

## What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual Assault is defined as any sexual contact that is unwanted and occurs without a person's consent.

A sexual act is non-consensual if it is forced through coercion, manipulation, threats, intimidation, or helplessness.

Sexual assault can happen to anyone, regardless of age, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

It's important to remember that no one deserves to be sexually assaulted. No one.

## Sex Offenders

Information regarding registered sex offenders in Missouri can be found at:

[www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov](http://www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov)



## Reducing the Risk

While you can never completely protect yourself from sexual assault, there are some things you can do to help reduce your risk of being assaulted:

### AVOID DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

- Be aware of your surroundings. Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you to find a way to get out of a bad situation.
- Avoid isolated areas.
- Walk with purpose. Even if you don't know where you are going, act like you do.
- Trust your instincts. If a situation or location feels unsafe or uncomfortable, it probably isn't the best place to be.
- Make sure your cell phone is with you and charged and you have means of transportation.
- Don't allow yourself to be isolated with someone you don't trust or someone you don't know.

### IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS

- When you go to a social gathering, go with a group of friends. Arrive together, check in with each other throughout the evening, and leave together. Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you to find a way out of a bad situation.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel unsafe in any situation, go with your gut. If you see something suspicious, contact law enforcement immediately. (*Local authorities can be reached by calling 911.*)
- Don't leave your drink unattended. If you've left your drink alone, get a new one.
- Don't accept drinks from people you don't know or trust.
- If you suspect you or a friend has been drugged, contact law enforcement immediately (call 911). Be explicit with doctors so they can give the correct tests.

### IF SOMEONE IS PRESSURING YOU

If you need to get out of an uncomfortable or scary situation here are some things that you can try:

- Remember that being in this situation is not your fault.
- Be true to yourself. Don't feel obligated to do anything you don't want to do. "I don't want to" is always a good enough reason.
- Have a code word with your friends or family so that if you don't feel comfortable you can call them and communicate your discomfort without the person you are with knowing.
- Lie. If you don't want to hurt the person's feelings it is better to lie and make up a reason to leave than to stay and be uncomfortable, scared, or worse. Some excuses you could use are: needing to take care of a friend or family member, not feeling well, having somewhere else that you need to be, etc.
- Try to think of an escape route. How would you try to get out of the room? Where are the doors and windows? Are there people around who might be able to help you?
- If you and/or the other person have been drinking, you can say that you would rather wait until you both have your full judgment before doing anything you may regret later.

### IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS BEEN ASSAULTED

- Listen. Be there. Don't be judgmental.
- Be patient. It will take time to deal with the crime.
- Help to empower your friend or family member.
- Encourage the person to report the rape to law enforcement (*call 911*).
- If your friend is willing to seek medical attention or report the assault, offer to accompany them wherever they need to go (*hospital, police station, campus security, etc.*).
- Visit [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org) for information on helping a victim of assault.

## *HLGU Sexual Assault Policy*

In the event of a sexual assault, the victim should be aware of the following procedure:

1. Report the incident to the following:
  - Hannibal Police Department;  
777 Broadway Ave, Hannibal, MO  
573-221-0987
  - A victim that is a student should inform a member of the residential life staff. Employees should inform human resources and public safety
2. Seek medical assistance:
  - Ambulance: 573-221-5000
  - Hannibal Regional Hospital: 573-221-1491
3. Consider the importance of preserving evidence.
  - Do not shower.
4. Seek Counseling.
5. Consider pressing charges.
6. If the accused is a student:
  - Disciplinary actions may also be taken by the institution at the appropriate time with both the accused and the accuser informed of the outcome.
7. Consider requesting changes regarding academic and living situations.
  - Changes will be made if requests are received that may be reasonably accommodated.
  - Requests for changes should be addressed to the Assistant Director of Campus Life and Spritual Formation.
8. The accuser and accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during the disciplinary proceeding.
9. Both the accuser and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of any institutional disciplinary proceeding brought alleging a sex offense.
  - The institution's final determination and any sanction against the accused.

**Discipline and sanctions related to sexual assault are located in the HLGU student handbook.**

*(under the Student Guidelines and Expectations sections)*

**[www.hlg.edu/academic/catalog.php](http://www.hlg.edu/academic/catalog.php)**



## *Emergency Numbers*

*Marion County Emergency Services*  
**911**

*Hannibal Police Department*  
*Non-Emergency*  
**573.221.0987**

*Marion County Ambulance*  
*Non-Emergency*  
**573.221.5000**

*National Sexual Assault Hotline*  
**1.800.656.HOPE (4673)**

*HLGU Public Safety*  
**573.248.6268**

## **REMEMBER**

*Good decisions will keep you safe and help prevent you from becoming a victim.*



# Sexual Assault



**Hannibal-LaGrange**  
UNIVERSITY

*Department of Public Safety*

L.A. Foster Student Center  
2800 Palmyra Road, Hannibal, MO 63401  
[www.hlg.edu](http://www.hlg.edu) | 573.629.3012