



# What To Do If Someone Tells You They Have Been Sexually Assaulted Or Abused

*Because of the mentoring relationship you have with your Life Group members, you will likely be one of the first people they come to with serious issues. They may initiate the conversation, but more likely these situations will come up as you gain their trust and ask questions. These are the steps you need to follow if someone tells you that they have been sexually assaulted or abused.*

**For information or if someone is unsure if they've been sexually assaulted or abused, go to <http://rainn.org>.**

## **If someone comes to you letting you know they have been sexually assaulted or abused:**

1. Do not doubt their story. That is not your call.
2. You need to let either Jordan or Kristin know **immediately** (Jordan: 706-580-3490; Kristin: 206-852-7385).
  - a. You are not capable of handling this by yourself.
  - b. You don't have to use their name.
  - c. Say "I am not equipped to help you with this but I know people who are. I will walk with you through this entire process."
3. No matter what age the abuse happened, **our goal is to get them into professional counseling** as soon as possible. The person may not want to go, and we cannot force them to, but that is the number one goal that we will strive for.

## **If someone tells you that they have been sexually assaulted since they turned 18:**

1. You need to let a staff person know **immediately**.
2. If they live on campus, *they* need to let an RA know.
  - a. This is a requirement.
  - b. If they won't go, tell them that you have to report it. Because you are a leader, we require you to tell someone.

## **If they're a minor who has been sexually assaulted:**

1. You need to let a staff person know **immediately**.
2. We **have** to report this to the police. Neither we as staff or you as a student have a choice in this matter.

## **If you have a student let you know that they have been assaulted very recently:**

1. You need to let a staff person know **immediately**.
2. Call the National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-4673.

## **If someone was abused as a minor and they are now over 18:**

1. You need to let a staff person know **immediately**.
2. You do not need to report that to the police.
3. The major goal will be to get them in professional counseling.

## **If you feel that someone is in a physically, verbally, or emotionally abusive relationship:**

1. You need to let the staff know and we will walk you through how to handle it.

### **Counseling Center Info:**

1. Location: Third floor of Schuster, directly across from the elevator exit.
2. Phone: 706-507-8740
3. For sexual abuse or assault, ask for Jennifer Moore, PhD.
4. We also have access to a counselor off campus who is free and specializes in sexual abuse and assault.

## **If you cannot convince them to go to counseling:**

1. Have them meet with either Jordan or Kristin and we will try to convince them.