



Resources, Rights, and Options for Victims of Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Stalking, Domestic Violence or Dating Violence

(for Texas A&M campus located in Brazos County)

A student or an employee who is a victim of sexual harassment (including sexual misconduct or stalking), domestic violence, or dating violence, whether it occurred on or off-campus, has certain resources, rights and options available. For questions and more information **for students**, contact Student Assistance Services at 979-845-3113 or sas@tamu.edu; **for accused non-faculty employees**, contact Policy and Practice Review at 979-862-3331 or hrpolicy@tamu.edu; **for accused faculty**, contact Dean of Faculties at 979-845-4274 or dof@tamu.edu.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A VICTIM AND A SURVIVOR

The terms 'victim' and 'survivor' are typically interchanged words for the injured party in a sexual violence incident. However, there is a subtle difference. A victim is someone who has recently been attacked, or is currently in an abusive situation, while a survivor has begun to move past the experience and seek help. For the purposes of this resource we will use the word survivor with the understanding that individuals may be at different places on the continuum.

PRIVACY OF INFORMATION VS. CONFIDENTIALITY

Privacy of Information

While the university wishes to create an environment in which individuals feel free to discuss concerns and make complaints, the university may be obligated to take action when its officials are informed that sex discrimination or sexual harassment (i.e., sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking) may be occurring.

Information shared with university personnel and officials not listed below as confidential reporting options is considered private but not confidential. Although the confidentiality of the information received, the privacy of the individuals involved, and the wishes of the complainant/survivor regarding action by the university cannot be guaranteed, they will be protected to as great a degree as is legally possible.

The University is committed to protecting the privacy of reporting parties, complainants, and alleged offenders. Given the sensitive nature of reports, information will be maintained in a secure manner and will only be disclosed to school officials who are responsible for handling the university's response and/or have a legitimate educational interest.

The expressed wishes of the complainant/survivor regarding confidentiality will be considered in the context of the university's obligation to act upon the information and the right of the charged party to be informed about charges against them. If the individual does not disclose any identifying information about themselves or any other party involved (e.g., names, department or unit) during the inquiry, response on the part of the university may be limited. If charges have been issued to an accused student, a student conduct file is created. That file is part of the student's education record and is protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). For more information about FERPA, go to: <http://registrar.tamu.edu>.

Confidentiality

Persons gathering general information, seeking guidance, or filing a complaint may be concerned about the confidentiality of the information they are sharing.

Victims have the option to report confidentially through a university official listed as a confidential reporting option based on the official's occupation or relationship to the victim. See Confidential Reporting Options below.

IMMEDIATE INTERIM MEASURES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Survivors may have various options and assistance in changing academic, living, transportation, and work situations if requested by the survivor and are reasonably available. These requests will be considered regardless of whether the survivor chooses to report the incident to law enforcement. Examples of potential accommodations include assistance in obtaining institutional no contact orders and/or changing living location, parking location, or class schedules to reduce the chance of continued contact with the alleged offender.

The University will maintain as confidential, to as great a degree as legally possible, any accommodations or interim measures provided to the victim to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the University's ability to provide the accommodation or interim measure.

HOW INCIDENTS MAY BE REPORTED

Confidential Reporting Options: In most cases, psychologists/counselors in the Employee Assistance Program (<http://employees.tamu.edu/eap/>) and Student Counseling Service are not required to, nor may, report an incident that in any way identifies the employee or student concerned without their consent. However, if an imminent harm situation is present, the counselor must take action to protect whoever is at risk.

Reporting to Law Enforcement

Survivors have the option of notifying or not notifying law enforcement authorities including university and local police. An anonymous “Jane/John Doe” report can be filed with the police while deciding whether to pursue criminal charges. Law enforcement is able to help survivors understand the process of obtaining orders of protection, restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by the courts. Below is a list of local law enforcement agencies. Reports should be filed with the agencies where the incident occurred. The Dean of Student Life or staff in Student Assistance Services is available to assist student survivors who choose to notify law enforcement authorities. Staff employees or students can contact Human Resources Policy and Practice Review or the Employee Assistance Program for assistance with notification to law enforcement authorities. Faculty members needing assistance can contact the Associate Provost and Dean of Faculties office.

Name	Phone	Name	Phone
University Police Department	979-845-2345	College Station Police Department	979-764-3600
Bryan Police Department	979-209-5301	Brazos County Sheriff's Department	979-361-4100

Importance of Preserving Physical Evidence

Whether a survivor has decided or is still deciding to report, they should attempt to preserve all physical evidence that could aid in criminal prosecution or in obtaining a protection order. Physical evidence should be collected immediately, ideally within the first 24 hours. It may be collected later than this, but the quality and quantity of the evidence may be diminished. Survivors of sexual assault should NOT shower or bathe, wash hands, use the toilet, change clothing, or wash clothing or bedding until evidence can be collected. If the survivor has changed clothes and is at a location other than the crime scene, all clothing worn at the time (or bedding) should be carefully placed into a paper, not plastic, bag to be given to the police. If the survivor believes they have been drugged, traces of the drug may still appear up to 96 hours after ingestion (depending on dosage and individual metabolism) and the chances of getting proof are best when the sample is obtained quickly.

It is also helpful for survivors to retain communications and document any contact with the alleged offender. If possible, survivors should write down dates, times, locations of contact and preserve any text messages, emails, and/or social media site postings related to the incident.

Reporting to the University (Title IX Complaint)

Texas A&M University strives to maintain a work and educational environment free from discrimination, sexual harassment, and related retaliation in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. Students and unrelated third parties are encouraged to report all unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature.

An employee who witnesses, is subjected to, or is informed about incidents of sexual discrimination, sexual harassment (including sexual violence), and/or related retaliation must file a Title IX complaint with the designated official below who handles alleged violations perpetrated by students, faculty, staff, or unrelated third parties.

If the Alleged Offender is a:	• Student	• Faculty Employee	• Non-Faculty Employee • Unrelated Third Party
Then the Official Contact is:	Dr. Anne Reber Dean of Student Life Bizzell East Room103 College Station, TX 77843-1257 TAMU Mail Stop 1257 studentlife@tamu.edu 979-845-3111	Dr. Blanca Lupiani Dean of Faculties 108 YMCA Building College Station, TX 77843-1126 TAMU Mail Stop 1126 dof@tamu.edu 979-845-4274	Dr. Anna Satterfield Human Resources Policy & Practice Review 750 Agronomy Road College Station, TX 77843-1255 Mail Stop 1255 hrpolicy@tamu.edu 979-862-3331

Individuals may make inquiries or file a Title IX complaint by contacting the University's Interim Title IX Coordinator, Margaret (Peggy) Zapalac, at, TitleIX.Coordinator@tamu.edu, 979-845-0977, or visiting the Title IX Office at 750 Agronomy Road, Suite 2101, College Station, TX 77843-1250.

Reporting to a Federal Agency

The United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is a federal agency responsible for enforcing Title IX. Information regarding filing a complaint with OCR can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html?src=r>

RETALIATION

The university will take reasonable action to protect the complainant/survivor, the alleged offender, and those providing witness statements on behalf of either party or supporting either party from retaliation. Additionally, those individuals are encouraged to report to designated officials any acts of retaliation from other parties associated with the incident. This action may come at any time during or following an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint. Instances of retaliation will be investigated and may result in further conduct charges. Individuals are reminded that should there be fear of physical safety a report should be made to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

CONDUCT PROCEEDINGS AND POSSIBLE SANCTIONS

Purpose of the University Investigation

An investigation is a process to collect information regarding a reported incident. An investigation is conducted in order to determine whether additional action may need to be taken. The investigation also provides an opportunity for the complainant(s) and accused individuals to give their perspectives on the situation under investigation. Once an investigation is conducted, it is routed to the appropriate university officials for review.

Role of an Advisor

An advisor in the context of a university complaint relating to the topics referenced above is an individual who lends support to an individual through the process. An advisor may be anyone that the individual chooses to serve in that role.

Applicable Rules

For more information regarding the filing and processing of a sexual harassment and/or sexual misconduct report **for students**, please visit:

- Student Rule 47. <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule47> for specific information about the investigation and resolution of sexual harassment complaints
- Student Rule 26. <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule26> for specific information about the student conduct process, including the role of an advisor
- Student Rule 27. <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule27> for specific information about possible sanctions resulting from a student conduct proceeding

For more information regarding the filing and processing of a sexual harassment and/or sexual misconduct report **for employees**, please visit:

- [University Standard Administrative Procedure 08.01.01.M1.01](#) – if the accused is a non-faculty employee or unrelated third party
- [University Standard Administrative Procedure 08.01.01.M1.02](#) – if the accused is a faculty member

COUNSELING AND OTHER SUPPORT RESOURCES

Counseling, health, mental health, advocacy, legal and other services are available for survivors both on-campus and in the community. Below is a brief list of available resources.

Counseling

Name	Phone	Address	Website
Employee Assistance Program (Staff and Faculty)	979-845-3711	3608 E. 29 th Street Suite 101 Bryan, Texas	employees.tamu.edu/eap

Student Counseling Service (only available to students)	979-845-4427	White Creek, Texas A&M Campus	scs.tamu.edu
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Medical and Health Services

Name	Phone	Address	Website
Student Health Services (only available to students)	979-458-8250	A.P. Beutel Health Center, Texas A&M Campus	shs.tamu.edu
College Station Medical Center	979-764-5100	1604 Rock Prairie Road, College Station, TX	csmedcenter.com
Scott & White Hospital	979-207-0100	700 Scott & White Drive, College Station, TX	sw.org/location/college-station-hospital
St. Joseph Hospital	979-776-3777	2801 Franciscan Drive, Bryan, TX	st-joseph.org

Support, Advocacy, and Other Resources

Name	Phone	Address	Website
Employee Assistance Program	979-845-3711	3608 E. 29 th Street Suite 101 Bryan, Texas	employees.tamu.edu/eap
Student Assistance Services	979-845-3113		sas.tamu.edu
Women's Resource Center	979-845-8784	White Creek, Texas A&M Campus	wrc.tamu.edu
GLBT Resource Center	979-862-8920	Bizzell, Texas A&M Campus	studentlife.tamu.edu/glbtc
National Sexual Assault Hotline	1-800-656-HOPE		
Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC)	979-731-1000		sarcbv.org
Domestic Violence Services, Twin City Mission	979-775-5355		twincitymission.org/phoebeshome.shtml
The National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-7233 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)		thehotline.org
Student Counseling Service HelpLine (afterhours)	979-845-2700		scs.tamu.edu
Student Legal Services	979-862-4502		studentlife.tamu.edu/sls
International Student Services (visa & immigration assist.)	979-845-1824		iss.tamu.edu
University Police Department – Victim Services	979-458-9767	1111 Research Pkwy, Texas A&M Campus	upd.tamu.edu/Pages/VictimsAdvocate.aspx
Student Financial Aid	979-845-3236	2nd Floor, Pavilion, Texas A&M Campus	financialaid.tamu.edu/
Bryan Police Department Victim's Assistance	979-209-5312	301 South Texas Avenue, Bryan, TX	
College Station Police Victim Advocacy & Assistance Program	979-764-5004	2611 Texas Avenue South, College Station, TX	www.cstx.gov/index.aspx?page=2222
Brazos County Family Violence Unit	979-361-4300	300 East 26th Street, Suite 105, Bryan, TX	brazoscountytexas.gov/index.aspx?NID=112
Twin City Mission Domestic Violence Services	979-775-5355	2505 South College Avenue, Bryan, TX	www.twincitymission.org/phoebeshome.shtml

STUDENT RULES DEFINITIONS

Sexual Harassment (Student Rule 47) Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitutes actionable sexual harassment when this conduct is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work or educational performance, or creates an intimidating or hostile work or educational environment. The University will use a reasonable person standard to determine these elements.

Sexual harassment occurs when a person is the recipient of conduct of a sexual nature where:

- Submission to or toleration of such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's education (including co-curricular activities) or employment;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic, co-curricular, or employment decisions affecting the individual's welfare; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's welfare, academic or work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, offensive or demeaning education (including co-curricular activities) or work environment.

Sexual harassment also includes sexual misconduct (non-consensual sexual intercourse and non-consensual sexual contact), sexual exploitation, and dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking when based on sex.

Sexual Abuse (Student Rule 24.4.20.1) Sexual abuse is the oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by a sexual organ of another, use of another's sexual organ for oral, anal, or vaginal penetration, or anal/vaginal penetration by any means against the victim's will or without his/her consent (see "consent" in definitions). An individual who is mentally incapacitated, unconscious, or unaware that the sexual abuse is occurring is considered unable to give consent. The type of force employed may involve physical force, coercion, intentional impairment of an individual's ability to appraise the situation through the administering of any substance, or threat of harm to the victim.

Sexual Contact (Student Rule 24.4.20.2) Attempting or making sexual contact, including but not limited to inappropriate touching or fondling, without the person's consent (see "consent" in definitions), or in circumstances where the person is physically, mentally or legally unable to give consent.

Sexual Exploitation (Student Rule 24.4.20.3) Taking non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for one's own advantage or benefit, or to the benefit or advantage of anyone other than the one being exploited.

Stalking (Student Rule 24.4.2.3) Any repeated conduct directed specifically at another person that would cause a reasonable person similarly situated (or a member of that person's family or household) to fear his/her safety. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, following another person and acts that threaten or intimidate another person through fear of bodily injury or death of self or members of that person's family or household or an offense being committed against that person's property.

Dating Violence (Student Rule 24.1.7) Any physical abuse or sexual misconduct committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the complainant.

Domestic Violence (Student Rule 24.1.8) Any physical abuse or sexual misconduct committed by a person who is or has been a current or former spouse of the complainant, person with whom the complainant shares a child in common, person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the complainant as a spouse, a person similarly situated to a spouse of the complainant, or any other person against an adult or youth complainant who is a part of that person's household.

Consent (Student Rule 24.1.6) The term "consent," solely for the purposes of the Sexual Misconduct policy (see *rule* 24.4.20), means clear, voluntary, and positive verbal or non-verbal communication that all participants have agreed to the sexual activity.

- *Consent* must occur prior to or at the same time as the sexual activity.
- *Consent* must remain clear, voluntary, and positive throughout the sexual activity.
- *Consent* must be given for the current sexual contact. The existence of a prior relationship or prior sexual activity does not automatically ensure consent for current or future sexual contact. There must be *consent* for each specific type of sexual contact throughout the sexual activity. *Consent* must be given by each participant involved.
- A person must be 17 years of age or older to be able to *consent* to sexual activity if the other participant(s) involved are more than three (3) years of age older than that person.
- A person who is clearly or visibly incapacitated is not able to give consent to sexual activity.

