

Getting help and reporting Sexual offences

University of the Free State | Bloemfontein and South Campuses

There are **2** pathways you can follow:

ROUTE 1 - I want to lay a charge



ROLEPLAYER: South African Police Service (SAPS) involvement

To lay a criminal charge, visit your nearest SAPS. If you do not have transport, request Protection Services (PS) to take you to the SAPS where you can open a case and get a case number.

A SAPS member can then take you to the National District Hospital (NDH) (to the Tshepong Victim Support Centre) or the nearest facility for a medical examination, prophylactic medication, the completion of a rape kit (that is kept for three months), and to register a case. This will hold evidence value in a court of law. Should you be required to continue with an internal disciplinary matter at the UFS, you must obtain a copy of your statement from the SAPS, which must be provided to PS for the investigation - this is due to the POPIA requirements.



ROLEPLAYERS: Protection Services (PS) and Student Discipline and Mediation Unit (SDMU) involvement

To file an internal disciplinary case with SDMU, report to PS. An affidavit with supporting statements will be collected and submitted to SDMU. While SDMU does not have jurisdiction over rape incidents, it will handle the case as sexual misconduct.

By involving PS and the SDMU, you can still undergo a medical examination, receive medication, and complete a rape kit. The contents of the kit can serve as evidence in a court of law should you later decide to open a case with the SAPS (the rape kit, however, has no evidence value in the internal disciplinary matter if there is no SAPS case).



ROLEPLAYER: SAPS, PS, and SDMU involvement

In this instance, you will lay charges with both the SAPS (external) and SDMU (internal).

The complainant must obtain a copy of his/her statement from the SAPS and provide it to the investigating officer at the UFS. The UFS file will be sent to SDMU, and the cases will proceed simultaneously.

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ROUTE 2 - I do not want to lay a charge



ROLEPLAYER: The hospital or a private practice

No evidence is required as there is no intention to lay a criminal charge. However, you still need medical attention.

Go to the hospital (NDH, Mediclinic, or a private practice, depending on your location and whether you have medical aid). ER24 can provide transport. On arrival, open a file and wait at Casualties to be seen by a doctor and receive the necessary medication.

This process will not be viewed as evidence in a court of law. It is, however, suggested to go for a medical examination and rape kit (that will be kept for three months). Should you later decide to open a case with the SAPS, this will be evidence that can serve in a court of law.



Contact Protection Services for assistance:

- **Bloemfontein Campus:**
051 401 2911 / 0800 204 682
- **South Campus:**
051 505 1217



If it is a medical emergency, please also contact ER24 on 084 124.

Student Counselling and Development renders emotional and psychological support.

Contact us at:

- **Bloemfontein Campus:**
T: 051 401 2853 | E: scd@ufs.ac.za
- **South Campus**
T: 051 505 1989 | E: scdsouth@ufs.ac.za

UFS Student Careline 24 hour toll-free helpline:

0800 00 6363
SMS: 43302
helpline@sadag.org

Please scan the QR Code to access a FAQ about reporting a sexual offence at the UFS.

