

Before You Report...

Reporting your sexual assault can be stressful, but can also be an empowering step in regaining control.

Some things to consider before you begin the reporting process:

- **Create a safety plan**
Regardless if you choose to report, creating a safety plan can make you more secure. If you are experiencing dating violence or stalking, a safety plan can consist of varying your habits, avoiding being alone with your partner, and telling people around you who can help.
- **Collect evidence**
If you choose to report to the police or your school, it will be helpful to save some evidence. If possible, save and document as much as you can. This can consist of creating a journal to keep track of abuse or harassment and saving any texts, voicemails, or Facebook messages. If you are hurt, go to the hospital to have a forensic exam done.
- **Seek support**
There are many people out there who believe and want to support you. Confide in a trusted source such as a close friend, an advocate, or a counselor. It is also never too late to connect with a doctor to provide you information on STIs, pregnancy, any injuries, and mental health options.
- **Access accommodations**
If you choose not to go through a formal disciplinary process, you are still entitled to academic and housing accommodations to ensure your safety and wellbeing. Your school can work with you to change your classes, move you to a different residence hall, or even offer an escort to various campus facilities.
- **Know your rights!**
You have the right to be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of gender, gender identity, race, age, income level, physical abilities, cognitive abilities, or sexual, medical and mental health history. There are state and federal laws in place to protect you against incidents of sexual violence on campus, as well as measures to ensure that retaliation does not occur. Check out more information on Title IX, Clery Act, and LA Act 172 of 2015 to learn more.



Reporting Sexual Violence

A guide about survivors' options & rights

LaFASA

Louisiana Foundation
Against Sexual Assault

Each Sexual Assault Crisis Center provides a 24-hour crisis hotline, information and advocacy, counseling, and more all free of charge! Find your center at the LaFASA website.

www.lafasa.org



LAFASA OFFICE 225.372.8995

STATEWIDE CRISIS HELPLINE:

TALK 888.995.7273

TEXT: 225.351.SAFE (7233)

CHAT: LAFASA.ORG

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Why should I report?

Approximately 13% of all students experience some form of sexual violence during their time in college. Among students, 26.4% of females, 6.8% of males, and 23.1% of TGQN college students have been sexually assaulted. These statistics only include rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. These statistics do not include things like dating violence or stalking, which is another pervasive issue on campus. It is important for colleges to set up proper support systems in order to help empower survivors to report and to keep offenders accountable.

Reporting a sexual assault can be stressful, but can also be an empowering step in regaining control. This pocket guide is designed to provide you information on what your rights and options are as a college student in Louisiana. This can help you determine what routes you can choose to take. We encourage you to make whatever decisions are best for you.

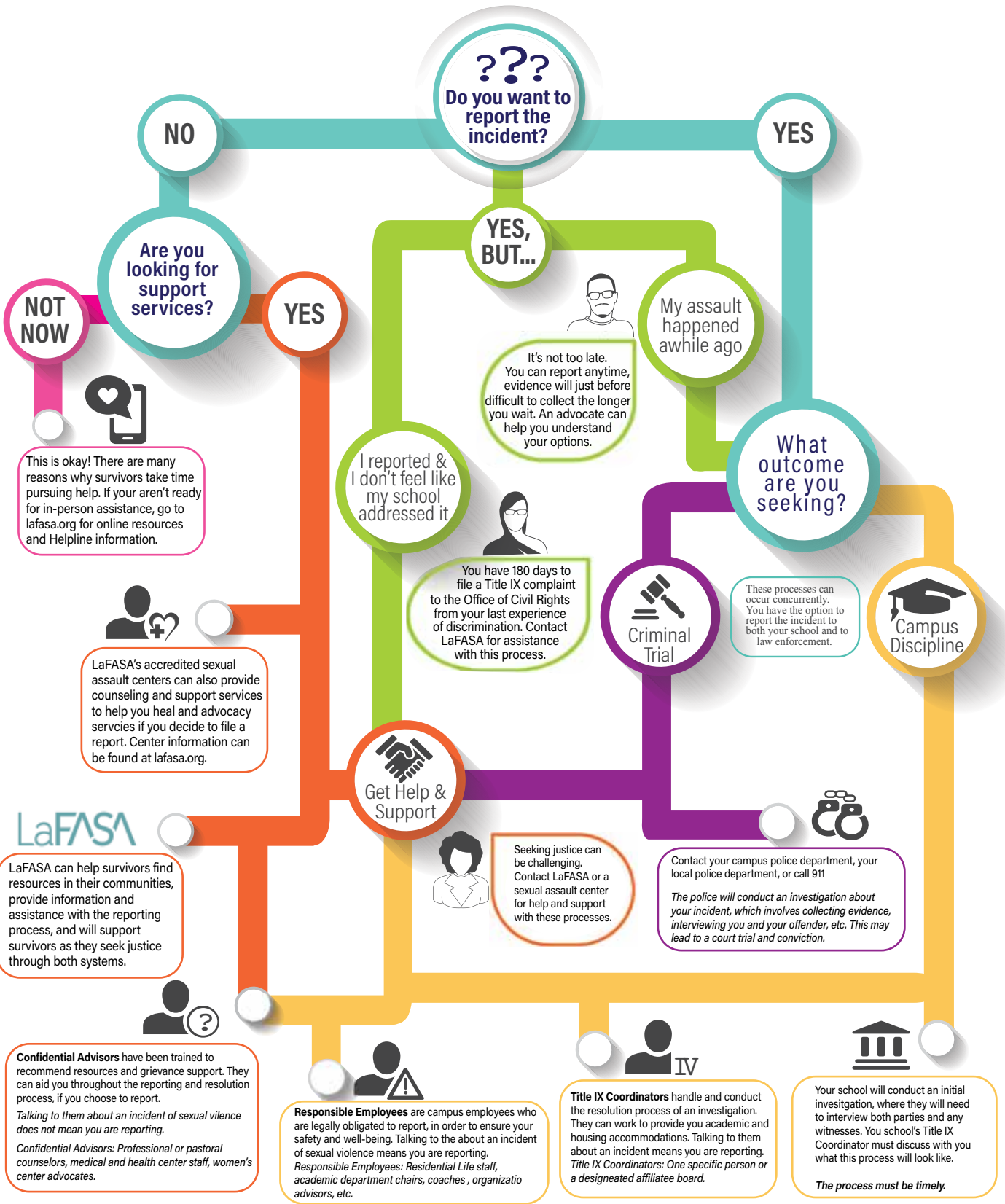
Know Your Rights!

As a survivor on a college campus, you are entitled to be informed of:

- Your options to notify law enforcement and to be assisted by campus authorities to do so.
- Any available counseling and mental health services, on or off campus.
- Your options for changing academic and living situations.
- Your right to not be sanctioned by your school for a nonviolent conduct violation, such as underage drinking.
- Your options to have a support person or witnesses at your disciplinary hearing.
- The outcome of any disciplinary hearing regarding your case.

Institutions are required to provide you this information if you choose to report an incident of sexual violence. A failure to do so violates your rights to an equitable education.

You can learn more about Title IX, Clery Act, and the Louisiana Act 172 of 2015 at lafasa.org.



Your Reporting Options

There are two separate and distinct reporting processes and you have the option to report the incident to both your school and to law enforcement.

Campus Disciplinary Process

This process can determine if your perpetrator will be suspended, expelled, and provide you adequate accommodations in order to maintain your overall well-being.

How to Report

- The person to whom you report may ask you for information regarding what type of offense occurred and whether it happened on campus property. You are not obligated to provide any more details beyond those you are comfortable with sharing.
- Once you report an assault, your school is responsible for carrying out an investigation, with or without your involvement.
- If your school determines that the allegations violate Title IX, they will hold a disciplinary hearing that will evaluate any available evidence and will consider whether or not the accused is guilty.

What to Expect

- Disciplinary sanctions vary. It's up to each school to decide how the perpetrator will be held accountable.

Criminal Justice System

The ultimate goal of this reporting option is to put your assailant in jail.

How to Report

- If you want to report to the police, you can call 911 or go to your school's or your city's police station.

What to Expect

- Out of every 1000 instances of rape, only 13 cases get referred to a prosecutor, and only 7 cases will lead to a felony conviction. It can be tough to hear, but this is not meant to diminish your experience.
- The sooner you report the incident, the higher the chance of convicting your assailant.