



TIP OF THE WEEK

What to Do If You Are Assaulted

If you are assaulted, you will face a number of painful emotions. Victims often feel fear, confusion, anger, embarrassment, disgust and guilt. It is important to remember that you are not to blame. The only guilty party is your assailant.

Here is what to do immediately after an assault (as suggested by Alberta Justice, Public Safety Division):

- Call the Police – prompt reporting will help them obtain evidence, and they will help you get the assistance you need. If you feel uncomfortable, ask that a friend or loved one be with you.
- Don't bathe, change or dispose of your clothes. Such actions may destroy evidence that could convict your attacker.
- Do not consume any alcohol, drugs or medication.
- Go to the hospital for a medical examination. You will be asked to give your name, age and details of the assault. You may ask that a friend be with you throughout the physical examination.
- If this is a sexual assault, you may also want to call a sexual assault center. Trained counselors can provide you with emotional support.
- Write down everything you can remember about the incident as soon as possible. This information could be vital and should be kept for court evidence. Use the following checklist to record all you can about your assailant.

Suspect Identity Chart

- Age
- Type of hair/color/cut
- Beard/moustache
- Complexion
- Weapon
- Shirt, coat, trousers
- Method of escape/direction
- Height/weight
- Eyes/eyeglasses
- Visible scars
- Shoes
- License plate
- Vehicle description

If your case goes to court (not all do), you will be treated as a witness for the Crown. This may involve one or more meetings with a Crown attorney. You may have someone with you during these interviews. Your case may take several months to go to court.

You may also consider a civil lawsuit, which can be started before or after criminal proceedings. Obtain legal advice if you wish to pursue this course of action.

Protective Services

If the assault occurred on campus property or if you are being harassed by your assailant, contact Protective Services and file a report.

- NAIT Peace Officers may be able to provide additional information for the investigating Police Officers.
- NAIT Peace Officers should be made aware of any court orders regarding contact (Peace Bond, Restraining Order, etc.).
- Arrangements can be made with Protective Services for safe walks to and from your vehicle.
- We will work with you to help keep you safe while you are on campus.



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You Are Not Alone

Family or friends may be eager and able to help. There are also many trained professionals who can offer emotional support and counseling. Know that help is available. You do not have to deal with assault alone. NAIT has access to information on counseling services for both staff and students. NAIT students can call Student Counselling at 780-378-6135. NAIT staff members can call the Employee Assistance provider, Wilson Banwell at 1-800-663-1142. If you have been the victim of a sexual assault, you can call the 24 Hour Sexual Assault Crisis Line at 780-423-4121.

If you have information about a crime, contact Protective Services at 780-471-7477. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your identity will remain anonymous, and if the information you provide leads to a conviction, you could be eligible for a reward of up to \$2000.00.

Everybody benefits, except the criminal.