



**RHODES UNIVERSITY**  
*Where leaders learn*

# Students Protocol on Sexual Assault

## Protocol Particulars

<b>Responsible Committee/Unit/Division/Faculty</b>	Equity and Institutional Culture Anti-Harassment & Discrimination
<b>Responsible Chairperson/Director/Manager</b>	Masimbulele Buso
<b>Contact</b>	m.buso@ru.ac.za
<b>Date</b>	January 2019
<b>Review Cycle (e.g. every 2/5/7 years etc)</b>	
<b>Next Review Date</b>	

## Students Protocol on Sexual Assault

Approved- January 2019

Rhodes University seeks to provide a consistent, caring and timely response when sexual assaults occur within the University community. The University will not tolerate any form of sexual violation as it constitutes a serious offence and will result in disciplinary action.

### The Protocol aims to:

- facilitate the recovery of a person who has been sexually violated by providing prompt compassionate support services.
- create a campus environment that expedites and encourages the prompt reporting of sexual assaults.
- facilitate the apprehension of alleged perpetrators when such assaults are committed.
- establish and cultivate a climate of Rhodes University community involvement in sexual assault prevention.
- increase the safety of the campus community.

### A. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

Students are encouraged to report all instances of sexual assault and sexual harassment. Complainants who were under the influence of alcohol or other drugs at the time of the assault will not be subject to disciplinary action for such use. The personal safety of the complainant is most important and the complainant is advised to:

- Contact the Campus Protection Unit Emergency Number (046- 6038999) if there is immediate danger.
- Seek medical assistance from the Health Care Centre (046-6038523) during the day or call ER 24 (010-2053068) after hours.
- Contact the Manager: Anti-Harassment & Discrimination (Room 337, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Steve Biko Building, Tel 046-6038187) who can provide support and information related to rights, resources, reporting options and the university Student Disciplinary Process. They can also assist with the referrals to the Rhodes Counselling Centre.

### B. PRESERVE EVIDENCE

*The complainant should take care to preserve any evidence, even if uncertain about whether to file a report with the police or the University.*

- Preserving evidence will give options to report later.
- It is best for any physical evidence to be collected within the first 24 hours.
- It is preferable to avoid washing the face or hands, showering, brushing teeth, drinking or eating or changing clothes.
- If clothes are changed, each garment should be wrapped in a separate paper bag or newspaper (not plastic).

## C. SUPPORT FOR THE COMPLAINANT

### **Medical Care**

Medical assistance is essential, and the complainant must understand that there is a limited time to preserve medical evidence that they will need if they decide to lay a charge later. The following steps are recommended:

- The safest decision is to undergo an “evidence” examination by a doctor as soon as possible (in order to ensure that evidence is preserved).
- If the complainant plans to lay a charge with the *Police*, they must go to the casualty room at *Settlers Hospital* where they will be examined by a District Surgeon and given medical assistance. Campus Protection Unit at their emergency number (046-6038999) can arrange for transportation. South African Police Service will be called in by Settlers Hospital to obtain a statement from the complainant.

***Regardless of what the choice is, it is crucial that the complainant receive medical assistance.***

### **Advocacy and crisis counselling**

- Seek out the support from the Counselling Centre ( 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Steve Biko Building) during office hours.
- After hours contact ER 24 (010-2053068) for telephone counselling.

### **Formal reporting options**

Reporting an assault of this nature requires that the complainant give a detailed account of what has occurred. This can be a difficult process and the complainant is encouraged to bring a friend or counsellor for support.

#### *Filing a Police Report*

- If the assault occurred off-campus, call Grahamstown South African Police Service on 10111 or 046-6039152.
- If the assault occurred on campus, contact the Manager: Anti-harassment & Discrimination by calling 046-6038187 (Room 337, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Steve Biko Building) during office hours.

#### *Filing a University Report*

A University report should be filed with the Manager: Anti-harassment & Discrimination , 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Steve Biko Building during office hours. (046-6038187 /m.buso@ru.ac.za)