STUDENT RESOURCES AND REPORTING OPTIONS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AND RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

I think I have experienced some type of sexual violence or relationship abuse, but I am not sure...

Sexual Violence is a broad term that refers to a continuum of conduct that includes sexual assault, non-consensual sex acts, dating and relationship violence, stalking, as well as aiding acts of sexual violence.

Sexual Assault refers to actual, attempted, or threatened sexual acts with someone without their consent. Sexual assault is often a criminal act that can be prosecuted under Minnesota law and can also result in discipline for students through the student conduct process or for employees through established procedures. It includes but isn’t limited to:

- Involvement without consent in any sexual act in which there is force, expressed or implied, or use of duress or deception upon the victim, including forced sexual intercourse and acts commonly referred to as “date rape” or “acquaintance rape.” Also included is the coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act from another.
- Involvement in any sexual act when the victim is unable to give consent.
- Intentional and unwelcome touching, or coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force another to touch a person’s intimate parts (defined as primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast).
- Offensive sexual behavior that is directed at another such as indecent exposure or voyeurism.

Dating and Relationship Violence includes physical harm or abuse, and threats of physical harm or abuse, arising out of a personal intimate relationship. This violence also may be called domestic abuse or spousal/partner abuse and may be subject to criminal prosecution under Minnesota state law.

Stalking is conduct directed at a specific person that is unwanted, unwelcome, or unreciprocated and that would cause a reasonable person to fear for her or his safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

Non-consensual Acts include unlawful sexual acts where consent is not relevant, such as sexual contact with an individual under the statutory age of consent, as defined by Minnesota law, or between persons who are related to each other within degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Persons who report sexual assault and relationship violence or who cooperate with investigations of such reports are protected from retaliation under the university’s 1B.3 Sexual Violence policy.

WAS THERE CONSENT?

Consent is informed, freely given and mutually understood.

When is consent NOT present?

- If coercion, intimidation, threats, and/or physical force are used.
- If the complainant is mentally or physically incapacitated or impaired so that the complainant cannot understand the fact, nature, or extent of the sexual situation, there is no consent; this includes conditions due to alcohol or drug consumption, or being asleep or unconscious.
- If the complainant is silent. Silence does not necessarily constitute consent.
- Past consent of sexual activities does not imply ongoing future consent.
- Whether the respondent has taken advantage of a position of influence over the complainant may be a factor in determining consent.

I want... I need...

EMERGENCY/URGENT ASSISTANCE FOR MY SAFETY

Call 911. If you have been the victim of a sexual assault, you should seek medical attention from the Sanford Bemidji Hospital or Bemidji State University Health Services at the Student Center for Health and Counseling immediately regardless of whether you report the matter to the police.

TO GET MEDICAL HELP

The Student Center for Health and Counseling, provides STD screenings and pregnancy tests. If you wish to have an evidence collection kit ("rape kit"), you can do so at Sanford Hospital Bemidji. If possible, do not shower, brush your teeth, urinate, eat, drink or change clothes.

TO TALK

Professional counselors in the Student Center for Health and Counseling can provide you with support while allowing you the time and space you need to process what has happened and can provide you with basic information about your options and available resources. Support Within Reach Sexual Violence Resource Center also provides services are available 24 hours a day to women, children, and men who have experienced sexual violence directly or indirectly and prevention education is provided for the community.

TO REPORT A CONCERN AND GET SUPPORT

Students who wish to report a concern may seek assistance from staff listed as “non-confidential.” These staff include Campus Safety Officers, staff who work in student housing and with student conduct, advisors to recognized student organizations, and athletic coaches. These individuals will protect your privacy by limiting the people with whom they share what you tell them; however, they cannot guarantee you confidentiality, as they must notify the Title IX Coordinator. They will also explain your options and resources and attend to your immediate needs for safety and interim measures (e.g., no contact orders, housing and academic accommodations, counseling, escort).

TO UNDERSTAND THE UNIVERSITY’S TITLE IX ADMINISTRATIVE/DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES

You are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator/Affirmative Action Officer. The Title IX Coordinator will investigate all reports of sexual assault and relationship violence and ensure the provision of interim measures and final administrative remedies. In certain rare circumstances where it is necessary to ensure your safety and that of the university community, the university may be obligated to investigate known incidents of sexual assault and relationship violence, even if you may not feel ready. Such a decision would be discussed with you in advance, however, and the university would ensure that you have a support person throughout the process.

TO REPORT A CRIMINAL CONCERN

Sexual assault and relationship violence also are crimes and if you are on campus, contact the Department of Public Safety, Bemidji Police Department a Campus Security Authority, or the Affirmative Action Officer/Title IX Coordinator as soon as possible after the offense. If you are off campus, you may file a police report with the appropriate law enforcement agency. A criminal investigation does not relieve the university of its obligation to respond under Title IX, and both a criminal and university investigation may proceed at the same time.

WHAT IF I WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE?

This may be a confusing and difficult time. Remember that these resources are always available to you, and you can seek support at any time. Friends and family can often offer support as well.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP. YOU HAVE OPTIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING RESOURCES:

- Student Center for Health and Counseling 218.755.2053, Cedar Hall First Floor, BSU
- Support Within Reach Sexual Violence Resource Center 218.444.9524 OR 800.708.2727, 403 4th Street NW, Suite 140, Bemidji, MN

MEDICAL RESOURCES:

- Examinations by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Sanford Bemidji Emergency Room, 218.333.5596, 1300 Anne Street NW, Bemidji, MN
- Ask questions of a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Barb Eriksson - Capes, 218.755.2053, Cedar Hall First Floor, BSU

NON CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES:

- Department of Public Safety 218.755.3888, Walnut Hall, BSU
- Bemidji Police Department 218.333.9111, 613 Minnesota Avenue, Bemidji, MN
- Housing and Residential Life 218.755.3750, Walnut Hall, BSU
- Dr. Deb Peterson, Title IX Coordinator/Affirmative Action Officer 218.755.4121, 315 Deputy Hall, BSU
- Dr. Randy Ludeman, Director of Housing and Residential Life and Student Conduct Officer 218.755.3750, Walnut Hall, BSU
- Deb Peterson, Title IX Coordinator/Affirmative Action Officer 218.755.4121, 315 Deputy Hall, BSU
- Dr. Randy Ludeman, Director of Housing and Residential Life and Student Conduct Officer 218.755.3750, Walnut Hall, BSU
- Deb Peterson, Title IX Coordinator/Affirmative Action Officer 218.755.4121, 315 Deputy Hall, BSU
- Dr. Randy Ludeman, Director of Housing and Residential Life and Student Conduct Officer 218.755.3750, Walnut Hall, BSU
- Dr. Jesse Grant, Dean of Student Success 218.755.2075, 313 Deputy Hall, BSU
- OTHER MENTAL HEALTH AND COUNSELING CONCERNS:
- Student Center for Health and Counseling 218.755.2053, Cedar Hall First Floor, BSU
- Suicide Prevention – Local Counseling Crisis Line 1.800.422.0245
- Text “Life” to 61222