

Reporting Sexual Misconduct: Guidance and FAQs

As a member of the Yale community, an individual may come to you with concerns about various issues, including those related to sexual misconduct. If this occurs, listen to the individual's concerns, connect them to the appropriate resources, and then inform a Title IX coordinator about the situation.

You are required to report *any* incident that *might* fall within Yale's definition of sexual misconduct by following the general guidance below. Feel free to contact your school's Title IX coordinator (see full list of coordinators at <http://provost.yale.edu/title-ix/coordinators>), SHARE (203.432.2000), or the Title IX Office (203.432.6854) for assistance at any time. They can answer questions, identify options, and help the discussion go smoothly.

General strategies to keep in mind (not every strategy will apply to every situation)

The first step in helping an individual who discloses an incident of sexual misconduct is to listen and validate their decision to disclose. The person talking to you is likely in need of support as well as information. Most individuals will not label their experience as "sexual misconduct." Instead, they may begin describing a behavior or issue that is impacting their academic or professional experience, and you may recognize that it is related to sexual misconduct. While it is not your role to label their experience, it is your responsibility to recognize behavior as potential sexual misconduct and to take the appropriate actions to ensure the individual has access to the available resources. An individual describes an incident or behavior that might fall under Yale's definition of sexual misconduct, follow the general guidance below:

- **Listen attentively and non-judgmentally.**
 - Mirror the individual's language and tone. Use the person's language to discuss the incident; refrain from labeling it for them.
 - Affirm the choice to disclose the incident. Many people who have experienced sexual misconduct worry that their experience is "not serious enough" to report, even when it is seriously impacting their academic or professional experience.
 - Make note of any information shared, but do not push for details the person is unwilling to share. Your role is to connect the affected person to the appropriate resources and to record the information the person provides for the Title IX office, not to investigate or adjudicate the incident.
- Affirm that Yale **takes sexual misconduct very seriously**, and that University policy prohibits retaliation against anyone who reports sexual misconduct.
- **Describe the available resources.** Remember, the resources are not mutually exclusive; individuals can begin wherever feels most comfortable for them. In addition, the choices regarding whether or how to proceed are up to them. For more information, see <http://smr.yale.edu>.
 - [SHARE](#)'s 24-hr hotline is usually the best place to start. SHARE's services are entirely confidential. SHARE can provide ongoing counseling as well as practical assistance, including writing an email (e.g., to a dean or a supervisor) about the experience, facilitating medical appointments, and helping potential complainants make informed decisions about whether and how to proceed.
 - Individuals can also go to a [Title IX coordinator](#), the [University-Wide Committee](#), or the [Yale Police](#). These resources will coordinate with one another as necessary.
 - Practical accommodations are available for individuals who have experienced sexual misconduct. These may include measures such as changes to academic, working, or living arrangements.
 - Offer to make the initial connection to one of these resources (e.g., you could call SHARE, start the conversation, and hand over the phone).
- **Be very open about your obligation to share what you have learned with one of the Title IX coordinators.**
 - Reassure the individual that Title IX coordinators will not share any identifying information or take action without the complainant's knowledge and consent, except in cases of immediate or ongoing threat to the complainant or the campus community.
 - Let the individual know that a coordinator may email them to offer options and assess the situation. They do not have to respond if they do not want to.

IS THIS AN EMERGENCY? Call 911.

- **Do not share any of the information with your friends, colleagues, or peers.**

FAQs

What kinds of sexual misconduct do I need to report?

You need to report any incident that *might* fall within Yale's definition of sexual misconduct: "a range of behaviors including sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, stalking, voyeurism, and any other conduct of a sexual nature that is nonconsensual, or has the purpose or effect of threatening, intimidating, or coercing a person." For full definitions, see <http://smr.yale.edu/find-policies-information>.

How do I report the information?

You should call, email, or meet in person with a Title IX coordinator as soon as possible to report the information. The full list of Title IX coordinators is available at <http://provost.yale.edu/title-ix/coordinators>. You may report to any Title IX coordinator.

What details do I need to provide?

You must share whatever information has been shared with you, including the name(s) of any individuals involved, the details of the incident, and the complainant's wishes regarding next steps.

Do I need to report if the information I hear is second-hand, a rumor, or vague? What if the offender or victim is not a member of our community? What if the incident took place away from campus or when school was not in session?

Yes. When in doubt, report. Even partial information may be helpful as we work to ensure that people have access to resources and to keep our community safe.

What happens after I make a report?

A Title IX coordinator will assess the information you have provided and will take appropriate action. If your report includes names or other identifying details, a Title IX coordinator will likely reach out to the individual who experienced sexual misconduct. You do not need to take further action.

As a reminder, coordinators are mindful of confidentiality concerns. They will not share any identifying information or take action without the complainant's knowledge and consent except in cases of immediate or ongoing threat. In planning any response, the wishes of the complainant will be given full consideration. For more information about what the individual can expect, see <http://provost.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Reporting-Sexual-Misconduct-to-a-Title-IX-Coordinator.pdf>.

Once I have reported the information to a Title IX coordinator, do I have other responsibilities?

No. Once you make a report, your reporting responsibility is complete. You should preserve any notes you may have taken, or give them to the Title IX coordinator. You may continue to talk with the person who shared the information with you; please keep the Title IX coordinator updated if you learn new details or if the situation evolves. You may be involved in some of the next steps (e.g., helping to arrange an accommodation). The Title IX Coordinator will contact you if this is the case. Otherwise, you will not receive updates on the situation following your report.

What are my additional responsibilities if there are minors involved?

Under Yale policy and Connecticut Law, you must report any suspected abuse of a minor (a person under 18) to the Connecticut Department of Children and Families or to a law enforcement agency as soon as practicable, but no later than 12 hours after you have reasonable suspicion about the abuse. For more information, visit <http://programs-minors.yale.edu/reporting-suspected-child-abuse-and-neglect>.

Where can I go if I would like to discuss the incident further?

As a representative of the University, you are now bound to respect the confidentiality of the information the individual shared with you. Do not share any of the information with your friends, colleagues, or peers. Instead, you are welcome to reach out to a Title IX coordinator or the SHARE office for assistance.

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