

What if I suspect a “date rape” drug was used?

At the hospital there are tests that can detect the presence of a date rape drug in your blood and urine. Although these drugs leave your body quickly, tests can detect the drugs as much as 72 hours after they are ingested.

What will happen at court if a student proceeds with a criminal complaint?

Arrests are made when “probable cause” is established to show that the incident happened in the manner you have reported. This is separate from the student conduct process, where it must be shown that it is “more likely than not” the incident occurred.

What do I do if I think my friend is in an intimate partner relationship and has experienced domestic violence?

Seek advice from Counseling & Psychological Services or The Center for Family Justice Domestic Violence Hotline at 203-384-9559. Public Safety can offer help if you or your friend is in immediate danger.

What to look out for:

- Signs of physical violence, such as bruising or bite marks
- Strong sense of jealousy by the offender
- Signs of fear or isolation from your friend

Support your friend by encouraging them to seek help and to participate in activities outside of the relationship. Let them know that you will be there for them no matter what.

Confidential On Campus

Counseling & Psychological Services	203-254-4000, ext. 2146
24/7 Counselor on call	203-254-4090
Clergy	203-254-4000, ext. 2687
Student Health Center	203-254-4000, ext. 2241

Confidential Off Campus

The Center for Family Justice	203-333-2233 (24/7) <i>(sexual assault hotline)</i>
	203-384-9559 (24/7) <i>(domestic violence hotline)</i>
Triangle Community Center	203-853-0600
Español Hotline	1-888-568-8332 (24/7)

Non-Confidential On Campus

Public Safety	203-254-4090 (24/7)
Title IX Coordinator	
Director of Title IX & Equity Compliance	
Megan D. Monahan, JD	203-254-4357
Office of the Dean of Students	203-254-4211
Campus Ministry	203-254-4000, ext. 3405
Office of Human Resources	203-254-4000, ext. 2277 <i>(employees only)</i>

Non-Confidential Off Campus

Connecticut State Police	860-685-8190
Fairfield Police Department	911 or 203-254-4800 (24/7)

Know your Rights

You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. You have the right to refuse to answer questions if you are uncomfortable sharing. You have the right to request that someone be with you during an examination or while filing a report. You have the right to choose whether you want to file a report.

Information and Resources for you or someone you know who has been the victim of

Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking

It's hard to know what to do after experiencing sexual violence. You may be hurting, in denial, in shock or unsure what to do next. You may consider reporting, but don't know where to begin. Learning more about what steps you can take following sexual violence can ensure that you get the support you need when you or a friend needs it most.

Prepared by Fairfield University
in collaboration with the Fairfield Police Department

Who can I talk to if I think I have been sexually assaulted? (or experienced a form of sexual misconduct such as gender-based harassment, stalking, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment.)

Please know that sexual assault is not your fault and there are resources available to help you. Get to a safe place immediately, talk to a confidential resource, seek medical care and consider reporting. You are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator or any of the confidential resources listed on the back panel for support, direction and guidance. If you are in immediate danger, call Public Safety. They can connect you with a University Counselor 24/7.

Note: Students under the age of 21 who have been drinking will receive amnesty when seeking help after an assault. Students who are undocumented may seek services and apply for amnesty through the U-Visa.

What if the alleged individual is a friend or classmate?

Based on statistics, most sexual assaults are committed by someone you met in class, at a party, or through a friend. You may feel pressure from mutual friends to not file a report, or you might fear getting the accused in trouble, but all forms of sexual misconduct are against University policy. Even if you choose to report to the University, the choice to pursue criminal charges is up to you.

If I am a survivor of intimate partner or sexual assault, can I call the police?

Yes. You can call the local police where your assault occurred. In the town of Fairfield, you can call Fairfield Police or State Police (see numbers on back panel). Public Safety can help you contact the appropriate agency. If the police are notified, it is up to you whether to proceed with a complaint or an investigation. Call the Fairfield Police Department Detective Bureau at **203-254-4840** if you want to talk to someone about your options.

What will happen if I go to Public Safety?

Public Safety can help if you are in immediate danger and can refer you to the 24/7 counselor on call. Public Safety can also assist you in filing a report.

If you file a report at Public Safety, you are welcome to have a friend or trained crisis counselor present. Public Safety can also assist you in notifying Fairfield Police. Fairfield Police will contact you or your friend to talk about options outside of the student conduct process. You are encouraged to write down any details you remember and save any evidence, such as text or social media messages and photos, in the case you want to file a complaint a later time. You have the authority to withdraw a complaint at any time.

If I make a report or seek help, is it confidential?

It depends. See the back panel for a list of confidential and non-confidential resources.

If you wish to file a report or seek help from Public Safety, the police, or a resident assistant, the disclosure will be private between all necessary professional personnel, such as the Title IX Coordinator, Dean of Students, and other necessary participants in the student conduct process. If at any point you wish to withdraw a complaint and maintain confidentiality, you can. The University has an obligation to continue to investigate to determine patterns and larger risks within the community. If there appears to be a threat to campus, a campus-wide notification will be made regarding an incident of sexual or domestic violence. All measures will be taken to maintain privacy. In some cases when incidents of domestic violence, sexual assault, threats of violence, or stalking have been reported to Fairfield Police, they have to act to ensure the safety of the victim.

Federal and state laws protect the identity of survivors of sexual assault. Your name will not be released to the media. Please notify the Title IX Coordinator or any other professional staff if you feel your privacy or confidentiality have been compromised.

Why should I seek medical attention?

The decision to go to the hospital is entirely yours. If you have been assaulted, either by force, coercion, or by a non-violent offense, seeking medical attention is recommended. An evidence collection kit examination is offered as part of the medical assessment in cases of sexual assault. Although it's natural to want to after a traumatic experience, try to avoid activities that could potentially damage evidence such as bathing, showering, changing or washing your clothes, or urinating prior to the exam. If you have done any of these activities, you can still have an exam performed. You will also be evaluated for risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection. Prophylactic medication may be prescribed.

Even if you think there is no evidence from the assault, an evidence collection kit may discover something and can be administered up to 120 hours (five days) after the assault. A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner will perform the procedure, and the exam will collect any evidence that may remain on the body or clothing and assist in the identification or conviction of an offender.

You don't have to report the crime to have an exam, but the process gives you the chance to safely store evidence should you decide to report at a later time. Similarly, in addition to physical evidence, digital evidence like photographs and text messages should also be preserved.

If you wish, a crisis counselor will meet you at the local hospital to support you throughout the process. The examination will not cost anything. Any expenses incurred are paid for by the State of CT through the Office of Victim Services Crime Victim Compensation program.

What if I was assaulted days ago and didn't tell anyone?

You can discuss your options, seek help with confidential resources and report the assault at any time to the Title IX Coordinator or Public Safety.

If I file a report and choose to proceed with an investigation, what else can I expect?

A full description of the University's policies and processes for dealing with sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and sexual misconduct can be found in the Student Handbook at fairfield.edu/studenthandbook. If reasonably available, you will be afforded the opportunity to request immediate on-campus housing relocation, transfer of classes, or other steps to prevent unnecessary or unwanted contact or proximity to the alleged accused. The provision of such accommodations does not constitute a determination of responsibility, but rather is offered to assist you, the reporting party.

How can I help as a friend?

If your friend shares with you that they have survived a sexual assault, it's important to keep this information private and encourage them to get help immediately. Offer to assist them in seeking help. Contact Counseling & Psychological Services, or the Office of the Dean of Students to assist you with the referral process. They can help you talk to your friend about options and resources available, both at Fairfield University and in the greater community.

As a friend, you may experience secondary trauma. There are resources for you through Counseling & Psychological Services and The Center for Family Justice hotline. Know that sexual assault is the fault of the offender, not your friend.

If your presence is helpful to the survivor, you are welcome to accompany them when seeking counseling and support services, medical attention, or filing a report.

Support your friend by validating their feelings about the experience. Listen and provide comfort without judgment. Do not question the survivor for more details. Stay attuned to the survivor's feelings and don't assume or dictate how they must feel. Encourage your friend to seek help.