

What can I do if I am Sexually Assaulted?

Sexual Assault Resources for Students at Calvin University

Calvin University offers support resources for students reporting sexual violence or harassment. We hope the resources below help you make informed decisions about what options are best for your situation.

It is your choice what to do next.

You may wish to take some or all the following steps immediately following an assault/rape:

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. You may also choose to call a trusted friend, mentor, or family member.

Contact the Police:

- If you are in a life-threatening situation, **call 911** immediately. The police can provide protection from the assailant(s) and can collect evidence and testimony for potential criminal charges. [Click Here](#) for more police/emergency numbers.
- If you are on campus, call Campus Safety at **616-526-3333**. Calvin University Campus Safety officers are available and trained to assist students who experience sexual assault and can also assist students in contacting local police. <http://www.calvin.edu/offices-services/campus-safety/>

Advice for Preserving evidence: It is best not to bathe or brush your teeth or change clothes, but if you do, save each item of clothing in a separate paper bag.

Seek Medical Attention

Call (616) 454-9922 for the local YWCA 24-hour Rape Crisis Hotline: A trained volunteer advocate will help you decide what to do.

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 (call 616.454.9922 to request an exam).
- Sensitive and timely medical-forensic exams
- Crisis counseling and educational resources

If injuries are severe, go to the nearest hospital emergency room. You can set up an exam to collect evidence within 96 hours post-assault. Regardless of the time that has passed, STD testing, pregnancy testing, and medical care for potential injuries is still recommended.

For more information about the YWCA emergency and support services (including free counseling and support groups), go to: <https://www.ywcawcmi.org/our-services/>

Reporting to Calvin University

There are three main pathways to report to the university, all involve sharing some information about the incident with Calvin so we can connect you with support resources and mitigate ongoing safety concerns for you and the rest of the Calvin community.

1. You can submit an anonymous report by leaving a phone message on the Title IX/Sexual Assault Line – “I Will Report It” (616) 526-4974. You can choose to share information about your experience with Calvin so that we can record how many incidents occur each year, but there are limited options for more follow-up.
2. You can submit an [online report](#) that includes your contact information, tell a trusted staff or faculty member that you want to report, or email the Title IX director at saferspaces@calvin.edu.

When you submit your contact information, someone from the safer spaces team will email you to acknowledge your report and set up an initial meeting. In the meeting, the intake person will listen to your experience and explain support resources and options for pursuing a formal report.

Calvin has trained, experienced staff who are prepared to work with students who experience sexual assault. We can assist you with:

- Addressing questions or concerns about personal safety
- Coordinating a variety of protective measures for addressing your specific situation
- Providing information about available resources
- Arranging for academic support/relief
- Explaining the reporting process: Reviewing the university process for filing a complaint about Calvin faculty, staff, or student(s)
- Addressing concerns about university and/or police process
- Explaining student rights in university processes
- Connecting with local police if desired

Talk to Someone without Reporting to Calvin University

Reporting is only one of the many paths to healing. Some people may choose not to report and still have opportunities to heal. You have the right to choose if you want to report your experience.

You can start by talking confidentially to someone about your experience. For example, a counselor from [Center for Counseling and Wellness](#), the pastoral team at [Campus Ministries](#), or a medical professional at [Health Services](#). Staff members from these offices are bound by confidentiality rules and will not report your experiences to others in the university.

**Confidential resources only share information if there is imminent danger to self or others and some other cases if you are under 18.*

For more information, please contact:

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