

Sexual Violence Support Information

1. SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre)

Immediate support 24/7

For forensics and other immediate *and* longer-term support: physical, practical, emotional, psychological - advice on listening services, next steps, and any specific information you may need. (Does not do STI tests.)

It is possible to call the **out of hours number - 0800 970 9953 - at any time**, to speak with a professional who will support you, whether you have questions or just need to talk.

If you go through the police they will see you in person immediately, otherwise you need to call in advance to make an appointment - closest one is Bicester - 01869 369869 Mon-Fri 9-5

You can also use the out-of-hours number to make an appointment.

Solace Centre, Police House, Queens Avenue Bicester, OX26 2NT (College will refund taxi)

2. Reporting (Official)

If you would like to directly speak with the police and report the crime (any sexual abuse is a crime) call 101.

You can access an Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) via OSARCC or the University Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service. They can provide more information on the procedure and options for reporting to the police and pursuing the criminal justice route, to help you make a decision on this.

There is a useful summary here:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/supportservice?wssl=1>

*If you are in immediate danger call 999. If it is not safe for you to speak or you cannot speak, cough, or tap in 55 on the keypad and the operator will send officers to your location.

3. A&E (Accident and Emergency department of the hospital) / GP (your local doctor)

If you have been physically injured or have symptoms of being drugged, visit your GP or A&E.

(Closest is John Radcliffe Hospital. College will refund taxi or other forms of transportation)

4. Trust House Reading

Trust House Reading is a Rape Support Centre. They offer a confidential phone line for people affected by rape and sexual abuse to access emotional support, information and signposting: **0118 958 4033**. Their helpline is staffed by volunteers so if they are unable to answer your call, they will call you back asap.

<http://trusthousereading.org>

5. OSARCC - Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre

'We are a feminist organisation committed to supporting survivors of sexual abuse, rape, domestic abuse, and harassment. We offer a free and confidential service to women and girls who are dealing with the effects of sexual violence, and to anyone who is supporting them.'

They offer **out-of-hours** confidential listening space, text or email options (check website for specific times these services are available - there's a panel on the right hand side for different contact options and services, and some useful and supportive info in the tabs).

<https://osarcc.org.uk> Other services they offer: Face to face appointments; Support groups

6. Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service

This is a university service, disconnected from college/dept - "provision for any students regardless of age or gender who have been affected by sexual harassment or violence. We provide free support and advice, along with a safe place to be heard independent of your college or department."

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/supportservice?wssl=1>

You can make an appointment with one of their advisors by emailing supportservice@admin.ox.ac.uk.

This is the best option for talking with someone and getting ongoing support and advice in Oxford.

There is no contact number or out-of-hours service.

They are in central Oxford, and try to see people as soon as they can - same day/ next day may be possible, but there's also the possibility that you may have to wait a few weeks depending on their availability.

You have the option to speak to a male or female advisor.

7. Churchill Sexual Health Clinic (GUM)

This is where you can get STI tests and an examination if necessary. Drop-in and appointment options. You can also speak with a Health Advisor using the phoneline for the Churchill Clinic. They can talk with you about any aspect of your experience, not just medical - 01865 231231 (option 3). Unless you have symptoms, STI tests need to be done at least **two weeks** after the event. There are usually two more rounds of tests after this to ensure that there are no false positives or false negatives. It is easily accessible by bus.

<https://www.sexualhealthoxfordshire.nhs.uk/visiting/opening-times-and-how-to-find-us/oxford/>

The Rectory Road Clinic provides a more limited service, but is more likely to answer the phone, and you can book appointments for the Churchill Clinic through them. You can also visit them to speak with someone and have an examination during their drop in hours, at any time after the event. (Easy cycling or walking distance.) If you feel comfortable, you can tell the receptionist that you have been a victim of harassment or assault and you will be seen almost immediately.

<https://www.sexualhealthoxfordshire.nhs.uk/visiting/opening-times-and-how-to-find-us/other-clinics/>

(College will refund taxi or other forms of transportation)

8. Victims first

Counselling service for survivors of any crime (short term)

This is funded by police and crime commissioner, but you don't have to have reported a crime.

Not so much of a waiting list as some other counselling services.

0300 1234 148 In Oxford

9. Rape Crisis England and Wales

Live Chat Helpline:

<https://rapecrisis.org.uk/get-help/want-to-talk/>

OSARCC is the Oxfordshire service under Rape Crisis, and offers all other services.

10. College services / Unofficial reporting

Many people who have experienced an event of sexual harassment and violence often do not choose to report it officially through the police, this is your decision. That being said, there are very concrete measures that you can take to reclaim your space and power through the college and maintain levels of anonymity at your discretion:

Welfare Team: There are a number of people within college who you can speak with, including the Dean, Academic Administrator, peer supporters, and Junior Deans. Junior Deans are contactable out-of-hours by phone, or by email, and can aid in any issue regarding welfare. Although they represent the Dean, anything you tell them will remain anonymous unless they feel that your safety or the safety of others is at risk, at which point they will inform you before going through the appropriate channels. Junior Deans can also accompany you to hospital or police visits and aid in calling any of the above phone numbers. College and university welfare team are not available during Christmas Closure period.

Accommodation: Should you feel unsafe or uncomfortable in your room or house, depending on availability it may be possible for you to change your living situation by switching rooms or moving to different accommodation. The Junior Dean can act as a proxy between you and the accommodation office if you wish.

College: If the event occurred between members of the same college and you feel comfortable speaking with the Dean or another appropriate staff member, they can talk you through your options. If you feel unsafe at college events or in college communal spaces, they may be able to make arrangements to alleviate this. It may also be possible for the Dean to speak to a student to go over definitions of consent and safe sex.

11. Boots

You can go to Boots or any pharmacy to buy Plan B should you need it. This pill is only effective within a certain time period and does not prevent contraction of any STIs or STDs. The pharmacist will ask you a few questions regarding the amount of time it's been since you've had unprotected sex to discern which version of the pill to give you. The purchase will not be explicitly listed on the receipt and the college can reimburse you.

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