

## **Confidential Assistance**

If a reporting party would like the details of an incident to be kept confidential, the reporting party may speak with counselors or health care providers in the Center for Student Wellness, clergy within the University acting in their role as clergy (friars or sisters), and/or off-campus resources such as Victim's Services or Olean General Hospital. All of these resources will maintain confidentiality except in extreme cases of immediacy of threat or danger or abuse of a minor. Confidential resources that are University employees will submit anonymous statistical information for Clery Act purposes unless they believe it would be harmful to their client, patient or parishioner.

Quick Reference Contact Information:

- University Center for Student Wellness: 127 Doyle Hall (first floor right side entrance) – 716-375-2310
- Olean General Hospital Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Unit: Report to the OGH Emergency Room – 716-372-0614
- Cattaraugus County Community Action - Victim Services: Toll Free Crisis Hotline – 1-888-945-3970

## **Victim Services**

### **A Program Through Cattaraugus County Community Action**

#### **Toll-Free Crisis Hotline 1-888-945-3970 or 716-945-3970**

An assault has both a physical and psychological impact. Attention to your emotional needs is as important as the medical treatment is to your physical well-being. By talking about your feelings you can begin to identify for yourself what you need. Having all options explained to you will enable you to make the best choice.

Survivors of relationship and sexual violence can obtain immediate, confidential assistance from Victim Services by either calling the hotline number listed above, or going to the S.A.F.E. unit at OGH. If you go to the S.A.F.E. unit, they will contact a Victim Specialist for you. The Victim Specialist offers support by listening, empathizing, providing information and a non-judgmental presence. They can offer guidance in dealing with a family member's response or with the police and medical procedures. They understand how you may be feeling, and they can talk about what you can expect during the next few days and weeks.

The Victim Specialist will also follow up with you after the initial hospital contact with telephone calls or in person. This follow up call will allow you to ask any questions that arise and give you a chance to talk about how you are feeling with someone who is concerned yet objective. This support and information is available to any family member or friend who may accompany you. This service is FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

By receiving immediate information and support during this crisis period, you can begin your recovery from this traumatic experience. While sexual violence is very traumatic, with proper help, survivors can return to their level of functioning as before the incident occurred.

## **S.A.F.E. (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner)**

### **At Olean General Hospital**

#### **Program Information – 716-372-0614**

To get an examination at the S.A.F.E. unit at OGH, go to the emergency room, discreetly inform the triage nurse that you've been sexually assaulted, and would like to see the S.A.F.E. provider. The S.A.F.E. provider is a doctor or nurse trained to help sexual violence survivors and collect physical evidence.

**COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY:** Everything that happens in the S.A.F.E. room is completely confidential. Only you can consent to releasing the results of your forensic exam or any evidence gathered by the S.A.F.E. provider. If the assault occurred within the last 96 hours, forensic evidence, including DNA, can be collected.

**THE S.A.F.E. PROCESS:** Once the S.A.F.E. provider arrives, they will ask you a series of questions. Be honest and give them as much detail as you can. The exam is designed to protect you and gather evidence. We know this is a difficult time for you, but the exam is necessary to hold your abuser accountable. The following steps will be taken during the examination:

- Examine your entire body, including your groin, for evidence of trauma such as bumps, abrasions or cuts, carefully making notes and collecting photographic evidence.
- Examine your hands for nail clippings and scrapings. Your abuser's hair, blood, or skin can be found on your hands, or underneath your fingernails.
- Photograph any bite marks and swab them for saliva, which may contain biological evidence, including DNA.
- Swab any stains found on you because they may contain saliva or semen.
- Collect vaginal, anal or oral swabs to check for DNA.
- Comb your pubic hair for foreign fibers or hairs.
- Search your clothing for stains and take samples from your clothes. Your clothing will also need to be collected and sent to a crime lab for further analysis. You will be given other clothes to wear home. If you remember, it is helpful to bring a change of clothes with you.

Even if there is no sign of trauma, that doesn't mean a sexual assault did not occur. The S.A.F.E. provider will look for signs that sexual intercourse occurred and collect evidence.

**POST-EXPOSURE TREATMENT:** Several post-exposure treatments will be offered by the S.A.F.E. provider, including HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (HIV PEP). If the assault has occurred within the last two to 36 hours, the attending physician will offer treatment with a series of drugs designed to protect you from HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Unless it is known with 100 percent certainty that your attacker is not HIV positive, we recommend you initiate PEP treatment as soon as possible. You will also be tested for HIV exposure and will be asked to return for a follow-up test at one, three and six month intervals.

**AFTER THE EXAM:** Sexual Violence is devastating physically and emotionally. Many survivors suffering from physiological trauma feel shame or guilt and believe they are somehow at fault for what happened. You are not at fault. Your attacker is at fault, and we're here to help you hold your attacker responsible. Your Victim Specialist will help you begin the healing process. She will explain the community resources available to help you. The Victim Specialist will also help you arrange long-term counseling and follow-up visits.

**Remember, you are not alone. The S.A.F.E. program was created to help you.**

### **SBU Center for Student Wellness**

The St. Bonaventure University Center for Student Wellness offers confidential counseling services to aid in the healing process for sexual violence survivors. To schedule an appointment with a counselor, call 716-375-2310, email [cbsbu@sbu.edu](mailto:cbsbu@sbu.edu), or visit the St. Bonaventure University Center for Student Wellness in Doyle Hall Room 127.

## **Reporting to the Police**

Every reporting party has the right to report the incident to the police, and the University will assist any student wishing to speak to a member of law enforcement. The University reports known crimes to law enforcement in a timely manner, but can keep a victim's name anonymous if he/she requests it.

You have up to 30 days from the date of your S.A.F.E. exam to decide if charges should be filed. Just because you talk to the police and they fill out a report about what happened does not mean your attacker will be charged. The decision to move forward is up to you. We encourage victims to make a police report so there is a record of what occurred that can be used to prosecute if and when you choose to do so. If an arrest is made, the name of your attacker may be made public, but your name will not. All area media outlets have policies that prevent them from releasing the name of a survivor.

**CONTACTING THE POLICE:** You can contact the police yourself by dialing 911. If you go directly to the hospital, the staff can notify the police for you. If you report the incident to campus officials, they will assist you in contacting law enforcement. Once called, the officers will arrive and take the initial report. You have the right to have a Victim Specialist with you during questioning. Police will:

- Ask you questions about what happened and where and when it occurred
- Ask the attacker's identity or description.
- Ask who else has been notified of the incident.
- Collect and safeguard any evidence, such as clothing, sheets, etc.