

## **Sexual Offense Policies & Procedures For Students and Employees**

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## **I. Scope of this Policy**

This Policy applies to all Sexual Offenses, as defined in this Policy, including Sexual Offenses that constitute Title IX Sexual Harassment under the [Title IX Grievance Policy](#). If a Title IX Formal Complaint is filed regarding a Sexual Offense, Russell Sage College (“RSC”) will investigate and adjudicate the Sexual Offense under the Title IX Grievance Policy.

*NOTE: If a Formal Complaint is filed that alleges conduct that could constitute Title IX Sexual Harassment, as defined under the [Title IX Grievance Procedure](#), the Title IX Grievance Procedure will apply, and this Complaint, Investigation, and Disciplinary Procedure DOES NOT apply. However, if the Formal Title IX Complaint is dismissed, RSC may still choose to investigate the alleged Sexual Offense under this policy, if RSC determines that the alleged Sexual Offense may violate this policy.*

*NOTE: In certain circumstances, a Formal Complaint may allege multiple acts of misconduct, some of which may appropriately be defined as Sexual Harassment under Title IX, and other conduct that does not meet that definition of Sexual Harassment under Title IX, and instead must be addressed under an alternative College policy. In such circumstances, a concurrent investigation and adjudication under both the Title IX Grievance Procedure and this Policy may be necessary. See the Title IX Grievance Policy for Allegations Falling Under Two Policies for additional information, available [here](#).*

However, the Investigation and Disciplinary Procedures for Sexual Offense Cases Handled Outside of the Title IX Grievance Procedure, in Section IX below, will apply under the following circumstances:

- An individual files a Formal Title IX Complaint with RSC alleging a Sexual Offense, as defined in RSC’s Sexual Offense Policy, but the Formal Title IX Complaint is dismissed because the alleged conduct:
  - does not involve a complainant who is currently participating in, or attempting to participate in, the education programs or activities of RSC;
  - is alleged to have occurred before August 14, 2020;
  - is alleged to have occurred outside the United States;
  - is alleged to have occurred outside of RSC’s education program or activity, as defined in the Title IX Grievance Policy; or
  - if true, would not constitute Title IX Sexual Harassment as defined in the Title IX Grievance Policy.
- RSC becomes aware of a Sexual Offense by or against an employee or student or that has a reasonable connection to RSC, and the Title IX Coordinator informs the complainant of his or her right to file a Formal Complaint, but the complainant chooses not to file a Formal Complaint, and the Title IX Coordinator determines it is not necessary to file a Formal Complaint under the Sexual Offense Procedure.

## **II. Definitions**

- A. **Accused** – a person accused of a violation who has not yet entered RSC’s judicial or conduct process.

**B. Affirmative Consent** – a knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision among all participants to engage in “sexual activity” (as defined below). Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create clear permission regarding willingness to engage in the sexual activity.

Silence or lack of resistance, in and of itself, does not demonstrate consent. The definition of consent does not vary based upon a participant’s sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

- Consent to any sexual activity or prior consensual sexual activity between or with any party does not necessarily constitute consent to any other sexual act.
  - Whether through words or actions that clearly display consent, each party must affirmatively consent to participating in each sexual activity. Consenting to one type of sexual activity is not blanket consent to any and all types of sexual activity.
- Consent is required regardless of whether the person initiating the act is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
- Consent may be initially given but withdrawn at any time.
- Consent cannot be given when a person is incapacitated, which occurs when an individual lacks the ability to knowingly choose to participate in sexual activity. Incapacitation may be caused by the lack of consciousness or being asleep, being involuntarily restrained, being under the age of consent, or if an individual otherwise cannot consent.
  - Minors who cannot consent under New York’s laws covering age of consent are considered incapacitated. Under New York law, the age of consent is 17 years old. Students and employees are encouraged to review New York State Penal Law Article 130 for additional details regarding New York’s age of consent.
  - Depending on the degree of intoxication, someone who is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicants may be incapacitated and therefore unable to consent. This does not mean that individuals cannot affirmatively consent to sexual activity or contact when they have been drinking or using drugs, however. Such individuals may still affirmatively consent through words or actions that clearly indicate interest in engaging in the activity.
  - Incapacitation is to be determined by a student conduct or investigation process based on available evidence, acknowledging that in almost no cases will scientific evidence of alcohol or drug level (such as a breathalyzer taken at the time of the assault) be available. There is no single standard or number of drinks that leads to incapacitation. This level varies for different people, and may depend in part on their age, gender, height, weight, metabolism and whether and how much they have recently eaten.
- Consent cannot be given when it is the result of any coercion, intimidation, force, or threat of harm.
- When consent is withdrawn or can no longer be given, sexual activity must stop.
  - Consent can “no longer be given” when a party to a sexual act or sexual contact initially consents to the activity, but during the course of the activity falls asleep

or otherwise becomes unconscious or incapacitated. At that point, the other party must stop the sexual activity or contact.

**C. Bystander** – a person who observes a crime, impending crime, conflict, potentially violent or violent behavior, or conduct that is in violation of rules or policies of RSC. A bystander is not a “reporting individual” (as defined below), even if the bystander brings forth a report.

**D. Confidentiality** – may be offered by an individual who is not required by law to report known incidents of sexual assault or other crimes to institution officials, in a manner consistent with state and federal law, including but not limited to 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f) and 20 U.S.C. § 1681(a). Licensed mental health counselors, medical providers and pastoral counselors are examples of RSC employees who may offer confidentiality.

The obligation to keep information in confidence is inherent for certain RSC professionals on campus, such as health care providers, licensed social workers, licensed psychologists, and pastoral and professional counselors (including licensed mental health counselors). Many off-campus resources such as rape crisis centers are also confidential, and with the exception of certain child abuse and imminent threats, individuals working in such organizations have no obligation to report information back to the reporting individual’s campus.

It is important to note that all other RSC employees who do not fall within the categories listed above are required to report known incidents of sexual assault or other crimes, so they are NOT confidential resources. However, even RSC offices and employees who cannot guarantee confidentiality will maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible. The information you provide to a nonconfidential resource will be relayed only as necessary for the Title IX Coordinator to investigate and/or seek a resolution.

**E. Crime of Violence** – murder, manslaughter, rape, fondling, incest, statutory rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson, as defined below.

- o Criminal Homicide - Manslaughter by Negligence: The killing of another person through gross negligence.
- o Criminal Homicide - Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter: The willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.
- o Rape: The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.
- o Fondling: The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.
- o Incest: Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

- o Statutory Rape: Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent. Under New York law, the age of consent is 17 years old. See New York State Penal Law Article 130.
- o Robbery: The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.
- o Aggravated Assault: An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. (It is not necessary that injury result from an aggravated assault when a gun, knife, or other weapon is used which could and probably would result in serious personal injury if the crime were successfully completed.
- o Burglary: The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft. For reporting purposes this definition includes: unlawful entry with intent to commit a larceny or felony; breaking and entering with intent to commit a larceny; housebreaking; safecracking; and all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned.
- o Motor Vehicle Theft: The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.
- o Arson: Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

**F. Formal Complaint** – A “formal complaint” under the [Title IX Grievance Policy](#) means a document – including an electronic submission - filed by a complainant with a signature or other indication that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint, or signed by the Title IX Coordinator, alleging Title IX Sexual Harassment against a respondent about conduct within RSC’s education program or activity and requesting initiation of the procedures consistent with the Title IX Grievance Policy to investigate the allegation of Title IX Sexual Harassment.

**G. Non Consensual Sexual Activity** – occurs when “sexual activity” (as defined below) is perpetrated against a victim without his or her “affirmative consent” (as defined above).

**H. Privacy** – may be offered by an individual when such an individual is unable to offer confidentiality under the law but shall still not disclose information learned from a reporting individual or bystander to a crime or incident more than necessary to comply with applicable laws, including informing appropriate RSC officials.

Although most RSC employees are not confidential resources, they can still offer “privacy.” This means that an employee may have to share information pursuant to federal or state law or college policy with certain other RSC employees, but they will not share the private information beyond what is required or needed to comply with law and policy, and will otherwise limit re-disclosure as much as possible.

Privacy of the records specific to the investigation is maintained in accordance with New York State law and, with respect to student records, the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) statute. Any public release of information to comply with the timely warning provisions of the Jeanne Clery Act (Clery Act) will not release the names of victims or information that could easily lead to a victim's identification.

- I. **Relationship Violence** – under RSC's policies, the term "relationship violence" includes relationship violence, domestic violence, and dating violence as defined under federal and/or state law.

Generally, relationship Violence is a pattern of coercive behaviors that serve to exercise control and power in an intimate relationship. The coercive and abusive behaviors can be physical, sexual, psychological, verbal and/or emotional in nature. Intimate partner abuse can occur in relationships of the same or different genders; between current or former intimate partners who have dated, lived together, or been married. Relationship Violence includes both domestic violence and dating violence.

- Under federal law:
  - o domestic violence is defined as felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or New York family violence laws, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under New York domestic or family violence laws.
  - o dating violence is defined as violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship is determined based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. For the purposes of this definition, dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse. Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence.
- Under New York law, domestic violence is generally defined as a pattern of coercive tactics, which can include physical, psychological, sexual, economic and emotional abuse, perpetrated by one person against an adult intimate partner, with the goal of establishing and maintaining power and control over the victim. There is no specific crime of "domestic violence" under New York State law. Domestic violence is handled through the criminal courts and the Family Court as a "family offense." A family offense is defined as certain acts/crimes delineated in the Penal Law (such as harassment, menacing, assault, and stalking) committed by a family member (individuals who are married, related by blood, or who have a child in common). Victims who meet this definition may go to criminal court to seek an order of

protection and have the abuser prosecuted, or they may go to Family Court for an order of protection, services, and assistance with custody and child support. Individuals victimized by an intimate partner who does not meet the definition of family member, such as a boyfriend or same-sex partner, can only go to criminal court for legal assistance. In addition, mandatory arrest, which applies when an abuser violates an order of protection or commits certain other offenses, is only applicable when a case involves individuals who meet the family definition. According to the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, however, many police departments in New York State use an expanded definition of family when making mandatory arrest determinations. This provides greater protection to victims who fall outside of the family definition, although these victims still do not have access to Family Court.

- J. Reporting Individual** – a victim, survivor, complainant, claimant, or witness with victim status. The term reporting individual is limited to those who are directly impacted by the violation as victims. A bystander to a violation, or a third party who reports information about a violation that he or she has learned from a victim, is NOT a reporting individual.
- K. Respondent** – a person accused of a violation who has entered RSC’s judicial or conduct process.
- L. Sexual Activity** – has the same meaning as “sexual act” and “sexual contact” as provided in 18 U.S.C. § 2246(2) and 18 U.S.C. § 2246(3). Therefore, the term “sexual activity” includes the following:
- contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, and for purposes of this definition contact involving the penis occurs upon penetration, however slight;
  - contact between the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the vulva, or the mouth and the anus;
  - the penetration, however slight, of the anal or genital opening of another by a hand or finger or by any object, with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person;
  - the intentional touching, not through the clothing, of the genitalia of another person who has not attained the age of 16 years with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person; or
  - the intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person.

Individuals must obtain affirmative consent (as defined above) prior to engaging in any of the activity referenced above.

- M. Sexual Assault** – under RSC’s policies, the term “sexual assault” includes a sexual assault as defined under federal and/or state law.

Under federal law, the term “sexual assault” means an offense that meets the definition of rape, fondling, incest, or statutory rape as used in the FBI’s UCR program and as set forth in Appendix A to the Clery Act regulations (34 CFR § 668.46). In Appendix A to the Clery Act regulations, these terms are defined as follows:

- **Rape** – The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.
- **Fondling** – the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, forcibly and/or against that person’s will; or, not forcibly or against the person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
- **Incest** – sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
- **Statutory Rape** – sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent. Under New York law, the age of consent is 17 years old. See New York State Penal Law Article 130.

Under New York law, “sexual assault” includes any and all “sexual offenses” defined in New York State Penal Code Article 130. These sexual offenses include sexual misconduct, rape, sexual abuse, forcible touching, and aggravated sexual contact, and involve conduct that would generally fall within the above-listed definitions. However, these offenses also cover certain actions, such as sexual assault with an object, which may not be included within the above-listed definitions. Students and employees are encouraged to review the full definitions and elements of these offenses, which can be found in New York State Penal Law §§ 130.00 to 130.96.

**N. Sexual Offense** – a term used by RSC in this policy, which includes any incident of “sexual assault,” “nonconsensual sexual activity,” “relationship violence,” and/or “stalking,” as those terms are defined in this policy.

**O. Stalking** – under RSC’s policies, the term “stalking” includes stalking as defined under federal and/or state law.

Generally, stalking is a pattern of behavior that can include:

- Repeatedly leaving or sending victim unwanted items, presents, flowers
- Harassing the victim through the internet, including social networking websites
- Repeated, unwanted and intrusive phone calls, e-mails or text messages; especially after being clearly informed to stop
- Damaging or threatening to damage the victim’s property
- Following, monitoring, surveillance of victim and/or victim’s family, friends, co-workers
- Abusing or killing a pet or other animal
- Crossing jurisdictions/borders to stalk/commit offenses



Under the Clery Act regulations, stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to (a) fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or (b) suffer substantial emotional distress. For the purposes of this definition:

- “course of conduct” means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property;
- “reasonable person” means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim; and
- “substantial emotional distress” means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

Under New York law, a person engages in stalking when he or she intentionally, and for no legitimate purpose, engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person, and knows or reasonably should know that such conduct:

- is likely to cause reasonable fear of material harm to the physical health, safety or property of such person, a member of such person's immediate family or a third party with whom such person is acquainted; or
- causes material harm to the mental or emotional health of such person, where such conduct consists of following (including unauthorized tracking of someone's movements or location through a GPS or other device), telephoning or initiating communication or contact with such person, a member of such person's immediate family or a third party with whom such person is acquainted, and the actor was previously clearly informed to cease that conduct; or
- is likely to cause such a person to reasonably fear that his or her employment, business or career is threatened, where such conduct consists of appearing, telephoning or initiating communication or contact at such person's place of employment or business, and the actor was previously clearly informed to cease that conduct.

More detailed definitions can be found in New York State Penal Law §§ 120.45 to 120.60.

- P. Title IX Coordinator** – RSC has designated Amanda M. Bastiani, Title IX Coordinator/EEO Specialist, as its full time Title IX Coordinator. Ms. Bastiani can be contacted at: [titleix@sage.edu](mailto:titleix@sage.edu), or (518) 244-4809. The Title IX Coordinator's responsibilities include coordinating RSC's compliance with Title IX, and other applicable nondiscrimination laws and regulations. This includes coordinating RSC's grievance procedures for resolving Title IX complaints. The Title IX Coordinator, and her designees (if any), receive annual training on: (1) issues related to sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking, (2) how to conduct an investigation and hearing

process that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability, (3) how to conduct investigations of sexual violence, (4) the effects of trauma, (5) impartiality, (6) the rights of the respondent, including the right to a presumption that the respondent is “not responsible” until a finding of responsibility is made, and (7) RSC’s policies and procedures, and other issues.

### **III. Prohibited Acts**

RSC strictly prohibits all Sexual Offenses. In the event that a Sexual Offense does occur, RSC takes the matter very seriously.

RSC’s Sexual Offense Policies & Procedures are available to all students and employees, and are applicable to any conduct that has a reasonable connection to RSC. RSC will apply the provisions of this policy regardless of whether the Sexual Offense occurs on campus, off campus, or while a student or employee is participating in a study abroad program. When the Sexual Offense involves students or employees from two or more institutions, RSC will work collaboratively with the other institutions to address the Sexual Offense, provided that the collaboration complies with the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (“FERPA”).

### **IV. Non-discrimination**

RSC applies the protections set forth in these policies and procedures regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, race, creed, citizenship or immigration status, color, national origin, military status, disability, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, familial status, marital status, criminal history, or status as a victim of domestic violence, or any other protected characteristic under federal or state law.

Further, RSC students have the right to exercise their civil rights and practice of religion without interference by RSC’s investigative, criminal justice, or judicial or conduct process. Additionally, RSC will not force students to undergo medical procedures that they say are forbidden by their religion. RSC will work with participants to ensure they do not have to choose between participating in the process and practicing their religion.

### **V. Student’s Bill of Rights**

All students have the right to:

1. Make a report to local law enforcement and/or state police;
2. Have disclosures of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault treated seriously;
3. Make a decision about whether or not to disclose a crime or violation and participate in the judicial or conduct process and/or criminal justice process free from pressure by RSC;

4. Participate in a process that is fair, impartial, and provides adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard;
5. Be treated with dignity and to receive from RSC courteous, fair, and respectful health care and counseling services, where available;
6. Be free from any suggestion that the reporting individual is at fault when these crimes and violations are committed, or should have acted in a different manner to avoid such crimes or violations;
7. Describe the incident to as few RSC representatives as practicable and not be required to unnecessarily repeat a description of the incident;
8. Be protected from retaliation by RSC, any student, the accused and/or the respondent, and/or their friends, family and acquaintances within the jurisdiction of RSC;
9. Access to at least one level of appeal of a final determination;
10. Be accompanied by an advisor of choice who may assist and advise a reporting individual, accused, or respondent throughout the judicial or conduct process including during all meetings and hearings related to such process; and
11. Exercise civil rights and practice of religion without interference by the investigative, criminal justice, or judicial or conduct process of RSC.

#### **VI. Procedure for Responding to a Sexual Offense**

For Procedures and Resources on responding to a Sexual Offense, see the attached Appendix A.

#### **VII. Policy for Alcohol and/or Drug Use Amnesty for Students**

The health and safety of every student at RSC is of utmost importance. RSC recognizes that students who have been drinking and/or using drugs (whether such use is voluntary or involuntary) at the time that violence, including but not limited to domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault occurs may be hesitant to report such incidents due to fear of potential consequences for their own conduct. RSC strongly encourages students to report domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault to institution officials. A bystander acting in good faith or a reporting individual acting in good faith who discloses any incident of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault to RSC's officials or law enforcement will not be subject to RSC's Student Code of Accountability action for violations of alcohol and/or drug use policies occurring at or near the time of the commission of the domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault.

#### **VIII. Immediate Consequences Following a Report of a Sexual Offense**

RSC shall ensure that every reporting individual is advised of and provided protections and supportive measures, which may include the following:

**A. Emergency Removal**

RSC retains the authority to remove a respondent from RSC's program or activity on an emergency basis, where RSC (1) undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis and (2) determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the Sexual Offense allegations justifies a removal.

Upon request, RSC will provide both the accused or respondent and the reporting individual a prompt review, reasonable under the circumstances, of the need for and terms of a mandatory interim suspension, including potential modification, in which they are allowed to submit evidence in support of their request. Requests to review a mandatory interim suspension should be submitted to Trish Cellemme, Vice President for Student Life at [cellep@sage.edu](mailto:cellep@sage.edu). If a request for review is received from one party, the other party will be notified of the request for review. The Vice President for Student Life will issue a determination in response to the request, and notify both parties of the determination.

**B. Administrative Leave**

RSC retains the authority to place a non-student employee respondent on administrative leave during the Title IX Grievance Process, consistent with the employee handbook, applicable collective bargaining agreement, and Code of Accountability.

**C. Supportive Measures**

RSC will offer reasonable and available supportive measures that effect changes in academic, housing, employment, transportation or other applicable arrangements in order to help ensure safety, prevent retaliation, and avoid an ongoing hostile environment, consistent with RSC's policies and procedures. These supportive measures may include:

- a "No Contact Order" that restricts intentional contact between the reporting individual and the accused or responding individual;
- support services (victim advocacy, housing assistance, academic support, counseling, health and mental health services, legal assistance);
- changing work assignments and situations (for employees);
- changing living arrangements, course schedules, assignments, or test schedules (for students);
- campus escorts, transportation assistance, or targeted interventions;
- providing increased monitoring, supervision, or security; and/or
- providing an escort.

To make a request for reasonable and available supportive measures, you can contact: Amanda M. Bastiani, Title IX Coordinator/EEO Specialist, [bastia@sage.edu](mailto:bastia@sage.edu) or [titleix@sage.edu](mailto:titleix@sage.edu), (518) 244-4809. RSC is obligated to comply with a student's reasonable request for a living and/or academic situation changes following an alleged Sexual Offense.

RSC will protect the confidentiality of supportive measures provided to a complainant or respondent, to the extent that doing so will not impair RSC's ability to provide the accommodations or protective measures. The complainant or respondent will be informed before RSC shares any personally identifying information that RSC believes is necessary to provide an accommodation or protective measure. If this occurs, the complainant or respondent will be told what information will be shared, with whom it will be shared, and why it will be shared.

Upon request, RSC will provide both the accused or respondent and the reporting individual a prompt review, reasonable under the circumstances, of the need for and terms of any such supportive measures that directly affects them, in which they are allowed to submit evidence in support of his or her request. In the event that a supportive measure granted to or against one party impacts another party, both the directly impacted party and the secondarily impacted party may request a review of the terms or totality of the accommodation and/or measure by RSC and may submit information as to the reasoning for requesting a change.

Requests to review supportive measures should be submitted to: Trish Cellemme, Vice President for Student Life at [cellep@sage.edu](mailto:cellep@sage.edu) (for students), or Brian Evers, Director of Human Resources, at [eversb@sage.edu](mailto:eversb@sage.edu) (for employees). If a request for review is received from one party, the other party will be notified of the request for review. The Vice President for Student Life or Director of Human Resources will issue a determination in response to the request, and notify both parties of the determination.

## **IX. Investigation and Disciplinary Procedures for Sexual Offense Cases Handled Outside of the Title IX Grievance Procedure**

### **A. Applicability of this Procedure**

This Procedure applies under the following circumstances:

- An individual files a Formal Title IX Complaint with RSC alleging a Sexual Offense, as defined in RSC's Sexual Offense Policy, but the Formal Title IX Complaint is dismissed because the alleged conduct:
  - does not involve a complainant who is currently participating in, or attempting to participate in, the education programs or activities of RSC;
  - is alleged to have occurred before August 14, 2020;
  - is alleged to have occurred outside the United States;
  - is alleged to have occurred outside of RSC's education program or activity, as defined in the [Title IX Grievance Policy](#); or

- o if true, would not constitute Title IX Sexual Harassment as defined in the Title IX Grievance Policy.
- RSC becomes aware of a Sexual Offense by or against an employee or student or that has a reasonable connection to RSC, and the Title IX Coordinator informs the complainant of their right to file a Formal Complaint, but the complainant chooses not to file a Formal Complaint, and the Title IX Coordinator determines it is not necessary to file a Formal Complaint.

## **B. Initial Assessment**

The Title IX Coordinator will make an initial assessment regarding the validity of any information received about the incident. This initial determination will be made within five (5) business days of RSC becoming aware of the suspected Sexual Offense.

## **C. Consent to Investigate**

If RSC determines that an investigation is required, it must seek consent from reporting individuals prior to conducting an investigation. If a reporting individual does not consent to RSC's request to initiate an investigation, the Title IX Coordinator will weigh the request against RSC's obligation to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for all members of its community.

RSC will honor a request to decline to consent to an investigation, unless RSC determines in good faith that failure to investigate does not adequately mitigate a potential risk of harm to the reporting individual or other members of the community, based on the Title IX Coordinator's consideration of factors that include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Whether the accused has a history of violent behavior or is a repeat offender;
2. Whether the incident represents escalation in unlawful conduct on behalf of the accused from previously noted behavior;
3. The increased risk that the accused will commit additional acts of violence;
4. Whether the accused used a weapon or force;
5. Whether the reporting individual is a minor; and
6. Whether the institution possesses other means to obtain evidence such as security footage, and
7. Whether available information reveals a pattern of perpetration at a given location or by a particular group.

If the Title IX Coordinator determines that the request to decline to consent to an investigation can be honored, RSC will still assist with academic, housing, transportation, employment, and other reasonable and available accommodations.

If the Title IX Coordinator determines that a request to decline to consent to an investigation cannot be honored, and an investigation is necessary, RSC must notify the reporting individuals and take immediate action as necessary to protect and assist them.

#### **D. Initiation of the Investigation**

When an investigation is commenced, and the accused is a student, the student must be informed, as promptly as possible, of (1) the specific rule, rules, laws, and/or Code of Accountability provisions alleged to have been violated; (2) the date, time, location and factual allegations concerning the violation; (3) in what manner the specific rule, rules or laws are alleged to have been violated, and (4) the sanction or sanctions that may be imposed on the respondent based upon the outcome of any judicial or conduct process.

Within ten (10) business days of determining that an investigation is necessary, the Title IX Coordinator, or other trained investigator who does not have a conflict of interest, will promptly initiate a fair, complete, thorough, and impartial investigation that provides a meaningful opportunity to be heard. Like the Title IX Coordinator, any other designated investigator must be annually trained on: (1) issues related to sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking, (2) how to conduct an investigation and hearing process that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability, (3) how to conduct investigations of sexual violence, (4) the effects of trauma, (5) impartiality, (6) the rights of the respondent, including the right to a presumption that the respondent is “not responsible” until a finding of responsibility is made, and (7) RSC’s policies and procedures, and other issues.

If the Title IX Coordinator is implicated in the report, the President will be responsible for designating another trained investigator to conduct the investigation. If it would be inappropriate for the Title IX Coordinator or President to designate another trained investigator to conduct the investigation, then the Chair of the Board of Trustees will make this designation.

#### **E. The Investigation**

The standard of evidence used to evaluate a report of a Sexual Offense by or against an employee or student is a “preponderance of the evidence.” Under this standard, a determination must be made on the basis of whether it is more likely than not that the accused student or employee violated the Sexual Offense Policies & Procedures for Students and Employees

In investigating the complaint, the Title IX Coordinator or other trained investigator shall:

1. Meet with the appropriate individuals and review all appropriate records that bear on the case.
2. Provide the accuser and the accused with copies of the Sexual Offense Policies & Procedures for Students and Employees.
3. Discuss the allegations in the complaint with the accuser and accused at separate meetings, and provide the accuser and accused with equal opportunities to identify witnesses and present evidence supporting their respective positions at these meetings.

4. Provide the accuser and the accused with the same opportunities for a support person or advisor of their choice throughout the process, including any meeting, conference, hearing or other procedural action. An attorney for either the accuser or the accused, however, may be present but may not have a speaking role during such meeting, conference, hearing, or other procedural action.
5. Where the reporting individual or accused are students, provide the students with:
  - a. reasonable advance written or electronic notice of any meeting they are required to or are eligible to attend,
  - b. an opportunity to submit evidence during an investigation concerning a report of a Sexual Offense, and
  - c. the opportunity to exclude (1) their own prior sexual history with persons other than the other party in the conduct process and (2) their own mental health diagnosis and/or treatment from the Title IX Coordinator or other investigator's consideration when determining responsibility. (However, the Title IX Coordinator or other investigator may consider past findings of a Sexual Offense when determining the sanction to be imposed).
6. Attempt, where appropriate, to resolve the complaint by exploring and suggesting possible solutions to the problem with all involved parties, provided, however, that the complainant or accuser will not be required to participate in mediation with the accused.
7. (If the preceding step does not resolve the problem), make and transmit a preponderance of the evidence determination in the matter of the allegation of the Sexual Offense to the accused, accuser, and the Title IX Coordinator.

The time necessary to complete an investigation will vary depending upon the facts of a particular case. In most cases, investigations will be completed within 60 days of receipt of a report.

#### **F. Notice of the Outcome of the Investigation**

The Title IX Coordinator or other trained investigator who conducted the investigation shall prepare written findings of fact and recommendations, with respect to whether it is more likely than not that the Sexual Offense occurred, appropriate disciplinary actions, if any, and/or other appropriate remedial measures.

Once the investigation is complete, the parties will be informed, in writing, of the outcome within two (2) business days of the issuance of the determination. When the victim or accused is a student, this written notice will include the result of the investigation, any recommended sanctions, the rationale for the result and any recommended sanctions, the findings of fact, and a notification if conduct charges will be pursued and/or continued. Delivery of this outcome will not be delayed to either party, and should occur as nearly simultaneously as possible, without unnecessarily bringing those in conflict into close proximity to each other. Should any change in outcome occur prior to finalization, all parties will be timely informed in writing, and will be notified when the results of the resolution process become final.



## **G. Discipline**

If the Title IX Coordinator or other trained investigator concludes that the accused student or employee did not violate the Sexual Offense Policies & Procedures for Students and Employees, RSC will not pursue discipline against the student or employee. The parties will be informed of their potential rights to exercise a request for an appeal of the determination, if applicable. Pursuant to the Student Code of Accountability, available at <http://www.sage.edu/studentlife/code-of-conduct/>, if the Title IX Coordinator or other trained investigator determines that a student did not violate RSC's Sexual Offense Policies & Procedures For Students and Employees, the reporting individual has the right to appeal the Title IX Coordinator's finding of no violation to an Appellate Board within two (2) business days of the decision.

If the Title IX Coordinator or other trained investigator concludes that it is more likely than not that the accused student or employee violated the Sexual Offense Policies & Procedures for Students and Employees, RSC will take the matter very seriously, and will pursue (or continue to pursue) internal disciplinary proceedings against the accused or respondent. The Title IX Coordinator will refer the matter to the Director of Human Resources (for employees other than faculty), the Provost (for faculty), or the Vice President of Student Life (for students) to determine whether to pursue disciplinary charges, within five (5) business days of the investigator's determination. The disciplinary proceedings will then be commenced within 15 business days of the decision to pursue disciplinary charges.

- Further information regarding internal disciplinary proceedings for students can be found in the Student Code of Accountability. Student disciplinary sanctions for a violation(s) of this Policy may include but are not limited to: warning, disciplinary probation, loss of privileges, fines, restitution, sanctions, parental/guardian notification, residence hall suspension, residence hall expulsion, short-term college suspension, long-term college suspension, administrative suspension, expulsion, revocation of degree, withholding degree, prohibition of professional practice, and mandatory assessment/counseling.
- Further information regarding internal disciplinary proceedings for employees other than faculty can be found in the Employee Handbook and/or in any applicable collective bargaining agreement with RSC. The HR Director shall determine appropriate disciplinary sanctions for employees, subject to the terms of the Employee Handbook and any applicable collective bargaining agreement. Employee disciplinary sanctions for a violation(s) of this Policy may include but are not limited to: verbal warning, written reprimand, mandatory training session, no contact order, suspension without pay, termination, and/or termination with the issuance of a *persona non grata* letter.
- Further information regarding internal disciplinary proceedings for faculty members can be found in the Faculty Handbook. The Provost shall determine appropriate disciplinary sanctions for all faculty, subject to the terms of the Faculty Manual. Faculty disciplinary sanctions for a violation(s) of this Policy may include but are not

limited to: verbal warning, written reprimand, suspension without pay, and termination.

Internal disciplinary proceedings where a student or employee is accused of a Sexual Offense are fair and impartial, include timely notice of meetings and timely and equal access to information and evidence that will be used, and are conducted by unbiased decision makers who have no conflict of interest. The proceedings are completed within a reasonably prompt, designated timeframe. However, the timeframe may be extended for good cause upon written notice to the accuser and accused. The proceedings provide students with the opportunity to present evidence and testimony at a hearing.

Following any internal disciplinary proceeding for cases of Sexual Offense, the victim and accused will be provided with simultaneous written notice of the result of the proceeding, including any sanctions imposed, and the rationale for the result and sanctions. When the victim or accused in an internal disciplinary proceeding for a Sexual Offense is a student, the student will also receive written notice of the findings of fact. Should any change in outcome occur prior to finalization, all parties will be timely informed in writing, and will be notified when the results of the resolution process become final.

If the investigation reveals that a Sexual Offense did occur, RSC will take also take appropriate remedial measures necessary to end such conduct, prevent any such future conduct, and correct any personnel or academic decisions made which are related to the prohibited conduct. Remedies may include, but are not limited to, continuing or commencing any of the above-listed “interim measures.” These remedies are separate from, and in addition to, any interim measures that may have been provided prior to the conclusion of the investigation. Such measures can be requested by a reporting individual or accuser, by contacting the Director of Human Resources (for employees) or the Vice President of Student Life (for students).

## **H. Appeals**

All parties will also be informed of their potential rights to exercise a request for an appeal. Any party who disagrees with the outcome of RSC’s investigation under this Policy may file an appeal with the Vice President for Student Life (for students), the Director of Human Resources (for non-faculty employees), or the Provost (for faculty employees), within two (2) days of the date of the decision from the Title IX Coordinator/EEO Official or designee.

An appeal will only be accepted if it meets one of the following grounds:

- A procedural error occurred that significantly impacted the outcome of the hearing
- New evidence, unavailable during the original hearing or investigation, could substantially impact the original finding or sanction (a summary of this new evidence and its potential impact must be included); or
- The sanctions imposed are substantially disproportionate to the severity of the violation.

All appeals and responses will be forwarded to the Appeal Board for initial review to determine if the appeal meets one or more of the following grounds for appeal and is timely. If the Appeal Board finds that the appeal is not timely or substantively eligible, the original finding and sanction will stand and the decision is final. If the Appeal Board finds that the appeal is appropriate, the documentation from the investigation is forwarded to the Appeal Board for consideration. The party requesting appeal must show error as the original finding and sanction are presumed to have been decided reasonably and appropriately.

The Appeal Board will render a decision on whether the outcome of investigation is reasonable within ten (10) business days of the receipt of the appeal. Provided, however, that the appeal process may be extended for good reason, including but not limited to the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities.

Unless otherwise required by law, RSC will protect all information obtained about students during the course of the disciplinary process from public release, until the Appeals Board makes a final determination.

#### **I. Legal Proceedings**

Engaging in a Sexual Offense may also lead to civil and/or criminal action under the New York State Penal Law. Any employee who, in violation of RSC's policy, engages in a Sexual Offense, is acting outside the scope of his or her employment and may be personally liable for such actions and their consequences. In the event legal proceedings are commenced against such an employee, RSC may decline to provide legal, financial, or other assistance.

In any proceeding brought against RSC which seeks to vacate or modify a finding that a student engaged in Sexual Offense, RSC (1) will treat the name and identifying biographical information of any student as presumptively confidential, and (2) will not include this information in the pleadings and other papers in such proceeding absent a waiver or cause shown as determined by the court; and (3) will identify student witnesses only as numbered witnesses.

#### **J. Informal or Alternative Resolutions**

1. Reports of conduct falling under this Sexual Offense Policy may be resolved through an informal resolution process if the parties involved consent to informal resolution and the Title IX Coordinator or designee determine that informal resolution is appropriate. RSC encourages informal resolution of complaints when the parties wish to resolve a report cooperatively, whether or not the conduct in question rises to the level of a Policy violation. Informal resolution may include inquiry into the facts, but typically does not involve an investigation and will not result in a determination whether the Policy has been violated unless agreed by both parties. Informal

- resolution is not permitted to resolve allegations involving Crimes of Violence, or to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.
2. Participation in the Informal Resolution process is voluntary, and all parties involved must agree in writing to participate. Before initiation of the informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will provide the parties with a written notice explaining the allegations, the opportunity to present evidence, and the requirements of the informal resolution process. Any party may end the Informal Resolution process at any time before reaching a resolution, and the formal resolution process will resume with respect to any allegation of a Sexual Offense.
  3. Alternative resolution pathways include but are not limited to: administrative resolution, restorative justice, joint or separate mediation discussions, separation of the parties, referral to counseling programs, targeted education and training programs, or any other steps agreed to by the parties.
  4. The Title IX Coordinator or designee will provide all parties with written notice of another party's interest in pursuing the Alternative or Informal Resolution process. The parties each have five (5) business days to respond to the informal resolution request. In the instance when a party does not reply to the notice or a party does not voluntarily agree to participate in the informal resolution process, the College will instead pursue formal adjudication of the conduct charge.
  5. Informal or alternative resolution is grounded in voluntary participation of all parties and there is no right of appeal associated with informal or alternative resolution.

#### **X. Notation on Student Transcripts for Crimes of Violence**

If a student is suspended or expelled as a result of being found responsible for a Crime of Violence, RSC must make a notation on the student's transcript that the student was "suspended after a finding of responsibility for a Code of Accountability violation" or "expelled after a finding of responsibility for a Code of Accountability violation." If a student withdraws from RSC while such conduct charges related to crimes of violence are pending against the student, and declines to complete the disciplinary process, RSC must make a notation on the student's transcript that they "withdrew with conduct charges pending."

These transcript notations can be appealed by contacting the Provost. Transcript notations for violence-related suspensions shall not be removed prior to one year after conclusion of the suspension. Transcript notations for violence-related expulsions shall never be removed from a student's transcript. A notation for an expulsion may not be removed via an appeal to RSC. If a finding of responsibility is vacated for any reason, however, the transcript notation must be removed. Further, if a court of competent jurisdiction vacates a finding of responsibility for a violation of college policy, the transcript notation memorializing that finding will also be vacated.

#### **XI. Prohibition of Retaliation**

It is a violation of federal and state law and this policy for any employee or student to retaliate against any student or employee for exercising any rights or responsibilities under the Violence Against Women Act, the Clery Act, and/or Title IX. This includes retaliating against a student or

employee who reports a Sexual Offense in good faith, or furnishes information or participates in any manner in an investigation of such a report. Retaliation includes any conduct directed at someone because he or she engaged in such protected activity, which might deter a reasonable student or employee from making or supporting such a report.

Retaliation is unlawful and will not be tolerated. RSC will protect students from retaliation by RSC, any student, the accused and/or the respondent, and/or their friends, family and acquaintances within RSC's jurisdiction. Any individual found to have engaged in retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including, termination of employment and/or dismissal from RSC.

Any employee or student who feels as though someone has subjected them to retaliation as a result of a report or participation into the investigation of a report should contact the Title IX Coordinator (identified below) or other senior officer immediately.

## **XII. Education and Training for Students and Employees**

It is the policy of RSC to offer multiple methods of educational programming to all students and employees each year to prevent Sexual Offenses. RSC has adopted a comprehensive student onboarding and ongoing education campaign to educate members of RSC's community about Sexual Offenses, in compliance with applicable federal laws.

As part of this campaign, RSC offers training to all first-year and transfer students, whether first-year or transfer, undergraduate, graduate, or professional, during the course of their onboarding, on the following topics, using a method and manner determined by RSC:

1. RSC prohibits sexual and interpersonal violence and will offer resources to any victims and survivors of such violence while taking administrative and conduct action regarding any accused individual within the jurisdiction of the institution;
2. Relevant definitions including, but not limited to, the definitions of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, confidentiality, privacy, and consent;
3. Policies apply equally to all students regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;
4. The role of the Title IX Coordinator, university police or campus security, and other relevant offices that address domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault prevention and response;
5. Awareness of violence, its impact on victims and survivors and their friends and family, and its long-term impact;
6. Bystander intervention and the importance of taking action to prevent violence when one can safely do so;
7. Risk assessment and reduction including, but not limited to, steps that potential victims, perpetrators, and bystanders can take to lower the incidence of violations, which may contain information about the dangers of drug and alcohol use, including underage drinking and binge drinking, involuntary consumption of incapacitating drugs and the

danger of mislabeled drugs and alcohol, the importance of communication with trusted friends and family whether on campus or off campus, and the availability of institution officials who can answer general or specific questions about risk reduction; and

8. Consequences and sanctions for individuals who commit these crimes and Code of Accountability violations.

RSC requires student leaders and officers of student organizations recognized by or registered with RSC, as well as those seeking recognition by RSC, to complete training on domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault prevention prior to receiving recognition or registration. RSC will require each student-athlete to complete training on domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault prevention prior to participating in intercollegiate athletic competition.

RSC also offers specific training to international students, students who are also employees, leaders and officers of registered or recognized student organizations, and online and distance education students, and members of any high-risk populations, as determined by RSC.

RSC offers general and specific training on each of the following topics to all students and employees:

1. RSC's policy prohibiting relationship violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
2. the definitions of "dating violence," "domestic violence," "sexual assault," and "stalking" under federal law, New York law, and RSC's policies;
3. the definition of "consent," in reference to sexual activity, under federal law, New York law, and RSC's policies;
4. a description of RSC's educational programs and campaigns to promote the awareness of relationship violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
5. procedures victims should follow if a crime of relationship violence, sexual assault, or stalking has occurred, including information about:
  - a. the importance of preserving evidence that may assist in proving that the alleged criminal offense occurred or may be helpful in obtaining a protection order;
  - b. how and to whom the alleged offense should be reported;
  - c. options about the involvement of law enforcement and campus authorities, including notification of the victim's option to: (i) notify proper law enforcement authorities, including on-campus and local police; (ii) be assisted by campus authorities in notifying law enforcement authorities if the victim so chooses; and (iii) decline to notify such authorities;
6. the rights of victims and RSC's responsibilities for orders of protection, "no-contact" orders, restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by a criminal, civil, or tribal court or by RSC;
7. information about how RSC will protect the confidentiality of victims and other necessary parties, including how it will:
  - a. complete publicly available recordkeeping without including personally identifying information about the victim; and

- b. maintain as confidential any accommodations or protective measures provided to the victim, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of RSC to provide the accommodations or protective measures;
- 8. RSC's policy of providing written notification to students and employees about existing counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other services available for victims, both within RSC and in the community; and
- 9. RSC's policy of providing written notification to victims about options for, available assistance in, and how to request changes to academic, living, transportation, and working situations or protective measures;
- 10. RSC's policy that, when a student or employee reports to RSC that the student or employee has been a victim of relationship violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whether the offense occurred on or off campus, the institution will provide the student or employee a written explanation of the student's or employee's rights and options;
- 11. a description of RSC's disciplinary proceedings regarding alleged incidents of relationship violence, sexual assault, or stalking, which:
  - a. include a prompt, fair, and impartial process from the initial investigation to the final result;
  - b. are conducted by officials who, at a minimum, receive annual training on the issues related to relationship violence, sexual assault, and stalking and on how to conduct an investigation and hearing process that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability;
  - c. provide the accuser and the accused with the same opportunities to have others present during any institutional disciplinary proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice;
  - d. do not limit the choice of advisor or presence for either the accuser or the accused in any meeting or institutional disciplinary proceeding; and
  - e. require simultaneous notification, in writing, to both the accuser and the accused, of: (i) the result of any institutional disciplinary proceeding that arises from an allegation of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; (ii) the institution's procedures for the accused and the victim to appeal the result of the institutional disciplinary proceeding, if such procedures are available; (iii) any change to the result; and (iv) when such results become final.
- 12. information on how to prevent and identify sexual violence;
- 13. the potential for re-victimization by responders and its effect on students and employees;
- 14. the impact of trauma on victims;
- 15. the role alcohol and drugs can play in sexual violence incidents;
- 16. appropriate methods for responding to a student or employee who may have experienced sexual violence, including the use of nonjudgmental language;
- 17. reporting obligations, including what should be included in a report, any consequences for failing to report, and how requests for confidentiality should be treated;
- 18. protections against retaliation; and
- 19. other information to prevent violence, promote safety and reduce perpetration.

RSC also offers training on bystander intervention. Bystander intervention means safe and positive options that may be carried out by an individual or individuals to prevent harm or intervene when there is a risk of a Sexual Offense. Bystander intervention includes recognizing situations of potential harm, understanding institutional structures and cultural conditions that facilitate violence, overcoming barriers to intervening, identifying safe and effective intervention options, and taking action to intervene.

Additionally, all employees and students are offered information regarding risk reduction. Risk reduction means options designed to decrease perpetration and bystander inaction, and to increase empowerment for victims in order to promote safety and to help individuals and communities address conditions that facilitate violence.

RSC shares information on sexual and interpersonal violence and Sexual Offense prevention with parents of students. Information for parents can be found on RSC's website, at <http://www.sage.edu/titleix/>.

RSC regularly assesses programs and policies established pursuant to federal and state law to determine effectiveness and relevance for students and employees.

The Title IX Coordinator, and his designees (if any), receive annual training on:

- issues related to sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking,
- how to conduct an investigation and hearing process that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability,
- how to conduct investigations of sexual violence,
- the effects of trauma,
- impartiality,
- the rights of the respondent, including the right to a presumption that the respondent is “not responsible” until a finding of responsibility is made, and
- RSC's policies and procedures, and other issues.

Further, RSC trains all Title IX Coordinators and all investigators, decision-makers, individuals involved in informal resolution processes under the Title IX Grievance Procedure, on the following:

- the scope of RSC's education program or activity,
- how to conduct an investigation and grievance process including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable, and
- how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias.

Decision-makers under the Title IX Grievance Procedure also receive training on any technology to be used at a live hearing and on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant under the Title IX Grievance Procedure.



Investigators under the Title IX Grievance Procedure receive training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.

Any materials used to train Title IX Coordinators and Title IX Grievance Procedure investigators, decision-makers, and informal mediators:

- do not rely on sex stereotypes and must promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of sexual harassment;
- are publicly available on RSC's website; and
- are maintained by RSC for a period of seven years.

### **XIII. Public Awareness and Advocacy Events**

As part of RSC's public awareness campaign, RSC may from time to time schedule primary prevention, public awareness, and advocacy programs for students and employees, which include the following:

- Self Defense Training
- Title IX training - including training on roles as mandated reporters
- Mentors in Violence Prevention Training
- Training on how to appropriately respond to victims of sexual assault
- Active Bystander training
- Healthy Relationship trainings
- Take Back the Night
- One Love Foundation Workshops
- Yards for Yearley

Information regarding these programs can be found on RSC's website, at <http://www.sage.edu/titleix/>.

If an individual discloses information through a public awareness event such as candlelight vigils, protests, or other public event, RSC is not obligated to begin an investigation based on such information. However, RSC may use the information provided at such an event to inform its efforts for additional education and prevention efforts.

### **XIV. Sexual Offender Registry**

The federal Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act enacted in 2000 went into effect October 28, 2002. The law requires institutions of higher education to issue a statement advising the campus community where law enforcement agency information provided by a State concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained. It also requires sex offenders to register in a State to provide notice, as required under state law, of each institution of higher education in that State at which the person is employed, carries on a vocation, or is a student. The New York State sex offender registry may be accessed at [www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/nsor/index.htm](http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/nsor/index.htm).

In addition, the City of Albany maintains a sex offender registry that may be accessed by "Entities of Vulnerable Population." The University Heights Association's Office of Public

Safety (which provides Public Safety services for RSC College of Albany) has been declared such an entity and the registry may be accessed through the Director of Public Safety.

#### **XV. Memoranda of Understanding**

RSC has entered into memoranda of understanding with providers to:

1. provide sexual assault forensic examination to students; and
2. provide legal assistance to students (including both accused/respondents and reporting individuals).

RSC has also executed memoranda of understanding in partnership with:

1. a local rape crisis center, to further provide victim advocacy and support services to victims of sexual violence; and
2. local law enforcement authorities, regarding the protocols and procedures for referring allegations of sexual violence, relationship violence, and stalking, sharing information and conducting contemporaneous investigations regarding such allegations.

#### **XVI. Climate Surveys**

RSC conducts a biannual anonymous survey of student and employees to examine (1) the prevalence and incidence of Sexual Offense, (2) the perceptions of the campus climate, (3) the general awareness and knowledge of students and employees about the provisions of the New York Enough is Enough law, and (4) student experience with and knowledge of reporting and college adjudicatory processes. Participation in such a climate survey shall be voluntary but is encouraged.

The climate survey was developed using standard and commonly recognized research methods, and includes questions covering the following topics:

1. the Title IX Coordinator's role;
2. campus policies and procedures addressing sexual assault;
3. how and where to report domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or sexual assault as a victim, survivor or witness;
4. the availability of resources on and off campus, such as counseling, health and academic assistance;
5. the prevalence of victimization and perpetration of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault on and off campus during a set time period;
6. bystander attitudes and behavior;

7. whether reporting individuals disclosed to the institution and/or law enforcement, experiences with reporting and institution processes, and reasons why they did or did not report;
8. the general awareness of the difference, if any, between the institution's policies and the penal law; and
9. general awareness of the definition of affirmative consent.

RSC will take steps to ensure that answers to climate assessments remain anonymous and that no individual is identified. RSC will publish an executive summary of the climate assessment survey results on RSC website, provided that no personally identifiable information or information which can reasonably lead a reader to identify an individual is shared.

## **XVII. Annual Reporting**

Reports of certain crimes occurring in specific geographic locations are included in RSC's annual security report (ASR), in an anonymized manner that identifies neither the specifics of the crime nor the identity of the reporting individual.

RSC is obligated to issue timely warnings of crimes enumerated in the Clery Act occurring within relevant geography that represent a serious or continuing threat to students and employees, except in those circumstances where issuing such a warning may compromise current law enforcement efforts or when the warning itself could potentially identify the reporting individual. A reporting individual shall not be identified in a timely warning.

FERPA allows RSC to share information with parents when (i.) there is a health or safety emergency, or (ii.) when the student is a dependent on either parent's prior year federal income tax return. Generally, however, RSC will not share information about a report of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault with parents without the permission of the reporting individual.

RSC will annually report the following information about reports of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sexual assault to the New York State Education Department:

1. The number of such incidents that were reported to the Title IX Coordinator.
2. The number of reporting individuals who sought RSC's judicial or conduct process.
3. The number of cases processed through RSC's judicial or conduct process.
4. The number of respondents who were found responsible through RSC's judicial or conduct process.
5. The number of respondents who were found not responsible through RSC's judicial or conduct process.
6. A description of the final sanctions imposed by RSC for each incident for which a respondent was found responsible through RSC's judicial or conduct process.
7. The number of cases in RSC's judicial or conduct process that were closed prior to a final determination after the respondent withdrew from RSC and declined to complete the disciplinary process.

8. The number of cases in RSC's judicial or conduct process that were closed because the complaint was withdrawn by the reporting individual prior to a final determination.

RSC maintains, for seven years, records of:

1. any sexual harassment investigation, including any responsibility determination, and any required recording or transcript, as well as any sanctions imposed on the respondent, and any remedies provided to the complainant;
2. any appeal and its result;
3. any informal resolution and its results; and
4. all materials used to train investigators, adjudicators, and Title IX coordinators with regard to sexual harassment.

RSC will also create and maintain for a period of seven years a record of any actions, including supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, as well as document the bases for its conclusions and that it has taken measures designed to preserve access to the institution's educational program or activity.

## APPENDIX A

### **I. Procedure for Responding to a Sexual Assault, Relationship Violence, and Stalking**

If you believe you are the victim of a Sexual Assault, Relationship Violence, or Stalking, you should follow the following procedures:

**A. Get yourself to a safe place.** UHA Public Safety, the Albany Police Department, the Troy Police Department, and/or the New York State Police can help you do this. Officers of those agencies are trained to respond to the needs of a victim of a Sexual Assault. They can also make you aware of support and advocacy services and advise you about reporting procedures and requirements.

**B. Obtain medical attention.** For your safety and well-being, immediate medical attention is encouraged. Further, being examined as soon as possible is important in the case of sexual assault. Within 96 hours of an assault, you can get a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (or “SAFE,” commonly referred to as a rape kit) at a hospital. We encourage you to receive immediate medical attention at a facility that uses SAFE, or Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners. Completing a SAFE will not require you to file a police report, but it will help to preserve evidence in case you decide at a later date to file a police report. Local hospitals, with and without SAFE, include the following:

<b>Program/ Entity</b>	<b>SAFE Facility?</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Samaritan Hospital	Yes	2215 Burdett Ave. Troy, NY 12180	P: 518-271-3300
St. Mary’s Hospital	No	1300 Massachusetts Ave. Troy, NY 12180	P: 518-268-5000
Albany Medical Center	Yes	43 New Scotland Ave. Albany, NY 12208	P: 518-262-3125
St. Peter’s Hospital	No	315 S. Manning Blvd. Albany, NY 12208	P: 518-525-1550
Albany Memorial Hospital	Yes	600 Northern Blvd. Albany, NY 12204	P: 518-471-3221

While there should be no charge from these hospitals for a rape kit, there may be charges for medical or counseling services off campus and, in some cases, insurance may be billed for services. You are encouraged to let hospital personnel know if you do not want your insurance policyholder to be notified about your access to these services.

You may also receive medical services from RSC's Wellness Center. These services are provided at no cost to the reporting individual. The Wellness Center can be located and/or contacted as follows:

Kellas Hall, lower level First Street Troy, New York 12180 <a href="mailto:troywellnesscenter@RSC.edu">troywellnesscenter @RSC.edu</a> Phone: (518) 244-2261 Fax: (518) 244-2262	Kahl Campus Center, lower level 140 New Scotland Avenue Albany, New York 12208 <a href="mailto:albanywellnesscenter@RSC.edu">albanywellnesscenter @RSC.edu</a> Phone: (518) 292-1917 Fax: (518) 292-1918
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Sexual contact can transmit Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and may result in pregnancy. Testing for STIs and emergency contraception is available at:

Program/ Address	Telephone	Hours	Cost	Notes
Albany County Health Department STD Clinic 175 Green St Albany, NY 12202	(518) 447-4589	Tue-Thu 8:30- 10:00 AM (check-in )	For a fee. Students must be Albany county residents or full-time students living in campus housing.	Patients are seen on a first come first serve basis.  Clinic hours listed are for check-in. Clinic remains open until all patients are seen.
Rensselaer County Health Dept 1600 7th Ave Second Floor Troy, NY 12180	(518) 270-2655	Wed 2:00-4:30 PM	Free	Walk-in clinic

Remember that this medical treatment may also provide the opportunity for the collection and documentation of evidence, should you decide to pursue the incident and offender through the legal system. UHA Public Safety, the Albany Police Department, the Troy Police Department, and/or the New York State Police may assist you in this effort as well.

The New York State Office of Victim Services may also be able to assist in compensating victims/survivors for health care and counseling services, including emergency funds. More information may be found here:

[http://www.ovs.ny.gov/files/ovs\\_rights\\_of\\_cv\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.ovs.ny.gov/files/ovs_rights_of_cv_booklet.pdf), or by calling 1-800-247-8035.  
Options are explained here: <http://www.ovs.ny.gov/helpforcrimevictims.html>.

**C. Preserve Evidence.** We encourage you to take steps to preserve any and all evidence when a Sexual Assault occurs, as this evidence may be necessary to prove that the Assault took place and/or to obtain a protective order. Be aware that the location of the Assault, your clothing, and your person may be considered a “crime scene,” and as such, a source of evidence. The location of the incident should be safeguarded and the victim should avoid washing, douching, using the toilet or changing clothes prior to a medical/legal exam. To best preserve evidence, victims/survivors should avoid showering, washing, changing clothes, combing hair, drinking, eating, or doing anything to alter physical appearance until after a physical exam has been completed.

**D. Report the incident.** RSC encourages, but does not require, victims, survivors, complainants, claimants, and witnesses with victim status of Sexual Assaults (reporting individuals) to report the incident to one or more of the following resources:

1. First, you may (but are not required to) report a Sexual Assault to local law enforcement (such as the Albany Police Department or the Troy Police Department), and/or the New York State Police for the sole purpose of documentation. You may also (but are not required to) report it to local law enforcement and/or State Police so that they may investigate the matter and identify an offender. You may contact local and state law enforcement as follows:
  - Albany Police Department  
Address: 165 Henry Johnson Blvd., Albany NY 12210  
Emergencies: 9-1-1  
Non-Emergencies: (518) 438-4000  
Website: <http://www.albanyny.org/Government/Departments/PoliceDepartment.aspx>
  - Troy Police Department  
Address: Central Station, 55 State Street, Troy NY 12180  
Emergencies: 9-1-1  
Non-Emergencies: (518) 270-4411  
Website: <http://www.troypd.org/Departments/PoliceDepartment/Home.aspx>
  - New York State Police, Troop G  
General Address: 760 Troy Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110  
General Phone: (518) 783-3211
    - o Zone 1 – Troy: 295 Brickchurch Road, Troy, NY 12180; (518) 279-4426
    - o Zone 4 – Albany: Concourse, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12242; (518) 474-5331

If you want or need assistance in notifying the local Police Departments or State Police, you should contact RSC’s Office of Public Safety who will assist you in doing so. RSC’s Office of Public Safety can be contacted as follows:

- Addresses:
  - Main Office: 130 New Scotland Avenue, The Armory at Sage, Albany, NY 12208
  - Satellite Office: John Paine Building, 1st Floor, Troy Campus
- Emergencies: (518) 244-3177
- Non-Emergencies:
  - Albany Campus: (518) 292-1767
  - Troy Campus: (518) 244-3177

If you choose to contact law enforcement, you may have the further option to (but are not required to) pursue the case through the criminal justice system, where you will be assisted by the District Attorney's office, the local or state Police Department and the support and advocacy services of your choice.

2. Second, you may (but are not required to) report the Sexual Assault to UHA Public Safety. This may trigger the judicial process of RSC, which may result in the removal of the offender from the campus. It also assists RSC in complying with Federal requirements for reporting Assaults occurring on campus. You may (but are not required to) report Sexual Assaults anonymously to UHA Public Safety, preserving your privacy and only reporting the particulars of the incident.
3. Third, you may also (but are not required to) report the Sexual Assault to the Title IX Coordinator or any senior officer of RSC.
  - When you first disclose an incident to a representative of RSC, you will be presented with (1) a copy of this policy, (2) a written explanation of your rights and options, whether the incident occurred on or off-campus, and (3) the following information: "You have the right to make a report to university police or campus security, local law enforcement, and/or state police or choose not to report; to report the incident to your institution; to be protected by the institution from retaliation for reporting an incident; and to receive assistance and resources from your institution."
  - You will have the right to emergency access to the Title IX Coordinator or another appropriate official who has been designated by the Title IX Coordinator to provide emergency assistance (the "Designee"). The Designee may be an official of RSC or an official of an off-campus resource. The Title IX Coordinator or Designee will be available upon the first instance of disclosure by a reporting individual to provide immediate information and assistance regarding (1) options to proceed, including other reporting options; (2) where applicable, the importance of preserving



evidence and obtaining a sexual assault forensic examination as soon as possible; and (3) the criminal justice process, including that it utilizes different standards of proof and evidence and that any questions about whether a specific incident violated the penal law should be addressed to law enforcement or to the district attorney. The Title IX Coordinator or Designee will also explain whether he or she is authorized to offer you confidentiality or privacy, and will inform you about other reporting options.

- o The Title IX Coordinator will generally be available for emergency access on weekdays during normal business hours, at the following: Amanda M. Bastiani, Title IX Coordinator/EEO Specialist, [bastia@sage.edu](mailto:bastia@sage.edu) or [titleix@sage.edu](mailto:titleix@sage.edu), (518) 244-4809.
  - o When the Title IX Coordinator is not available, emergency access to a Designee will be available, at the following: Public Safety, (518) 244-3177.
  - Be aware that certain RSC officials with significant responsibility for student and employee activities may be required by law to disclose the occurrence of the event. If you make a report to an official who is required by law to disclose the occurrence of the event, but you request confidentiality, the Title IX Coordinator will evaluate the confidentiality request, by weighing the request against RSC's obligation to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all members of its community. If it is determined that the incident must be disclosed, your name will be kept confidential, and you will be offered privacy to the greatest extent possible. If it is determined that the incident must be kept confidential, RSC will still assist with academic, housing, transportation, employment, and other reasonable and available supportive and/or safety measures.
  - Even RSC officers and employees who cannot guarantee confidentiality will maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible. The information you provide to a non-confidential resource will be relayed only as necessary for the Title IX Coordinator to investigate and/or seek a resolution. Your identity will remain private at all times if you wish to maintain privacy.
  - RSC will make every effort to ensure that you are asked to describe the incident to as few representatives of RSC as possible, and are not required to unnecessarily repeat a description of the incident.
4. Fourth, in addition to, or in lieu of, reporting a Sexual Assault to one or more of the above, you may (but are not required to) make a confidential report to any campus mental health counselor, pastoral counselor, social worker, psychologist, nurse-practitioner, or other person with a professional license or who is supervised by such a person. This includes, but is not limited to,

professional employees and support staff at the Wellness Center. These employees are exempt from any requirement to further disclose your report to them, unless you want and ask them to do so. These employees can assist in obtaining services for reporting individuals.

5. In addition, you may confidentially disclose the Sexual Assault and obtain services from the state or local government.
6. You can also make an anonymous report to a confidential hotline provided by New York state agencies and not-for-profit entities. These hotlines include:
  - New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline: 1-800-942-6906.
  - Equinox Hotline: 518-432-7865.
  - Unity House Hotline: 518-272-2370.
  - The National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233.
  - The National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-4673.
  - Safe Horizon Hotlines: 800-621-4673 (domestic violence), 866-689-4357 (victims of other crimes, 1-212-227-3000 (rape & sexual assault victims).
7. Lastly, if the accused is an employee of RSC, you can report the Sexual Assault to RSC's Human Resources Department, or request that another employee assist in reporting to the Human Resources Department.

RSC encourages the victims of Sexual Assaults to report the incidents, in any of the manners described above. However, again, victims are not required to report the assault to, or to seek assistance from RSC, law enforcement, or campus authorities. RSC will not pressure any student or employee to disclose a crime or violation, or to participate in the judicial, conduct, or criminal justice processes.

Reporting an incident does not:

- obligate the victim to prosecute;
- subject the victim to inappropriate scrutiny or judgment by the person receiving the report; or
- suggest in any way that the victim is at fault for the crime or violation, or should have acted in a different manner to avoid the crime or violation.

Reporting the incident does:

- ensure that a victim of a Sexual Assault receives necessary medical testing and treatment;

- provide the opportunity for collection of evidence critical to a prosecution, which cannot be obtained later;
- ensure that the victim has knowledge of and access to professional, confidential counseling from counselors specifically trained in the areas of Sexual Assaults.

**E. File a Complaint with RSC.** If you believe you have been subject to a Sexual Assault, you may file a complaint under one or more of the following policies:

- File a complaint under the [Title IX Policy](#).
- File a complaint under RSC's [Discrimination and Harassment Policy for Students and Employees](#).

**F. Request to File Student Accountability Charges.** If the accused or respondent is a student, you may request that RSC file student accountability charges against the accused or respondent. All students have the right to request that RSC bring student accountability charges against another student. Requests to file charges should be prepared in writing and directed to the Vice President for Student Life. Written requests may be emailed to the Vice President of Student Life at [cellep@sage.edu](mailto:cellep@sage.edu), or mailed or delivered in person to the Vice President of Student Life at: RSC, 140 New Scotland Ave., Albany, NY 12208.

RSC retains the right to determine whether to actually file the charges against the accused or respondent. RSC can initiate charges or choose not to initiate them when evidence does or does not merit doing so, in conformity with state and federal law, RSC's Student Code of Accountability, and other RSC policies. Additional details regarding Student Conduct Charges can be found in the Student Code of Accountability, available at: <https://www.sage.edu/student-life/office/code-of-accountability/>.

You should be aware that there are significant differences between RSC's disciplinary system and the criminal justice system, because they have different, important goals. In the criminal justice system, prosecutors pursue cases when they believe there is sufficient evidence to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that an individual has committed a criminal act. A person who is convicted of a crime will face criminal penalties, such as incarceration, probation, or the imposition of a fine. RSC's disciplinary process seeks to determine whether an individual has violated college policy. In this process, a preponderance of the evidence standard of proof is used to determine responsibility. A person who is found to have violated RSC policy may be suspended, expelled or otherwise restricted from full participation in the RSC community. Additional information regarding these distinctions can be found in the Student Code of Accountability, available at: <https://www.sage.edu/student-life/office/code-of-accountability/>.

**G. Seek an Order of Protection or No Contact Order.**

**1. Orders of Protection**

Victims of Sexual Assaults may have a right to obtain a court order to protect themselves from the perpetrators. RSC will enforce all applicable no contact orders, restraining orders, and similar lawful orders issued by a criminal, civil, or tribunal court, to the extent required by law.

An order of protection is issued by the court to limit the behavior of someone who harms or threatens to harm another person. It is used to address various types of safety issues, including, but not limited to situations involving domestic violence. Family Courts, criminal courts, and Supreme Courts can all issue orders of protection. An order of protection may direct the offending person not to injure, threaten or harass you, your family, or any other person(s) listed in the order.

A Family Court order of protection is issued as part of a civil proceeding. Its purpose is to stop violence within a family, or within an intimate relationship, and provide protection for those individuals affected. All Family Court proceedings are confidential. To obtain an order of protection in the Family Court, your relationship to the other person must fall into one of the following categories: (1) current or former spouse, (2) someone with whom you have a child in common, (3) a family member to whom you are related by blood or marriage, or (4) someone with whom you have or have had an “intimate relationship.” An intimate relationship does not have to be a sexual relationship. A relationship may be considered intimate depending on factors such as how often you see each other, or how long you have known each other. After a petition is filed, the court will decide if it is an intimate relationship.

To start a proceeding in Family Court, you need to file a form called a Family Offense petition. You can contact the Family Court in your county for help completing and filing the petition. Contact information for the Family Courts in Albany and Troy are as follows:

- Albany County Family Court  
Address: 30 Clinton Avenue, Albany, NY 12207  
Phone: 518-285-8600  
Fax: 518-238-4344
- Rensselaer County Family Court  
Address: 1504 Fifth Ave, Troy, N.Y. 12180  
Phone: 518-453-5515  
Fax: 518-285-8500

You may also wish to speak with an attorney or domestic violence advocate before filing.

A criminal court order of protection is issued as a condition of a defendant's release and/or bail in a criminal case. A criminal court order of protection may only be issued against a person who has been charged with a crime.

RSC will provide reporting individuals assistance from Public Safety, RSC security forces, or other appropriate officials in obtaining an order of protection. The following individuals can be contacted for assistance in obtaining or understanding an Order of Protection:

- Robert A. Sears  
Director of Public Safety  
518-292-1723 office  
518-542-1490 cell  
[bsears@universityheights@sage.edu](mailto:bsears@universityheights@sage.edu)
- The Legal Project  
24 Aviation Road, Suite 101  
Albany, NY 12205  
(518) 435-1770 (phone)  
(518) 435-1773 (Fax)  
[www.legalproject.org](http://www.legalproject.org)

RSC will provide the accused or respondent and the reporting individual a copy of any order of protection or equivalent that RSC receives. RSC will also provide the accused or respondent and the reporting individual an opportunity to meet or speak with a representative of RSC, or other appropriate individual, who can explain the order and answer questions about it, including information from the order about the accused's responsibility to stay away from the protected person or persons. RSC will provide the accused or respondent and the reporting individual an explanation of the consequences of violating these orders, including but not limited to arrest, additional conduct charges, and interim suspension. RSC will also call on and assist local law enforcement in effecting an arrest when an individual violates an order of protection.

## 2. No Contact Orders

When a student is accused of a Sexual Assault, RSC may issue a "no contact order" to protect you from the respondent or accused. This "no contact order" is an RSC document that does not have the legal effect of an order of protection, which is obtained through a court. This no contact order will be administered in a manner that is not otherwise inconsistent with requirements under federal law, such as Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Under the no contact order: (1) the accused's continued intentional contact with the reporting individual is a violation of RSC's policy that is subject to additional conduct charges; and (2) in certain circumstances if the accused or respondent and a reporting individual observe each other in a public place, it is the responsibility of the accused or respondent to leave the area immediately and without directly contacting the reporting individual. In other circumstances, it will be incumbent on both parties to leave a public place upon observation of the other. Such requirements will be clearly noted by the Title IX Coordinator in conditions articulated in the no contact order.

Implementation of a no contact order may include establishing a schedule of attendance for the reporting individual and the accused to access certain locations at RSC, such as academic buildings, libraries, athletics or fitness facilities, and dining halls.

Upon request, both the accused (or respondent) and the reporting individual (or complainant) are entitled to a prompt review, reasonable under the circumstances, of the need for and terms of the mandatory no contact order, including potential modification, in which they are allowed to submit evidence in support of their requests. Requests to review a mandatory no contact order should be submitted to: Trish Cellemme, Vice President for Student Life at [cellep@sage.edu](mailto:cellep@sage.edu). If a request for review is received from one party, the other party will be notified of the request for review. The Vice President for Student Life will issue a determination in response to the request, and notify both parties of the determination.

To make a request to impose a RSC "no contact order," you can contact: Amanda M. Bastiani, Title IX Coordinator/EEO Specialist, [bastia@sage.edu](mailto:bastia@sage.edu) or [titleix@sage.edu](mailto:titleix@sage.edu), (518) 244-4809.

**H. Initiate Legal Proceedings.** You may have the right to initiate legal proceedings. RSC serves as a resource to students in initiating these proceedings. However, RSC is not required to bring actions on behalf of reporting individuals, provide or pay for attorneys, or provide direct support. Local resources may be able to help you initiate legal proceedings, however. These resources may provide services with or without cost. The resources include the following:

- Pro Bono Appeals Program c/o Rural Law Center of NY  
90 State Street, Suite 700  
Albany, NY 12207  
Business Phone: (518) 561-5460  
Website: <http://www.nysba.org/CustomTemplates/Content.aspx?id=180>
- Albany County Bar Association  
112 State Street, Suite 1120  
Albany, NY 12207  
Business Phone: (518) 445-7691

Website: <http://www.albanycountybar.com>  
Hotline: (518) 445-7691

- The Legal Project  
24 Aviation Road, Suite 101  
Albany, NY 12205  
(518) 435-1770 (phone)  
(518) 435-1773 (Fax)  
[www.legalproject.org](http://www.legalproject.org)
- Unity House Law Project  
Christopher A. Amato, Esq.  
518-687-1827  
[camato@unityhouseny.org](mailto:camato@unityhouseny.org)

#### **I. Receive Other Intervention Services.**

RSC recommends that reporting individuals seek the assistance of trained professionals in the aftermath of a Sexual Assault, and will assist reporting individuals to receive this assistance.

RSC's Wellness Center is a provider of helpful services for reporting individuals, including exit counseling, health, mental health, and other related services. These services are provided at no cost to the reporting individual. The Wellness Center can be located and/or contacted as follows:

<u>Troy Campus</u> Kellas Hall, lower level First Street Troy, New York 12180 <a href="mailto:troywellnesscenter@RSC.edu">troywellnesscenter@RSC.edu</a> Phone: (518) 244-2261 Fax: (518) 244-2262	<u>Albany Campus</u> Kahl Campus Center, lower level 140 New Scotland Avenue Albany, New York 12208 <a href="mailto:albanywellnesscenter@RSC.edu">albanywellnesscenter@RSC.edu</a> Phone: (518) 292-1917 Fax: (518) 292-1918
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RSC has also entered into collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations (including rape-crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, and assistance organizations), to refer students for assistance or make services available to students. These helpful service providers in the Albany and Troy Communities, which may be able to provide helpful services (such as counseling, victim advocacy, and visa/immigration assistance), including the following:

<b>Program/Entity</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Cost</b>
New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence	P: (518) 457-5800 W: <a href="https://opdv.ny.gov/">https://opdv.ny.gov/</a>	No cost
New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault	P: (518) 482-4222 W: <a href="http://nyscasa.org/">http://nyscasa.org/</a>	For a fee
The Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center	P: (518) 447-7716 W: <a href="https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/crime-victim-and-sexual-violence-center">https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/crime-victim-and-sexual-violence-center</a>	No cost
The Sexual Assault and Crime Victims Assistance Program for Rensselaer County	P: (518) 270-4040 W: <a href="https://www.rensco.com/203/Victim-Services">https://www.rensco.com/203/Victim-Services</a>	No cost
Unity House of Troy	P: (518) 274-2607 W: <a href="http://www.unityhouseny.org/">http://www.unityhouseny.org/</a>	No cost
Equinox	P: (518) 434-6135 W: <a href="http://www.equinoxinc.org/">http://www.equinoxinc.org/</a>	No cost

A number of resources are also available through the New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS). OVS can be contacted by phone at 1-800-247-8035. OVS resources can also be accessed at the following website: <https://ovs.ny.gov>.

**J. Right to Withdraw.** You have the right to withdraw your report and/or to withdraw from involvement in RSC's investigation of the complaint at any time. If you choose to withdraw, however, RSC may still have obligations to investigate and/or take actions under state or federal law. If RSC continues an investigation or takes action after you withdraw, you have the right to participate as much or as little as you wish.