



Medical Attention and Preservation of Evidence

Immediately following a sexual assault or any type of sexual misconduct, a victim should seek medical attention. The victim may have injuries that need immediate attention and it is important to test for sexually transmitted infections and discuss options about emergency contraception. The victim should not wash, shower, urinate, defecate, change clothes or douche, even though that may be the immediate reaction. This is important for preserving evidence should the victim decide to file formal criminal charges through the Police. Please be aware that information reported to any police official is public information, and is available to local media. It is, however, the general practice of journalists not to release names of victims of sex offenses.

Support

The provision of support for a victim is essential. Support should come from trusted friends and/or loved ones and trained professionals. Ringling College's Office of Student Life staff serve as the primary source of support for students who experience sexual misconduct or assault. The Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students additionally serves as the Deputy Title IX Coordinator (See Title IX).

In order to assure appropriate support for a victim, victims of sexual misconduct/sexual assault are urged to report the incident as soon as possible, regardless of where the offense took place, whether or not the offender is known to the victim.

Victims of sexual assault are not required to file formal criminal charges through the police, even if they report the incident to campus officials.

Reporting

The College encourages all students to report information about any type of sexual misconduct or harassment involving a student, staff, faculty member or visitor. Faculty and staff, except for College Counseling staff, and the Campus Chaplain since they are confidential resources, **are required** to report information to a Title IX Coordinator about any type of sexual misconduct or harassment. Medical personnel, when a victim seeks medical treatment for sexual assault, **are required** to reply to the police, but victims are not required to file formal charges unless desired. An incident does not have to occur on campus to be reported to the College. Off campus conduct that adversely affects or has the potential to adversely affect the Ringling College community also falls under this policy. The College will promptly investigate and respond to all reports of sexual misconduct and harassment.

The College provides resources to both the complainant and respondent in making decisions, obtaining information about options under this policy, and assisting both parties in the event that a report of sexual misconduct or harassment is made.

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Ways to file a report:

Campus Safety: The opportunity to file a report with the College is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling Public Safety (941-359-7500). A complainant or third party can request a campus safety officer to respond and take a report.

Title IX Coordinator (Faculty and Staff):

Christine DeGeorge – Vice President for Human and Organizational Development
Office location: Joutras, First Floor
(941) 359-7619 ccarnegi@ringling.edu

Deputy Title IX Coordinator (Students):

Dr. Tammy S. Walsh - Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students
Office location: Ulla Searing Student Center, Second Floor
(941) 359-7510 twalsh@ringling.edu

Office of Student Life: A complainant or third party can file a report with any of the professionals within the Office of Student Life.

Office of Student Life Staff

Jekeyma Robinson

Associate Dean of Students for Student Development
Office location: Ulla Searing Student Center, Second Floor
(941) 309-4375
jrobinso@ringling.edu

Chris Shaffer

Associate Dean for Residence Life
Office Location: Ann and Alfred Goldstein Hall, First Floor
(941) 359-7616
cshaffer@ringling.edu

Lauren Rust

Coordinator of Residence Life
Office Location: Ann and Alfred Goldstein Hall, First Floor
(941) 309-0111
lrust@ringling.edu

James Mitchell

Coordinator of Residence Life for Operations
Office Location: Ann and Alfred Goldstein Hall, First Floor
(941) 309-1963
jmitche1@ringling.edu

Katie Cuff

Coordinator of Student Activities and Leadership Development
Office Location: Ann and Alfred Goldstein Hall, First Floor
(941) 309-0202
kcuff@ringling.edu

Melanie Stawkey

Coordinator of Recreation and Wellness
Office Location: Ulla Searing Student Center, Second Floor
(941) 359-6123
mstawkey@ringling.edu

Local Law Enforcement: A complainant may file a report with the Sarasota Police Department or other law enforcement agency (depending on location of incident).

Coordination with Law Enforcement

Because the goals and objectives of the College's Sexual Misconduct Policy and Non-Harassment Policy differ from those of the civil and criminal justice systems, proceedings under the College's Sexual Misconduct Policy and Non-Harassment Policy are independent of civil and criminal processes and may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings off-campus. On-campus adjudication does not preclude, limit or require a student's or employee's access to the state and federal justice system.

Notifying the Sarasota Police Department will generally result in the complainant and, in some cases the respondent, being contacted by a police officer. The police department determines if a criminal investigation will occur and if the case will be referred for prosecution. A case not referred for criminal prosecution will still receive a College response.

Under Florida state law, sexual misconduct may constitute a criminal act. However, the College conducts investigations and hearings and renders sanctions in an educational, non-criminal context. An act not criminally prosecuted may still violate College policy. To the extent permitted or required by law, the College will cooperate with outside investigators. However, outside law enforcement agencies do not respond to Title IX violations, and respond only to allegations of criminal behavior. As a result, the College encourages reporting to both the College and to local law enforcement, if the alleged sexual misconduct may also be a crime.

The College process and the criminal justice process are two separate and independent courses of action. If a complainant wishes to file a report with the Sarasota Police Department, a Ringling College staff member is available to assist. The College will not file a police report about the incident on the complainant's behalf unless compelling circumstances, as outlined in the statement of privacy and confidentiality section, exist. The College's response to a report is not impacted by the complainant's decision to file a criminal complaint or the outcome of the criminal investigation.

Amnesty

Our goal is that all students report all incidents of sexual misconduct so that those affected can receive the support and resources needed. Therefore, violations of the College's alcohol and illegal substances policies by a student complainant may be exempt from disciplinary action in situations where sexual misconduct or harassment also occurs. However, the College may initiate an educational discussion about the use of alcohol or drugs and their impact.

Interim Support and Reasonable Protection

After a report is made, the College will provide interim support and reasonable protection against further acts of misconduct, harassment or retaliation as well as provide services and resources to provide a safe educational and employment environment.

After the initial review of the report, the College will determine the necessity and scope of any interim measures. All individuals are required to report instances of another individual's failure to abide by any restrictions imposed by an interim measure. The College will take action to enforce a previously implemented interim measure.

The range of interim measures include:

- 1) **No contact order:** The complainant or respondent may request, or the College may impose, communication and contact restrictions to prevent further potentially harmful interaction.
- 2) **Academic, Employment or Living Arrangements:** The complainant or respondent may request a change in academic, employment or living situation after a report of sexual misconduct or harassment. Upon request, the College will inform the complainant or respondent of the options and will accommodate the request if those changes are reasonably available. In some cases the College may initiate these changes without a request. These may include, but are not limited to:
 - Changing class or work schedule, including the ability to stop a course without penalty
 - Limiting an individual's or organization's access to certain College facilities or activities pending resolution of the matter
 - Providing an escort to ensure safe movement between classes and activities
 - Providing academic support services
- 3) **Emotional Support:** The College will provide counseling services through the Peterson Counseling Center as part of Health Services or Employee Assistance Program or assist in providing a referral to off campus agencies. Counseling and emotional support is available to any member of the College community.

Additional Campus Resources

Dr. John Walker – Campus Chaplain (Confidential Resource)
Office Location: Ulla Searing Student Center, Second Floor
(941) 309-0200 jwalker@ringling.edu

Peterson Counseling Center (Confidential Resource)
Office Location: Health Center
(941) 893-2855

Health Center (Required Reporter to Police)
Office Location: Health Center
(941) 309-4000

Off-Campus Community Resources

SPARCC (Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center)
2139 Main Street
Sarasota, Florida 34237
(941) 365-0208

You can also reach SPARCC through the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-500-1119.

Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Victim Assistant Unit
(941) 861-4942
victimassistance@scgov.net

The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Unit provides services to any victim of any crime, including secondary victims and witnesses to crime. In addition, they provide short-term crisis support for persons experiencing traumatic situations that are not crime related (such as suicides). Services include crisis intervention, accompaniment through medical, legal, and judicial appointments related to the victimization, assistance with filing Injunctions for Protection (restraining orders), assistance in applying for Crime Victim Compensation where applicable, practical assistance, exploration of options, and community information and referral.

HOPE Family Services
www.hopefamilyservice.org
24 Hour Help-line: 941-755-6805
Outreach Office: 941-747-8499

Manatee Glens Rape Crisis Services
www.manateeglens.org
Rape Crisis Hotline: 941-708-6059
Main number: 941-782-4100

RAINN

[RAPE, ABUSE, & INCEST NATIONAL NETWORK \(RAINN\)](#)

The nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization.

Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV)

[FCASV](#) is an excellent resource regarding the current trends in reported sexual assaults within Florida, current research, outreach, and survivor training, and resources for survivors.

Awareness Programs

The Office of Student Life works closely with the Office of Public Safety to promote awareness about rape, sexual assault, and other forms of sexual misconduct, and educational programs are offered each year.

As of 10/17/2014