

FIND A SAFE PLACE!

Contact Help!

- Campus Police: **395-2091**
- Counseling Center: **395.2409**
- Piedmont Crisis Center
888.819.2926
- Southside Community Hospital
434.392.8811
- Virginia Sexual Assault Hotline
800.838.8238
- Student Health and Wellness
Center **395.2102**
- Dean of Students
395.2389
- Honor/Judicial: **395.2490**

What is Acquaintance Rape?

Acquaintance rape is sexual assault that occurs between people who know each other. Within the context of the often confusing individual relationships, it's difficult for many to label it correctly, but acquaintance rape is a crime! And it is no less a crime simply because the perpetrator has a familiar face!

There is no cost to the survivor for criminal investigation and prosecution. Even if prosecution does not occur, the police report and relevant evidence may be useful during the Longwood Judicial Process.

Civil Lawsuits

Survivors may hire a private attorney to file a lawsuit for damages against the perpetrator(s). Many attorneys take cases on a contingency basis; their fees are an agreed upon portion of any compensation that is collected from the perpetrator(s). This process takes place in a local civil (not criminal) court. The purpose of the lawsuit is to financially compensate the survivor for the wrong done to him or her.

Third Party/ Anonymous Reports

Either the survivor or someone on their behalf may complete a **CONFIDENTIAL** form available on-line at <http://www.longwood.edu/police>.

Confidentiality

Please know that Longwood University values the safety and confidentiality of all faculty, staff, and students. Electronic notification regarding incidences such as sexual assault are sent to the Longwood Community without identifying information.

**Please visit
www.longwood.edu/health
for more information
on sexual assault.**

*Healing takes courage,
and we all have courage,
even if we have to
dig a little to find it.*

Tori Amos

Sexual Assault

What Should I Do?

Find a Safe Place.

Call a Friend.

Contact Others Who Can Help.

Piedmont Crisis Center

888.819.2926

Longwood Department of

Public Safety

395.2091

Longwood Counseling Center

395.2409

Longwood Student Health

and Wellness Center

395.2102

What Should I Do If I've Been Sexually Assaulted?

1. **Get medical attention at a hospital emergency room immediately!** Even if you do not want to report the incident.
2. Certain activities destroy important physical evidence that aid in prosecuting the assailant(s) if you decide to do so. Physical evidence is best collected ASAP. Do not bathe, douche, shower, drink, or eat after the assault. Place your clothing in a paper bag (plastic destroys evidence) or take a change of clothes to the hospital, they will use the ones you're wearing as evidence.
3. Write down everything you remember with as much detail as possible. This will help your own healing process as well as any legal action you might take.

**Remember!
It's NOT your fault!**

Medical Needs: PLEASE put your physical safety and well-being first! You may be unaware of injuries you have. Southside Community Hospital provides Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners to collect and preserve evidence as well as provide treatment for exposure to sexually transmitted infections. They can also discuss options for preventing pregnancy i.e. "the morning after pill." (This should ideally be provided within 72 hours).

Healing Needs: Sexual assault is a traumatic experience and many survivors find counseling to be a very important part of the healing process. A counselor can assist you in understanding and work through your feelings about the assault. The Counseling Center also provides excellent follow-up services to aid in the recovery process.

Report It!

We **strongly encourage** you to report sexual assaults to the appropriate law enforcement agencies and officials. Reporting an assault is the **only** effective way that action can be taken against the alleged attacker(s). Several reporting systems are available:

Campus Police

Reporting to campus police helps protect yourself and others from future victimization. Reports can be used for criminal prosecution, Longwood disciplinary action, and/or civil action against the perpetrator(s). If you report an incident, a Longwood police officer will take your statement of what happened. You will be asked to identify or describe the alleged assailant(s), questions about the scene of the crime, and about any witnesses.

Reporting an incident is NOT the same as choosing to prosecute. When you file a report, you are not obligated to continue with legal proceedings or Longwood disciplinary action. The Longwood police officer will take a written report which is important in case you wish to file charges (criminally or through the judicial process) immediately or at a later date.

Longwood Judicial Process

Longwood's Judicial Process has jurisdiction if the sexual misconduct charge is filed with the Director of Honor and Judicial Programs within 180 days and if both the survivor and alleged perpetrator(s) are Longwood students.

The survivor is entitled to a confidential hearing to determine whether there has been a violation of the student conduct code and, if so, what type of sanction(s), up to and including dismissal from the University, should be imposed. The decision may be appealed by the accused (see the Rights of Students as Applied to Disciplinary Hearings section of the Student Handbook). The survivor and accused may have a personal advisor help them prepare and make a case at the hearing. The advantages of a judicial hearing are confidentiality and that it can be completed approximately three weeks from the date charges are filed.

Judicial Process: My Rights

- The right to have present throughout the disciplinary process an advisor which may also be a legal counsel.
- The right to remain present throughout the entire judicial hearing.
- The right to have access to existing campus mental health and survivor support services.
- The right to submit a survivor impact statement.
- The right to know the outcome of the proceedings.

Criminal Investigation/ Prosecution

Longwood encourages reporting the incidence to the campus and/or local police. Reporting an assault does not mean the survivor has to go to court, but it does begin the legal process should the decision to prosecute be made at a later date. Longwood police officials are available to assist the survivor throughout the investigation and criminal court process.