



## **POLICIES ON DATING VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND STALKING**

### **SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF**

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

In accordance with federal and state law, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), Miles College prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any of its education programs or activities or in employment. Miles College is committed to ensuring the highest ethical conduct of the members of its community by promoting a safe learning and working environment. To that end, this Policy prohibits Sexual Misconduct, a form of sex discrimination, as defined herein.

Miles is committed to reducing incidents of Sexual Misconduct, providing prevention tools, conducting ongoing awareness and prevention programming, and training the campus community in accordance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act") and the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA"). Prevention programming and training will promote positive and healthy behaviors and educate the campus community on consent, sexual assault, sexual harassment, alcohol and drug use, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, bystander intervention, and reporting.

When Sexual Misconduct does occur, all members of the Miles College community are strongly encouraged to report it promptly through the procedures outlined in this Policy. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure uniformity throughout the colleges' reporting and addressing of sexual misconduct. Policy expressly prohibits Sexual Harassment, which includes, but is not limited to, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking, as well as gender-based violence, and/or violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. This Policy applies to all members of the Miles College community. This Policy is not intended to infringe or restrict rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution, including free speech under the First Amendment, or the due process of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

## **Definitions and Prohibited Conduct**

**Community:** Students, faculty, and staff, as well as contractors, vendors, visitors, and guests.

**Complainant:** An individual who is alleged to have experienced conduct that violates this Policy.

**Consent:** Words or actions that show a knowing and voluntary willingness to engage in mutually agreed-upon sexual activity. Consent cannot be gained by force, intimidation, or coercion; by ignoring or acting in spite of objections of another; or by taking advantage of the incapacitation of another where the respondent knows or reasonably should have known of such incapacitation. Consent is also absent when the activity in question exceeds the scope of consent previously given. Past consent does not imply present or future consent. Silence or an absence of resistance does not imply consent. Consent can be withdrawn at any time by a party by using clear words or actions.

**Dating Violence:** Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the alleged victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the totality of the circumstances, including, without limitation to: (1) the length of the relationship; (2) the type of relationship; and (3) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. 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.

**Domestic Violence:** Violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the alleged victim; by a person with whom the alleged 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, or by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the alleged victim.

**Incapacitation:** The physical and/or mental inability to make informed, rational judgments. It can result from mental disability, sleep or any state of unconsciousness, involuntary physical restraint, status as a minor under the age of 16, or from intentional or unintentional taking of alcohol and/or other drugs. Whether someone is incapacitated is to be judged from the perspective of an objectively reasonable person.

**Nonconsensual Sexual Contact:** Any physical contact with another person of a sexual nature without the person's consent. It includes but is not limited to the touching of a person's intimate parts (for example, genitalia, groin, breasts, or buttocks); touching a person with one's own intimate parts; or forcing a person to touch his or her own or another person's intimate parts. This provision also includes "Fondling" as defined by the Clery Act.

**Nonconsensual Sexual Penetration:** Any penetration of the vagina, anus, or mouth by a penis, object, tongue, finger, or other body part; or contact between the mouth of one person and the genitals or anus of another person. This provision also includes "Rape, Incest, and Statutory Rape" as defined by the Clery Act.

**Confidential Employees:** Institution employees who have been designated by the institution to talk with a Complainant or Respondent in confidence. Confidential Employees include those providing counseling, advocacy, health, mental health, or sexual assault related services (e.g., sexual assault resource centers, campus health centers, pastoral counselors, and campus mental health centers) or as otherwise provided by applicable law. Confidential Employees must only report that the incident occurred and provide date, time, location, and name of the Respondent (if known) without revealing any information that would personally identify the alleged victim. This minimal reporting must be submitted in compliance with Title IX and the Clery Act. Confidential Employees may be required to fully disclose details of an incident in order to ensure campus safety.

**Reasonable Person:** An individual who is objectively reasonable under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the person being evaluated by the institution.

**Reporter:** An individual who reports an allegation of conduct that may violate this Policy but who is not a party to the complaint.

**Respondent:** An individual who is alleged to have engaged in conduct that violates this Policy.

**Responsible Employees:** Those employees who must promptly and fully report complaints of or information regarding sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Responsible Employees include any administrator, supervisor, faculty member, or other person in a position of authority who is not a Confidential Employee or Privileged Employee. Student employees who serve in a supervisory, advisory, or managerial role are in a position of authority for purposes of this Policy (e.g., teaching assistants, residential assistants, student managers, orientation leaders).

**Sexual Assault:** Sexual Assault is an offense classified as a forcible or non-forcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which, for the purposes of this Policy, only includes:

- Rape—sexual intercourse against a person’s will
- Forcible sodomy—anal or oral sex against a person’s will
- Forcible object penetration—penetrating someone’s vagina or anus, or causing that person to penetrate her or himself, against that person’s will
- Marital rape
- Unwanted sexual touching
- Sexual contact with minors, whether consensual or not
- Incest (Sexual intercourse or sexual intrusion between family members.)
- Any unwanted or coerced sexual contact

**Sexual Exploitation:** Taking non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for one’s own advantage or benefit, or for the benefit or advantage of anyone other than the one being exploited.

Examples of sexual exploitation may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Invasion of sexual privacy;
- Prostituting another individual;
- Non-consensual photos, video of sexual activity;
- Non-consensual distribution of a photo, video of sexual activity, even if the sexual activity or capturing of the activity was consensual;
- Intentional observation of nonconsenting individuals who are partially undressed, naked, or engaged in sexual acts;
- Knowingly transmitting an STD or HIV to another individual through sexual activity;
- Intentionally and inappropriately exposing one's breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals in non-consensual circumstances; and/or
- Sexually based bullying.

**Sexual Harassment (Student on Student):** Unwelcome verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct based on sex as well as on the basis of gender identity, determined by a Reasonable Person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to participate in or to benefit from an institutional education program or activity in violation of Title IX.

**Sexual Harassment (Other than Student on Student):** Unwelcome verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct, based on sex, including gender identity, that may be any of the following:

1. Implicitly or explicitly, a term or condition of employment or status in a course, program, or activity.
2. A basis for employment or educational decisions; or
3. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to interfere with one's work or educational performance, creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or learning environment, or interfering with or limiting one's ability to participate in or to benefit from an institutional program or activity.

Sexual Harassment also includes an incident of sexual violence that does not qualify as Sexual Assault, gender-based violence, and/or violence. Incidents involving sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression may also be addressed under the College's broader nondiscrimination policies, even where not covered by Title IX. These forms of Sexual Harassment need not be on the basis of sex.

Sexual harassment comes in many forms and can be committed:

- By or against anyone, regardless of gender, age, position, or authority.
- By a stranger, an acquaintance, or someone with whom the Complainant has an intimate or sexual relationship.
- By or against an individual or maybe a result of the actions of a group of individuals.
- By or against an individual of any sex, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.
- In the presence of others, or when the parties are alone.

Miles College also prohibits unwelcome conduct determined by a Reasonable Person to be so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to a Miles College education program or activity in violation of Title IX.

**Sexual Misconduct:** Includes, but is not limited to, such unwanted behavior as dating violence, domestic violence, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual penetration, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, and stalking.

**Stalking:** Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others or 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.
- Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

#### **Types of Claims**

1. Quid Pro Quo: This is the demand for sexual favors in exchange for some job or academic benefit (something for something)
2. Hostile Environment: This is sexually harassing conduct that unreasonably interferes with an individual's work or creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive work or learning environment. The "hostile" work or learning environment forms of sexual and unlawful harassment may include offensive language, jokes, emails, gestures, comments, graphics, calendars, or graffiti.
3. A hostile environment is created when sexual harassment is severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive, and effectively denies a person equal access.
4. College's educational, employment, social or residential program.

Miles College reserves the right to address offensive conduct and/or harassment that 1) does not rise to the level of creating a hostile environment, or 2) that is of a generic nature not on the basis of a protected status. Addressing such behavior may not result in the imposition of discipline under the College's policy but will be addressed through respectful confrontation, remedial actions, education and/or effective conflict resolution mechanisms.

For assistance with conflict resolution techniques, employees should contact Human Resources and students should contact the Dean of Students or the Title IX Coordinator.

#### **Reporting Sexual Misconduct**

**Initial Evaluation of Sexual Misconduct Reports:** Upon notice of the alleged Sexual Misconduct, the institution's Title IX Coordinator will assess whether a formal investigation, informal resolution, or dismissal would be appropriate. In making this determination, the Title IX Coordinator will assess whether the allegation(s), if true, would rise to the level of prohibited conduct, whether a Formal Complaint must be filed, whether an investigation is appropriate in light of the circumstances, whether the parties prefer an informal resolution, and whether any safety concerns exist for the campus community. The need to issue a broader warning to the community in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act") shall be assessed in compliance with federal law.

#### **Interim Measures:**

Interim measures may be implemented at any point after the institution becomes aware of an allegation of Sexual Misconduct and should be designed to protect any student or other individual in the Miles College community. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the recipient's educational environment, or deter Sexual Misconduct and retaliation. Interim measures must be implemented consistent with the provisions in applicable Board and institutional policies and procedures.

An interim suspension should only occur where necessary to promote safety and should be limited to those situations where the Respondent poses a serious and immediate danger or threat to persons or property. In making such an assessment, the institution should consider the existence of a significant risk to the health or safety of the Complainant or the campus community; the nature, duration, and severity of the risk; the probability of potential injury; and whether less restrictive means can be used to significantly mitigate the risk.

Before an interim suspension is issued, the institution must make reasonable efforts to give the Respondent the opportunity to be heard on whether the Respondent's presence on campus poses a danger. If an interim suspension is issued, the terms of the interim suspension take effect immediately. The Respondent shall receive notice of the interim suspension and the opportunity to respond to the interim suspension.

Within three business days of receiving a challenge, the institution will determine whether the interim suspension should continue.

Miles College encourages the reporting of all Sexual Misconduct as soon as possible. While there is no statute of limitations on the college's ability to respond to a report, the ability to respond diminishes with time, as information and evidence may be more difficult to secure.

#### **Institutional Reports**

An institutional report occurs when the institution has notice of a complaint. That notice occurs in two instances:

1. When a Responsible Employee receives a complaint, or
2. When the Title IX Coordinator or their designee receives a complaint.

Any individual may make a report, but the institution does not have notice of the report until the information is known to a Responsible Employee or the Title IX Coordinator. The report may be made directly to the Title IX Coordinator in multiple formats to include writing, email, phone, letter, fax, interview, or other methods that provide the basis of the complaint of sexual misconduct. There is no specific information required to constitute a report; however, the report should contain as much information as can be provided. To submit an incident report, options for resolution, support services, and more:

Title IX Coordinator - Employees,  
Dr. Patricia Wilson, CHRO  
Brown Hall Room 101, 5500 Myron Massey Blvd, Fairfield, AL 35064  
(205) 929-1440 / [titleix@miles.edu](mailto:titleix@miles.edu)  
**[Discrimination Complaint Form](#)**

Title IX Coordinator - Students  
Leon F. Parker, III, Vice President for Student Affairs (205) 929-1156 /  
[studentlife@miles.edu](mailto:studentlife@miles.edu)  
**[Discrimination Complaint Form](#)**

Complainants, or anyone with knowledge of Sexual Misconduct, may file a report with a Responsible Employee or the Title IX Coordinator. That Responsible Employee must provide a complete report of all information known to them to the Title IX Coordinator. Responsible Employees informed about Sexual Misconduct allegations should not attempt to resolve the situation but must notify and report all relevant information to the Title IX Coordinator as soon as practicable.

Upon receipt of an institutional report, the coordinator will contact the Complainant. The Title IX Coordinator will discuss the availability of supportive measures, the invitation to the Complainant to discuss their wishes with respect to implementation of supportive measures and explain the process of filing a complaint. An institutional report does not automatically prompt an investigation.

The Title IX Coordinator's identity and contact information shall be published prominently on the institution's website, as well as in any relevant publication. Miles College may choose to have Deputy Title IX Coordinators to whom reports may be made, as well.

The Title IX Coordinator shall notify the Appropriate Cabinet member of any allegation(s) of Sexual Misconduct that could, standing alone as reported, lead to the suspension or expulsion of the Respondent(s). The Appropriate Cabinet member will work with the institution to determine whether any support services or interim measure(s) are necessary and to assign an investigator who will work under the direction of the

Appropriate Cabinet member or designee. If an allegation is not initially identified as one that would lead to the suspension or expulsion of the Respondent(s), but facts arise during the course of the investigation that could lead to the Respondent's suspension or expulsion, the Title IX Coordinator shall notify the Appropriate Cabinet member or designee. The Appropriate Cabinet member shall have the discretion to oversee the handling of the complaint.

### **Confidential Reports**

Confidential Employees or Privileged Employees may receive reports of sex-based misconduct without the requirement to report that information to the Title IX Coordinator, except as dictated by law or professional standards. Upon request by the Complainant, Confidential Employees and Privileged Employees may make a report to the Title IX Coordinator within the degree of specificity dictated by the Complainant. Nothing in this provision shall prevent an institution staff member who is otherwise obligated by law (i.e., the Clery Act) to report information or statistical data as required.

### **Law Enforcement Reports**

Because Sexual Misconduct may constitute criminal activity, a Complainant also has the option, should the Complainant so choose, of filing a report with campus or local police, for the Complainant's own protection and that of the surrounding community. The institution may assist the Complainant in reporting the situation to law enforcement officials. Filing a criminal report does not automatically constitute an institutional report.

Emergency Assistance 911

Miles College Police Department Reporting (205) 929-1720

Fairfield Police Department (205) 786-4111

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (205) 325-1450

### **Anonymous Reports**

Miles College provides a mechanism by which individuals can report incidents of alleged Sexual Misconduct anonymously. Individuals should understand, however, that it will be more difficult for the institution to respond and to take action upon anonymous reports.

### **Complaint Consolidation**

Miles College may consolidate complaints as to allegations of Sexual Misconduct against more than one Respondent, by more than one Complainant against one or more Respondents, or cross-complaints between parties, where the allegations of sexual misconduct arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

Parties shall have the opportunity to request or object to the consolidation; however, the institution shall have the authority to make the final determination. For the purpose of this Policy, consolidation may occur during the investigation and/or the adjudication phases of the sexual misconduct process.

### **Complaint Dismissal**

Miles College is permitted, but not required, to dismiss complaints on the following grounds:

1. The alleged conduct, even if proved, would not constitute sexual misconduct.
2. The Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that they would like to withdraw the complaint:
3. The Respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the institution;  
or
4. There are circumstances that prevent the institution from gathering sufficient evidence to reach a determination regarding the complaint.

The parties shall receive simultaneous written notice of the dismissal and the reason(s) for the dismissal. The parties shall have the right to appeal the institution's decision to dismiss the complaint.

### **Retaliation**

Anyone who has made a report or complaint, provided information, assisted, participated or refused to participate in any manner in the Sexual Misconduct Process shall not be subjected to retaliation. Anyone who believes that they have been subjected to retaliation should immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator or their designee. Any person found to have engaged in retaliation in violation of this Policy shall be subject to disciplinary action.

### **False Complaints**

Individuals are prohibited from knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information to a system or institution official. Any person found to have knowingly submitted false complaints, accusations, or statements, including during a hearing, in violation of this Policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action (up to and including suspension or expulsion) and adjudicated under the appropriate institutional process.

### **Amnesty**

Individuals should be encouraged to come forward and to report Sexual Misconduct, notwithstanding their choice to consume alcohol or to use drugs. Information reported by a student during an investigation concerning the consumption of drugs or alcohol will not be used against the particular student in a disciplinary proceeding or voluntarily reported to law enforcement; however, students may be provided with resources on drug and alcohol counseling and/or education, as appropriate. Nevertheless, these students may be required to meet with staff members in regard to the incident and may be required to participate in appropriate educational program(s). The required participation in an educational program under this amnesty procedure will not be considered a sanction.

Nothing in this amnesty provision shall prevent an institution staff member who is otherwise obligated by law (the Clery Act) to report information or statistical data as required.

### **Responding to Reports of Misconduct Support Services**

Once the Title IX Coordinator has received information regarding an allegation of Sexual Misconduct, the parties will be provided with written information about support services. Support services are non-disciplinary, non-punitive, individualized

services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without charge that are made available to the Complainant and Respondent before or after the filing of a complaint or where no complaint has been filed. Support services include counseling, advocacy, housing assistance, academic support, disability services, health and mental services, and other services available at the student's institution.

### **Interim Measures**

Interim measures may be implemented at any point after Miles College becomes aware of an allegation of sexual misconduct and should be designed to protect any student or other individual in the Miles College community.

Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the campus community, or deter Sexual Misconduct and retaliation. Interim measures will be provided consistent with the provisions applicable to the Board of Trustees and institutional policies and procedures.

### **Emergency Removal**

Emergency removal will only occur where necessary to maintain safety and should be limited to those situations where the Respondent poses a serious and immediate danger or threat to persons or property. In making such an assessment, the institution should consider the existence of a significant risk to the health or safety of the Complainant or the campus community; the nature, duration, and severity of the risk; the probability of potential injury; and whether less restrictive means can be used to significantly mitigate the risk.

### **Jurisdiction**

Miles College will take necessary and appropriate action to protect the safety and well-being of its community. Sexual misconduct allegedly committed is addressed by this Policy when the misconduct occurs on institution property, or at institution-sponsored or affiliated events, or off-campus, as defined by the student conduct policy.

### **Advisors**

Both the Complainant and the Respondent, as parties to the matter, shall have the opportunity to use an advisor (who may or may not be an attorney) of the party's choosing at the party's own expense. The advisor may accompany the party to all meetings and may provide advice and counsel to their respective party throughout the Sexual Misconduct process, including providing questions, suggestions, and guidance to the party, but may not actively participate in the process, except that the advisor must conduct cross-examination during the live hearing on behalf of their party. If a party does not have an advisor, the College will provide one for this purpose. All communication during the Sexual Misconduct process will be between the institution and the party, and not the advisor. With the party's permission, the advisor may be copied on all communications.

### **Informal Resolutions**

Allegations of Sexual Misconduct may be resolved informally. The Complainant, the Respondent, and the institution must agree to engage in the informal resolution process and to the terms of the informal resolution. The Complainant(s) and the Respondent(s) have the option to end informal resolution discussions and request a formal process at

any time before the terms of an informal resolution are reached. However, matters resolved informally shall not be appealable.

### **Timeframe**

Efforts will be made to complete the investigation and resolution within 90-120 calendar days, unless good cause for delay is documented and communicated to the parties. Temporary delays and limited extensions may be granted by Miles College for good cause throughout the investigation and resolution process. The parties will be informed in writing of any extension or delay and the applicable reason. The institution shall keep the parties informed of the status of the investigation.

### **Responding to Reports of Sexual Harassment Pursuant to Title IX**

The implementing Title IX regulations require special handling of complaints of sexual harassment, as defined in the regulations and listed below. The following section outlines the required specialized handling of these matters that may differ from an institution's handling of Sexual Misconduct, as defined in this Policy. Unless expressly mentioned in this section, other provisions of this Policy shall apply to all alleged Sexual Misconduct.

Other Title IX sex-discrimination allegations are handled pursuant to other applicable institutional policies.

### **Definition of Sexual Harassment**

Under Title IX, sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- 1) An employee conditioning the provision of aid, benefit, or service of the institution on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- 2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the institution's education program or activity; or
- 3) "Sexual assault" as defined by the Clery Act and "dating violence," "domestic violence," and "stalking" as defined by the VAWA Amendments.

### **Jurisdiction**

Alleged misconduct is addressed by Title IX when the misconduct occurs against a person in the United States on institution property, or at institution-sponsored or affiliated events where the institution exercises substantial control over both the Respondent and the context, or in buildings owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the institution.

### **Mandatory Dismissals of Formal Complaints**

The College must dismiss a formal complaint under Title IX if the alleged conduct:

1. Would not constitute sexual harassment under Title IX's definition, even if proven;
2. Did not occur in the College's education program or activity; or
3. Did not occur against a person in the United States

4. Dismissal under Title IX does not preclude the College from addressing the allegations under other institutional policies.

#### **Formal Complaints**

A Formal Complaint is a written document filed by the Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment, as defined by Title IX and its implementing regulations, against a Respondent and requesting that the institution open an investigation. In order to file a Formal Complaint, the Complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of the institution occurring within the United States at the time of the filing.

#### **Informal Resolution**

Allegations of Sexual Misconduct may be resolved informally, except when the Respondent is an employee alleged to have sexually harassed a student. In such cases, information resolution is not permitted under federal regulations. in the instance of an allegation by a student against an institution employee. The Complainant, the Respondent, and the institution must agree to engage in informal resolution for eligible cases. The following must be met in order to proceed with the informal resolution process:

1. The parties have received written notice of the allegations.
2. The parties have received a written explanation of the informal process to include, but not limited to:
  - a) Written agreement of the parties to initiate the informal resolution process;
  - b) Written notice that the parties may withdraw from the process at any time prior to the agreement of the terms of the resolution;
  - c) Written notice that the final resolution precludes any further institutional actions on the allegations.
3. The institution has agreed to engage in the informal resolution process.

#### **Advisors**

Both the Complainant and the Respondent, as parties to the matter, shall have the opportunity to use an advisor (who may or may not be an attorney) of the party's choosing. The advisor may accompany the party to all meetings and may provide advice and counsel to their respective party throughout the Sexual Misconduct process but may not actively participate in the process except to conduct cross-examination at the hearing. If a party chooses not to use an advisor during the investigation, the institution will provide an advisor for the purpose of conducting a cross-examination on behalf of the relevant party.

All communication during the Sexual Misconduct process will be between the institution and the party, and not the advisor. The institution will copy the party's advisor prior to the finalization of the investigation report when the institution provides the parties the right to inspect and review directly related information gathered during the investigation. With the party's permission, the advisor may be copied on all communications.

#### **Process for Investigating and Resolving Sexual Misconduct Reports: Investigation**

Throughout any investigation and resolution proceeding, a party shall receive written notice of the alleged Sexual Misconduct, shall be provided an opportunity to respond, and shall be allowed the right to remain silent or otherwise not participate in or during the investigation and resolution process without an adverse inference resulting. If a party chooses to remain silent or otherwise not participate in the investigation or resolution process, the investigation and resolution process may still proceed, and policy violations may result.

Until a final determination of responsibility, the Respondent is presumed not to have violated the Sexual Misconduct Policy. Prior to the finalization of the investigation report, timely and equal access to information directly related to the allegations that has been gathered during the investigation and may be used at the hearing will be provided to the Complainant, the Respondent, and a party's advisor (where applicable).

Formal judicial rules of evidence do not apply to the investigation process. Additionally, the standard of review throughout the Sexual Misconduct process is a preponderance of the evidence.

1. The parties shall be provided with written notice of the report/allegations with sufficient details, pending investigation, possible charges, possible sanctions, available support services and interim measures, and other rights under applicable institutional policies. For the purposes of this provision, sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting Sexual Misconduct, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known. This information will be supplemented as necessary with relevant evidence collected during the investigation. The notice should also include the identity of any investigator(s) involved. Notice should be provided via the institution's email to the party's institution email.
2. Upon receipt of the written notice, the parties shall have at least three business days to respond in writing. In that response, the Respondent shall have the right to admit or deny the allegations, and to set forth a defense with facts, witnesses, and supporting materials. A Complainant shall have the right to respond to and supplement the notice. Throughout the Sexual Misconduct process, the Complainant and the Respondent shall have the right to present witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.
3. If the Respondent admits responsibility, the process may proceed to the sanctioning phase or may be informally resolved, if appropriate.
4. An investigator shall conduct a thorough investigation and should retain written notes and/or obtain written or recorded statements from each interview. The investigator shall also keep a record of any party's proffered witnesses not interviewed, along with a brief, written explanation of why the witnesses were not interviewed.
5. An investigator shall not access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional made in connection with the party's treatment unless the party has provided voluntary written

consent. This also applies to information protected by recognized legal privilege.

6. The initial investigation report shall be provided to the Complainant, the Respondent, and a party's advisor (if applicable). This report should fairly summarize the relevant evidence gathered during the investigation and clearly indicate any resulting charges or alternatively, a determination of no charges. For purposes of this Policy, a charge is not a finding of responsibility.
7. The Complainant and the Respondent shall have at least 10 calendar days to review and respond in writing to the initial investigation report and directly related information gathered during the investigation. The investigator will review the Complainant's and the Respondent's written responses, if any, to determine whether further investigation or changes to the investigation report are necessary.
8. The final investigation report should be provided to the Complainant, the Respondent, and a party's advisor, if applicable, at least 10 calendar days prior to the Hearing. The final investigation report should also be provided to all Hearing Panel members for consideration during the adjudication process.

- A. **Access to Advisors:** Both the Complainant and the Respondent, as parties to the matter, shall have the opportunity to use an advisor (who may or may not be an attorney) of the party's choosing.

The advisor may accompany the party to all meetings and may provide advice and counsel to their respective party throughout the sexual misconduct process, including providing questions, suggestions, and guidance to the party, but may not actively participate in the process except to conduct cross-examination at the hearing as outlined in the Resolution/Hearing section below. If a party chooses not to use an advisor during the investigation, Miles Collee will provide an advisor for the purpose of conducting cross-examination on behalf of the relevant party.

All communication during the sexual misconduct process will be between the institution and the party, and not the advisor.

The institution will copy the party's advisor prior to the finalization of the investigation report when the institution provides the parties the right to inspect and review directly related information gathered during the investigation. With the party's permission, the advisor may be copied on all communications.

**B. Investigation:** Throughout any investigation and resolution proceeding, a party shall receive written notice of the allegations made against them and shall be provided the opportunity to respond. All employees, both parties and non-parties, are required to cooperate to the fullest extent possible in any internal investigation conducted by Miles College, when directed to do so by the persons who have been given investigative Miles College authority.

Until a final determination of responsibility, the Respondent is presumed not to have violated any applicable policies associated with the allegations.

Prior to finalizing the investigation report, timely and equal access to information directly related to the allegations that has been gathered during the investigation and may be used at the hearing will be provided to the Complainant, the Respondent, and a party's advisor (where applicable).

Formal judicial rules of evidence do not apply to the investigation process; additionally, the standard of review throughout the investigation and resolution processes is a preponderance of the evidence.

Additionally, the investigation procedures will provide the following:

1. The parties shall be provided with written notice of the: report/allegations with sufficient details, pending investigation, possible charges, possible sanctions, available support services and interim measures, and other rights under applicable institutional policies. For the purposes of this provision, sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual misconduct, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known. This information will be supplemented as dictated by evidence collected during the investigation. The notice should also include the identity of any investigator(s) involved. Notice should be provided via institution's email to the party's email.
2. Upon receipt of the written notice, the parties shall have at least three business days to respond in writing. In that response, the Respondent shall have the right to admit or deny the allegations, and to set forth a defense with facts, witnesses, and supporting materials. A Complainant shall have the right to respond to and supplement the notice. Throughout the investigation and resolution process, the Complainant and the Respondent shall have the right to present witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.
3. If the Respondent admits responsibility, the process may proceed to the sanctioning phase or may be informally resolved, if appropriate.
4. An investigator shall conduct a thorough investigation and should retain written notes and/or obtain written or recorded statements from each interview. The investigator shall also keep a record of any party's proffered witnesses not interviewed, along with a brief, written explanation of why the witnesses were not interviewed.
5. An investigator shall not access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional made in connection with the party's treatment unless the party has provided voluntary written

consent. This also applies to information protected by recognized legal privilege.

### **Hearings, Possible Sanctions, and Appeals-Employees**

**Title IX Hearings:** The investigator may testify as a witness regarding the investigation and findings, but shall otherwise have no part in the hearing process and shall not attempt to otherwise influence the proceedings outside of providing testimony during the hearing. All directly related evidence shall be available at the hearing for the parties and their advisors to reference during the hearing. Relevant facts or evidence that were not known or knowable to the parties prior to the issuance of the final investigative report shall be admissible during the hearing. The institution will determine how the facts or evidence will be introduced.

The admissibility of any facts or evidence known or knowable by the parties prior to the issuance of the final investigative report, and which were not submitted during the investigation, shall be determined by the institution in compliance with the obligation to provide both parties an equal opportunity to present and respond to witnesses and other evidence.

Notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing as well as the designated Hearing Officer, shall be provided via email at least 10 calendar days prior to the hearing. Parties may attend the hearing with their advisor.

Hearings shall be conducted in-person or via video conferencing technology. At all times, participants in the hearing process, including parties, a party's advisor, and institution officials, are expected to act in a manner that promotes dignity and decorum throughout the hearing. Participants are expected to be temperate, respectful to others, and follow procedural formalities outlined by this Policy and the institution. Institutions may establish their own rules of decorum and expectations of behavior during the hearing process. The institution reserves the right to remove any participant from the hearing environment.

The College will retain all records related to reports, investigations, hearings, appeals, informal resolutions, and supportive measures for a minimum of seven (7) years in compliance with Title IX regulations.

Additionally, the following standards will apply:

1. Where a party or a witness is unavailable, unable, or otherwise unwilling to participate in the hearing, including being subject to cross-examination, the Hearing Officer shall not rely on statements of that party or witness in reaching its determination regarding responsibility. The Hearing Officer shall not draw an adverse inference against the party or witness based solely on their absence from the hearing or refusal to be subject to cross-examination.
2. The parties shall have the right to present witnesses and evidence at the hearing.
3. The parties shall have the right to confront any witness, including the other party, by having their advisor ask relevant questions directly to the witness. The Hearing Officer shall limit questions raised by the advisor

when they are irrelevant to determining the veracity of the allegations against the Respondent(s). In any such event, the Hearing Officer shall err on the side of permitting all the raised questions and must document the reason for not permitting any particular questions to be raised.

4. Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior shall be deemed irrelevant, unless such questions and evidence are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the alleged conduct or consent between the parties during the alleged incident. Decision maker(s) shall not access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional made in connection with the party's treatment unless the party has provided voluntary written consent. This also applies to information protected by recognized legal privilege.
5. Formal civil rules of evidence do not apply to the resolution process and the standard of evidence shall be a preponderance of the evidence.
6. Following a hearing, the parties shall be simultaneously provided a written decision via email of the hearing outcome and any resulting disciplinary or administrative actions. The decision must include the allegations, procedural steps taken through the investigation and resolution process, findings of facts supporting the determination(s), determination(s) regarding responsibility, and the rationale for any disciplinary or other administrative action.

**Title IX Disciplinary Action-Employees:** In determining the severity of sanctions or corrective actions, the following should be considered: the frequency, severity, and/or nature of the offense; history of past conduct; an offender's willingness to accept responsibility; previous institutional response to similar conduct; strength of the evidence; and the well-being of the university community. The institution will determine disciplinary action and issue notice of the same, as outlined above.

**Title IX Appeals-Employees:** The Complainant and the Respondent shall have the right to appeal the outcome on any of the following grounds: (1) to consider new information, sufficient to alter the decision, or other relevant facts not brought out in the original investigation (or hearing), because such information was not known or knowable to the person appealing during the time of the investigation (or hearing); (2) to allege a procedural error within the investigation or hearing process that may have substantially impacted the fairness of the process, including but not limited to whether any hearing questions were improperly excluded or whether the decision was tainted by a conflict of interest or bias by the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or administrative decision maker(s), or  
(3) to allege that the finding was inconsistent with the weight of the information.

The appeal must be made in writing, must set forth one or more of the bases outlined above, and must be submitted within five business days of the date of the final written decision. The appeal should be made to the President of the institution solely on the three grounds set forth. The appeal shall be a review of the record only, and no new meeting with the Respondent or the Complainant is required.

The President may affirm the original finding and sanction, affirm the original finding but issue anew a sanction of greater or lesser severity, remand the case back to the decision maker to correct a procedural or factual defect, or reverse or dismiss the case if there was a procedural or factual defect that cannot be remedied by remand. The President's decision shall be simultaneously issued in writing to the Complainant, the Respondent within a reasonable time period. The President's decision shall be the final decision of the institution. See also: [Title IX Brochure Questions & Answers Regarding the Title IX Regulations. Summary of Major Provisions](#)

## LISTS OF RESOURCES

### Resources for Information and Assistance State Resources

Off-Campus Resources  
Crisis Center  
<https://crisiscenterbham.org/>  
3600 8th Ave S, Suite #501  
Birmingham, AL 35222  
24 Hour Crisis Line: 205-323-7782

Rape Response 24-Hour Assistance  
[crisiscenterbham.org](https://crisiscenterbham.org)  
3600 8th Ave S  
Birmingham, AL 35222  
800-656-HOPE OR 800-665-4673  
(205) 323-7782

YWCA of Central Alabama  
[ywcabham.org](http://ywcabham.org)  
309 23rd St N  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
(205) 322-9922  
24-Hour Crisis Line 205-322-4878

One Place Metro Alabama Family Justice Center  
[oneplacebirmingham.com](http://oneplacebirmingham.com)  
1135 14th Ave S  
Birmingham, AL 35205  
(205) 453-7261

Alabama Coalition Against Rape  
P.O. Box 4091  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
(334) 264-0123  
[www.acar.org](http://www.acar.org)

Alabama Crime Victims  
Compensation Commission  
P.O. Box 231267  
Montgomery, AL 36123-1267  
(334) 290-4420  
1-800 541-9388 (for victims only)  
[www.acvcc.alabama.gov](http://www.acvcc.alabama.gov)

Alabama Attorney General's Office for  
Victims Assistance  
Alabama State House  
11 South Union St. 3rd Floor  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
(334) 242-7300  
1-800-626-7676  
[www.ago.state.al.us](http://www.ago.state.al.us)

Governor's Office for  
Victims of Crime  
State Capitol  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
(334) 242-7100  
[www.governor.state.al.us/staff.htm](http://www.governor.state.al.us/staff.htm)

### Resources for Information and Assistance National Resources

National Center for Victims of Crime  
1-855-4-VICTIM  
1-855-484-2846  
[www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org)

National Organization for  
Victim Assistance  
1-800-TRY-NOVA  
1-800-879-6682  
[www.try-nova.org](http://www.try-nova.org)

Office for Victims of Crime  
Resource Center  
1-800-627-6872  
TTY 1-877-712-9279  
[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ovcres/  
welcome.html](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ovcres/welcome.html)

National HIV/AIDS Hotline  
1-800-342-AIDS  
1-800-342-2437  
TTY 1-800-243-7012  
Spanish 1-800-344-SIDA

National Sexual Violence  
Resource Center  
717-728-9740  
[www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)  
Rape, Abuse & Incest  
National Network  
1-800-656-HOPE  
1-800-656-4673  
[www.rainn.orr](http://www.rainn.orr)

Violence Against Women Office  
202-307-6026  
[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo)