**Cheyney University Policy FA-2013-1013**

**Policy on Reporting Allegations of Sexual Abuse/Assault**

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| **Approved by:** | FA/ President’s Cabinet | |
| **History:** | Issued | 11-11-2011 – Revised 10-18-13 |
| **Related Policies:** | n/a | |
| **Additional References:** | n/a | |

**I. Purpose**

To ensure the fulfillment of our moral obligation to protect students, staff and Faculty and the obligation that is mandated by Pennsylvania law and the Federal Jeanne Clery Act.

Specifically this policy addresses the sexual abuse/assault of students, staff, faculty of Cheyney University

**II. Definition**

Sexual Abuse-Assault of a student, staff, faculty member of Cheyney University includes serious endangerment of physical or mental health due to injury by act or omission, including acts of sexual abuse includes contacts or interactions. A student, staff or faculty member is abused-assaulted whether or not this activity involves explicit force, whether or not it involves genital or physical contact, whether or not it is initiated by the student, staff or faculty member and whether or not there is discernible harmful outcome.

**III. Procedures- Policy**

**CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY**

Cheyney University educates the student community about sexual assaults and date rape through mandatory freshman orientations each fall. The Police Department offers sexual assault education and information programs to University students and employees upon request. Literature on date rape education, risk reduction, is available through the Office of Residence Life and Housing**,** The Cheyney University Police Department, National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

If you are a victim of a sexual assault at Cheyney University, your first priority should be to get to a place of safety. You should then obtain necessary medical treatment. The Cheyney University Police Department strongly advocates that a victim of sexual assault report the incident in a timely manner. Time is a critical factor for evidence collection and preservation.

An assault should be reported directly to a University officer and/or to a Housing and Residential Education representative. Filing a police report with a University officer will not obligate the victim to prosecute, nor will it subject the victim to scrutiny or judgmental opinions from officers. Filing a police report will:

* ensure that a victim of sexual assault receives the necessary medical treatment and tests, at no expense to the victim;
* provide the opportunity for collection of evidence helpful in prosecution, which cannot be obtained later (ideally a victim of sexual assault should not wash, douche, use the toilet, or change clothing prior to a medical/legal exam);
* assure the victim has access to free confidential counseling from counselors specifically trained in the area of sexual assault crisis intervention.

When a sexual assault victim contacts the Cheyney University Police Department, Cheyney University Social Equity and a representative from Office of Residence Life and Housingwill be notified. The victim of a sexual assault may choose for the investigation to be pursued through the criminal justice system and the University Judicial Office, or only the latter.

A University representative from the Police Department, Social Equity, and/or the Office of Residence Life and Housing or support counselor will guide the victim through the available options and support the victim in his or her decision. Various counseling options are available from the University through the Student Support Counselor or University Health Center. Counseling and support services outside the University system can be obtained through The Delaware County Women Against Rape,andThe Crimes Victim Center of Chester County, Inc.

The University will make every effort to accommodate victim requests associated with academic and living situations that can reasonably be accomplished. Reasonable measureswill be taken to avoid victim/suspect contact until final disposition and due process take place. Violators of sexual assault statutes can be prosecuted criminally and are subject to University judicial proceedings as well. During judicial proceedings, both the victim and the suspect have equal rights to have others present. Both the victim and the suspect will be advised of the outcome of any judicial proceeding. A judicial hearing board may impose a sanction for violations of this nature, including probation, loss of on-campus housing, suspension, or expulsion from the institution.

**Disclosure to Alleged Victims of Crimes of Violence or Non-forcible Sex Offenses**

Cheyney University will, upon written request, disclose to the alleged victim of a crime of violence, or a non-forcible sex offense, the results of any disciplinary hearing conducted by the college against the student who is the alleged perpetrator of the crime or offense. If the alleged victim is deceased as a result of the crime or offense, Cheyney University will provide the results of the disciplinary hearing to the victim’s next of kin, if so requested.