

**WHAT  
TO DO  
ABOUT  
SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE**

Midland College

Resource and Information

**NO MATTER WHAT YOU WERE WEARING.....**

**NO MATTER WHAT YOU WERE DOING....**

**NO MATTER WHERE YOU WERE.....**

**IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU HAD SAID YES BEFORE....**

**SOMETIMES SEXUAL ASSAULT CAN STILL HAPPEN**

**IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT**

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE  
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU**

Sexual violence is a crime. Midland College does not support any type of sexual violence. A survivor of sexual violence will have a wide range of emotions following an incident. It is important for your mental health to utilize available resources to assist in recovery.

### **What is sexual violence?**

Sexual violence refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where an individual is incapable of giving consent due to an intellectual disability or use of drugs and/or alcohol. Sexual violence can occur between friends, classmates, spouses, romantic interests, acquaintances, or strangers. Examples of sexual violence include rape, sexual assault and sexual coercion. Dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking are also serious offenses.

### **What to do if you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted:**

- Get to a safe place immediately.
- Contact someone who can help you—a friend, 911 or Rape Crisis 432-682-7273.
- If at all possible: do not shower, drink/eat, douche or change your clothes.
- Get medical attention.
- Write down everything you remember happening in as much detail as possible.

If you contact Rape Crisis they can meet you at the emergency room to by-pass the check-in desk at the ER. You will have an advocate with you every step of the way.

The advocate from Midland Rape Crisis Center will ensure that you see a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (a specially trained nurse) at the hospital.

YOU should know that if a victim goes to the hospital, local police will be called, but you **are not obligated to speak with them or file criminal charges.**

However, having evidence collected in this manner will help keep all options available for the victim, but does not obligate them to pursue criminal charges. This will assist the authorities for criminal prosecution should the victim choose to exercise this right in the future.

During the visit, hospital staff will collect evidence, check for injuries, address pregnancy concerns and the possibility of exposure to sexually transmitted infections. You can take a support person with you to accompany you through the exam.

If you have changed clothing since the assault, bring the clothing you had on at the time to the hospital in a clean, sanitary container such as a brown paper grocery bag or wrapped in a clean sheet or towel (plastic containers do not breathe, and may render evidence useless).

If you have not changed clothes, bring a change of clothes with you to the hospital, if possible.

Keep emails, text messages, social media postings, any digital information about the incident, or other methods of contact from the attacker.

Mental health is very fragile after an assault.

Midland College encourages you to seek free, confidential counseling with:

**Midland Rape Crisis and Child Advocacy Center**

**432-682-7273**

\*\*Midland College does not have on-campus student health facilities. \*\*

## Reporting Options

Regardless of whether a victim opts to report the crime to law enforcement, accommodations or protective measures will be provided if the victim requests them and if they are reasonably available.

Midland College will take steps to keep your information private to the extent allowed by law.

A reporting party has the right, and can expect, to have reports taken seriously by MC when formally reported and to have those incidents investigated and properly resolved through the college procedures.

### **Filing a Complaint with Midland College**

All MC employees, with some limited exceptions, are required to inform the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator of discrimination, harassment or sexual assault when they become aware of actual or suspected events. Individuals who feel they have been the victim of discrimination, harassment or sexual assault are encouraged to file a report by filing an online complaint form or speaking directly to:

Title IX/504 Coordinator and Compliance Officer,

Room 131 SSC, 432-685-4781,

tbaker@midland.edu OR title9@midland.edu



### **Discrimination/Harassment Online Form:**

<https://midland.edu/about/public-info/discrimination-form.php>

Victims may request support and assistance with changes to their academic and living (if on campus) situations with the Title IX Coordinator.

If the assailant is a Midland College student and the victim wishes to pursue an investigation, the victim needs to ensure a report is or has been filed with the Title IX Coordinator.

If the victim wishes to remain anonymous, does not wish for an investigation to take place, or does not want a formal resolution to be pursued, they may make such a request to the Title IX Coordinator, who will evaluate that request in light of the duty to ensure the safety of the campus and comply with federal law.

In cases indicating pattern, predation, threat, weapons and/or violence, MC will not likely be able to honor a request for confidentiality.

In cases where the victim requests confidentiality and the circumstances allow MC to honor that request, interim support and assistance will be offered to the victim, but will not otherwise pursue formal action.

### **Confidential Reporting**

If the assault was reported to an advocate for Midland Rape Crisis, a therapist, doctor, pastor, spiritual advisor or anyone who holds a licensure that is protected by the State of Texas with client confidentiality privileges, a report is not required to be made to the Midland College Title IX Coordinator.

However, keep in mind that support and assistance with your educational program is acquired through the Title IX Coordinator. We are here to help and will not ask you to do anything that you do not want to do (i.e. formal investigation, file a complaint).

### **Filing a Criminal Complaint**

MC students who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking can file a criminal complaint by contacting the Midland College Police Department at **432-685-4734 (answered 24/7)** or in person in **Room 136, Scharbauer Student Center**.

### **What if the survivor does not want to file a complaint?**

A survivor of sexual assault is always encouraged to consult with trained mental health professionals regardless of whether the person elects to file a report with the police or other campus officials. Mental health professionals typically can maintain confidentiality and will discuss limits to confidentiality so the individual can make an informed decision about talking about the abuse.

### **What if I was under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the sexual assault?**

Use of alcohol or drugs impacts an individual's ability to consent to a sexual act and does not put the person at blame. A student who is assaulted while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is encouraged to seek help and entitled to college and community assistance. The seriousness of sexual misconduct is a major concern and Midland College does not want any of the circumstances (e.g. drug or alcohol use) to inhibit the reporting of sexual misconduct. Whenever possible Midland College will respond educationally rather than punitively to the illegal use of alcohol and/or drugs.

### **What should I do if I witnessed a crime of sexual assault?**

If you are a witness to a crime of sexual violence you should report the incident to campus or local police. You may also speak with the Title IX /504 Coordinator who can assist you with further reporting as appropriate.

## How Friends, Family, and Faculty/Staff Can Help

Say something. Lend a listening ear. Show that you care and are willing to listen. Do not force the issue but allow the individual to confide in you at their own pace. Never blame the person for what is happening or underestimate their fear of potential danger. Focus on supporting the individual's right to make their own decisions.

Guide survivors to campus and community resources. Let them know they are not alone and people are available to help. Encourage them to seek sexual violence advocates and assure them that these individuals will keep the reported information confidential in most cases.

Do not judge survivors. Tell the person you are sorry they have been hurt. No matter their behavior prior to the assault, they are not responsible—the assailant is. No one deserves to be assaulted.

Remind survivors that their feelings are normal. They may feel “crazy”. Assure survivors they are not “crazy” and any feeling or reaction is normal.

Focus on their strengths. The individual will need help with self-confidence and will need to regain a sense of power. Give emotional support and help recognize strengths and skills. Emphasize that no one deserves to be assaulted.

Find your own support. You cannot support someone else if you are not supported. However, do not try to receive *your support from the survivor*.

The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Tana Baker  
Title IX/504 Coordinator  
3600 N. Garfield, SSC 131  
Midland, TX 79705  
tbaker@midland.edu  
432-685-4781

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

**STAY SAFE**

**EMERGENCIES DIAL 911**

**MIDLAND COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Scharbauer Student Center Room 136**

**432-685-4734 (answered 24/7)**

**MIDLAND RAPE CRISIS CENTER**

**432-682-7273 (answered 24/7)**