Victim’s Legal Rights
If a victim pursues legal prosecution, he or she has rights under Chapter 950 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Reports and Statistics
The office of Student Conduct and Community Standard at the University of Wisconsin River Falls maintains a database displaying crime statistics. This data base is updated annually and includes not only campus crime statistics, but also those for the City of River Falls and immediate vicinity. Go to go.uwrf.edu/SCCS and click on the UWRF Campus Security Report at the bottom of the text (annually reported).

Campus and Community Resources
For immediate help after an assault has occurred, contact:
• University Police 911 or 715-425-3133
• River Falls Police 911 or 715-425-0909
• Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team 1-888-334-4677

For support and reporting after the immediate crisis, contact:
• Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards 715-425-0720
• Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs 715-425-0720
• Counseling Services (UWRF) 715-425-3884
• Campus Victim Advocate (CVA) 715-425-3293, 715-425-6443 or 1-888-334-4677
• Student Health Services (UWRF) 715-425-3293
• Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team 1-888-334-4677
• Vibrant Health Family Clinics in River Falls 715-425-6701
• Pierce County Reproductive Health Services 715-425-8003
• Turningpoint 1-800-345-5104 or 715-425-6751

Should I Report an Assault?
Anyone who is a victim of Non-Consensual Sexual Contact or Sexual Harassment is encouraged to report the incident to the University so that the alleged person (student or employee) can be held accountable for their actions through the University process. Report the assault to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. You can also discuss options with a SART nurse, CVA, Turningpoint, or UWRF Counseling Services. You are also encouraged to report the assault to the University Police.

Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards
Options through the university may include disciplinary action if the offender is a student, faculty or staff member and a university policy has been violated. Possible disciplinary actions for students include reprimand, probation, suspension, or expulsion.

The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards will discuss with you your options, including the choice of reporting the assault to the University Police or the River Falls Police Department. Campus and community resources available to you will also be discussed. The victim SHOULD NOT bathe, change clothes, or do anything that might destroy physical evidence. IMMEDIATE CONTACT with another person who can lend support and assistance is an important first step after a sexual contact has occurred.
Introduction

Sexual assault and harassment are serious actions that demand our immediate attention. At the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, we are committed to the prevention of all forms of sex-based abuse. Coercive sexual contact and unwelcome comments of a sexual nature are offensive and undermine the safety, security, and dignity of all members of the university community. UWRF prohibits acts of sexual violence. The University believes that the recognition of a problem is the first step toward responding to that problem. Toward that end, this publication is intended to provide general information and guidance in case of an assault and help prevent sexual assault and sexual harassment in the university. Call 911 if you see in immediate danger and get to a safe place.

Emergency telephones throughout campus are identified by a blue light.

What is sexual harassment?

At the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. submission to such conduct is made a stated or implied condition of an individual’s employment, career advancement, grades, or academic achievement;
2. submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment, career advancement, grades, or implied condition of an individual’s employment, or academic decisions affecting an individual;
3. such conduct has the purpose and effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work or academic environment or of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s ability to perform an individual’s duties;
4. sexual harassment or sexual assault may also be a violation of Title IX.

What is Non-Consensual Sexual Contact?

At UWRF, Non-Consensual Sexual Contact (which includes sexual assault) is:

• any intentional sexual touching
• however slight,
• with or without the person’s consent,
• by a man or a woman upon a man or a woman,
• that is without consent and/or by force.

What to do if you think you have been sexually harassed and/or assaulted.

1. Take care of yourself.
   After an assault you may be in a state of shock. Wrap yourself in something warm. To preserve evidence: DONOT bathe, wash/drink, brush your teeth or hair, urinate, or wash your clothing; put the clothes you were wearing into a paper (not plastic) bag.
2. Call someone you trust.
   Receiving comfort and support helps restore a sense of safety and contributes to better decision-making.
3. Seek medical attention.
   You may have injuries of which you’re unaware; you also should get tested for sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy (if applicable). A medical exam for evidence collection (by a qualified forensic nurse examiner) is strongly recommended within 72 hours if there is any possibility that you may want to file charges in the future. You can call the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) at 715-425-6443 or 1-888-334-4677.
4. Contact the Campus Victim Advocate (CVA).
   Through an agreement with the St. Croix Valley SART, the CVA provides advocacy and direct and outreach services to UW students, faculty, and staff who have experienced sexual assault, harassment, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. Call 715-425-3293, 715-425-6443 or 1-888-334-4677 to set up an appointment or to leave a message for the CVA.
5. Report the assault to the University as well as the Police.
   Anyone who is a victim of Non-Consensual Sexual Contact or Sexual Harassment is encouraged to report the incident to the University so that the alleged person (student or employee) can be held accountable for their actions through the University process. Reporting should be done through the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.
6. Talk with a counselor.
   Working with a counselor can speed recovery and help you manage post-traumatic symptoms. See Counseling Services contact information under Campus and Community Resources.
7. Take care of yourself.
   Rest, eat well, seek social support, and engage in activities that are healing for you/your body.

Common reactions to sexual assault and relationship violence trauma

Individuals who undergo traumatic events or ongoing violence in their lives experience various emotional, physical, and cognitive relations. These reactions sometimes occur in stages. Symptoms may last for short periods of time and then resolve, or they may become more chronic (e.g., as in Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD).

Typical Symptoms include:

• Shock, numbness, disbelief, tear, anger, shame, phobias, avoidance of places or things associated with the trauma, wanting to get on with life and forget the event(s), flashbacks, sleep disturbances, heightened startle response, trouble concentrating or remembering, depressed mood and/or dramatic mood swings, withdrawal from relationships, health problems, changes in eating patterns.

A word about self-blame

While it is important for individuals to take responsibility for protecting themselves, it is critical to note that errors in judgment (e.g., not knowing someone up accurately, getting drunk) or the failure to stop an attack are NOT the CAUSES of sexual assault or abuse. Persons who assault or abuse other individuals are legally responsible for their actions, even if they themselves are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Alcohol and drugs make a difference

Not one of all assault victims report that they were drinking or impaired by drugs at the time of the violent episode. Alcohol is a depressant that actually slows the brains ability to make decisions. Drugs may produce a euphoria affect, but impair the decision-making processes. Whether you or your friends drink alcohol or whether it is present where you are, there is an increase in risk for negative things to happen.

When going out:

• go in groups
• agree to come back together when you decide to leave
• never go into rooms/cars alone with someone or make sure you tell a friend in your group where you are going
• never leave someone behind who is impaired by alcohol or drugs
• develop the ability to communicate clearly what type of relationship you want

If you choose to drink:

• remember you can stop at any time
• set a drink limit for the evening
• keep track of how many drinks you have
• always get your own drink, and watch it because drugs can be put in it

Remember:

• An individual incapacitated by alcohol or drugs cannot legally give consent; the legal responsibility for sexual or physical assault rests completely with the assailant.
• Men can be victims of sexual assault and relationship violence; women can be perpetrators of these crimes; and sexual assaults and relationship violence can occur when the assailant is the same sex as the victim.

Healing from trauma

The mind and body integrate traumatic memories in order to heal. Traumatic experiences may manifest for some individuals in physical, cognitive, and emotional symptoms up to months or years later. Treatment of emotions include: cognitive-behavioral strategies, individual counseling, support groups, medications, and holistic bodywork. Later in the healing process, some survivors find it empowering to engage in advocacy and prevention work.