

SEXUAL VIOLENCE VICTIM INFORMATION

Date: _____

You have indicated that you have been the victim of sexual violence. MTSU realizes how difficult this is for you and we want you to realize you are not alone. MTSU is concerned for the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff, and prohibits all acts of sexual violence. We are committed to providing a healthy living, working and educational environment for our campus community, and will continue working to provide the safest campus environment possible.

This document will provide you with information about the resources available to you, your options for reporting sexual violence and the procedures used by the University to investigate sexual violence. (Sexual violence includes dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.)

Reporting the Assault. We will respect any decision you make about reporting this matter and you can choose not to make a report. However, we can assist you should you decide to make a report to law enforcement authorities, including University Police, 898-2424; or Murfreesboro City Police, 893-1311. Reporting provides law enforcement the opportunity to investigate and collect evidence that could be used in criminal or civil proceedings, and in any University investigation that may be conducted. University Police may also be able to assist you with any safety concerns you may have.

Sexual violence can also be reported to the Title IX Coordinator <http://www.mtsu.edu/titleix/>. A report will result in an investigation being opened pursuant to MTSU Policy I.01.23 Misconduct, Discrimination, and Harassment Based on Sex Including Pregnancy, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity/Expression found at <http://www.mtsu.edu/policies/general-policies/I-01-23.php>.

The MTSU Counseling Center, MTSU Student Health Services, the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program, and the Employee Assistance Program can keep your report confidential and are not required to report sexual violence to law enforcement authorities unless you choose to do so. Similarly, medical attention sought at St. Thomas Rutherford Hospital and the MTSU Student Health Services will not result in a report to law enforcement. (Note: reporting is required if a victim is under the age of 18; and a hospital must report if the victim has a life threatening injury, or if the victim is being treated for injuries inflicted by strangulation or a weapon.)

Medical Assistance. Physical safety and medical attention are of primary importance. You could be physically injured, become pregnant, or have been exposed to a sexually transmitted disease. Medical attention is available at St. Thomas Rutherford Hospital, 615-396-4100, or MTSU Student Health Services, 615-898-2988. If done promptly, a medical examination can obtain important evidence should you decide to prosecute.

Preserving Physical Evidence. Even if you do not currently wish to prosecute, consider preserving physical evidence in the event you later change your mind. Do not shower, bathe, douche, or otherwise clean yourself. If possible, do not urinate. Do not eat, drink liquids, smoke, or brush your teeth if oral contact took place. If you must change your clothes, save all clothing you were wearing at the time of the assault. If you have changed your clothes, place the clothing in a paper bag (plastic may destroy important evidence). Do not disturb anything in the area where the assault occurred, such as sheets or towels. You should also save any text messages, social networking pages and any other communications related to the incident. Following these directions will assist in proving the offense and in obtaining Orders of Protection.

Counseling. Whether or not you report the assault or prosecute, a trained counselor can help you with the emotional trauma of an assault. Confidential emergency and follow-up counseling are available through MTSU Counseling Services, 615-898-2670, for students; and the Employee Assistance Program or faculty and staff; see <http://www.here4tn.com/>. Assistance from the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program, 615-896-7377 or 615-494-9262, is available to both students and employees.

These counseling services are provided free of charge and are confidential. Your information or any information disclosed during counseling will not be made available to any member of the University community without your permission.

Other Assistance. Regardless of whether you choose to report the incident, the University will assist with changes in academic, living, transportation and working situations if requested and if such are reasonably available. The University may also be able to put No Contact Orders in place to prohibit contact between involved parties, and can assist you in obtaining a court-issued Order of Protection.

Confidentiality. Personally identifiable information about you will be treated as confidential, maintained in a secure manner and only shared with persons having a specific need to know who are investigating or adjudicating this matter, or who are providing resources or support services to you. With limited exceptions, MTSU will honor a request that your name not be disclosed to an alleged perpetrator of sexual violence, or that no investigation or disciplinary action be pursued. The Title IX investigator will discuss with you any impact such decision will have on an investigation and the institution's ability to fully respond to the incident, including pursuing disciplinary action against the accused.

Retaliation. Retaliation in any form is strictly prohibited and will, itself, be the basis for disciplinary action. The institution will take steps to prevent and respond to reports of retaliation from other students, faculty, staff or third parties. Retaliation can include threats, intimidation, coercion or discrimination.

Institutional Investigative and Disciplinary Processes. When a report is made, the University will conduct an investigation, whether or not criminal charges are filed, to determine if University policy was violated and, if so, what action is warranted. This investigation is independent from any conducted by law enforcement officials. See <http://www.mtsu.edu/policies/general-policies/I-01-23.php> for details concerning the investigation process.

Confidentiality still applies with regard to visits with the MTSU Counseling Center, MTSU Student Health Services, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program, and Employee Assistance Program so that no institutional investigations or processes would be activated without victim consent.

If the person accused of sexual violence is a faculty or staff member, that person may be subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination of employment. If the accused is a student, the student is subject to the MTSU Student Code of Conduct and the institutional disciplinary process <http://www.mtsu.edu/policies/student-affairs/III-00-03.php>. These procedures ensure a prompt, fair and impartial investigation and resolution which will promote accountability. You are entitled to participate actively in this process if you wish to do so. Disciplinary proceedings will be conducted by officials who receive training on issues related to sexual violence, and how to conduct an investigation and hearing. Both you and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present

during an institutional disciplinary proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied by an advisor of your choice to any related meeting or proceeding. You and the accused will be simultaneously informed in writing of:

- the outcome of the disciplinary proceeding;
- the procedures for appealing the results of the proceeding;
- any change to the results that occur prior to the time that such results become final; and,
- when such results become final.

Possible sanctions pursuant to these proceedings include restitution; warning; reprimand; service to institution or community; educational/counseling program; apology; fines; restriction; probation; suspension; interim suspension; expulsion; revocation of admission, degree or credential; or, any alternate sanction deemed necessary and appropriate to address the misconduct at issue.

Available Resources.

On campus

MTSU Counseling Services, 615-898-2670, KUC 326-S
MTSU Student Health Services, 615-898-2988, 1848 Blue Raider Drive
June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students, 615-898-5812, SUB 330
University Police, 615-898-2424 or 911
Title IX Coordinator, 615-898-2185, Cope 116
Employee Assistance Program, 1-855-437-3486

In Murfreesboro/Rutherford County

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program 24-hour crisis line 615-494-9262, 2106 E. Main Street
St. Thomas Rutherford Hospital (SART program), 615-396-4100, 1700 Medical Center Parkway
StoneCrest Medical Center, 615-768-2000, 200 StoneCrest Boulevard, Smyrna
Murfreesboro Police, 911 or 615-893-1311, 302 S. Church Street
Legal Aid Society, 615-890-0905, 526 North Walnut Street

For more information about sexual violence and available resources go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/sexual-violence/>. If you have any questions or concerns related to MTSU's response to this matter or the resources available to you as a member of the University community, please do not hesitate to contact the Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Marian V. Wilson, 615-898-2185, marian.wilson@mtsu.edu.