

Title IX/Residence Life Q&A

What should I do if a resident discloses to me that they have experienced some form of sexual misconduct, such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, or stalking?

If a resident begins to share something with you that sounds like it could be a potential disclosure of sexual misconduct, you should gently interrupt them and inform or remind them that you are obligated to report any incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Office, so that the student can make an informed decision about whether they wish to share it with you. You should then inform them of their available reporting options and confidential campus resources (it's helpful to keep copies of the Title IX Office's "Information on Rights, Resources and Options" handout on hand to give to residents). If the resident still wants to talk to you about what happened, you should listen to them, but do not try to investigate by asking them probing questions. Thank the student for trusting you and offer to help connect them with whichever resource(s) or reporting option(s) they choose. For example, this can include providing them with the contact information and then leaving the room so that they can make the appropriate call in private, or it can include accompanying them to speak with a campus resource, if they would like. *You should not choose for the student. In other words, do not reach out to confidential resources or law enforcement on behalf of the student without the student's consent. However, if the student is in crisis or experiencing a medical or other emergency, or if you believe there is imminent danger to the student or to others, contact the Department of Public Safety or local law enforcement (911).*

What rights, options and resources do students have?

Students have the right to choose for themselves how they want to respond to what they have experienced. When seeking help, their options fall under three main categories (1) **Confidential Resources** (including medical, counseling, advocacy), (2) **Reporting to the University** (through the Title IX Office or a Responsible Employee, such as an RA or GA), or (3) **Reporting to Law Enforcement** (Howard Dept. of Public Safety or DC Metropolitan Police Dept.). Note that reports made to DPS or to a Responsible Employee will be reported to the Title IX Office, in compliance with Howard's Title IX Policy. Students may choose one of these options, all of them, or none of them.

What is the difference between reporting to the Title IX Office and seeking services from IVPP?

The **Title IX Office** provides the University's official administrative response to reports of sexual misconduct and gender-based discrimination, in compliance with Title IX law and University Policy. This includes ensuring that the University takes the necessary steps to (1) stop the misconduct once we are made aware of it, (2) remedy the impact on the person who was harmed, and (3) prevent the reoccurrence of the misconduct. Available responses from the Title IX Office are not limited to a *formal investigation*. In addition to investigations, Title IX Office responses include *supportive measures* (e.g., academic, residential, and campus workplace accommodations), *informal resolution*, and *referrals to other resources*, as appropriate. Requests for a Title IX-related accommodation must be made directly to the Title IX Office by the person seeking the accommodation, in connection with a Title IX report. The **Interpersonal Violence Prevention Program (IVPP)** is a *confidential resource for students* who experience sexual misconduct. IVPP provides advocacy and support services, and can assist students in navigating and accessing other administrative and support services both on and off campus. IVPP services include referrals to the Counseling Service, the Title IX Office, DPS, and other campus resources; as well as accompanying students to court to address legal matters related to incidents of relationship violence, sexual assault or other forms of sexual misconduct.