

# Ohio University Guide to Assist Students Who Report Sexual Misconduct



## If a student discloses sexual misconduct to you:

### STEP ONE: CARE

- Care for the student
- Ensure they are safe
- Provide non-judgmental support
- Do not ask for specific details of the incident – allow the student to decide how much to disclose to you
- Explain to the student your duty to report

### STEP TWO: CONNECT

- Connect student with resources listed in this folder

### STEP THREE: CONTACT

- University Equity and Civil Rights Compliance  
740-593-9140  
Lindley Hall 006  
Ask for the Title IX Investigator  
Email: [equity@ohio.edu](mailto:equity@ohio.edu) or [titleix@ohio.edu](mailto:titleix@ohio.edu)  
Website: [www.ohio.edu/equity-civil-rights](http://www.ohio.edu/equity-civil-rights)

### Policy 03.004, Sexual Misconduct, Relationship Violence and Stalking ([www.ohio.edu/policy/03-004.html](http://www.ohio.edu/policy/03-004.html))

- Sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual misconduct, and stalking, are impediments for Ohio University students and staff to have equal opportunities for accessing education or employment. Therefore sexual misconduct in any form is a Title IX civil rights issue.

**Per policy 03.004, immediately upon learning of potential campus sexual misconduct, any employee with a duty to report violations of this policy who receives a complaint of sexual misconduct or who observes or learns of conduct that is reasonably believed to be in violation of this policy, is required to report the alleged conduct to the Office for University Equity and Civil Rights Compliance (ECRC).**

- All employees have a duty to report unless otherwise specified through professional licensure (example: physicians or mental health providers who are serving in that capacity). The name of the alleged perpetrator is not needed to make this report if the student does not give it to you. However, if the student does reveal this information, you must note it in your report to University Equity and Civil Rights Compliance.

## Confidentiality

### Request for Confidentiality

Students may request that their name not be used as part of any investigation that the university may initiate. Requests for confidentiality must be made directly by the student to Equity and Civil Rights Compliance (ECRC). Referring parties may share that a student wishes to request confidentiality, but it will not be considered a formal request until made by the student to ECRC.

Therefore, referring parties are to provide ECRC with the student's name. Students requesting confidentiality need to be aware that the inability to use a student's name can significantly impede the university's ability to conduct an investigation and, in most cases, the university will be unable to investigate the matter or resolve it through the student conduct process. Additionally, confidentiality can also impact the corrective measures the university is able to put in place.

For example, a no-contact directive could not be issued if the student's name cannot be shared.

### Request for Confidentiality Review

Requests for confidentiality will be reviewed jointly by University Equity and Civil Rights Compliance (ECRC) and Community Standards and Student Responsibility (CSSR). Some of the reasons a request for confidentiality may be denied include, but are not limited to:

- The reported use of force and/or a weapon during the commission of an alleged violation of sexual misconduct, relationship violence, or stalking;
- Significant physical injury resulting from an alleged violation of sexual misconduct, relationship violence, or stalking; or
- Prior allegations (substantiated or not) of sexual misconduct, relationship violence, or stalking made against the alleged perpetrator.
- The involvement of multiple respondents in the commission of an alleged violation of sexual misconduct, relationship violence, or stalking.

***Requesting confidentiality does not relinquish a survivor's ability to avail themselves of support resources.***

## Support Resources

### Ohio University Resources

#### Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS)\*

740-593-1616

3rd Floor Hudson Health Center

[www.ohio.edu/counseling](http://www.ohio.edu/counseling)

[counseling.services@ohio.edu](mailto:counseling.services@ohio.edu)

CPS provides professional and confidential counseling to students. Drop-in hours 9:45am-3:15pm, M-F. To access counselors who are on-call 24 hours a day, call 740-593-1616. Counseling services are available to friends and survivors, and consultation services are available to faculty and staff. A Sexual Assault Survivors Group for Women is available by referral.

#### Campus Care\*

740-593-1660

1st Floor Hudson Health Center

[www.oucom.ohiou.edu/campuscare/services](http://www.oucom.ohiou.edu/campuscare/services)

Campus Care will assist with referrals and resources; transportation to O'Bleness Memorial Hospital for SAFE exam (Campus Care does not collect rape kits); STD testing & treatment, HIV testing, and emergency contraception.

#### Survivor Advocacy Program\*

740-597-7233 (24/7 Line)

Lindley Hall 034, 038

[www.ohio.edu/survivor](http://www.ohio.edu/survivor)

[survivor.advocacy@ohio.edu](mailto:survivor.advocacy@ohio.edu)

The Survivor Advocacy Program (SAP) serves victims and survivors of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking through confidential advocacy services, education, and resources. SAP offers the following services:

- A 24-hour crisis line 7 days a week
- In-person advocacy (drop-in or by appointment)
- Information on all possible reporting options (University and legal)
- Support in navigating medical, judicial, and legal processes
- Hospital and follow-up medical advocacy accompaniment
- Assistance in arranging safe transportation to/from the hospital for a sexual assault examination
- Law enforcement advocacy/accompaniment
- Aid in accommodating housing options, academic needs, and protection orders
- Legal advocacy and court accompaniment
- Support for friends and family of sexual assault survivors
- Community information and resource referrals
- Confidentiality
- Awareness raising events and outreach campaigns

#### \*Confidential resource:

***Confidential resources are not required to report specific incidents to University Equity and Civil Rights Compliance or any other investigating body and may not disclose any information without the permission of the student.***



### **University Equity and Civil Rights Compliance (ECRC)**

Title IX Coordinator  
740-593-9140  
Lindley Hall 006  
[www.ohio.edu/equity-civil-rights/](http://www.ohio.edu/equity-civil-rights/)  
[equity@ohio.edu](mailto:equity@ohio.edu) or [titleix@ohio.edu](mailto:titleix@ohio.edu)

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for monitoring and overseeing the University's compliance with all Title IX obligations, including the coordination of training, education, and the administration of grievance procedures providing for the prompt, fair, and equitable resolution of complaint involving faculty, staff, students, and other members of the university community.

### **Ohio University Police Department**

740-593-1911  
88 University Terrace  
135 Scott Quad  
[www.ohio.edu/police](http://www.ohio.edu/police)  
[police@ohio.edu](mailto:police@ohio.edu)

The Ohio University Police Department investigates allegations of sexual misconduct that occur on campus and constitute violations of criminal law. Officers are trained in crisis intervention and sexual assault investigation, and will work to ensure the well-being of the survivor to include assisting them to access health care and support services.

### **Office of Community Standards and Student Responsibility (CSSR)**

740-593-2629  
349 Baker University Center  
[www.ohio.edu/communitystandards](http://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards)  
[communitystandards@ohio.edu](mailto:communitystandards@ohio.edu)

Community Standards, along with University Equity and Civil Rights Compliance (ECRC), investigates and resolves allegations of sexual misconduct, stalking, and relationship violence. They also serve as a resource to the campus community in explaining the investigation and resolution process. The staff strive to provide a thorough, timely, and equitable process for all parties involved.

### **Office of the Dean of Students**

740-593-1800  
345 Baker University Center  
[www.ohio.edu/deanofstudents](http://www.ohio.edu/deanofstudents)  
[deanstu@ohio.edu](mailto:deanstu@ohio.edu)

Staff in the Office of the Dean of Students can help connect survivors of sexual violence with the resources on campus and in the Athens community.

### **LGBT Center**

740-593-0239  
354 Baker University Center  
[www.ohio.edu/lgbt](http://www.ohio.edu/lgbt)  
[lgbt@ohio.edu](mailto:lgbt@ohio.edu)

Staff in the LGBT Center can help connect survivors of sexual violence with LGBT-affirming resources on campus and in the Athens community. The center is also committed to providing education on the unique needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender survivors as well as advocating for these needs on and off campus.

## **Athens Community Resources**

### **Athens County Victims Assistance**

740-592-3208  
Athens County Court House  
1 South Court Street, 1st Floor  
[www.athenscountyprosecutor.org/victim-assistance](http://www.athenscountyprosecutor.org/victim-assistance)

Advocates can answer questions about your rights, obtaining protection orders, or any other concerns related to the criminal justice process.

### **Athens Police Department**

740-593-6606  
or call 911 for emergency  
11 North College Street

A crisis intervention officer will respond. The Violence Against Women Unit with a special investigator and social worker can provide confidential victim services.

### **Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO)**

614-294-7867  
[www.bravo-ohio.org](http://www.bravo-ohio.org)

Offers a support group for LGBT survivors of dating/ domestic violence.

### **Center for Student Legal Services**

740-594-8093  
50 S. Court Street, Suite D  
[www.studentlegalrights.org](http://www.studentlegalrights.org)

Call or visit website for a list of services.

### **My Sister's Place\***

1-800-443-3402 (24/7 Line)  
[www.mspathens.org](http://www.mspathens.org)  
[mspathens@gmail.com](mailto:mspathens@gmail.com)

Shelter and social services for survivors of domestic/dating violence.

### **O'Bleness Memorial Hospital\***

740-593-5551 (24/7 Line)  
55 Hospital Drive

Sexual Assault Forensic Nurse Examiner (SAFE) present 24/7 to provide medical attention and collect evidence.

### **Hopewell Health Centers\***

90 Hospital Drive  
740-592-3091  
1-888-475-8484 (24/7 Crisis Line)

Counseling is available for those who receive or are eligible for Medicaid or Medicare. Private insurance and self-pay are also acceptable.

*\*Confidential resource: Confidential resources are not required to report specific incidents to University Equity and Civil Rights Compliance or any other investigating body and may not disclose any information without the permission of the student.*

## What are the signs that a student may have experienced sexual misconduct?

When sexual misconduct occurs, the aftermath can be devastating to the survivor both in and out of the classroom. Survivors may experience anxiety and fear, difficulty in relationships, and/or a drop in academic performance – some may withdraw, transfer or drop out of school. Additionally, there may be:

- Shock and disbelief
- A feeling of “Why me?”
- Guilt
- Denial
- Flashbacks/nightmares
- Acute distress/severe anxiety
- Confusion
- Multiple fears (of death, rapist, other situations)
- Depression (helplessness/hopelessness)
- Anger
- Loss of self-esteem
- Thoughts of suicide
- Dysfunctional behaviors (binge drinking, hypersexuality, disordered eating, isolating, etc.)

**Please note:** *Not all students experience these signs or symptoms, and some may occur because of other issues.*

## How do you help a survivor of sexual misconduct?

**Listen sensitively and carefully.** Distressed students need to be heard and helped, but they may have difficulty articulating their feelings. Don’t be afraid to ask them if they are currently under the influence of drugs or alcohol, feel confused, or have thoughts of harming themselves or others.

**Avoid escalation.** Distressed students can be sensitive and easily provoked. Use a non-confrontational approach and avoid threatening, humiliating, or intimidating responses. Help them connect with the necessary campus resources for assistance.

**Help them get help.** Refer the student to campus departments or offices that have the expertise and personnel to help them.

**Work as a team.** Share information and consult with the appropriate university officials to coordinate care and follow-up for the student. Violent, threatening or persistent inappropriate behaviors should always be reported to the Ohio University Police Department and the Office of Community Standards and Student Responsibility.

## If a survivor of sexual misconduct turns to you for support:

**Don’t be afraid to ask for some help:** The Survivor Advocacy Program or the Office of the Dean of Students can put you in touch with a survivor advocate who can offer support and make referrals based on the student’s needs.

**Believe the survivor:** It’s not your role to question whether the misconduct occurred.

**Never blame the survivor:** No one deserves to be a victim of sexual misconduct no matter what the circumstances. Even if the survivor feels responsible, say clearly “it wasn’t your fault.”

**Help the survivor explore options:** Give the survivor the freedom to choose their own course of action or path of recovery, even if you would do it differently.

**Avoid any re-victimization:** Do not treat survivors as incapable of taking care of themselves. Don’t assume control without permission or judge how the survivor handled the situation. Don’t ask questions just out of curiosity. Do NOT make excuses for the perpetrator’s actions.

**Reporting Process: As an employee of Ohio University, you have a duty to report sexual misconduct.**

- Gather all the details you have about the incident and the involved parties.
  - Call ECRC at 740-593-9140 and state that you wish to make a sexual misconduct report. You will be asked for the details over the phone.
  - OR email the Title IX Coordinator at TitleIX@ohio.edu or equity@ohio.edu. Please state that you wish to make a sexual misconduct report, and inform us if it involves students. Provide a phone number and a time frame where you can be reached. You will receive a return call and you will be asked for the details in that conversation.
  - OR fill out the online reporting form here: [www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/report.cfm](http://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/report.cfm) or click on the “Report Sexual Misconduct” tab at [www.ohio.edu/equity-civil-rights/index.cfm](http://www.ohio.edu/equity-civil-rights/index.cfm)
- You do NOT have to make the call while the student is present.
- University Equity and Civil Rights Compliance (ECRC) will contact the student shortly after obtaining the details and schedule a meeting with the student. Investigators will be present from ECRC and CSSR during this meeting.
- Generally investigators will explain the university sexual misconduct resolution process and ask for a detailed account of the incident.
- For further details of the investigation process, please refer to CSSR website: [www.ohio.edu/communitystandards](http://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards) or ECRC website at <https://www.ohio.edu/equity-civil-rights/index.cfm>