



Putting Victims First

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



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R@ckValleyCollege

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IMMEDIATE NEEDS & SAFETY

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!

Go to a safe place.
Contact a friend or
family member you
trust to be with you.

FOR 24 HOUR HELP, CALL

Remedies
Domestic
Violence Hotline

(815) 962-6102

or

Rockford Sexual
Assault
Counseling (RSAC)

(815) 636-9811

ON ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE CAMPUS

STUDENT CONTACT:

Dean of Students
and
Title IX Coordinator
(815) 921-4268

or

RVC Personal &
Success Counselor
(815) 921-4091

EMPLOYEE CONTACT:

Perspectives
Employee Assistance
(800) 456-6327
24 hours/ 7 days

What to do if you have been the victim of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

After an incident of sexual assault and domestic violence, the victim should consider seeking medical attention as soon as possible at one of the three local hospitals. In Illinois, evidence may be collected even if you chose not to make a report to law enforcement. If you decide at a later date, that you would like to prosecute, this evidence will be available. Hospitals in Illinois are required to notify the local police department that treatment has been given to a sexual assault victim. It is important that a victim of sexual assault not bathe, douche, smoke, change clothing, or clean the bed/linen/area where they were assaulted if the offense occurred within the past 96 hours so that evidence as may be necessary to the proof of criminal activity may be preserved. In circumstances of sexual assault, if victims do not opt for forensic evidence collection, healthcare providers can still treat injuries and take steps to address concerns of pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted disease.

PRESERVING EVIDENCE

Victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence are encouraged to also preserve evidence by saving text messages, instant messages, social networking pages, other communications, and keeping pictures, logs, or other copies of documents, if they have any, that would be useful to investigators or police.

REPORTING

Although the college strongly encourages all members of its community to report violations of this policy to law enforcement, it is the victim's choice whether or not to make such a report and victims have the right to decline involvement with the police. To report an incident involving a sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, or dating violence, students should contact the RVC Dean of Students Office; employees should contact Human Resources. They will provide you with all options available for help and provide assistance with contacting police if you chose to make a police report. Contact information for the RVC Police Department, Rockford Police Department, and or Winnebago County Sheriff's Department is **located on the back of this booklet.**

CIVIL REMEDIES

VICTIM'S RIGHTS

Crime victims, as defined by law, shall have the following rights:

- The right to be treated with fairness and
- Respect for their dignity and privacy throughout the criminal justice process.
- The right to notification of court proceedings.
- The right to communicate with the prosecution.
- The right to make a statement to the court at sentencing.
- The right to information about the conviction, sentence, imprisonment, and release of the accused.
- The right to timely disposition of the case following the arrest of the accused.
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process.
- The right to be present at the trial and all other court proceedings on the same basis as the accused, unless the victim is to testify and the court determines that the victim's testimony would be materially affected if the victim hears other testimony at the trial.
- The right to have present at all court proceedings, subject to the rules of evidence, an advocate or other support person of the victim's choice.
- The right to restitution.

ORDERS OF PROTECTION AND NO-CONTACT ORDERS

In Illinois, a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking has rights (see sidebar to the left). Further, the College complies with Illinois law in recognizing orders of protection. Any person who obtains an order of protection from Illinois or any other state should provide a copy to the RVC Police. A complainant may then meet with the RVC Police to develop a "Safety Action Plan," which is a plan for RVC Police and the victim to reduce risk of harm while on campus or coming and going from campus. This plan may include, but is not limited to: escorts, or changing classroom location, etc.



To obtain an "Order of Protection," you can: ask your attorney to file in civil court, request an order with your divorce, request an order during a criminal trial for abuse, go to the Winnebago, Boone, or the Ogle County Circuit Clerk's office and get papers to seek an order of protection for yourself, or contact Remedies to ask for free assistance in completing the forms.

To the extent of the victim's cooperation and consent, college offices will work cooperatively to ensure that the complainant's health, physical safety, work, and academic status are protected, pending the outcome of a formal college investigation of the complaint. For example, if reasonably available, a complainant may be offered changes to academic or working situations in addition to counseling, health services, visa, and immigration assistance and assistance in notifying appropriate local law enforcement.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Personal identifiable information about the victim will be treated as confidential and only shared with persons with a specific need to know who are investigating/adjudicating the complaint or delivering resources or support services to the complainant. For example, publicly available recordkeeping for purposes of Clery Act reporting and disclosures will be made without inclusion of identifying information about the victim, as defined in 42 USC 1395 (a) (20). Further, the institution will maintain as confidential, any accommodations or protective measures provided to the victim to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the institution to provide the accommodations or protective measures.

The college does not publish the name of crime victims nor house identifiable information regarding victims in the campus police departments Daily Crime Log or online. **Victims have the right to require that directory information about them not be disclosed.** To make this request, a student must submit a "Request to Suppress Directory Information" to the Registrar in the Enrollment Services Office (815) 921-4250. Students who request suppression of directory information usually do so because of serious, even dangerous, circumstances. It is critical that their absolute privacy be protected in every situation. If a student has elected to suppress directory information, the college will respond to inquiries as follows: **"There is no information available for any student by that name."**

VIOLENT CRIME VICTIM'S RIGHTS

WHEN YOU REPORT A VIOLENT CRIME, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- File a claim for financial assistance under the Illinois Crime Victims' Compensation Act, please visit: RockValleyCollege.edu/CompensationAct.
- Ask Police for information about the status of the investigation.
- If you are not and a US citizen, and you are a victim of a crime or a witness to a crime, you may be eligible for a U visa or a T visa. Contact the State Attorneys office to see if you are eligible.

AFTER THE OFFENDER IS CHARGED, TALK TO THE PROSECUTOR ABOUT ASSERTING THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:

- A statement and explanation of your rights as a crime victim
- Prompt disposition after the arrest of the accused information about the indictment or juvenile delinquency petition
- Notice of the date, time, and place of the trial
- Advance notice of all court proceedings and cancellation of court proceedings
- Information on social services, financial assistance, and employer intervention
- Notice of the release of the defendant
- Notice of the final case disposition
- To be present at all court proceedings
- To be present at trial, unless the court determines that your testimony will be affected if you hear the testimony of other witnesses
- To have a translator present at all court proceedings
- To bring an advocate or support person to all court proceedings, subject to the Rules of Evidence
- To retain an attorney
- Consultation with the prosecution and consideration of a Victim Impact Statement before plea offer or negotiation
- Non-technical explanation of the plea or verdict
- To provide a written or oral Victim Impact Statement at the sentence hearing
- To have your Victim Impact Statement sent to the Prisoner Review Board
- A secure waiting area during court proceedings, if possible
- To have victim advocate personnel help to ensure that your employers cooperate to minimize your loss of pay and benefits resulting from court appearances
- To request the court to order the defendant to pay restitution to cover losses incurred by you (does not cover pain and suffering)
- The prompt return of stolen property
- Victims of crime can obtain free information regarding custody status changes and criminal cases thru the Vine Link website at - <https://vinelink.com/#/home/site/14004> or (866) 566-8439.

AFTER THE DEFENDANT IS SENTENCED, TALK TO THE PROSECUTOR ABOUT ASSERTING THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:

- Notice of an appeal or any post-conviction petition by the defendant Talk to the Prisoner Review Board about asserting these rights
- Notice of the prisoner's release or discharge
- A recent photo of the defendant convicted of a felony, upon the defendant's release
- Advance notice of the defendant's furlough dates and times
- Notice of any escape or re-apprehension of the prisoner
- Advance notice of the parole hearing
- To provide a statement or attend the parole hearing
- Notice after the prisoner's request for parole has been granted
- Notice of the death of the prisoner
- Notice of the prisoner's request for executive clemency

THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

(800) 799-SAFE (7233) | (800) 787-3224 (TTY)

REMEDIES

Family Domestic Violence: Remedies: 24-hour emergency shelter; crisis hotline; medical advocacy; legal advocacy; individual and group counseling; economic, educational and employment assistance; life and parenting skills; children's counseling; educational advocacy; structured activities for the children to bond with the custodial parent; screening and advocacy for an array of children's needs both physical and developmental; contractual children's therapy and specialized programming relative to victims with substance abuse or mental illness.

Location:

■ Remedies

516 Green Street
Rockford, IL 61102

(815) 962-6102

RemediesRenewingLives.org

RockValleyCollege

Concerned about another student or friend.

Want to try and get them help? Want more information on Sexual Assault, Harassment and Relationship Violence, along with other information:

RockValleyCollege.edu/DeanOfStudents

ROCKFORD SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELING (RSAC)

Provides 24-hour crisis intervention, counseling services and advocacy support for survivors of sexual assault and sexual abuse, ages 3–adult, and their significant others in Winnebago, Boone, and Ogle Counties. RSAC also offers prevention education programming and professional training in Winnebago, Boone, and Ogle counties in Illinois.

Locations:

■ RSAC (Winnebago County)

4990 E. State Street

Rockford, IL 61108

(815) 636-9811 (24 Hours)

(800) 564-8441

■ RSAC (Ogle County)

1201 S. Seventh Street

Suite #109

Rochelle, IL 61068

(815) 562-8844

■ RSAC (Boone County)

860 Biester Drive

Suite 205

Belvidere, IL 61008

(815) 544-6821



SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE

A victim who does not sign a written consent to release the sexual assault evidence prior to discharge from the hospital has the following rights:

Any evidence kit collected by Rock Valley College Police shall be stored at the Rock Valley College Police evidence storage unit. Victims may sign a release for the testing at any time during the 10-year storage period by contacting the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction or working with a sexual assault advocate.

Sexual assault victims will not incur out-of-pocket expenses for hospital forensic examinations or evidence testing.

COMPLAINANT'S RIGHTS

Rock Valley College does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs and sexual harassment and sexual violence are types of sex discrimination. Other acts can also be forms of sex-based discrimination and are also prohibited by the college as well as federal law whether sexually based or not and include dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Because you are reporting a possible form of sex-based discrimination, Rock Valley College wants to inform you of our policy and procedures that address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, whether the incident occurs on or off campus, as well as your rights and the college's responsibilities.

Be advised you may have the right to file criminal charges as well as the right to available medical, counseling and support services. We also offer additional remedies to prevent contact between a complainant and an accused party, such as a temporary or permanent changes in academic, transportation and working conditions, if reasonably available. The policy also addresses possible sanctions and interim and/or long-term protective measures that the college may impose following a report through the final determination of our discipline process. If you would like more information than is contained in this handout regarding any process or procedure, or if you'd like to make a report, ask questions about the policy, or need to request an accommodation to your academic, transportation or working arrangements regardless of whether or not you chose to report the crime to law enforcement, contact the Dean of Students and Title IX Coordinator.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Does information about a complaint remain private?

A: The privacy of all parties to a complaint of sexual misconduct must be respected, except insofar as it interferes with the college's obligation to fully investigate allegations of sexual misconduct. Where privacy is not strictly kept, it will still be tightly controlled on a need-to-know basis.

Q: If I am a student, will my parents be told?

A: No, not unless you tell them. Whether you are the complainant or the accused student, the college's primary relationship is to the student and not to the parent. However, in the event of major medical, disciplinary, or academic jeopardy, students are strongly encouraged to inform their parents.

Q: Do I have to name the alleged offender?

A: It is your choice. If you want action to be taken against the individual, you must name him/her. However, alleged victims should be aware that by not identifying the alleged offender this may limit the college's ability to respond comprehensively.

Q: If at first I choose not to file an incident report, how long do I have to complete one?

A: Although we encourage individuals to report incidents of sexual misconduct immediately, we realize that there may be some hesitation. Reports should be made at the earliest convenience or immediately after a department, employee, or staff member have been made aware of the incident that occurred. However, there is no time limit to reporting.

EXAMPLES OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching

Sexually explicit statements, jokes, or anecdotes

Demand or subtle pressure for sexual favors

Obscene phone calls, texts, email, or gestures

Unwelcome sexual flirtation

Deliberate sexual contact of another without consent

Reporting Sexual Harassment

Rock Valley College (RVC) is responsible for ensuring a safe and welcoming environment-free from sexual harassment . Once RVC is informed of sexual harassment it will promptly respond in a manner designed to eliminate the harassment , prevent its recurrence, and address its effects.

How RVC defines “sexual harassment” in its *Student Handbook*:

Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature from another student, an employee or a third party when:

- Such conduct denies or limits a student’s ability to participate in or to receive benefits, services, or opportunities in the college’s programs or activities;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for educational decisions affecting such individual; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

RVC strongly encourages prompt reporting of sexual harassment. Reports may be made by:

- The individual who believes that they experienced the sexual harassment.
- Anyone who receives a report by someone who believes they have experienced sexual harassment.
- Anyone who witnessed or otherwise has information that sexual harassment may have occurred.

Reports may be filed at the following campus offices:

- Rock Valley College Police Department, Support Services Building (SSB), First Floor
- Dean of Students Office, Student Center (SC), Second Floor
- Office of Human Resources, Support Services Building (SSB), First Floor



In most instances, once an incident is reported, a report will be completed by the individual or department that receives the initial report, and a copy of the report will be provided to the Title IX Coordinator for follow up.

Any Illinois faculty or staff member that receives a report of sexual harassment must immediately report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator.

WITNESS INFORMATION

A WITNESS HAS A RIGHT:

- 1) to be notified by the State's attorney of all court proceedings at which the witness' presence is required in a reasonable amount of time prior to the proceeding, and to be notified of the cancellation of any scheduled court proceeding in sufficient time to prevent an unnecessary appearance in court, where possible;
- 2) to be provided with appropriate employer intercession services by the Office of the State's Attorney or the victim advocate personnel to ensure that employers of witnesses will cooperate with the criminal justice system in order to minimize an employees loss of pay and other benefits resulting from court appearances;
- 3) to be provided, whenever possible, a secure waiting area during court proceedings that does not require witnesses to be in close proximity to defendants and their families and friends;
- 4) to be provided with notice by the Office of the States Attorney, where necessary, of the right to have a translator present whenever the witness' presence is required and, in compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to be provided with notice of the right to communications access through a sign language interpreter or by other means.

Witnesses may request in writing a notice from the State Attorney about post-conviction reviewq, associated hearings, notice of the defendaants discharge from custody, release on parole, probation or escape.

GANG CRIME WITNESS PROTECTION

If you are a victim of a gang crime, or a witness to a gang crime, you may be eligible for assistance under the Gang Crime Witness Protection Program. Contact the State's Attorney office to see if you are eligible.

IDENTITY THEFT

If you are a victim of identity theft, you can go to the following Federal Trade Commission website for additional information:

[FTC.Gov/IDTHFT](https://www.ftc.gov/idtheft)

NOTES

Resources for Victims of Domestic Violence, Date Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking

ON CAMPUS

Personal & Success Counseling Office	Student Center (SC), Second Floor	(815) 921-4091
Human Resources	Support Services Building (SSB) First Floor	(815) 921-4760
Rock Valley College Police Department (RVCPCD)	Support Services Building (SSB) First Floor	(815) 921-4357
Dean of Students Office and Title IX Coordinator	Student Center, Second Floor	(815) 921-4284
Employee Assistance Program	Perspectives	(800) 456-6327
International Student Coordinator	Student Center, Second Floor	(815) 921-4251

OFF CAMPUS

Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept. WinnebagoSheriff.com	650 W. State Street Rockford, IL 61102	(815) 319-6000
Rockford Police Department Rockfordil.gov/Police.aspx	557 S. Newtowne Drive Rockford, IL 61108	(815) 966-2900
Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling (RSAC) RSAConline.org	4990 E. State Street Rockford, IL 61108	(815) 636-9811
Remedies RemediesRenewingLives.org	220 Easton Parkway Rockford, IL 61108	(815) 962-0871
Winnebago County State's Attorney WinnebagoCountyStatesAttorney.com	400 W. State Street Rockford, IL 61101	(815) 319-4700
OSF St. Anthony Medical Center OSFSaintAnthony.org	5510 E. State Street Rockford, IL 61108	(815) 395-4505
Swedish American Hospital SwedishAmerican.org	1401 E. State Street Rockford, IL 61104	(815) 968-2500
Javon Bea Hospital (Mercyhealth) MercyhealthSystem.org	8201 E. Riverside Boulevard Rockford, IL 61114	(815) 971-7000
Prairie State Legal Services: Comprehensive Legal Services PSLegal.org	303 N. Main Street Suite 600 Rockford, IL 61101	(815) 965-2902
Catholic Charites of Rockford – Immigration & Refugee Services RockfordDiocese.org	6116 Mulford Village Drive Suite #8 Rockford, IL 61107	(815) 399-1709
Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic/NIU Law http://www.niu.edu/law/clinical_program/clinic_offices.shtml	319 W. State Street Rockford, IL 61101	(815) 962-9980

For a complete listing of Social Service Organizations in the Rockford Area, please see website below:
RockValleyCollege.edu/SocialServices.