

As a friend, you may experience secondary trauma. There are resources for you through Counseling & Psychological Services and the Center for Family Justice hotline. Know that it is the fault of the offender, not your friend.

If your presence is supportive to the survivor, you are welcome to accompany them when seeking counseling services, medical attention, or filing a report.

Support your friend by validating his/her feelings about the experience. Do not question if the survivor was actually assaulted. Stay attuned to the survivor's attitude and don't assume or dictate how she or he must feel.

What if I suspect a "date rape" drug was used?

At the hospital there are tests that can detect the presence of a date rape drug in your blood and urine. Although these drugs leave your body quickly, tests can detect the drugs as much as 72 hours after they are ingested.

What will happen at court if a student proceeds with...?

Arrests are made when "probable cause" is established to show that the incident happened in the manner you have reported. This is separate from the student conduct process, where it must be shown that it is "more likely than not" the incident occurred.

What do I do if I think my friend is in an intimate partner relationship and has experienced domestic violence?

Seek advice from Counseling & Psychological Services or the Center for Family Justice Domestic Violence hotline at **203-384-9559**. Public Safety can offer help if you or your friend is in immediate danger.

What to look out for:

- Signs of physical violence, such as bruising or bite marks
- Strong sense of jealousy by the offender
- Your friend may feel afraid or isolated

Support your friend by encouraging him/her to seek help and to participate in activities outside of the relationship. Let them know that you will be there for them no matter what.

Confidential On Campus

Counseling & Psychological Services	203-254-4000, ext. 2146
Clergy at Campus Ministry	203-254-4000, ext. 3405
Student Health Center	203-254-4000, ext. 2241

Confidential Off Campus

The Center for Family Justice	203-333-2233 <i>(sexual assault hotline)</i> 203-384-9559 <i>(domestic violence hotline)</i>
Español Hotline	1-888-568-8332 (24/7)
LGBTQ Anti-Violence Project	212-714-1141

Non-Confidential On Campus

Public Safety	203-254-4090 (24/7)
Title IX Staff Members	203-254-4000
Director of Title IX & Equity Compliance	
Megan D. Monahan, JD	ext. 4357
Residence Life	203-254-4215
Dean of Students	203-254-4211

University counselors on call are available 24/7 via the Department of Public Safety or Residence Life professionals.

Non-Confidential Off Campus

Connecticut State Police	860-685-8190
Fairfield Police Department	911 or 203-254-4800

Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence

*Information and Resources for
Survivors and Friends of Survivors*

It is estimated that one in five women is sexually assaulted on a college campus. Males are the least likely to report a sexual assault, although they make up about 10% of all victims on college campuses.

Prepared by Fairfield University
in collaboration with the Fairfield Police Department



Who can I talk to if I think I have been sexually assaulted? (or experienced a form of sexual misconduct such as sexual assault, gender-based harassment, stalking, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment.)

Most forms of sexual misconduct are committed by someone the survivor knows. Please know that it is not your fault and there are resources available. You are encouraged to contact the Title IX coordinator for support, direction and guidance.

If you are in immediate danger, call Public Safety. They can connect you with a University counselor 24/7.

To learn more about medical, reporting and safety options, including the confidential hotline at the Center for Family Justice, see the resources section on the back panel.

Note: Students under the age of 21 who have been drinking will receive amnesty when seeking help after an assault. Students who are undocumented may seek services and apply for amnesty through the U-Visa.

What if the alleged individual is a friend or classmate?

Based on statistics, most sexual assaults are committed by someone you met in class, at a party, or through a friend. You may feel pressure from mutual friends to not file a report, or you might fear getting the accused in trouble, but all forms of sexual misconduct are against University policy, and could result in criminal charges.

If I am a survivor of intimate partner or sexual assault, can I call the police?

Yes. You can call the local police where your assault occurred. In the town of Fairfield, you can call Fairfield Police or State Police (see numbers on back panel). Public Safety can help you contact the appropriate agency. If the police are notified, it is up to you whether to proceed with a complaint or an investigation. Call the Fairfield Police Department Detective Bureau at **203-254-4840** if you want to talk to someone about your options.

What will happen if I go to Public Safety?

Public Safety can help if you are in immediate danger or if you want to file a report.

If you file a report at Public Safety, you are welcome to have a friend or trained crisis counselor present. Public Safety will notify Fairfield Police if a report is filed. Fairfield Police will contact you or your friend to talk about options outside of the student conduct process. You have the authority to withdraw a complaint at any time.

If I make a report or seek help, is it confidential?

See the back panel for a list of confidential and non-confidential resources and services.

If you wish to file a report or seek help from Public Safety, the police, or a resident assistant, the disclosure will be private between all necessary professional personnel, such as the Title IX coordinator, dean of students, and other necessary participants in the student conduct process. If at any point you wish to withdraw a complaint and maintain confidentiality, you can. The University has an obligation to continue to investigate to determine patterns and larger risks within the community. If there appears to be a threat to campus, a campus-wide notification will be made regarding an incident of sexual or domestic violence. All measures will be taken to maintain privacy. In some cases when incidents of domestic violence, sexual assault, threats of violence, or stalking have been reported to Fairfield Police, they have to act to ensure the safety of the victim.

Federal and state laws protect the identity of survivors of sexual assault. Your name will not be released to the media. Please notify the Title IX coordinator or any other professional staff if you feel your privacy or confidentiality have been compromised.

Why should I seek medical attention?

The decision to go to the hospital is entirely yours. If you have been assaulted, either by force, coercion, or by a non-violent offense, seeking medical attention is recommended. You will be evaluated for risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection. Prophylactic medication may be prescribed. An evidence collection kit examination is offered as part of the medical assessment in cases of sexual assault. Try not to bathe, shower, change or wash your clothes, eat, drink, smoke, gargle, or urinate prior to the exam. However, some evidence collection may still be done if you have done these things.

Even if you think there is no evidence from the assault, an evidence collection kit may discover something and can be administered up to 120 hours (five days) after the assault. A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner will perform the procedure, and the exam will collect any evidence such as hair, skin cells, blood, or fluid that may remain on the body or clothing and assist in the identification or conviction of an offender.

A crisis counselor will meet you at the local hospital to support you throughout the process. The examination will not cost anything. Any expenses incurred are paid for by the State of CT through the Office of Victim Services Crime Victim Compensation program.

What if I was assaulted days ago and didn't tell anyone?

You can report the assault at any time to Public Safety or seek services through confidential sources.

As a complainant, what else can I expect?

A full description of the University's policies and processes for dealing with sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and sexual misconduct can be found in the Student Handbook at fairfield.edu/studenthandbook. If reasonably available, complainants will be afforded the opportunity to request immediate on-campus housing relocation, transfer of classes, or other steps to prevent unnecessary or unwanted contact or proximity to the alleged accused. The provision of such accommodations does not constitute a determination of responsibility, but rather is offered to assist the complainant.

How can I help as a friend?

If your friend shares with you that he/she has survived a sexual assault, it's important to keep this information private and encourage them to get help immediately. You can ask trained resident assistants, Counseling & Psychological Services, or the Office of the Dean of Students to assist you with the referral process. They can help you talk to your friend about all of the options and resources available, both at Fairfield University and in the greater community.