

# Resource Guide for Survivors of Sexual Misconduct



3028 Lindbergh Ave.  
Bellingham WA 98225

# You Are Not Alone!

If you, or someone you care about, have been impacted by sexual misconduct, the most important thing to know is that there are people who can and want to help. People are available to listen, offer support, provide options, and take actions to help ensure that you and our community are safe.

Survivors of sexual misconduct respond to their experiences in different ways.

There is no *right* way to feel or *right thing* to do.

This pamphlet contains information to think about as you decide what is right for you.

Remember, you are not alone. Bellingham Technical College is here to help!



# **Campus & Community Resources**

*Call 911 in case of emergency*

## **Confidential Campus Resources**

BTC Counselor: 360.752.8450

## **Non-Confidential Campus Resources**

Title IX Coordinator/Vice President of Student Services: 360.752.8440

Equal Employment Opportunity/  
Affirmative Action (EEO/AA) Officer/  
Executive Director of Human Resources:  
360.752.8549

## **Community Resources**

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault  
Services (DVSAS) of Whatcom County:  
360.715.1563 (24-hour hotline)

LGBTQIA+ National Hotline (24 hour):  
1.888.843.4564

National Sexual Assault Hotline  
(24 hour): 1.800.656.HOPE (4673)

National Domestic Violence Hotline  
(24 hour): 1.800.799.SAFE (7233)

PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center:  
360.734.5400

Walk-In Health Clinic: 360.734.2330

Bellingham Police (24 hour):  
Call 911, state that it's a non-emergency  
(if applicable)

Coordinated Legal Education Advice &  
Referral: 1.888.201.1014

## What is Sexual Misconduct?

Sexual misconduct is a type of violence that uses power, control, and/or intimidation to harm another. It includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. It occurs when there is an absence of consent. Consent is a free and clearly given yes, not the absence of a no, and cannot be received when a person is incapacitated by alcohol or drugs.

## Definitions Under BTC College Policy

Full policies are available by searching "student conduct" at: [www.btc.edu](http://www.btc.edu)

**Sexual harassment** means unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

**Sexual violence** is a type of sexual discrimination and harassment including nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

**Nonconsensual sexual intercourse** is any sexual intercourse or penetration (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by force. Often referred to as sexual assault.

**Nonconsensual sexual contact** is any sexual touching, however slight, with any object, by a person upon another person, that is without consent and/or by force.

**Domestic Violence** means violence committed by the victim's current or former spouse, partner, or cohabitant.

**Dating Violence** means violence by a person who has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the victim.

**Stalking** is intentional and repeated harassment or following of another person that places that person in reasonable fear of their safety.

**Consent** is knowing, voluntary, and clear permission to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Each person is responsible for gaining consent. A person cannot consent if they are unable to understand what is happening, helpless, asleep, or unconscious for any reason, including due to alcohol or other drugs.

## Reporting Options

You may choose one, several, or none of the following reporting options.

**Title IX Coordinator:** Reports can be made to the Title IX Coordinator or Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action (EEO/AA) Officer. More information can be found by visiting: [www.btc.edu/TitleIX](http://www.btc.edu/TitleIX)

Reports received will be investigated to the extent possible, determining subsequent action.

**Bellingham Police:** If you would like to make a police report immediately following an assault, dial 911.

## What to Expect

If you decide to report to campus officials, you can expect the following:

**Privacy Protection:** Your privacy will be protected to the greatest extent possible.

**Support and Safety Accommodations:** Accommodations including: no-contact orders, modifications to academic or work schedules, etc. will be offered to prevent further contact between you and the person who harmed you.

**No Retaliation:** Any attempt to intimidate, threaten retaliation, or otherwise attempt to prevent the reporting of an incident—or participation in a conduct process—is prohibited. Anyone who is intimidated or threatened in any way should report concerns to the Title IX Coordinator.

**Interviews Conducted:** To gather information about the incident, individual interviews will be conducted with you, the person who harmed you, and any identified witnesses.

**Support Person Available:** Both parties involved have the right to have a support person present during the interviews.

**Informed of Decisions:** Both parties will be informed of the decisions and outcome of any investigation/disciplinary hearing process.

## Title IX & Sexual Misconduct

Sexual misconduct is a form of gender discrimination prohibited by Title IX, federal legislation from the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. Anyone impacted by personal violence and/or sexual assault—whether involving students, staff, faculty, or administrators—may contact any of the campus or community resources to seek assistance.

Any report of sexual misconduct received by any college staff, faculty, or administrator who is not a confidential resource will be shared with the Title IX Coordinator or the EEO/AA Officer. The Title IX Coordinator and EEO/AA Officer review and respond promptly to all reports to ensure safety and provide appropriate campus response. For more information visit: [www.btc.edu/TitleIX](http://www.btc.edu/TitleIX)

## Helping a Friend

If you know someone who has experienced violence:

- Believe them
- Let them know it was not their fault
- Avoid blaming or criticizing statements
- Suggest they consider talking with a confidential support resource
- Help them learn about their reporting and medical care options
- Allow them to make choices
- If you witness abuse or assault, intervene in a safe way

If you would like more suggestions on how to help a friend, contact the Admissions & Student Resource Center at 360.752.8450 to speak with a BTC counselor.

## Personal Safety

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

If you are concerned for your safety, and would like assistance in establishing a safety plan in a confidential setting, a counselor at the Counselors Office or a DV/SAS Crisis Line Advocate can help you explore your options.

## Emotional Support

If you would like to speak with someone who might be able to help you make decisions and begin to heal, the counselors at the Counselors Office offer free, confidential, individual counseling.

## Medical Care

If you have been sexually assaulted or physically harmed, consider seeing a healthcare provider to treat any injuries and discuss possible pregnancy concerns and/or sexually transmitted infections.

## Safe Kit—Evidence Collection

If you have been sexually assaulted and might want to press charges, it is ideal to have forensic evidence collected immediately by completing a Sexual Assault Forensics Exam (SAFE kit).

A SAFE kit can be obtained by visiting a local hospital's emergency department within 84 hours of the assault. Choosing to get a SAFE kit does not obligate you to make a police report. Any evidence collected will be held for up to six months, giving you time to decide whether you would like to file a report in the future.

To preserve evidence, it is best to not change clothes or shower. If you do remove clothing, place them in a paper (not plastic) bag. If oral contact took place, try not to smoke, eat, drink, or brush your teeth until evidence can be collected.



Bellingham Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Executive Director for Human Resources, 3028 Lindbergh Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225, 360.752.8354. BTC publications are available in alternate formats upon request by contacting the Accessibility Resources office at 360.752.8345.

