

**Title:** Campus Safety and Security Policies -- Campus Sexual Assault Program  
**Code:** 5-350-250  
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**Approved:** WPL

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## Policy

The objectives of the Boston College Campus Sexual Assault Program are to prevent sex offenses and to inform the University community of the procedures to be followed once a sex offense has occurred. In complying with Title II of the Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act, the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990, Boston College distributes the following statements of policy as part of its annual CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY PROGRAM. (Please see policy [5-350-200](#), Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act, for additional information.)

### Boston College Sexual Assault Network

The Boston College Sexual Assault Network is a group of trained individuals who provide services and act as advocates for students who are victims of sex offenses. Among the services provided are the following:

- Assistance in contacting the appropriate law enforcement authorities, including on-campus and local police, if so requested by the victim.
- Assistance in contacting other University offices (e.g., Health Services, Counseling Services, Chaplaincy), and community resources (e.g., rape crisis centers, support groups), if so requested by the victim.
- Assistance with emergency rape crisis treatment and emergency medical services. Such assistance includes accompanying the victim to the hospital, to the proper law enforcement authorities, including on-campus and local police, and to the Office of the Dean for Student Development, as needed or if so requested by the victim.
- Assistance in contacting the victim's friends, family, and any other person, if so requested by the victim.
- Assistance in addressing academic concerns, and in identifying alternate living arrangements, if so requested by the victim.
- Assistance, guidance, and support throughout the University judicial process and/or the criminal justice process should the victim choose to pursue this course of action.
- General support and assistance as needed or if so requested by the victim.

Some members of the Sexual Assault Network are available to respond to crises or emergencies 24 hours a day; others are available during normal working hours. These individuals may be contacted by dialing the Boston College Sexual Assault Hotline. The resources and support services available through the Boston College Sexual Assault Network are outlined in a brochure produced and distributed annually by the Network. The brochure is also available from the Boston College Police, the Office of the Dean for Student Development, the Office of Residential Life, and the Infirmary.

Discussions with members of the Sexual Assault Network are confidential, but may be subject to disclosure by law.

## Education Programs

Boston College offers education programs to promote the awareness of rape, acquaintance rape, and other sex offenses. The Boston College Police Department, the Office of the Dean for Student Development, the Office of Residential Life, the Undergraduate Government of Boston College, the Women's Resource Center, and the Child Care Center are among the University offices that offer such programs. Please refer to the annual CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY PROGRAM for more specific information about these programs.

## Reporting of an Offense

The victim of a sex offense has the option of notifying the appropriate law enforcement authorities, including on-campus and local police, and the option to be assisted by campus authorities in notifying such authorities, if the victim so chooses. The victim of a sex offense that occurs on or off campus is strongly encouraged to notify the Boston College Police Department or a member of the Boston College Sexual Assault Network. For sex offenses that occur off campus, the Boston College Police or the Boston College Sexual Assault Network advocate will assist the victim in notifying the appropriate local law enforcement agency for the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred.

The Boston College Police and members of the Boston College Sexual Assault Network will also assist the victim of a sex offense in notifying the Student Affairs Administrator on Call (AOC). Available during the academic year and Summer Session after 5 P.M. on weekdays/class days and 24 hours a day on weekends and holidays, the Administrator on Call is responsible for managing the University's response to reported emergency situations. The AOC is authorized to contact parents, if so requested by the victim, and to take immediate disciplinary action where warranted.

## Procedures to be Followed Once an Offense Has Occurred

As noted above, the victim of a sex offense that occurs on or off campus is strongly encouraged to report the offense to the Boston College Police Department or a member of the Boston College Sexual Assault Network. If the Boston College Police are notified, female officers are available to respond to such reports. The following procedures are to be followed once a sex offense has occurred and been reported:

- Following notification of the Boston College Police or a member of the Sexual Assault Network, the victim should not shower and should preserve any items related to the offense as may be necessary to prove a criminal sex offense. It is crucial that a crime scene remain as undisturbed as possible.
- The victim is to be transported to a local hospital for treatment and the collection of evidence by trained medical personnel.
- If the crime is considered to represent a serious danger or threat to members of the Boston College community, a BOSTON COLLEGE SAFETY NOTICE is to be disseminated. (Please see policy [5-350-220](#), Safety Notification Procedure, for additional information regarding SAFETY NOTICES.)

## Counseling/Mental Health/Student Services

The victim of a sex offense is informed by the Boston College Police Sexual Assault Officer or the Boston College Sexual Assault Network advocate about the counseling, mental health, and student services that are available on campus and in the community. Among the services available are the following:

- 24-hour and nonemergency access to a University psychologist, as well as access to outside counseling and mental health agency resources.
- Assistance provided by the District Attorneys' Victim/Witness Advocate Program.
- The services provided by the Sexual Assault Network, listed above in the [Boston College Sexual Assault Network](#) section.

Please refer to the annual CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY PROGRAM for more specific information about these services.

#### Disciplinary Action/Sanctions

On-campus disciplinary action is the responsibility of the Office of the Dean for Student Development. The procedures for on-campus disciplinary action in cases of an allegation of a sex offense are outlined in the "Student Judicial Procedure" section of the [STUDENT GUIDE](#). These procedures clearly state that the accuser and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have an advisor and witnesses present during a campus disciplinary proceeding, and that both the accuser and the accused are to be informed of the outcome of any campus disciplinary proceeding brought alleging a sex offense. This section of the [STUDENT GUIDE](#) also lists the possible sanctions that may be imposed following a finding of "responsible" at an on-campus disciplinary proceeding related to rape, acquaintance rape, or other sex offenses, forcible or nonforcible.

#### Changes to Academic and Living Situations

Following an alleged sex offense, if so requested by the victim and if such changes are reasonably available, assistance in changing academic situations is provided by the Office of the Dean for Student Development in conjunction with the appropriate academic dean, and assistance in changing living situations is provided by the Office of Residential Life.

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