Sexual Assault and Prevention Guide

If you are raped or sexually assaulted:

- Get to a safe place as soon as you can.
- Try to preserve all physical evidence.
- Do not wash, use the toilet, or change clothing if you can avoid it. If you do change clothes, put all clothing you were wearing at the time of the attack in a paper, not plastic, bag.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible to make sure you are physically well and to collect important evidence in the event you may later wish to take legal action.
- Contact the Morton College Police Department immediately (708)-656-8000 extension 2200 on campus.
- Talk with a counselor who will maintain confidentially, help explain your options, give you information, and provide emotional support.
- Contact someone you trust to be with you and support you.

The sexual assault policy works under the umbrella of and in concert with Morton College’s Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Policies. “Sexual assault” is defined as forcing, threatening, or coercing an individual into sexual contact against the individual’s free will with or without the individual’s consent. It includes, but is not limited to, any sexual act performed on an individual or any sexual act required to be performed by an individual against that individual’s free will. Sexual assault includes having sexual contact with a victim while knowing or having reason to know that the victim was incapacitated by drugs (including alcohol) or was otherwise unable to consent. Victims of a sexual offense are encouraged to report any incident immediately to by contacting Campus Police at 708-656-8000 ex: 2200.

Reporting

The first priority of a student who has been subject to sexual assault should able to get to a place of safety and then to obtain necessary medical treatment. Victims of sexual assault may seek and receive medical care free of charge from a local hospital emergency department without submitting a police report. The Morton College Police Department strongly encourages victims to report incidents of sexual assault in a timely manner. Time is a critical factor for evidence collection and preservation. An assault should be reported directly to the Morton College Police Department. Individuals are encouraged, but not required, to file a police report. Filing a police report will not obligate the victim to pursue a complaint through the criminal process, nor will it subject the victim to scrutiny or judgmental opinions from officers. Filing a police report will:
• Ensure that a victim of sexual assault receives the necessary medical treatment and tests, at no expense to the victim
• Provide the opportunity for collection of evidence helpful in prosecution, which cannot be obtained later (ideally a victim of sexual assault should not wash, douche, use the toilet, or change clothing prior to a medical/legal exam)
• Make the victim aware of resources available for confidential counseling from counselors specifically trained in the area of sexual assault crisis intervention.

When a sexual assault victim contacts the Morton College Police Department, and the Office of the Dean of Student Development will also be notified. The victim of a sexual assault may choose for an investigation to be pursued either through the criminal justice system, through a University disciplinary process (when an alleged perpetrator is a student, faculty or staff), or through both processes. Victims may also choose not to proceed as a complainant in a criminal process or in a disciplinary process. A representative from the Morton College Police Department or the Office of the Dean of Student Development will guide the victim through the available options and support the victim in his or her decision.

Past Abuse

Many individuals experience sexual assault and never tell anyone about it at the time of the incident. If you were victimized weeks or years ago, assistance is still available to you. Talking with someone now may help you cope better with abuse from the past, whether it was rape, child sexual abuse, incest, or sexual harassment.

Male Victims

While most victims of sexual assault are women, some men are also victims. Male victims at Morton College receive the same services as women. Emotional support, options counseling, legal advocacy, and medical treatment are available to assist all those recovering from sexual assault.

Counseling Options

Various Morton College counseling options are available to student victims of sexual assault through the Morton College Counseling Center. Support services are also available outside the College Campus (for example from the Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline, YW Care Hotline, Pillars and Pillars 24-hour sexual assault hotline). The offices of the Dean of Students, the Morton College Counseling Center can provide referrals to other non-College Campus counseling options.

Off Campus

• Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline (888) 293-2080
• YW Care Hotline (708) 748-5672
• Pillars (708) 788-6759Pillars 24-hour sexual assault hotline: (708) 482-9600

After reporting the offense, Campus Police will be responsible for the victim and chain of evidence to see that the victim shall be transported by ambulance if penetration or any other physical injury occurred during the assault.
It is important to report a sex offense as soon as possible for the protection of the victim and to ensure proper medical/psychological support. In addition, quick reporting enables us to alert the campus community and possibly prevent further violations. At all times, we will work confidentially with the victim, empowering the individual to make informed and realistic decisions as to the disposition of the case.

**College Disciplinary Action**

If you have been sexually assaulted by another student or students and are considering taking action through the college, you are encouraged to discuss the matter with the Dean of Student Development and Ombuds Services or her designee. This will allow you a chance to review the procedures should you decide to file a formal complaint through the college’s disciplinary/judicial system. This discussion does not obligate you to pursue official action. If you decide to take part in the college adjudication process, you should contact the Dean of Student Development and Ombuds Services. Charges may either be filed directly by you or by the college on the basis of your written statement. Such a charge would be handled in accordance with the procedures relating to violations of the college’s Code of Student Conduct regulations. Assailants could be subject to disciplinary action pending review by the college judicial system. Those students found responsible for violating the code in this way could be suspended or expelled. Under the college’s disciplinary procedures, both the accuser and the accused are entitled to have an advisor or support person present during the hearing. Students who allege sexual assault by another student may request a change in their academic situation on campus after the alleged incident takes place if such changes are reasonably available. Finally, in accordance with federal regulations, both the accuser and the accused will be informed of the outcome of any campus disciplinary proceedings alleging sexual assault.

Students and employees found responsible for sexual assault may be criminally prosecuted in the state or federal courts and, as more fully described in the pertinent Policies, may be terminated from employment or suspended or expelled from the Morton College Campus for the first offense.

**Criminal Investigation and Charges**

Depending on the timing of your report and preference, it may be possible for you to make a statement in the presence of the Morton College police officer and the local police at the same time. Be advised that questioning can be difficult. Remember, you may request that a support person be with you during the police interview. If it is possible for the assailant to be apprehended, the suspect will be taken by police before the local judge and charged with the appropriate offense(s) at a preliminary arraignment. You do not need to be present for this proceeding. The assailant may be jailed or released on bail depending on the circumstances of the crime. One of the conditions of bail is usually that the suspect not try to contact you. If you are contacted by the suspect or feel threatened in any way, you should immediately call the Morton College Police department or the local police. Bail can be revoked, and additional charges can be filed if necessary. The prosecutor or deputy prosecutor will represent you without cost throughout the criminal proceedings. You may also speak with an attorney of your choice.