

## The Citadel Counseling Center

### **Sexual Assault – What if it Happen at The Citadel**

If you have experienced a rape, a sexual assault, or unwanted sexual contact, there are resources at The Citadel and in the community available to help you. Your first priority is to go to a safe place and notify someone that you need assistance.

### **Citadel Resources for Help**

The Citadel Infirmery (953-6847 daytime or 953-5447 evening): The nursing staff will evaluate your medical needs and educate you about options for medical treatment, evidence collection, and access to other support services.

The Citadel Counseling Center (953-6799): Counselors are available between 8 am and 5 pm to provide confidential personal counseling services including emotional support and information about the options available to you. Counseling Center staff are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the Infirmery.

The Citadel Public Safety Office (953-5114): Public Safety officers can help you file a report of the incident or accompany you to file a report with the City Police. Filing a report does not mean that you are obligated to press charges but it facilitates the process if you choose to press charges in the future.

The Citadel Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (953-7277): The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, SARC, is Ms. Janet Shealy. Her office is located in Thompson Hall, Room 211. She can provide complete information regarding options for:

1. Medical Treatment
2. Psychological Counseling
3. Academic Accommodations
4. Changing Living Arrangements
5. Seeking Informal Mediation
6. Filing Formal Discipline Charges
7. Filing Criminal Charges

Names and contact information for the SARC and Victims Advocates include:

- Ms. Janet Shealy, SARC, ext. 3-7277, or 425-1315 available 24 hours/day
- Ms. Celeste Conlon, Head Nurse at the Infirmery, ext. 3-5547, home 766-0820
- Ms. Bridgette Beasley, Deputy Director/Chief Diversity Officer, ext. 3-6989, home 853-3171
- Ms. Mary Ellen Huddleston, Intramurals, Club, and Activities Office, ext. 3-7955, home 795-2514

- Ms. Kathy Jones, School of Business, ext. 3-5257, home 883-0441
- MAJ Robert Pickering, Ombudsperson, ext. 3-5096, home 552-6771
- Ms. Kelly Simpson, Assistant Athletic Director for Women's Sports, ext. 3-6604, home 559-1711
- CPT (Dr.) Sean Heuston, English Professor, ext. 3-5143 or 3-5068, e-mail: [sean.heuston@citadel.edu](mailto:sean.heuston@citadel.edu), on-campus home address: 511 Wilson Avenue
- CPT Lisa Poston, Admission's Office, ext. 3-7078, home 853-6227

The Citadel Ombudsperson (953-7953 – J. Carter or 953-5096 - R. Pickering): The Ombudsperson is a resource for support and requesting informal mediation.

The Citadel Chaplain to the Corps (953-5049): The Chaplain and other religious advisors are resources for spiritual support.

Human Affairs Team: Cadet leaders on the Human Affairs Team can provide information and referral to resources.

## **Community Resources for Help**

Rape Crisis Center-Medical University of South Carolina Emergency Room (792-9127): Specialized medical staff can provide medical treatment, evidence collection, and information about options and resources.

People Against Rape (745-0144): PAR is a community agency specializing in assisting victims of sexual assault. The staff at PAR are available 24 hours a day.

Charleston Police Department (911): Police officers can help you file a report of the incident.

## **Evidence If You Decide To Report the Assault**

A victim of sexual assault can go to the hospital and request the collection of evidence. You can choose to have evidence collected immediately (within 72 hours of the assault) and then wait to decide if you want to file a police report at some time in the future. Since the victim is the primary source of evidence of the assault, it is important to preserve any physical evidence by following the suggestions below:

- Do Not Bathe or Shower
- Do Not Use the Restroom
- Do Not Douche
- Do Not Change your Clothes
- Do Not Brush your Teeth
- Do Not Eat, Drink, or Smoke

- Do Not Disturb the Crime Scene
- If you have already removed the clothes you were wearing at the time of the assault, place these clothes in a paper bag and bring them with you to the hospital

## **Laws in South Carolina**

The following is a brief summary of the laws related to sexual assault in South Carolina, as summarized on the College of Charleston's website.

1. Criminal Sexual Conduct in the first degree (16-3-652)

The perpetrator engages in sexual battery with the victim and at least one of the following is true:

- a. The perpetrator uses aggravated force and/or
- b. The victim is also the victim of forcible confinement, kidnapping, robbery, extortion, burglary, housebreaking or any other similar offense or act.

"Sexual battery" is intercourse or any other penetration of the victim.

"Aggravated force" is when the perpetrator uses physical force or physical violence to overcome the victim (this includes the threat of use or use of a deadly weapon).

Punishment: imprisonment for 30 years or less.

2. Criminal Sexual Conduct in the second degree (16-3-653)

The perpetrator uses aggravated coercion to accomplish sexual battery.

"Aggravated coercion" is when the perpetrator threatened to use force or violence to overcome the victim and the victim believed that the perpetrator would have carried out such a threat or when the perpetrator threatens to cause harm to the victim (or another person) in the future.

Punishment: imprisonment for 20 years or less

3. Criminal Sexual Conduct in the third degree (16-3-654)

The perpetrator engages in sexual battery with the victim and at least one of the following is true:

- a. The perpetrator uses force or coercion without aggravating circumstances or
- b. The victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless.

"Aggravating circumstances" are aggravated force or any other type of victimization as in 1.b. above

Punishment: imprisonment for 10 years or less.

4. Criminal Sexual Conduct with intent to commit (16-3-656)

- a. Defined as those above, but sexual battery need not be completed.
- b. Punished by those terms described above for each degree.

## **Definitions and Policy at The Citadel**

The following is a summary of definitions, based on The Citadel's Sexual Assault Policy:

### **Definitions:**

**Rape:** Rape is defined as any sexual intercourse (i.e., anal, oral or vaginal) however slight with any object without affirmative consent (see definition below).

**Sexual Assault:** includes rape and all other forms of unlawful sexual behavior and contact which is not mutually agreed upon (i.e., penetrations with a foreign object including a finger; oral or anal sex; unwanted touching on skin or through clothing, or touching an intimate part of another person such as their genitals, buttocks or breasts) without affirmative consent (see definition below).

**Affirmative Consent:** is defined as any sexual contact, any sexual behavior, or any sexual intercourse, which is mutually agreed upon by all persons involved. Affirmative consent cannot be given in the following situations:

- 1) the person is unable to give consent (because the person is a minor under 16 years of age);
- 2) the person is unable to give consent because of his/her temporary or permanent mental handicap or physical incapacity such as a person who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, who has "passed out" or "blacked out" and/or who is unconscious or semiconscious;
- 3) the person expressed in words or any behavior a lack of agreement to engage in sexual activity;
- 4) the person having formerly consented to sexual activity subsequently expresses by words or any other behavior a lack of agreement to continue engaging in sexual activity;
- 5) the person was induced to engage in sexual activity by the other person's
  - a. physical coercion and/or
  - b. abuse of position of power, trust or authority; and/or use of artificial means (i.e., drugs such as Rohypnol)

### **Policy**

The Citadel's policy, titled The Citadel's Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention Policy, may be reviewed at the following link: [http://citadel.edu/hr/orders/sex\\_assult.pdf](http://citadel.edu/hr/orders/sex_assult.pdf)