

Immediate Steps for Those Affected by Sexual Assault

Grace understands that it may take time to decide whether to report an incident of sexual or physical violence to Grace and/or the police. The following suggestions to preserve evidence are offered while individuals decide whether to make a report.

Grace encourages [Complainants](#), as soon as possible after the sexual or physical assault, to take steps to assure their safety and to preserve [Evidence](#) such as:

1. Calling 911 immediately following a sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking for emergency response procedures and resources.
 - a. Local individuals should call the Winona Lake Police Department (574-267-8622), the Warsaw Police Department (574-372-9511), or their local law enforcement agency.
 - b. Those not living near the Winona Lake campus should call 911 or their local law enforcement office.
 - c. Students should contact Grace's Campus Safety Office (574-269-5344) as soon as possible.
2. Requesting a forensic [sexual assault nurse examination](#) as soon as possible after the incident, but no later than 72-96 hours afterwards.
 - a. If possible, before having a forensic sexual assault nurse examination performed, avoid changing clothes, bathing, showering, using a douche, using the bathroom, brushing one's teeth, drinking liquids, washing one's hands or face, or combing one's hair.
3. Seeking medical and/or mental health help.
 - a. Medical care is recommended for preventive treatment, sexually transmitted diseases, and other health services.
 - b. The [Grace Counseling and Health Center](#) clinician or nurse, or the Dean of the Chapel and Community Life may be contacted for *confidential counseling*.
 - c. See also [Local Resources – Medical Treatment](#) for other options.

Individuals experiencing sexual violence or assault always have the option to file a police report, pursue a court-issued restraining or protective order, or request a campus-issued *No Trespass Letter* or *No Contact Directive*, but are not required to do so.

Sexual assaults, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator by the individual who experienced the offense or the responsible employee it was reported to.

If a Complainant wants the details of the incident to remain confidential on campus, then the report should be made to one of the following individuals with privileged communication: the campus' professional counselors, chaplain, campus nurse, or athletic trainers rather than the Title IX Office.