

Information for Victims

Dating Violence • Domestic Violence • Sexual Assault • Stalking



TITLE IX

If you are a victim of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking—whether the offense occurred on or off campus—there are multiple resources available to you. The following explains your options and includes a list of these resources.

REMEMBER, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are criminal acts and you are **NOT** responsible for another's act that violates your freedom. Dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are violations of the law and BBCC's policy prohibiting harassment, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual misconduct.

If you are the victim of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, know that BBCC is here to help and is able to take certain protective measures regarding your safety on campus during and after a college investigation.

SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION

IMMEDIATELY if you are a victim of sexual violence or sexual assault. You can request a sexual assault examination by contacting law enforcement or by visiting the emergency room at your local hospital. The examination provides care to minimize the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and preserves evidence that will be important if you decide to pursue criminal charges or wish to obtain a protective order against the person who assaulted you.

PRESERVE EVIDENCE

by not bathing, showering, or using toothpaste or mouthwash after an incident of sexual assault. Do not wash clothing, bed sheets, pillows, or other potential evidence. However, if you do, it is recommended that you still seek medical attention as soon as possible—even if some time has passed since the assault.

SEEK SUPPORT: Please do not feel you need to deal with this situation alone. Call a friend, family member, or someone with whom you feel you can talk. Counselors with the BBCC Counseling Center are available to assist you. Contact them by calling (509) 793-2035 between 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Thursday or 8:00am and 2:30pm on Friday.

REPORTING THE CRIME: Deciding whether or not to report dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking may be difficult. Reporting your assault to law enforcement is your choice. As a victim, you have the right to decline the involvement of law enforcement. Whether or not you choose to notify law enforcement of your assault, BBCC campus authorities can assist you. Below is a list of contact information for local law enforcement offices:

- **Campus Security:** (509)793-2286
- **ML Police:** 911 or (509)764-3887
- **Grant County Sheriff:** 911 or (509) 754-2011, ext. 2001

Law enforcement can help you with orders of protection, "no-contact" orders, and restraining orders. General information about the different types of court orders is available on the Washington Courts website at <http://www.wa.courts.gov>. Please note that BBCC cannot represent you in legal proceedings; see the list of Community Resources below for legal assistance.

TITLE IX

In addition to your right to pursue criminal charges, you can also file a complaint with the college. To do so, please contact any of the following:

- **BBCC Title IX Coordinator, Kim Garza:** (509) 793-2010
- **Campus Security:** (509) 793-2286
- **Via email at:** kimg@bigbend.edu

If you are worried about retaliation against you for reporting an incident, be assured that BBCC does not tolerate retaliation in any form. It is against college policy to retaliate against you, your family, friends, close associates, and anyone who provides information for an investigation. If you feel that you have been retaliated against, contact the Title IX Coordinator.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Reports of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking filed with the Title IX Coordinator will be investigated as

confidentially, as reasonably possible. Records kept by BBCC relating to sexual misconduct allegations are not publicly available. However, if the college is required to make records publicly available, any personally-identifying information about you will be excluded to the extent that the law allows. Federal law requires the college to disclose statistics about reported incidents of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking; however, no personally-identifiable information is published for purposes of such reporting.

INTERIM MEASURES:

Before or during the investigation, the Title IX Coordinator may recommend that interim measures be taken to protect you or others from retaliation or further acts of sexual misconduct. Interim measures may include a change to class schedules, change in housing accommodations, counseling and medical services, academic support, an escort to protect you, or a number of other appropriate actions. You may request interim measures by speaking with the Title IX Coordinator. If requested and reasonably available, interim measures will be provided to you whether or not you choose to report the crime to law enforcement. The nature of any interim measures you receive will be kept confidential to the extent reasonably possible.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

PROCEDURES: After you make a report to the Title IX Coordinator, BBCC will initiate an investigation. This investigation is separate from any criminal investigation conducted by the law enforcement. The investigation is conducted by officials who understand college policy, state and federal law, and receive annual training on the issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking and how to conduct an investigation and hearing process that protects your safety "and promotes accountability." The investigation and ultimate resolution will be conducted in a timely, fair, and impartial manner. Both you and the accused will have the same opportunities

to present evidence and have others present during interviews or meetings. Both parties will be simultaneously informed in writing of the outcome of the disciplinary proceeding, the appeal procedures, changes to determinations, and when the determinations have become final. The investigator will use a preponderance of the evidence standard (i.e., more likely than not) in determining if dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking occurred. When possible, BBCC seeks to conclude the investigation and resolution within sixty calendar days of receiving a report.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND SANCTIONS:

After a Title IX investigation is completed and a final determination is made, BBCC may take steps to protect you by making interim measures permanent, offering you remedies and accommodations, implementing changes in programs or activities, or providing training for the campus community, specific groups, or individuals. The college may also impose sanctions on the person who assaulted you. Sanctions that may be imposed by the college include, but are not limited to: warning, reprimand, disciplinary probation, restitution, suspension, professional evaluation, dismissal/expulsion, reassignment to another position, reduction in pay, partial or full ban from campus, demotion, or termination of employment. The college may use any combination of the above sanctions to discipline a student, employee, or other individual. Discipline will depend upon the circumstances and the severity of the violation.

RESOURCES

CAMPUS RESOURCES

The following resources are also available to you. These departments will protect your privacy and confidentiality to the extent possible, but some departments are required by law to report sexual assaults to BBCC's Title IX Coordinator and to Campus Security.

- **Counseling Center:** Provides support for students who are academically underperforming. Support is provided through sessions with a counselor, referrals for resources, or through other BBCC Services. The Counseling Center also provides confidential individual counseling and assistance for students in crisis. 509-793-2035, Building 1400.

- **Dean of Student Services:** Supports student development and addresses issues and needs in a supportive environment. (509) 793-2077, Building 1400.

- **Financial Aid and Scholarships:** Provides information concerning discontinuance or withdrawal from classes and the effects that such action may have on financial aid and scholarships. (509) 793-2034, Building 1400.

- **Campus Security:** Provides walking security escort services from one campus location to another for an added level of security and safety during the later hours of the evening and early morning. To request an escort call (509) 793-2286.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

A number of off-campus organizations provide support and specialized services for victims of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

- **New Hope Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services:** Provides 24-hour crisis intervention, sexual assault education groups, rape survivor therapy groups, individual therapy for rape victims, and risk reduction education. ***24-Hour Hotline: (888) 560-6027**

- **The National Domestic Violence Hotline:** Provides confidential individual support, crisis intervention, and information on ways to secure a victim's immediate safety. 1-800-799-7233 • www.thehotline.org

- **RAINN (Rape Abuse & Incest National Network):** Provides extensive support to sexual assault victims. ***24-Hour Crisis Line:** 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) • www.rainn.org

- **Samaritan Healthcare/Hospital:** Performs sexual assault examinations. Examinations include assessments and documentation of injury, collection of evidence, and treatment to prevent sexually transmitted infections. (509) 765-5606 • 801 E. Wheeler Road, Moses Lake

- **The Washington State Bar Association:** Answers questions about how to contact attorneys who can provide you with legal advice and service. 1 (800) 945-9722 • www.wsba.org

- **NW Justice Project:** Assists individuals who do not have the means to secure legal help. 1-888-201-1012 • www.nwjustice.org

- **NW Immigration Rights Project:** Assists individuals who do not have the means to secure legal help, regardless of where they were born. (866) 271-2084 • www.nwirp.org

**Your health and safety
are important to
BBCC.**

**Learn more at
www.bigbend.edu**