

## **STATEMENT OF RIGHTS FOR STUDENT CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS**

A student who reports a sexual assault or other sexual offense which took place on property under the College's jurisdiction or at a College-sponsored event, will be afforded the following rights:

1. The right to be free from suggestions by College officials that:
  - a. sexual assault or sexual offense victims are "responsible" for the commission of crimes against them.
  - b. sexual assault victims were contributorily negligent or "assumed the risk" of being assaulted.
  - c. by reporting crimes the College would incur unwanted publicity.
2. The right to have complete access to immediate medical treatment and/or counseling support services.
3. The right to decline to go forward with criminal proceedings.
4. The right to be treated with dignity and compassion by each College official who is involved in the counseling, investigative or adjudicatory process.
5. The right to receive regular information about the proceedings of any College judicial action resulting from the complaint. This includes the composition of the judicial hearing board, the witnesses who will testify and the outcome of the judicial proceeding.
6. The same right to assistance, or right to have others present which is afforded the accused during any college judicial action.
7. The right to request that campus personnel take the necessary steps reasonably available to prevent unwanted contact or proximity with alleged assailants. This could include a reassignment of the victim's campus housing, reassignment of the victim's academic class schedule, or interim suspension of the alleged assailant(s) from the College.

## **RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**

A number of campus support services and community agencies are available to assist victims of sexual assault. Victims are encouraged to report sexual offenses to the appropriate law enforcement agency. A victim's first priority, however, is to get to a safe location and to seek medical assistance. The YWCA Rape Crisis Services Agency in Utica will provide a support person to accompany a victim through the medical examinations and, if a criminal complaint is filed, through the investigation and subsequent legal process.

The following procedures are recommended:

1. Get to a safe place away from the attacker.
2. Contact an on-campus support person and/or call the YWCA Rape Crisis Services hotline (797-7740).
3. Call an ambulance or go to a hospital emergency room for treatment of injuries/sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy testing and forensic examination to obtain physical evidence.

If you decide to report the assault to a law enforcement agency:

1. Call the University Police office (ext. 111) or other police agency if you are off-campus.
2. Contact the YWCA Rape Crisis Services office and/or a campus support person and go to an emergency room.
3. Preserve physical evidence: do not wash, urinate, douche, or change your clothes. If clothing is removed, keep it in a paper (not plastic) bag for evidence preservation. If forced oral sex was involved in the assault, do not drink anything, brush your teeth, or use mouthwash.
4. Preserve the crime scene: do not move anything in or near the scene of the assault.