

Reporting Options

Police: Consider reporting the incident to the police, who can inform you of the law/criminal aspects involved in your situation, obtaining no-contact/protective orders and help you through the process of pressing charges, if you choose to do so.

Title IX: You can make a report to the Title IX coordinator on campus, 475-5428. TITLE IX protects all students from sex/gender-based discrimination and sexual violence regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, immigration status or disability status.

Campus Discipline System: You may choose to pursue action through the campus judicial system if the offense was committed by another student. University Services is available to advise victims of their rights under the Code of Student Conduct, 475-5706.

University Services: Can assist students who are in need of class schedule and housing reassignments in order to maintain safety parameters, 475-5706.

Health Services: Incidences reported to Health Services staff will be reported anonymously and with limited information (on or off campus, etc.) only.

Counseling Center: Incidents reported to the McNeese Counseling Center on campus will remain completely confidential. Mental health counselors on campus are considered exempt under CLERY standards.

Important Note: If an incident of sexual assault, relationship violence or stalking is reported to someone on campus who is considered a CSA (Campus Security Authority), then that person is required to report the incident to University Police under CLERY standards, whether or not you ask them to. For more information: www.mcneese.edu/police/campus_security_authority_csa

Under the CLERY Act the University is required to statistically report all allegations of sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking offenses involving students, staff, faculty and/or visitors even if only campus judicial sanctions result and no criminal charges are filed.

Persons needing accommodations as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the ADA Coordinator at 337-475-5428, voice; 337-475-5960, fax; 337-562-4227, TDD/TTY, hearing impaired; or by email at cdo@mcneese.edu.

*All area codes are 337 unless otherwise noted

ON CAMPUS:

University Police: 475-5711

Counseling Center: 475-5136

Health Services: 475-5748

University Services & Campus Life: 475-5706

Title IX Coordinator: 475-5428

OFF CAMPUS:

Lake Charles Memorial Hospital ER: 494-3036

Lake Charles Police: 491-1456

Sheriff's Office: 491-3751 or 911

Oasis - A Haven for Women and Children: 494-7273

Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

888-411-1333

Acadiana Legal Service Corporation

(free legal assistance, Lake Charles)

439-0377 or 877-256-0639

NATIONAL RESOURCES:

National Domestic Violence Hotline:

1-800-799-7233 or www.thehotline.org

GLBTQ Domestic Violence Project www.glbtdvp.org

Learn more about Title IX, CLERY and Campus SaVE

by visiting the following websites:

www.knowyourix.org

www.notalone.gov

McNeese State University
Counseling Center
Kaufman Hall, Room 112

Hours of Operation: Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Phone: 337.475.5136 | Fax: 337.475.5265

www.mcneese.edu/counseling

A member of the University of Louisiana System.
EEO/AA/ADA

Relationship Violence



MCNEESE
STATE UNIVERSITY
COUNSELING CENTER

What is relationship violence?

The McNeese State University Code of Student Conduct prohibits:

3.1 Disregard - Disregard for the physical well-being or rights and property of others.

3.2 Abuse - Physical or mental abuse or the threat thereof against any person(s) which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any such person(s).

3.34 Law Violation - Violation of any civil or criminal law.

Louisiana Law (R.S. 14:35.3): states that domestic abuse battery is the intentional use of force or violence committed by one household member upon the person of another household member.

Relationship violence and emotional abuse are behaviors used by one person in a relationship to control the other. Partners may be married or not married; heterosexual, gay or lesbian; living together, separated or dating.

Some new laws for Louisiana in 2014:

- Senate Bill 292 allows victims of domestic abuse to petition for an immediate divorce, rather than having to wait for a 180-day waiting period (signed into law on 06-05-2014).

- Senate Bill 291 allows victims of domestic abuse to seek punitive damages when the abuse results in serious bodily injury or severe emotional or mental distress (signed into law on 06-05-2014).

Abuse

Many people who are being abused do not see themselves as victims. Also, abusers do not see themselves as being abusive. Relationship violence can take the form of physical, psychological, emotional or sexual abuse.

If you are being abused, REMEMBER:

- You are not alone.
- It is not your fault.
- Help is available.

Have you ever used these excuses regarding your partner's behavior?

"I should not have made him angry.
It's my fault I got hurt."

"He told me to leave him alone.
I should have listened."

"If I just have sex with him,
he won't get angry with me and hurt me."

"He was drunk/high at the time;
he didn't mean to hurt me."

"She had a bad childhood.
It's not her fault she acts that way."

"She only talks to me that way because
she loves me and wants me to be better."

"Only men can be abusive.
She is just having a bad day."

"He is usually a nice person.
He doesn't really mean it."

If you have used any of these excuses for your partner's behavior, you may be the victim of relationship violence.

Bystander Intervention

If you see bad behavior escalating towards relationship violence, here are some things you might do to intervene:

Remember that staying safe should be your top priority.

When possible, approach in a non-confrontational manner so as to avoid escalating the situation.

Be creative—do something to simply stop the interaction: interject yourself into a conversation when someone seems unsafe, turn off music that might be dimming out a verbal argument, etc.

Avoid using violence.

Be honest and direct whenever possible.

Ask if the person needs help.

Recruit help from friends and others as needed

If things are getting out of hand, call the police instead.

What do I do if I am the victim of relationship violence?

Keep a log of all abusive incidences to give to the police including date/time, details of what occurred and names of witnesses.

If you have serious physical injuries, consider going to the nearest emergency room so that a medical examination can be completed.

If you have been sexually abused/assaulted, do not shower/bathe, douche, brush your teeth, urinate or wash your clothes. Go immediately as you are. It is important to preserve evidence should you decide to press criminal charges or file for a restraining order.

If you have been physically assaulted, photographs of physical evidence (cuts, bruises, etc.) will need to be taken.

You can contact the local women's shelter for assistance with housing, if you decide that moving out is the best option for your safety.

How can I support someone who has been the victim of relationship violence?

Help the victim get in touch with professional resources. (See resource list on back of brochure.)

Listen supportively and nonjudgmentally.

Do not minimize or justify.

Believe that person.

Let the victim make decisions. That person has been through a very disempowering trauma—allow the victim to become empowered by making their own choices.

Remind victims that it is not their fault.