Bemidji State University

Complainant’s Rights
Regarding
Sexual Violence and Assault

The following Complainant’s Rights Policy applies to all students, faculty and staff of Bemidji State University. The policy is as follows:

Sexual Violence or Assault

Acts of sexual violence, assault or abuse, such as rape, acquaintance rape, and other forms of non-consensual sexual activity will not be tolerated at Bemidji State University. Such acts are criminal behaviors and create an environment contrary to the goals and missions of the University. These acts will be investigated and will subject an individual to complaints and disciplinary sanctions under University’s complaint procedure, University Student Conduct Codes and possible referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Reporting of Incidents

Complainants of sexual violence should report incidents to the University offices of Public Safety (218-755-3888), Affirmative Action (218-755-4121), or Student Affairs (218-755-2075), and to the Bemidji Law Enforcement Center (218-333-9111).

Complainant’s Bill of Rights

Complainants of sexual violence occurring on property owned by Bemidji State University will be informed of their rights under Minnesota State Statutes section 135A.15. These rights include the following:

1. The complainant has the right to file criminal charges with local law enforcement.
2. Local University authorities, at the request of the complainant, will provide assistance in notifying the appropriate law enforcement officials and disciplinary authorities of any incident of sexual assault.
3. At the direction of law enforcement authorities, the campus security office will provide complete and prompt assistance in obtaining, securing, and maintaining evidence in connection with an incident of sexual assault.
4. University authorities will provide assistance to the sexual assault complainant or complainant in preserving materials relevant to a campus disciplinary proceeding.
5. All sexual assault complaints will be investigated and resolved by the appropriate campus disciplinary authorities.
6. The complainant may be accompanied by an attorney or other support person at, and may participate in, any campus disciplinary proceeding concerning the sexual assault complaint.
7. The complainant will be informed of the outcome of any campus disciplinary proceeding concerning the sexual assault complaint, consistent with laws relating to data practices.

8. At the request of the sexual assault complainant, University authorities, in cooperation with appropriate law enforcement authorities, will provide assistance in shielding the complainant from unwanted contact with the alleged assailant including transferring the complainant to alternative classes or alternative university-owned housing, if alternative classes or housing are available and feasible.

9. University authorities will inform sexual assault complainants of their rights to assistance from the office of the Crime Victim Ombudsman and the Crime Victim Reparations Board and will provide assistance in contacting these offices.

Policy Dissemination

Information regarding this policy, including the rights enumerated in “Complainant’s Rights,” will be available to students through the “Student Guide” provided, during student orientation and online through the Bemidji State University website.

A message from the BSU Director of Public Safety:

If you are aware that an incident of sexual violence or assault, or any other criminal act, has taken place, it is your responsibility to report the occurrence immediately.

Some types of crimes are easily recognizable; others are not. If you observe an act, are the recipient of an act, or receive information that an act has occurred, don’t hesitate to report it. It is not necessary for you to be certain that the elements of a crime exist. Report concerns of campus crime immediately to the director of Public Safety at 218-755-3888.