



-Borough of State College
"A Home Rule Municipality"

STATE COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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THOMAS R.KING
Chief of Police



Media Release

October 31, 2014

The State College Police Department is investigating an Indecent Assault that occurred on the morning of October 31, 2014 at approximately 1:00 AM on the 500 block of Clover Alley between East Fairmount Avenue and East Prospect Avenue. The female victim, a Penn State student, reported to police that while she was walking to her residence from Foster Avenue she realized a male was following her. As she continued walking the male was catching up to her and started talking to her. The suspect male eventually caught up to her and tried to engage in conversation with the victim while blocking her path. The victim was then aggressively pushed to the ground and sustained leg injuries. During the assault the suspect attempted to indecently touch the victim above and under her clothing and exposed his penis to the victim. The suspect male threatened the victim with harm if she did not have sex with him. The victim struggled and was able to shove and kick the suspect to get away. The victim fled the area and met up with an unknown female that was walking nearby who helped her until she reached a place of safety.

The suspect is described as a white male, mid 20's, approximately 5'9", medium body build with brown, short crew cut hair, with brown colored eyes, and described as having a larger than average nose and a small chin. The suspect was wearing a gray t-shirt with dark lettering and a pair of dark blue Nike shorts that had the swoosh symbol on them.

If you can provide any information pertaining to this incident, please contact State College Police at 814-234-7150 or submit an [anonymous tip](#) through the web.

The State College Police would like to provide students, residents and visitors suggestions to stay safe in our community.

Reducing your chances of being a victim of sexual/physical assault

- **Avoid traveling alone** - Whether you are going out for an evening with your friends or just walking to class on campus, it is always safer to be with another person or with a group of people. Avoid walking or jogging alone, especially at night. Vary your route and stay in well-traveled, well-lit areas.

- **Park in well lighted areas** - If you are unable to travel with another person or group, park your car in a well lighted area. If the parking lot is dark with little activity, park elsewhere.
- **Avoid isolated areas:** It is more difficult to get help if no one is around.
- **Be aware of your surroundings:** Avoid putting music headphones in both ears so you can be more aware of your surroundings. Are there suspicious people loitering around? Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you to find a way to get out of a bad situation.
- **Keep your hands free:** Try not to load yourself down with books, bags or other items as this can make you appear more vulnerable.
- **Keep a whistle on your keychain:** If you are in an uncomfortable situation or you feel that you are being followed, blow the heck out of your whistle. This will startle the attacker and will also draw attention to you. This is the last thing the offender wants, attention.
- **Tell someone where you are going:** Let a friend or family member know where you are going and what time you plan on arriving. Call that person when you get to your destination. If someone knows your plans and you have not arrived, this will alert them to a possible need for help.
- **Always carry a cell phone:** Did you know that even if your cell is out of minutes, you can still dial 911 from the phone?
- **Trust Your Instincts!** If something does not feel right, it probably isn't. Get out of the situation.
- **Know your limits when it comes to alcohol use** - If you chose to consume alcohol, do so in moderation and stop when you begin to feel the effects of the alcohol. Excessive consumption of alcohol may make you more vulnerable and significantly distort your memory and recall of events. Illegal drug use or use of prescription medications will also greatly impair your judgment, ability to care/protect yourself and will make more vulnerable to assaults.
- **Avoid leaving a social event or being alone with someone you just met.** Do not allow yourself to be isolated with someone you do not trust or know well.

- **Watch out for each other.** When you go to a social gathering, go with a group of friends. Arrive together, check in with each other throughout the evening, and leave together. At parties and bars, keep a friend in sight, check in from time to time to make sure you're both comfortable with how things are going.
- **Never leave a drink unattended or accept a drink that you did not see poured.**
- **Always lock your doors and windows** - Keep your home and car doors locked at all times. Have your key ready as you approach your apartment, home or vehicle.
- **Request a security escort Call 814-865-WALK (9255)** - Penn State Police offer the Security Escort Service which is designed to provide walking accompaniment for Penn State students, employees, and visitors who may feel unsafe walking alone on campus at night. Call the Security Escort Service before traveling alone.

If you are Sexually or Physically Assaulted

- **If you are sexually/physically assaulted- Report the attack to police by calling 911 or go to a clinic or emergency room immediately.** You can decide later whether or not to press charges, but it is critical that you receive medical attention and caring support as soon as possible.
- **Find a safe environment-** anywhere away from the attacker. Ask a trusted friend to stay with you for support.
- Know that what happened was not your fault and that now you should do what is best for you.
- Preserve evidence of the attack – if sexually assaulted do not change clothes, bathe or brush your teeth.
- Write down all the details you can recall about the attack & the attacker.

Resource/Hotline Numbers:

Centre County Women's Resource Center 1-877-234-5050 (toll free) or (814) 234-5050

National Sexual Assault Hotline - free, confidential counseling, 24 hours/day: 1-800-656-HOPE

Incident # SCP201408929
Detective J.W. Aston # 3290

