: 401-455-6214
www.butler.org

Day One

Specifically organized to deal with issues of sexual assault, and provides treatment, intervention, education, advocacy and prevention services to Rhode Islanders of all ages.

Rhode Island Area: 401-421-4100
HelpLine (24-hr emergency line): 800-494-8100
www.dayoneri.org

East Bay Community Action Program

Provides Head Start, Early Head Start, family health, behavioral health and family development case management services, including social service information.

Newport: 401-847-7821 | Riverside: 401-437-1000
www.edcap.org

East Bay Mental Health Center

Provides a wide array of health and human services in Barrington, Bristol, East Providence and Warren.

Main Office: 401-246-1195 | 24-hr Emergency Line: 401-246-0700
www.eastbay.org

Gateway Healthcare

A non-profit behavioral health care organization providing a wide array of services to adults, children and families in Rhode Island.

Main Office: 401-724-8400 | 24-hr Emergency Line: 401-273-8100
www.gatewayhealth.org

Newport County Community Mental Health Center

Provides trauma informed evidence-based services to children, adolescents, families and adults in Middletown, Jamestown, Little Compton, Newport, Portsmouth and Tiverton.

24-hr Crisis Number: 401-846-1213 | www.nccmhc.org

Support Services

Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center

Provides residential services, support groups, court assistance, law enforcement and Latina advocacy.

401-723-3057 (24-hour) | www.bvadvocacycenter.org/en

Crossroads Rhode Island

Provides emergency shelter and transitional housing for domestic violence survivors and their children.

160 Broad St., Providence

401-861-2760 (24-hour) | www.crossroadsri.org/domesticviolence

Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County

Provides helpline, court advocacy, support groups, drop-in center, counseling and residential services for people of all genders and ages.

61 Main St., Wakefield

401-782-3995 | www.dvrcsc.org

Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center

Provides law enforcement advocacy, court advocacy, counseling, support services and residential services for individuals and families affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.

401-738-1700 (24-hour) | ebccenter.org

LGBT National Hotline

Provides telephone, one-to-one chat and email peer-support, as well as information and local resources for cities and towns across the United States.

888-843-4564 | help@lgbthotline.org | www.lgbthotline.org

National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)

Champions dignity and compassion for those harmed by crime and crisis.

800-879-6682 | www.trynova.org

National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)

Providing leadership in preventing and responding to sexual violence through collaboration, sharing, creating resources and promoting research.

877-739-3895 | www.nsvrc.org

Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)

Enhancing the nation's capacity to assist crime victims and providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

800-851-3420 | www.ovc.gov

Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN)

The nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline, which offers free, confidential services; educates the public about sexual assault; and leads national efforts to prevent sexual assault and improve services to victims.

800-656-HOPE | www.rainn.org

Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships (SOAR)

A taskforce of domestic violence survivors dedicated to systems advocacy and raising awareness against domestic violence.

401-467-9940, ext. 118

shannon@ricadv.org | www.soarinri.org

Sojourner House

Provides shelter, advocacy, support groups, LGBT-specific services and immigration advocacy.

386 Smith St., Providence

401-765-3232 (24-hour) | www.sojournerri.org

Victim Connect

A referral helpline for crime victims to learn about their rights and options confidentially and compassionately.

855-484-2846 | chat.victimconnect.org | victimconnect.org

Violence Recovery Program (VRP)

Provides counseling, support groups, advocacy and referral services to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence and stalking.

Fenway Health, Boston | 617-927-6250 (Monday–Friday, 8am–5pm)

fenwayhealth.org/care/behavioral-health/violence-recovery

Women's Resource Center

Provides helpline, counseling, court advocates, drop-in center, emergency cell phones, law enforcement advocates, shelter services and support groups.

114 Touro Street, Newport

624 Main Street, Warren

401-289-2022 | www.wrcnbc.org



CCRI COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND

Warwick Campus: 400 East Ave. Warwick, RI 02886

Lincoln Campus: 1762 Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI 02865

Providence Campus: One Hilton St., Providence, RI 02905

Newport County Campus: One John H. Chafee Blvd., Newport, RI 02840

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