

10 MYTHS

about reporting to the police

This sheet will include common myths about reporting sex crimes to law enforcement and the truth about reporting.

01. Will reporting a sex crime go on the record of the person reporting?

No. Reporting any crime will not go on your record or impact the ability to apply for jobs, housing, credit cards, etc.

02. Will the police tell my parents if I report a crime?

For persons over the age of 18, all information regarding a report will be kept confidential, and any necessary release of information requires the consent of the person reporting.

03. Can I report a crime without an investigation happening?

When a police report is made, the victim can express what action they want the police to take. In more violent crimes, the police may be required to conduct a full investigation. However, the victim has the right to choose to take legal action.

04. Reporting vs. Pressing Charges

Reporting is when someone wants something documented, but does not necessarily want action taken.

Pressing Charges means someone wants full legal action taken (full investigation, arrests to be made, potential court case)

05. If I make a report, will I have to testify?

Not necessarily. If the state's attorney decides to prosecute, they have the right to call witnesses. If you are called to testify, the Bond County Courthouse has a victim / witness coordinator to walk through the process with you.

06. How many times do I have to share my story?

It is best practice to require as few meetings as possible. The reporting party has the right to initiate meetings as they feel necessary.

07. Will the person I make a report against know I made the report?

Greenville PD will not explicitly share with the suspect who made the report and takes protective measures for the reporting party. GPD will avoid bringing the suspect into the investigation until necessary. However, for a thorough investigation to happen, the investigating officer must question the suspect.

08. Can I bring someone with me to report?

Yes. Anyone has the right to bring an advocate or support person with them to all legal proceedings. However there may be circumstances where an officer may make the decision not to allow anyone else in the interview to protect the integrity of the statement.

09. Will reporting a crime affect my F1 visa?

Being a victim of and/or reporting a crime will not negatively impact your F1 visa or your eligibility to remain in the Greenville's study abroad program.

10. Differences between a campus order of no contact and a restraining order?

Restraining Order: A protective order given by the court that is valid throughout the entire jurisdiction of where you got the order. Can be obtained at the courthouse.

Campus Order of No Contact: Issued by campus safety and only valid on campus property