

# Responding to sexual violence: Care Pathway

**Emergency Help**

Is assailant still in vicinity and a possible risk to others?  
Does student need emergency medical help?

**On campus: call 01273 87(3333). Off campus: call 999**

Detailed staff/student guidance  
[www.sussex.ac.uk/wellbeing/safety/sexualassault](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/wellbeing/safety/sexualassault)  
[www.sussex.ac.uk/wellbeing/safety/staffguidance](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/wellbeing/safety/staffguidance)  
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If there is no immediate risk, DO NOT call the police or ambulance service without the explicit consent of the student concerned (unless under 18 yrs)

Assault within hours      Assault within 7 days      Assault more than 7 days ago

**ASK THE STUDENT WHAT THEY WANT TO DO. DO NOT MAKE ASSUMPTIONS AND DO NOT ACT WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT**

Do not offer food or drink  
Explain that forensic evidence may be lost by eating, drinking, smoking, urinating or washing

Weekdays 9am-5pm

Advise student that their best option is to seek the expert advice of a Student Life Advisor (university staff) and/or an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) (non-university)

Student Life Centre: **01273 87 6767** 9am-5pm weekdays, Ask for an emergency appointment to which you can accompany them if this is what they want.

Survivors' Network ISVA: **01273 203380 x103** [referrals@survivorsnetwork.org.uk](mailto:referrals@survivorsnetwork.org.uk) Not a crisis service. If student wants to preserve forensics they will need an urgent referral to the SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre) see below.

Evenings/nights or weekends

Advise student on or off campus that their best option is to seek expert advice of Campus & Residential Support team who can be reached through Security **01273 87(3333)**

**Guidance for Advisors/other frontline staff to whom student discloses**

Take student to a warm, quiet, safe space –where you will not be interrupted- after first informing a colleague

You may feel that the police should be called, especially if the student is harmed, but this is not your choice unless there is obvious risk to the student or others.

If the student is accompanied, check this person is still welcome. Would the student prefer to speak to someone of a different gender?

Do not make notes, just a record of the date, time, name of student, alleged perpetrator & record of support offered. Memories may be fragmented and reinterpreted. Any account could be used by police/courts at a later date. Ask student to sign that they agree to any notes.

Listen to the student without overreacting or asking questions – your role is to support – not to investigate or to counsel at this stage. Any suspicion of coaching/influencing/interpreting their account can be detrimental to a future case.

Allow them time to talk. Concentrate on what they are saying, not on you are going to say/do

Give student options leaflet and go through it with them. Make it clear to student that they do not have to disclose their circumstances to the police.

Does student need alternative accommodation? (Campus & Residential support **01273 877250**)

Refer student to disciplinary policies/procedures [www.sussex.ac.uk/ogs/policies/studentguidance/studentdiscipline](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ogs/policies/studentguidance/studentdiscipline)

If assault/abuse happened some time ago, it may be appropriate to make an immediate referral to the University Counselling Service **01273 678156**

**Student Options**

**Student wants to report to police**

**On campus:** Student can phone **police 01273 873333** through Security as they must guide police to location.  
**Off campus** dial **101** if no immediate danger.

A SOLO officer can take initial forensics, then student will go to police station to make statement. Student may then be referred to **SARC, The Saturn Centre** in Crawley Hospital for more forensics. [www.saturncentre.org](http://www.saturncentre.org)

Student may want to take friend & change of clothes. Photo of scene/bedding/used condom/ should be preserved in plastic bag if relevant. Student can opt out of police reporting at any stage without losing forensics.  
Student will be automatically referred to an **ISVA for advocacy and advice**

**Student unsure whether to report to police**

If within 7 days, student can be referred to the **SARC (The Saturn Centre at Crawley Hospital)** so that forensic evidence can be preserved for a future decision. Weekdays 9am-5pm **01293 600469** for an appt. Out of hours: phone **0330 2230058** for advice from on-call team. Take evidence in plastic bag. Take friend & clothes. Taxi vouchers available in SLC/ Res Support.

**External advocacy and advice** for recent or historical sexual violence can be sourced through [www.theportal.org.uk](http://www.theportal.org.uk)

In office hours, see GP or at other times call 111 for **non-emergency medical help**.

**3<sup>rd</sup> party referral:** An anonymous report can be made by you or student to the police on **101**

**Student does not want to report to police or it is past the 7 days deadline for forensics**

**Claude Nicol Centre (Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton):**  
[www.brightonsexualhealth.com/sexual\\_assault](http://www.brightonsexualhealth.com/sexual_assault)  
For STI tests/treatment and emergency contraception/pregnancy tests. **01273 664721/664716** student should request an urgent appointment with Health Advisor and can be met in Outpatients or at The Lawson Unit if they want to avoid the public reception area.

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**3<sup>rd</sup> party referral:** An anonymous report can be made by you or student to the police on **101**