

Respondent Support: A Guide for Students Accused of Sexual Violence

2018-2019

THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA



This brochure is designed as a resource guide for the Catholic University community and is not meant to address all of the University's policies related to sexual violence. To read the full policies and more detailed information, please visit: deanofsudents.catholic.edu

Being accused of sexual assault, dating violence, or sexual harassment can be a stressful experience. Catholic University offers resources to provide you with support and answer your questions through the process.

You will notice that if you are accused of sexual violence, you are referred to as the "respondent." Under Title IX, the respondent and the complainant both have the right to a fair and equitable adjudication process. This guide is part of our commitment to supporting all students and treating both parties with respect and dignity.

Support Options

Catholic University offers a variety of resources for students, all of which are committed to listening to you, supporting you, and providing you with information and answers to your questions.

Confidential Resources

(Information cannot be shared without your permission.)

- **Counseling Center:** 202-319-5765
- **Student Health Services:** 202-319-5744
Physicians and licensed medical professionals
- **Campus Ministry:** 202-319-5575
Priests, acting in their professional capacity of giving spiritual advice

Non-Confidential Resources

(Information will be shared only with University resources who need to know so as to assist you in accessing services.)

- **Residence Life Staff**
RAs and Community Directors
- **Dean of Students Staff:** 202-319-5619
- **Campus Ministry:** 202-319-5575
Lay Pastoral Staff and Student Ministers
- **Title IX Coordinator:** 202-319-4177

These individuals are responsible employees and are required to report if you share details with them.

For more information about privacy and confidentiality, visit the Grievance Procedures located on the dean of students' website at deanofstudents.catholic.edu.

Possible Next Steps

Orders of No Contact

- An order of no contact is a university administrative action that the Office of the Dean of Students issues to direct two or more students to refrain from contact (in person, via phone, text, email, social media, or through friends or other third parties). No contact orders are always provided to both (or all) students equally. Violations of this “no contact” order will be taken very seriously and appropriately addressed.
- If you have received an order of no contact, do not discuss the situation with mutual friends. Seek out confidential supports as needed.

Seeking Medical and/or Mental Health Support

We understand you may be concerned about your physical or mental health. The following are confidential resources to assist you:

- **Student Health Services:** 202-319-5744
- **Counseling Center:** 202-319-5765

Investigation

If a complaint has been filed, an investigation is conducted by the University. The following are tips to assist you as you participate in the investigation:

- Remember or write down as many details as possible to assist you in articulating your experience with the investigator.
- Compile a list of possible witnesses who can speak to what occurred as well as lend credibility to your statement.
- You may have a support person or parent/guardian present.

What can you expect when a complaint is filed?

- The University will offer support to both the complainant and the respondent.
- The University will complete an investigation and DPS will submit an investigative report to the Dean of Students.
- If the Dean of Students refers the case to the University disciplinary process, you will have the opportunity to meet with a Student Conduct staff member who will walk you through the hearing process, discuss options, and answer any questions you may have.
- A Dean of Students staff member is available to offer support and help you navigate this process.

For more information, visit the Grievance Procedures located on the dean of students' website at deanofstudents.catholic.edu.

Continued Support Options

- The Office of the Dean of Students can help connect you to appropriate resources on and off campus. Dean of Students staff can also support you with academic support, getting connected to the Counseling Center or the Office of Campus Ministry for pastoral support.
- The University's Title IX Coordinator can assist you in answering questions about the Title IX process as well as questions about your rights and responsibilities.

How to Help a Friend Accused of Sexual Violence

If a friend shares that they have been accused, consider the following ways of showing support:

- Hear your friend's perspective.
- Acknowledge your friend's feelings about the situation.
- Be honest about how much support you can provide.
- Refer your friend to resources, including the Counseling Center and /or the Title IX Coordinator, the Office of the Dean of Students, or the Office of Campus Ministry.
- Seek counseling if needed. It can be difficult supporting a friend.

Avoid:

- Telling your friend what to do.
- Blaming your friend or the person who made the report or filed the complaint.
- Making contact with the complainant as this could be viewed as retaliation.
- Breaking your friend's trust and talking with others about what may have happened unless asked to do so in the context of an investigation.

Resources

Counseling Center

counseling.catholic.edu
202-319-5765

Campus Ministry

ministry.catholic.edu
202-319-5575

Office of the Dean of Students

deanofstudents.catholic.edu
202-319-5619

Department of Public Safety

publicsafety.catholic.edu
202-319-5111

Student Health Services

health.catholic.edu
202-319-5744

Title IX Coordinator

title9.catholic.edu
202-319-4177

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For more information or to request additional copies, please call the Office of the Dean of Students at The Catholic University of America at 202-319-5619.

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