



Keeping Each Other Safe:

Working Together to End Sexual Violence

Dear Students, Faculty, & Staff,

Sexual assault and sexual violence are serious issues facing higher education. As an institution dedicated to cultivating academic success, student development, social justice, and civic engagement, Lower Columbia College is committed to ensuring sexual assault and sexual violence have no place on our campus.

When students experience sexual assault it changes their world. The process of learning is interrupted, the course of personal development and growth altered, the bond of social trust broken. Sexual assault and violence cause immeasurable harm; some public, some private; some personal, some institutional; but all forms are an intolerable break from the purpose, mission, and values of Lower Columbia College.

In compliance with Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA), Title IX, and other legislation, the College is committed to fostering a safe learning and working environment for Lower Columbia College's students, faculty, and staff. This booklet provides information about options for reporting incidents of sexual violence and resources to provide ongoing support.

Addressing and responding to sexual assault and sexual violence at Lower Columbia College requires a coordinated and transparent effort by all community members. Lower Columbia College will continue to advocate for constructive dialogue and policies supporting students and employees to meet compliance requirements, but more importantly to develop and maintain campus communities that are safe and conducive to learning.

Together we can ensure students continue to have safe, healthy, and welcoming campus environments to learn and grow by continuing to eradicate sexual assault and violence from our campus community.

With deep regard for creating a safe and just community for all,



Kendra Sprague, Title IX Coordinator



If you have been raped or sexually assaulted

1) Go somewhere safe

- If you are in danger, contact local police at 911 or Campus Security at 360.442.2911.
- Ask someone you trust (friend, staff or faculty, or family member) to stay with you for emotional support.
- Places you can contact for help include:
 - » Crime Victim Advocacy Program – 360.425.2273 or
 - » Emergency Support Shelter – 360.425.1176
 - » Crisis Response Services 360.425.6064 or toll-free 1.800.803.8833 or hearing impaired 800.610.6868

2) Seek medical attention

- A support person or advocate can go with you.
- Injuries may not be immediately apparent. A medical exam can reassure you regarding potential injuries, can test for STDs and provide emergency contraception, and provide any needed treatment.
- Forensic evidence can be collected up to 72 hours after an assault.

To aid in preserving evidence –

- » Do not change clothes. If you have, bring the clothing you were wearing at the time of the assault with you to the hospital.
- » Do not bathe, shower or douche before going to the hospital.
- » Collecting forensic evidence does not mean you will be required to pursue legal action.
- » Peace Health St. John's Medical Center has 24-hour access to medical professionals trained in sexual assault. Contact 360.414.2000.

3) Seek ongoing support

- Talking to a counselor can provide additional confidential support. You can contact Lower Columbia College's Counseling Services Office at 360.442.2330. Weekdays 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Trained advocates can provide resources and referrals for ongoing support. Places you can contact include:
 - » Crime Victim Advocacy Program – 360.425.2273 or
 - » Emergency Support Shelter – 360.425.1176
 - » Crisis Response Services 360.425.6064 or toll-free 1.800.803.8833 or hearing impaired 800.610.6868
- Feelings and reactions to the assault may persist. Talking with a counselor or advocate can help you sort through what you are experiencing.

4) Report the assault

- Whether or not you report to police or to College officials is your choice. We encourage you to report.
- Options for reporting include filing an official police report and/or filing a report with the College's Title IX Coordinator. You can pursue the complaint and investigation process with both entities.

How do I report or file a complaint related to sexual misconduct?

Any student, applicant, employee or visitor of the College may file a complaint. Lower Columbia College's Title IX Coordinator is Kendra Sprague, title9@lowercolumbia.edu or 360.442.2121.

Lower Columbia College is required to take immediate and corrective action if a "responsible employee" knows of a sexual misconduct situation. Responsible employees include faculty, coaches, administrators, and other employees with a responsibility for student welfare.



What happens when I report to the Title IX Coordinator?

The Title IX Coordinator is a school official who has been specifically trained in collecting information and in referring those impacted by sexual assault to helpful resources. The Title IX Coordinator -

- Will gather your information and keep accurate notes and records of your report and any referrals provided to you.
- Will inform and ask to obtain consent from you before commencing an investigation into a sexual violence complaint.
- Will determine and inform you if the College can honor a request for confidentiality. Maintaining confidentiality may limit the College's ability to fully respond to the allegations. Retaliation by the respondent and/or others is prohibited.
- May conduct an investigation or oversee an investigation handled by another campus official.
- May impose protective measures during the investigations. Interim measures may be imposed to protect you and/or the respondent pending the conclusion of the investigation.
- Will issue written findings and recommendations upon completion of the investigation.

What protective measures may I be offered?

Protective measures offered during the course of an investigation are determined on a case by case basis.

They may include, but are not limited to –

- Campus enforcement of no contact orders
- Rescheduling of classes
- Temporary work reassignments
- Referrals for counseling or medical assistance
- Disciplinary action for the respondent consistent with the College's Code of Student Conduct or employee discipline procedures



What is Lower Columbia College's Sexual Assault Policy?

Sexual violence is a type of sexual discrimination and harassment. Nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual contact, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking are all types of sexual violence. The College's entire policy & procedure against harassment and discrimination can be found on the Lower Columbia College website: lowercolumbia.edu/disclosure/non-discrimination/index.php

Recognize and avoid abusive behavior such as:

- Frequent yelling directed at a partner
- Blaming partner for own faults
- Name calling
- Consistently accusing partner of infidelity
- Kicking, holding, slapping, or scratching
- Forcible or coercive sex
- Sexual activity when one is not able to provide consent

Bystander Intervention:

If you suspect that a friend or acquaintance is being abused or has been sexually assaulted or stalked, offer support.

- Speak out against all forms of sexual violence
- Be an advocate for preventing sexual violence
- Model behavior that values respect for others



In Case of Emergency Call 911

General Campus Resources

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| LCC Counseling Services | 360.442.2330 | lowercolumbia.edu/counseling |
| Safety and Security | 360.442.2911 | lowercolumbia.edu/safety |
| Reporting incidents of sexual misconduct and related offenses: Director of Safety & Security – 360.442.2911, Title IX Coordinator – 360.442.2121 | | |

Sexual Misconduct Resources

COWLITZ

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| Northwest Justice Project/Clear Program | 888.201.1014 | www.nwjustice.org |
| Community House | 360.425.8679 | choblv.org |
| Drug Abuse Prevention Center | 360.425.9210 | www.dapcenter.org |
| Crime Victim Advocacy Program | 360.425.1176 | esshelter.com/services/crime-victim-advocacy-program |
| Emergency Support Shelter (legal advocates available) | 360.425.1176 | esshelter.com |
| Mental Health Crisis Line | 360.425.6064 | www.ccgacares.com/crisisresponse |
| St. John Medical Center | 360.414.2000 | www.peacehealth.org/st-john |
| Kaiser Permanente | 360.636.2400 | kp.org |
| Family Health Center | 888.528.7364 | hcowlitzfamilyhealth.org |

CLARK

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| YWCA Safe Choice (Vancouver) | 800.695.0167 | www.ywcaclarkcounty.org |
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COLUMBIA

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| SAFE of Columbia County | 866.397.6161 | www.safeofcolumbiacounty.org |
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| Human Response Network (Chehalis) | 360.748.6601 | www.hrnlc.org |
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| The Charlotte House Domestic Violence Shelter | 360.795.6401 | www.stjamesfamilycenter.org |
| The Charlotte House Sexual Assault Services | 360.795.6401 | www.stjamesfamilycenter.org |

Law Enforcement

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| In Case of Emergency | Call 911 | |
| Castle Rock Police | 360.274.4711 | www.crpolice.org |
| Cowlitz County Sheriff | 360.557.3092 | www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/sheriff |
| Kelso Police | 360.423.1270 | www.kelso.gov/departments-services/police-department |
| Kalama Police | 360.673.2165 | www.kalamapolice.com |
| Longview Police | 360.442.5800 | www.ci.longview.wa.us/index.aspx?page=400 |
| Wahkiakum County Sheriff | 360.795.3242 | www.co.wahkiakum.wa.us/depts/sheriff |
| Woodland Police | 360.225.6965 | www.ci.woodland.wa.us/departments/police |

Abuse Hotlines (All 24 Hours)

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| Adult Protective Services | 360.501.2500 | dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services/adult-abuse-and-prevention |
| Emergency Support Shelter Crisis Line | 360.636.8471 | esshelter.com |
| Child Protective Services Hotline | 360.501.2600 | dshs.wa.gov/ca/parent-resources/child-protective-services |
| Family Planning Hotline | 800.770.4334 | www.plannedparenthood.org |
| National Child Abuse Hotline | 800.422.4453 | www.childhelp.org |
| National Domestic Violence Hotline | 800.799.SAFE | www.thehotline.org |
| WA State Domestic Violence Hotline | 800.562.6025 | www.wadvhotline.org |

Title IX Coordinator
title9@lowercolumbia.edu
or 360.442.2121



**1600 Maple Street
Longview, WA 98632
lowercolumbia.edu**

Lower Columbia College provides equal opportunity in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, perceived or actual physical or mental disability, pregnancy, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, creed, religion, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or use of a trained guide dog or service animal. All Inquiries regarding compliance with access, equal opportunity and/or grievance procedures should be directed to Director of Human Resources & Legal Affairs, 1600 Maple Street, PO Box 3010, Longview, WA 98632, Phone number, 360.442.2120, Phone number/TTY 800.833.6388.