Responding to Student Disclosures

RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYEES

What constitutes a Disclosure?
In this context, Disclosure is when a Student shares information about Sexual Assault (SA), Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), and/or Stalking (S), regardless of whether the incident or experience happened recently, previously, or is ongoing.

Am I a Responsible Employee?
The vast majority of UConn Employees—including but not limited to: Faculty, Staff, Graduate Assistants, and Undergraduate Resident Assistants—are designated Responsible Employees. Exceptions are limited to: Confidential Employees (i.e. medical care and mental health providers) and Exempt Employees (i.e. cultural center staff, professional staff in the Office for Diversity and Inclusion, and Ombuds).

What is required of Responsible Employees?
Responsible Employees are required to share all known details of a disclosure with the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) upon receipt, as per the steps below. While the few exceptions to this requirement include disclosures at: public awareness events; during a Student’s participation as a subject in IRB research; or as part of coursework submitted to an instructor, all University employees are urged to exercise sound judgment in directing students to support services.

Why have I been designated a Responsible Employee?
The University has designated Responsible Employees to serve in positions whereby they ensure that impacted Students receive timely and accurate information about support resources and reporting options, should they wish to pursue those avenues. Responsible Employee reporting helps inform the University of the incidents affecting our students on and off campus so the University can track patterns, respond to trends, and formulate appropriate campus-wide responses with the goal of making the campus a more safe, equitable, and inclusive environment.

Response Steps and Tips

STEP 1: CARE
- Practice empathetic listening
- Let the Student disclosing set the pace and tone of the conversation
- Withhold judgment
- Avoid questions or statements that imply fault or blame
- Stay aware of your biases and assumptions
- Pay attention to the Student’s verbal and non-verbal cues

STEP 2: INFORM
- Remind the Student of your reporting responsibilities at an appropriate time
- Explain the purpose of your reporting responsibility
- Inform the Student that they may receive outreach from a University administrator regarding resources and reporting options, and it is their choice to respond

STEP 3: CONTACT
- Promptly notify OIE
  - Email: equity@uconn.edu
  - Online form: https://equity.uconn.edu/reporting-form/
  - Phone: 860-486-2943
- Be prepared to share all details known to you, including:
  - names
  - dates
  - location

What to Consider Saying
- “Thank you for sharing this with me.”
- “I’m sorry you are going through such a difficult time.”
- “I care about you and your experience.”
- “How can I best support you?”
- “Are you feeling (emotionally and physically) safe?”
- “I have a responsibility to notify OIE. This information sharing is meant to ensure that you will receive the appropriate level of assistance, support, and/or University resources, should you wish” (i.e. the purpose of your reporting responsibility)

What to Avoid Saying
- Commands or questions that demand or pry for more information than the Student readily reveals (e.g. “Tell me every detail from beginning to end.”)
- Questions or statements that imply fault (e.g. “Why/how did you let this happen?”)
- Questions that invalidate the Student’s experience (e.g. “Are you sure you’re remembering everything correctly?”)
- Statements that promise outcomes that are outside of your control (e.g. “There’s no way he/she/they won’t get expelled.”)
- Directive statements that include the word ‘should’ (e.g. “You should tell your parents” or “You should definitely report to the police.”)

What Happens Next
Following receipt of a report, the student will be offered supportive measures (e.g. housing and classroom modifications) and connected with support resources. It is the student’s choice to respond or engage with those resources. OIE and/or the Office of Community Standards will determine the appropriate investigatory action based on the wishes of the student, level of detail provided, and if there is any risk to individual or community safety. Students do not need to pursue an investigation to receive supportive measures from the University.
Counseling, Support, and Advocacy

Avery Point Mental Health Resource Center
Branford House, Room 315
860.405.9044
- Exempt Employees provide information about resources, supportive measures, and how to report should you so choose. Nothing you disclose will be shared with the University without your express permission, except in rare circumstances (i.e. minor involved or imminent safety concern)

Office of Student Services
Director – Noemi Maldonado Picardi
Branford House, Room 306
860.405.9024
noemi.maldonado@uconn.edu
- Facilitates implementation of supportive measures, including modifications to class schedules, rescheduling exams, housing reassignment, on-campus work schedules, leaves of absence, and more

Cultural Centers (CC) and Office for Diversity and Inclusion (ODI)
Student Union, 4th Floor, Storrs Campus
- Culturally-responsive care

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Statewide Hotline: 1.888.999.5545
Spanish Hotline: 1.888.568.8332
- No-cost crisis intervention and trauma-informed counseling to victim-survivors and their loved ones in-person, via phone, or via Zoom

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV)
Statewide Hotline: 1.888.774.2900
safeconnecticut@ctccadv.org
- Crisis counseling to victim-survivors of dating, intimate-partner, and domestic violence

Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern CT
Local Hotline: 860.456.2789
165 State Street, Suite 405, New London
90 South Park Street, Willimantic
- Free and comprehensive services for victims of sexual assault and abuse

Safe Futures
860.701.6001 (24/7) | 860.447.0366
16 Jay Street, New London
- Services for survivors of sexual violence, including court services, walk-in counseling, emergency shelter, transitional housing, support groups, and more

Reporting and Safety

UConn Police Department (UCPD), State, or Local Police
Stone Cottage on the West Circle
860.486.4800 or 911
publicsafety.uconn.edu
- Report an incident with or without filing charges
- Manages all criminal investigations for on-campus crimes
  - Officer from the Special Victims Unit is assigned as the primary contact for the victim-survivor throughout the investigation
- Safety-related supportive measures (e.g. increased security, monitoring certain areas of campus)
- For off-campus criminal matters, state or local police have jurisdiction based on the location where the incident(s) occurred. If you are unsure where to begin or whom to call, UCPD can assist you

Office of Community Standards
Wilbur Cross Building, Room 301, Storrs
860.486.8402 | community@uconn.edu
- Addresses potential violations of The Student Code
- Investigates matters where the Respondent is a student
- Implements University no contact orders

Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) and the Title IX Coordinator
Wood Hall, 1st Floor, Storrs
860.486.2943 | equity@uconn.edu
- Administers The Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Related Interpersonal Violence
- Manages investigations where the Respondent is an employee
- Liaises with appropriate offices regarding implementation of supportive measures

For more information, please visit www.titleix.uconn.edu or contact the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE).