

Walden University

STATEMENT OF RIGHTS AND OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS REPORTING CLAIMS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

You have reported to Walden University's Title IX Coordinator that you have been subject to sexual misconduct which may include sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking ("sexual misconduct"). Walden University takes reports of sexual misconduct seriously and we provide the following information relating to your rights and options as a victim of sexual misconduct. If you have any further questions or would like to discuss these rights and options, please contact the Title IX Coordinator who will assist you with available resources or provide help with filing a formal grievance.

IF I AM A VICTIM OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Call the Police

To report sexual misconduct or other criminal offenses or emergencies that occur at Walden University residencies, individuals should dial 911. It is the policy of Walden University to encourage anyone who is the victim or witness to any crime to promptly report the incident to the local police and, if applicable, to the security personnel at the residency location. However, you are not required to file a police report. Filing a police report will not obligate you to seek prosecution, nor will it subject you to scrutiny or judgmental opinions from officers. Although, filing a police report will:

- ensure that you receive the necessary medical treatment and tests;
- provide the opportunity for collection of evidence helpful in prosecution, which cannot be obtained later
- provide you access to free confidential counseling from counselors specifically trained in the area of sexual assault crisis intervention.

If you need assistance in contacting the police, contact your Residency Coordinator or other Walden University staff member who will connect you with the appropriate university representative. Please note that police reports are public records under state law and cannot be held in confidence.

Preserve Evidence

Time is a critical factor for evidence collection and preservation. Ideally, you should not wash, douche, use the toilet, or change clothing prior to calling the police or seeking medical treatment.

Seek Treatment

You should then obtain necessary medical treatment. If you need assistance in contacting the medical treatment resources, contact your Residency Coordinator or other Walden University staff member who will connect you with the appropriate university representative.

Consult Counseling Resources

You may contact Walden's Student Assistance Program 24/7:

Walden University Student Assistance Program

Phone: **866.465.8942** Online: www.guidanceresources.com enter ID SAP4EDU.

You may also consult community resources specializing in sexual assault crisis intervention. If you need assistance identifying counseling resources, contact your Residency Coordinator or other Walden University staff member who will connect you with the appropriate university representative.

WHAT CAN WALDEN DO TO HELP?

Walden will use its best efforts to inform you of your rights and support you in relation to orders of protection, no contact orders, restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by criminal, civil, or tribal courts.

Right to Confidentiality

Walden University does not have a policy of limited confidential reporting. Any information received by the Residency Security Authority, Title IX Coordinator or other responsible employee regarding criminal activity, sexual misconduct, or any other violation of the Walden Code of Conduct will be investigated and a record of the incident will be taken along with all relevant information including the names of the alleged victim. However, there are certain circumstances where Walden will protect the identity of alleged victims, such as any accommodations or protective measures provided to a victim of sexual misconduct will be kept confidential to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality will not impair the ability of the university to provide the accommodations or protective measures. Additionally, Walden will only reveal confidential information to the extent necessary to conduct an appropriate investigation. In situations where the University is required by law to make recordkeeping publically available it will be accomplished, to the extent possible by law, without including identifying information about the victim.

Interim Measures

If applicable and requested, Walden residency staff will provide you with immediate options for a change in your accommodations or academic situations.

Disciplinary Procedures

The Walden process and procedures for institutional disciplinary action in cases of sexual misconduct will provide a prompt, fair, and impartial investigation and resolution. You are encouraged to have a support person/advisor included in the proceedings. Any investigation and hearing shall be conducted by University officials who receive annual training on issues related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and how to conduct an investigation and hearing process that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability. You will be informed of the outcome and the procedure for appealing the results of any proceedings. The alleged perpetrator will be afforded all of the same rights as you, including the right to make a statement, present witnesses and evidence, and to have a support person/advisor included in the proceedings. If applicable, disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the Walden Student Code of Conduct. Walden will disclose simultaneously to all parties the results of any disciplinary hearing conducted by the University, procedures for appealing the results of the proceeding, any change to the results that occurs prior to the time that such results become final, and when such results become final. If the alleged victim is deceased as a result of the crime or offense, the information will be provided to their next of kin, if so requested. Following a determination of disciplinary action relating to sexual misconduct, the University may impose sanctions up to and including dismissal from the University.

In conducting disciplinary proceedings, Walden will use a preponderance of evidence as its evidentiary standard. The University will institute appropriate measures in order to protect confidentiality and the crime victim relating to the investigative and disciplinary proceedings.

Retaliation

Walden does not tolerate any conduct that may be seen as retaliation directed against any person involved in a sexual misconduct investigation, including alleged victims, witnesses, or third parties.

Timeliness

Walden is committed to conducting a thorough and prompt investigation into any complaint of sexual misconduct. While each situation is different and may require a different level of resources, the University will attempt to have the investigation and disciplinary process completed in a reasonable timeframe, with the goal being to complete the entire process within 60 days.

Right to Appeal

At the conclusion of the investigation and disciplinary process, both parties have the right to appeal any findings. The appeals process is described in the Code of Conduct.