



# What To Do About Sexual Violence

# Understanding the Law

## Title IX

The HSC is committed to deterring gender-based discrimination and creating a safe and welcoming campus for everyone. Sexual harassment is an umbrella term that encompasses acts of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking based on sex. Sexual harassment is a form of gender-based discrimination prohibited by Title IX. In accordance with Title IX, HSC does not discriminate on the basis of sex within educational programs and activities. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment/sexual violence, you are encouraged to reach out to your Title IX coordinator or the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights at [ocr@ed.gov](mailto:ocr@ed.gov) or **(800) 421-3481**.

## Our Title IX Coordinator is responsible for:

- Overseeing all Title IX complaints and investigations to provide timely, impartial, and equitable resolutions
- Identifying and addressing any patterns or systemic problems that may arise
- Being available to answer questions, provide support, and meet with students
- Collaborating with other campus officials
- Coordinating training, education, and communication in regards to Title IX
- Not assuming roles or job responsibilities that may create a conflict of interest
- Being available to assist university law enforcement regarding how to appropriately respond to reports of sexual violence
- Ensuring that our institution upholds Title IX regulations and responsibilities

## Title IX Complaints and Criminal Investigations

If a case of sexual violence arises, HSC will promptly and impartially begin a Title IX investigation, take appropriate steps towards resolution, and prevent the recurrence of any sexual violence or retaliation. Title IX investigations are separate from law enforcement investigations. Complainants have the right to file a police report. Our Title IX coordinator can help you decide the best plan of action.

*If you need information provided in other accessible formats or accommodations to access any of our services, please contact the Division of Student Affairs at **817-735-2505** and they will be provided upon request.*



**“No persons in the United States shall on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”**

–Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972



## Education, Awareness Programming, and Training

### Education

**Title IX for Graduate Students:** The Health Science Center promotes student health and safety through the use of Bridge Learning Management System, a mandatory program for all new incoming students. It educates students about the elements of healthy relationships, being a good communicator, understanding and reporting sexual assault, the importance of sexual consent, and the role of bystanders in creating safe, healthy communities.

### Awareness Programming

- Stalking Awareness Month (January)
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April)
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October)

### **Active Shooter Training:**

- Hide Out/Get Out/Take Out
- How to respond when law enforcement arrives
- Active shooter information

### **Managing Disruptive Personalities in the Classroom:**

- Who is a disruptive individual?
- Things to avoid when dealing with disruptive individuals
- Special tactics to follow when dealing with disruptive individuals
- Active shooter information
- What actions should you take when confronted by a disruptive individual?
- Communication with law enforcement
- Creating a mental description of a disruptive individual
- Communicating with a disruptive individual

### **Campus Safety and Personal Awareness:**

- Campus orientations
- Emergency phones
- Less lethal options
- Limitations
- Parking lot safety
- Misconceptions
- Holiday travel
- Bike safety

### **Stalking Awareness:**

- What is stalking, examples of stalking, and stalker behaviors
- What to do if you are the victim of stalking
- What information is important for law enforcement to have in a stalking case

## Reporting

Students are strongly encouraged to report all crimes. Anonymous reporting is available. Reporting can help protect the complainant's safety; ensure the individual receives proper medical care, support services, and information regarding options and rights; and prevent future assaults by the respondent. You can expect a prompt, fair, and impartial investigation of your complaint. We will communicate with you throughout the process, to keep you in control of the situation and feeling as safe as possible.

### **The Division of Student Affairs**

#### **Kory Levingston, Title IX Coordinator**

Student Service Center, 153

817-735-2594 • [kory.levingston@unthsc.edu](mailto:kory.levingston@unthsc.edu)

You may contact the Title IX Coordinator who may begin an investigation upon receipt of a complaint. If the respondent was a student, investigation of possible violations of the Student Code of Conduct and Discipline could result in disciplinary sanctions up to expelling a student from the university. The Title IX Coordinator may also be able to immediately remove another student from the university if the student puts the university community at immediate risk. The Title IX Coordinator may also be able to assist with changes in academic arrangements if reasonable accommodations are available. The Title IX Coordinator will assume responsibility for your ongoing opportunities to take full advantage of your educational program. The Title IX Coordinator can also assist with the following:

- Filing a complaint with the university conduct process and the appropriate law enforcement agencies against the student(s) who caused harm.
- Obtaining a no contact directive between the impacted party and the accused, which would prohibit contact between both parties through any means of communication. It also prohibits others from making contact on their behalf.
- Filing for an Emergence Protective Order with the District Attorney’s Office. This is a court-ordered petition that prohibits contact between the complainant and the respondent.
- Coordinate any reasonable arrangements that are necessary for ongoing safety
- Assist in adjusting academic schedules, providing access to academic support services, and advocating on the complainant’s behalf

### **HSC Police Department**

[3600 Mattison Avenue/ 817-735-2600](#)

You may file a police report with campus police for incidents occurring on campus or with local police for sexual assaults occurring off campus. When making a report to police, you may choose to report using a pseudonym so your name will not appear in public files.



## Support for Complainants

If you or someone you know experiences sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, The HSC is here to fully support you. A complainant of sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking will have a wide range of emotions following an incident. It is important to utilize available resources or refer complainants to receive necessary care and begin to process the events. Below are recommendations for complainants.

- Get to a safe place immediately. Call 911 (off campus) or HSC Police at 817-735-2600 (on campus), if you are in immediate danger.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible. Visit the Student Health Clinic, or go to a local hospital's emergency department for injuries, or if sexual assault occurs, for pregnancy prevention or STD testing.
- Contact a hotline for safety planning. A safety plan is not a safety guarantee, but it can help. The National Domestic Violence Hotline is **1-800-799-7233**.
- Seek free, confidential counseling through the Student Assistance Program. Call My SSP at **866-743-7732**. Help is available for the person assaulted and for HSC students helping the complainant of sexual assault. Other free local counseling resources are available too.
- Keep all evidence and report them to law enforcement and campus authorities. This includes proof of every incident and emails, social media posts, notes, phone, and text messages.
- Utilize campus resources. The Division of Student Affairs may be able to assist with changes in academic arrangements if reasonable accommodations are available.



## **How You Can Support a Complainant**

**Say something - lend a listening ear**

**Guide complainants to campus and community resources**

**Never judge complainants**

**Remind complainants their feelings are normal**

**Validate complainants in their feelings**

**Focus on their strengths**

**Find your own support**

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE. WE ARE HERE TO HELP.**

*Those accused of sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking can also find support through counseling and other services. Please ask if you're unsure where to find the support you need.*

## Bystander Intervention

Bystanders can intervene before or while an act of sexual or relationship violence takes place. Bystanders have the power to simply and safely change the outcome of such situations. Below are some ways you can intervene.

- Provide a distraction which disturbs an interaction
- Directly engage one or more of the people involved
- Get police or other authorities involved
- Tell someone else and get help
- Ask someone in a potentially dangerous situation if they are okay and/or want to leave
- Ensure they get home safely
- Remind a possible perpetrator that incapacitated people can't give consent
- Help remove someone from the situation
- Provide options and a listening ear



## Being a Proactive Bystander

There are multiple actions you can take to help prevent sexual and relationship violence proactively too.

- Believe that sexual and relationship violence is unacceptable
- Actively advocate against sexual and relationship violence
- Treat all people with respect
- Speak up when you hear victim-blaming statements
- Speak with friends about how to confront sexual and relationship violence
- Encourage friends to trust their instincts in order to stay safe
- Be a knowledgeable resource for complainants
- Don't laugh at sexist jokes or comments
- Look out for friends at parties and bars
- Educate yourself and your friends
- Use and advertise campus resources to others
- Attend awareness events and actively engage
- Empower complainants to tell their stories

**DON'T JUST HOPE SOMEONE ELSE WILL  
STEP IN. YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO STOP A  
TERRIBLE, LIFE-ALTERING SITUATION.  
BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!**

## Risk Reduction

There are preventive measures you can take to reduce risk and protect yourself and others from incidents of dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking. Remember to NEVER blame yourself if an act of sexual or relationship violence occurs! The only person responsible in that situation is the perpetrator.

- Trust your instincts
- Don't worry about offending someone
- Make your boundaries known as early as possible
- Say "NO" clearly and confidently
- Notice when your boundaries **aren't** being respected
- Don't worry about offending someone
- Make your boundaries known as early as possible
- Emphasize your right to have your boundaries respected
- Be "situationally aware" of your surroundings and who is present
- **Don't** be afraid to seek help in situations where you feel unsafe
- Walk with others or in a group
- Take responsibility for your alcohol/other drug intake, and recognize these substances can lower your inhibitions, making you vulnerable to someone who views a drunk/high person as a sexual opportunity
- Keep doors and windows locked in your car and home
- Create a buddy system with your friends
- Encourage friends to challenge you, if you're about to make a poor decision

## Reducing the Risk of Being an Aggressor

Make sure you don't commit a crime of sexual or relationship violence.

- Listen to your partner – be aware of verbal and non-verbal cues
- Clearly communicate your intentions and ask for consent
- Only proceed with sexual activity if there is clear consent
- Respect your partner and their personal boundaries
- Watch your alcohol/other drug intake so decision-making isn't impaired
- Don't make assumptions about consent, sexual availability, attraction, or limits – communicate!
- Don't take advantage of someone who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs – they can't give consent
- Don't abuse any power advantage to intimidate or scare your partner





## **Protection and Prevention**

It is our university's priority to ensure students are protected from sexual and relationship violence. Helping you better understand how to protect yourself and others is a key campus concern. You should never have to contend with sexual or relationship violence – and we strictly prohibit these crimes.

The federal Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) put new obligations in place for colleges and universities under its Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) provision in 2014. These new regulations are designed, in part, to help prevent sexual assault while also raising awareness and providing support at every turn. Our campus community is committed to creating a safe environment for all students and this brochure offers tools to help make it happen.

## Definitions

Sexual assault is covered under VAWA. It is important to know what each one means. The following definitions are listed in the Health Science Center Student Code of Conduct and Discipline. complainants is safety and to address medical issues.

**Sexual Assault** is sexual contact or intercourse with a person without the person's consent, including sexual contact or intercourse against the person's will or in a circumstance in which the person is incapable of consenting to the contact or intercourse.

**Rape** is defined as the carnal knowledge of a person, without the consent of the complainant, including instances where the complainant is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the complainant.

**Sodomy** is defined as oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the complainant, including instances where the complainant is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

**Sexual Assault with an Object** is defined as to use an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the complainant, including instances where the complainant is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

**Fondling** is defined as the touching of the private parts of another person for the purposes of sexual gratification, without the consent of the complainant, including instances where the complainant is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

## Definitions (cont.)

**Incest** is defined as non-forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

**Statutory Rape** is defined as non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent

**Consent** means words or actions that show an active, knowing, or voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity. Crimes of sexual and relationship violence occur when consent is not given. You must always obtain consent. Before initiating sexual activity of any kind, ask for consent.

Failure to say “no” should never be assumed as a “yes.” You must obtain clear, voluntary consent, in the moment that is free of coercion, intimidation, force or threats.

If, at any time, you are unsure that consent has been given or withdrawn, do NOT proceed with any sexual activity. Consent for one act does not mean you can proceed with other acts – everyone has a right to change their mind. Also, prior consent does not constitute future consent.

Consent cannot be gained by force, coercion, manipulation, threats, or be taking advantage of the incapacitation of another when the individual knows or reasonably should know of such incapacity by use of alcohol or drugs.

Consent is absent when the activity in question exceeds the scope of previously given consent.

## Role of Alcohol

It is important to remember alcohol can impact an individual's ability to give consent and impair both the complainant's and respondent's judgement. A student who is assaulted under the influence of alcohol or drugs is encouraged to seek help and entitled to university and community assistance.



## Resources

There are a number of resources available on campus and in the community to support complainants of dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking. Complainants are encouraged to seek medical attention, counseling services, and report any incidence of dating or domestic violence and/or stalking. Seeking support is crucial.

### Medical Services

Going to a hospital immediately following the incident provides complainants with urgent care as well as an opportunity for valuable evidence collection. The primary concern for complainants is safety and to address medical issues.

#### **John Peter Smith Hospital**

1500 S. Main St. Fort Worth, Texas 76104  
817-702-3431

#### **Student Health Clinic (HSC Campus)**

3400 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth, Texas 76107  
817-735-5051

#### **Baylor Hospital**

1400 Eighth Ave. Fort Worth, Texas 76104  
817-926-2544

#### **Harris Methodist Hospital**

1301 Pennsylvania Ave. Fort Worth, TX 76104  
817-250-2000

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## **Counseling/Advocacy Services**

To submit a Care Team referral, use the person of concern form at [www.unthsc.edu/personofconcern](http://www.unthsc.edu/personofconcern).

### **My SSP through Morneau Shepell (24/7 immediate and ongoing counseling):**

1-866-743-7732

us.myissp.com

Or call or chat directly from the free My SSP app.

### **UNTHSC Care Team**

817-735-2740

CareTeam@unthsc.edu

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## **Local Police Departments**

If you wish to make a non-university related report, you may contact your local police department. Evidence collection aids a possible police investigation.

### **Dallas Police Department**

1400 S. Lamar St., Dallas, TX 75215

Non-Emergency: 214-671-3001

### **Fort Worth Police Department**

350 W. Belknap St., Fort Worth, TX 76102

Victim Assistance: 817-392-4390

### **Denton Police Department**

215 E. McKinney St., Denton, TX 76201

Non-Emergency: 940-349-8181

