

What Should I Do If I Am Sexually Assaulted?

Sexual Assault Resources for Students at Calvin College

The following are steps that you may wish to take immediately following an assault/rape:

Contact the Police

If you are in a life-threatening situation, call 911 immediately. If you are on campus, contact Campus Safety at 616-526-3333. The police can provide protection from the assailant(s) and can collect evidence and testimony for potential criminal charges. If the assault happens on campus, Calvin College Campus Safety officers are available and trained to assist students who experience sexual assault. Campus Safety officers can also assist students in contacting local police.

Campus Safety: <http://www.calvin.edu/offices-services/campus-safety/>

[Police/ Local Emergency.](#)

- **Go to a safe place and contact a safe person.** Students living on-campus can contact the Residence Life on-call staff at 616-540-8732.
- **Preserve evidence.** Don't bathe or brush your teeth. It's best not to even change clothes, but if you do, save each item of clothing in a separate paper bag.
- **Call 776-7273 - the local YWCA 24-hour Rape Crisis Hotline.** A trained volunteer advocate will help you decide what to do.
- **Seek Medical Attention**
The [Nurse Examiner Program at the YWCA](#) provides (at no cost):
 - *Immediate medical attention if you have been sexually assaulted to treat possible injuries and address possibility of pregnancy and contracting STDs
 - *Sensitive timely medical-forensic exams
 - *Crisis counseling and educational resources

If injuries are severe, going to the nearest hospital emergency room is appropriate. An exam is pertinent up to 96 hours post-assault for evidence to be collected. Regardless of the time that has passed, it is still recommended to receive medical attention for potential injuries to be treated and STD and pregnancy testing to be done.

For more information on seeking medical attention, read [this document](#).

For more information about the YWCA emergency and support services (including free counseling and support groups), go to: <http://www.ywcawcmi.org/sa-whatshouldido.php#assaulted>

At some point you may also want to:

- **Seek Support on Campus**

The **Broene Counseling Center** offers free and confidential counseling and support. **Call 526-6123** to schedule an appointment with a counselor. For more information: <http://www.calvin.edu/broene>

- **Contact the College**

Calvin has trained, experienced staff who are prepared to work with students who experience sexual assault to assist the student by:

- 1) addressing concerns or questions about personal safety.
- 2) coordinating a variety of protective measures.
- 3) providing information about available resources.
- 4) developing options for addressing the specific situation.
- 5) arranging for academic support/relief.
- 6) explaining the reporting process.
- 7) addressing concerns about college and/or police process.
- 8) reviewing the college process for filing a complaint against a Calvin faculty staff or student.
- 9) connecting student with local police if desired.
- 10) explaining student rights in college disciplinary process.

Contact:

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