

## **Supports and Reporting Options for Victims of Sexual Harrassment, Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking**

Individuals who have experienced sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking have options and resources available to them regardless of their desire to participate in an internal or criminal investigation. The College wants all such individuals to feel supported and safe at all times.

**Right Away:** For any victim, the first step is always the same: get to a safe place as soon as possible and call a trusted friend or advocate. Emergency assistance is available 24 hours a day by calling Campus Safety (413-528-7291) or 911 (or 9-911 from campus phones). The College will assist any Simon's Rock community member to get to a safe place and will help arrange transportation to the hospital and coordination with law enforcement.

**Medical Attention:** The College encourages all individuals who have been subjected to sexual violence to seek appropriate medical attention immediately after the incident. This allows for the preservation of evidence and a timely investigative and remedial response. Preserving evidence does not obligate an individual to pursue a criminal complaint in the future. The College encourages individuals to use an emergency room that is part of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program whenever feasible. The closest Great Barrington-area SANE hospital is:

**Berkshire Medical Center**  
725 North Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201  
413-447-2000

In Massachusetts, individuals may undergo a SANE exam without making a report to law enforcement. It is important not to bathe, wash, douche, smoke, change clothing, or brush one's teeth prior to the examination. If possible, it is also best not to take fluids or use the bathroom before the examination. For purposes of evidence collection, the SANE Exam should be conducted within 96 hours of an incident. If individuals do not opt for forensic evidence collection, health care providers can still treat injuries and take steps to address concerns of pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted infections.

If you wish to pursue a SANE exam but do not wish to contact the College<sup>1</sup>, the Elizabeth Freeman Center offers advocates that can meet you at hospitals or police stations following an attack to provide support. You can contact the Elizabeth Freeman Center at (866) 401-2425. Students may also seek Medical Attention through the Wellness Center at Simon's Rock. The Wellness Center staff can also provide confidential medical care such as preventative treatment for STIs and pregnancy.

**Preservation of Evidence:** Regardless of whether or not a victim opts to pursue a SANE exam, the College encourages all individuals to preserve evidence relating to reports of sexual harrasment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. Evidence may be important for an investigation under this policy, for supporting a criminal investigation, or in obtaining an Order of Protection. Examples of evidence may include text messages, emails, social media communications, phone records, photographs, documents, clothing, bedding, and medical information.

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<sup>1</sup> Federal law requires that states provide coverage for "out-of-pocket cost of forensic medical exams" for victims of sexual assault. In Massachusetts, there is a process that will provide coverage for the costs related to the services provided in a hospital setting for a sexual assault victim by medical personnel, which includes but is not limited to the examination by personnel trained to gather evidence of a sexual assault in a manner suitable for use during criminal investigations. When seeking medical care, a victim of sexual assault has the right to request a) that their insurance carrier not be billed and/or b) that the responsible party that is listed in the hospital billing system not be billed for any of qualified forensic medical examination costs, for safety or other personal reasons.

**Counseling:** Counseling is available to all students through our Wellness Staff: Individuals who work or volunteer in the Wellness Center including front desk staff, can generally talk to a reporting party without revealing any personally identifying information about an incident to the College. Faculty and Staff may seek confidential support from the College's Employee Assistance Program (EAP), ComPsych Guidance Resources (800-272-7255)

**Accessing Supportive Measures:** If the College is notified of an instance of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, it will take steps to put appropriate supportive measures in place. Victims who wish to report an incident to the College may contact:

Isabel Filkins

*Title IX Coordinator*

Building: Student Union

Email: ifilkins@simons-rock.edu

Phone Number: (413) 644-4252

Address: 84 Alford Road, Great Barrington MA 01230

The Title IX Office will also assist with connecting students to local organizations who can assist with advocacy including obtaining protective or restraining orders from local authorities.

In some cases, an individual may also wish to consider an Abuse Prevention Order, also known as a "restraining order" or "209A order," or a Harassment Prevention Order, also known as a "258E order," from the local courts. For more information on Massachusetts law, see <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartII/TitleIII/Chapter209A> and <http://www.mass.gov/courts/selfhelp/abuseharassment/harassment-prevention.html>. These are civil proceedings independent of the College. If a court order is issued the College will, to the extent possible, assist the protected person in benefiting from the restrictions imposed by the court and will also facilitate on campus compliance with the order.

**Available Supportive Measures through the College include but are not limited to:** Mutual No-Contact Directives; Academic accommodations, including a change in class schedule, taking an incomplete, dropping a course without penalty, attending a class via Skype or other alternative means, providing an academic tutor, or extending deadlines for assignments; Change of residence hall assignment; Change in work assignment or schedule; Leaves of Absence.

### **Reporting to Law Enforcement**

Victims who wish to report an incident to local law enforcement may contact enforcement authorities and file a criminal complaint by calling Campus Safety (413-528-7291), 911 (9-911 from campus phones), or other law enforcement units including the Great Barrington and State Police Departments.

Massachusetts State Police

Phone: (508) 820-2300

470 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA 01702

Great Barrington Police Department

465 Main Street

Great Barrington, MA 01230

Business Line: (413) 528-0306

For emergencies, dial 911

## **College Reporting - Filing a Formal Complaint**

A Formal Grievance process is available to victims in accordance with the Equity and Title IX policies and procedures. To receive more information about filing a Formal Complaint, victims should contact the Title IX Coordinator or refer to the Equity and Title IX policies.

## **Confidential Resources**

An individual who seeks completely confidential assistance may do so by speaking to a counselor in the Wellness center, who can provide confidential counseling unless the incident occurred in the educational program of Bard Academy.

Additional, students may contact the Elizabeth Freeman Center, an organization that provides:

- 24/7 Hotline – a toll-free hotline, (866) 401-2425, that you can call anytime of the day or night for support, counseling, advocacy, shelter, or just to talk.
- Response to hospitals or police stations – counselors available 24/7 to help those who need to flee violence. We can meet you at hospitals or police stations following an attack to provide help and support.
- Emergency services – including shelter, food, transportation and safe phones, to help you get and
- Counseling – free and confidential counseling in individual and group settings to help you heal from harm of violence, and to understand that it is not your fault and you are not alone.
- Safety planning – to help you be safer or to help you get to safety.
- Advocacy – to help you get services you need, including income support and medical care, education and training, legal help, help with your bills, housing that is safe and affordable, and protections so you can keep your job or stay in school.
- Court advocates – staff in the Probate Court and in the district courts in North Adams and Great Barrington to help with restraining orders and to talk about your situation and what can help.
- Counselors who work specifically with immigrants
- LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer) services

### **Elizabeth Freeman Center**

South County Office:

168 Main Street, Suite 4\*

Great Barrington, MA 01230

(413) 429-8190

\*(Suite 4 is in the back of the H&R Block building)

**Protection Against Retaliation:** The College, as well as state and federal laws prohibits retaliation against any person who, in good faith, reports, assists in reporting, or participates in an investigation of possible gender-based misconduct. Any retaliation against an individual who has complained about discrimination or harassment, or sexual misconduct or retaliation against individuals for cooperating with an investigation of a discrimination, or harassment, or sexual misconduct complaint, is unlawful and will be investigated as a separate incident of harassment.

*You may choose all, none, or some of these options. No matter what you choose, the College will help and support you through the process.*