



Sexual Assault Crisis information

In the event of a sexual assault the counseling department is available for assistance. We can provide immediate crisis counseling and help with referrals if needed.

Sexual assault is defined as: The use of force to penetrate oral, vaginal, or anal cavity of a person who has not consented or is incapable of consent. Consent has to be clearly and freely given and the absence of “no” is not consent. If the use of threats or violence is used in order to obtain the consent; then the consent is not valid. If the victim is mentally incompetent and the assailant is aware of this; then the consent is also not valid.

What to do if someone has been sexually assaulted?

- Get that person to a place of safety.
- Try to preserve all the physical evidence – even if the person states they do not want to press charges. Keep the clothes and other items in a brown paper bag.
- Provide the person with options of help.

Where to get assistance and information about options?

- Contact your RA
- Contact the Counseling Department
- Contact the YWCA Sexual Assault Program in Grand Rapids (24 hour hotline) at 616-776-RAPE (7273).

What if you are off campus?

- Contact 911
- Contact the YWCA (see above)
- Contact the Counseling Center

Even if the victim does not want to press charges or get counseling please stress that they should be checked out by a professional and contact the YWCA Sexual Assault Program as quickly as possible.