**Sexual Offense Information**

Hanover College is committed to maintain an environment supportive of its educational mission and free from exploitation and intimidation. It will not tolerate sexual assault or other forms of nonconsensual sexual activity. This policy is supported for students, faculty, and staff through educational programs, counseling, and medical services. The College enforces the policy via internal disciplinary and grievance procedures and encouragement of external prosecution through judicial avenues. Offenses covered under this policy include any sexual act directed against another person forcibly and/or against that person’s will, or not forcibly or against the person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent due to his/her youth or temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Victims of sex offenses are encouraged to report the offense as soon as possible after the incident. Persons on campus who are prepared to provide information about assistance, resources, and options for action available to the victim are counseling center staff, college physician assistant, or chaplain. A student or other campus member may report a sexual assault to the Campus Security Office or any local law enforcement agency. A Hanover College Security Officer can be contacted by dialing 7999 or 7175; any calls outside of the Hanover College telephone system would require calling 812-866-7999 or 812-866-7175. A report can be made to any other campus official, if desired. The sexual assault victim is advised not to change clothes, shower, wash, or douche after the sexual assault so that evidence of the crime is not destroyed. The victim of the sexual assault is advised that the reporting Campus Security Officer will make arrangements for transportation to the hospital for a medical exam and for the gathering and preservation of physical evidence of the crime.

The College offers assistance to campus related victims of sexual offenses. Services available are counseling, advocacy, assistance in locating medical help, and follow-up care. The Student Life staff will reevaluate a victim’s academic and living situation by request. A list of campus and area assistance resources follows. Additional information may be found in the Student Handbook, available online at [http://studentlife.hanover.edu/studentlife/handbook/](http://studentlife.hanover.edu/studentlife/handbook/index.php).

Indiana Sex & Violence Offender Registry – The Criminal Justice Institute maintains a database of sex offenders. These files may be accessed by going to the web site at <http://www.icrimewatch.net/indiana.php>.

**Sexual Assault Prevention/Education**

Through incorporating information on personal or personal security, sexual assault, and prevention of sexual assault into a variety of existing programs, it is intended that students will be exposed to such information throughout their college careers. The primary means to convey information regarding personal safety and sexual assault are as follows:

* **LEAP** – Safety issues are discussed with parents of incoming new students during a question and answer session. New students and parents are also provided website information for access to information to the Hanover College website (i.e. safety information, student handbook, etc.).
* **August Experience/Fall Orientation** – Information is provided through Student Orientation by Resident Assistants and IPALS concerning rules, polices, and safety measures that should be considered by in-coming students.
* **Campus Programs** –Throughout the academic year, Student Life staff develops and implement programs and educational opportunities in response to student need.
* **Residence Hall Staff Training** – Residence Hall members are in close daily contact with the majority of students, it is likely they will receive reports of sexual assault or other violations. Information on dealing with victims, reporting options, preserving evidence and counseling resources is included in their training.

**Procedures in Cases of Sexual Assault**

**Protocol**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I. | Student reports assault to staff member via the on-call cell phone  (812) 701-5051 |
| II. | Director on-call asks for first name of caller and a number where they can be reached |
| III. | Director contacts Catherine LeSaux, Director of Counseling Services with information. If Catherine is not available contact Sara Crafton. |
| IV. | Catherine will provide crisis services and assist victim in understanding options and getting appropriate help |
| V. | If the student wishes to seek medical assistance at the hospital or Health Services, a staff member will arrange transportation and escort |
| VI. | Follow-up services will typically be coordinated by Counseling Services. The counselor then becomes the primary contact for the student and may serve as an advocate for the victim. A victim may request to be appointed an advocate other than a counselor. In which case, that staff member/advocate becomes the point of contact for the victim. |

**Basic Information**

A victim may do any of the following:

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a) | Report the crime to Campus Security or any member of the Student Life Staff |
|  | b) | Report the crime to the Police Department |
|  | c) | File criminal or civil charges against the perpetrator |
|  | d) | File judicial charges within the college system (if perpetrator is also a student) |
|  | e) | Seek medical assistance (on campus or off campus) |
|  | f) | Speak to a counselor |
|  | g) | All or None of the above |

Utmost attention should be given to providing the victim with as much control over the situation as possible. Additionally, great sensitivity must be exercised in safeguarding the victim’s privacy and respecting her/his physical boundaries (e.g. do not touch without permission to do so). A victim has the right not to report or prosecute the crime and has the right to change her/his mind. It is essential that the choices be determined by the victim. However, if the victim does not report the crime, you are obligated to report the crime anonymously to Campus Security.

Emphasize to a victim the importance of seeking medical assistance (testing for STDs, pregnancy, or injuries) even if she/he does not wish to report the crime. Health Services can provide such services, although they cannot collect evidence.

Be prepared to assist student with basic information about how her/his rights and options. Refer to the Student Handbook for policies and procedures. Keep in mind that a traumatized person will probably be overwhelmed by too much information. Thus, it is best to attend to the most immediate concerns first and provide the victim a copy of written detailed information (policies and procedures, victim rights, “What to Do if You are Raped” booklet, resource information) to review later.

**Amnesty**

If a sexual assault victim is intoxicated at the time of the crime and/or at the time of reporting the crime, the victim should generally be immune from judicial sanctions associated with their drug or alcohol consumption. Similarly, students who seek assistance on behalf of a victim or potential victim will generally be immune from judicial sanctions (see Medical Amnesty under the Drug and Alcohol Policy).

**Rights of Accused**

If a victim pursues judicial action against another student, the accused student will be notified by the judicial officer. This notification should also include informing the accused students of his/her rights (e.g. the right to confer with an advocate). See Student Handbook for more details.

**Sex Offender Registry**

The Federal Sex Crimes Prevention Act requires institutions of higher education to issue a statement advising the campus community where law enforcement agency information provided by a state concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained. It also requires sex offenders already required to in a state to provide notice, as required under state law, to each institution of higher education in that state at which the person is employed, carries on a vocation, or is a student.  
  
The following excerpt is taken from the Indiana Sheriffs’ Sex Offender Registry website (<http://www.state.in.us/serv/cji_sor>): “Effective January 1, 2003, Zachary’s Law requires sheriff’s department to jointly establish and maintain the Indiana Sheriffs’ Sex Offender Registry to provide detailed information about individuals who register as sex or violent offenders at the sheriff departments (or, in Marion County , the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department). The purpose of the registry is to inform the general public about the identity, location, and appearance of sex and violent offenders who live, work, or study in Indiana.”