

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, TX 76104
817-702-3431
- *Student Health Clinic (UNTHSC Campus)*
3400 Camp Bowie Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76107
817-735-5051
- *Baylor Hospital*
1400 Eighth Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76104
817-926-2544
- *Harris Methodist Hospital*
1301 Pennsylvania Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76104
817-250-2000

Counseling/Advocacy Services

- *Student Assistance Program*
866-640-4777
- *UNTHSC Care Team*
817-735-2740
CareTeam@unthsc.edu

To submit a Care Team referral, use the *person of concern form* at www.unthsc.edu/personofconcern.

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*
Non-Emergency: 214-671-3001
1400 S. Lamar St., Dallas, TX 7521
- *Fort Worth Police Department*
Victim Assistance: 817-392-4390
350 W. Belknap St., Fort Worth, TX 76102
- *Denton Police Department*
Non-Emergency: 940-349-8181
215 E. McKinney St., Denton, TX 76201

WHAT TO DO ABOUT DATING VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND STALKING

Protection and Prevention

It is UNTHSC's priority to ensure students are protected from dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking. Helping you better understand how to protect yourself and others is a key campus concern. You should *never* have to contend with dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking.

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, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, 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. Source: VAWA Final Regulations, Federal Register, 10/20/14

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.

Definitions

The following definitions are listed in the UNTHSC's Student Code of Conduct and Discipline.

Dating Violence: Abuse, violence, or threat of abuse or violence against a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the complainant; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Domestic Violence: A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the complainant; by a person with whom the complainant shares a child in common; by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with complainant as a spouse or intimate partner; by a person similarly situated to a spouse of a complaint under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred; or by any other person against an adult or youth complainant who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred.

Stalking: Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or to suffer substantial emotional distress.

Support for Complainants

If you or someone you know experiences dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, UNTHSC is here to *fully* support you. A complainant of 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 *UNTHSC 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 WellConnect at 866-640-4777. Help is available for the person assaulted and for UNTHSC 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.

Support for Respondents

Those accused of 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.

How You Can Support a Complainant

Say something - lend a listening ear
Guide complainants to campus and community resources
Refrain from judgment
Normalize and validate complainant's feelings
Focus on their strengths
Find your own support

You are not alone. We are here to help.

Resolving cases of dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking involves a fair, impartial campus disciplinary process. These proceedings will be held within a reasonably prompt timeframe. As part of this process, both the complainant and the respondent will have equal opportunities to have an advisor of their choice present. Both parties will also be given timely notice of meetings, plus timely, equal access to information that will be used during meetings and hearings.

Possible Outcomes

If the respondent is found responsible for violating university policy, sanctions will be assigned. Possible sanctions include: loss of privileges; disciplinary probation; suspension (cannot be enrolled at UNTHSC for a period of time); expulsion (cannot enroll at UNTHSC permanently); trespass from all or part of campus; and/or no contact orders. If there is not sufficient evidence to conclude the respondent violated university policy, then no sanctions are imposed.

Options to Appeal

If the respondent is sanctioned to disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion, then either party could ask the Committee on Student Conduct to review the decision. The investigators and the respondent must attend the Committee's review. Each party that attends the Committee review will present to the Committee, which includes any witnesses or questions from the Committee. The Committee will share its decision with all parties in writing.

Amnesty: See "Understanding the Conduct Process for Allegations of Sexual Misconduct."

Retaliation: Any action, treatment or condition likely to dissuade a reasonable person from reporting or causing to report or participating in an investigation of a suspected violation of this policy, from filing a criminal complaint, or from accessing services provided under this policy, including an action that affects an individual's educational or other relationship with UNTHSC or an employee's compensation, promotion, transfer, work assignment, or performance evaluation.

Retaliation against any person who reports or encourages another to report sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking or retaliation, who participates in an investigation conducted under this policy, or who seeks assistance or guidance from any university department or external official or organization authorized to remediate conduct prohibited under this policy is strictly prohibited.

Students, faculty, and staff 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: Dr. La'Cresha Moore, Title IX Coordinator
Student Service Center, Room 221/817-735-2781/LaCresha.Moore@unthsc.edu
Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm

You may contact the Title IX Coordinator who will 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.

UNTHSC 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.

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
- 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

Source: U. of California VAWA Training, Cal State, Long Beach, Office of Equity & Diversity

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

Source: Cal Poly Pomona's "Myths and Facts about Sexual Violence", Cal State, Long Beach, Office of Equity & Diversity