

YOUR RIGHTS & OPTIONS

If you have experienced a crime of sexual violence (including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking), you have several rights and opportunities available to you. It does not matter whether the incident occurred on- or off-campus. Included are the rights to:

1. Seek medical attention
2. Utilize confidential resources
3. Report or not report what happened to the police, and to receive assistance from NSU in doing so
4. Report or not report what happened to NSU
5. Request interim measures and support from NSU, regardless of whether or not you file a formal complaint
6. Request to pursue a formal investigation and resolution process at NSU
7. Seek legal and campus protective orders
8. Be accompanied to relevant campus meetings by a person of your choosing (whose role is to assist & support you, not represent you)

What if it isn't a crime?

In addition to crimes of sexual violence, NSU also prohibits sexual harassment and other forms of misconduct which may not be crimes, but which may affect your ability to go to class, study, work on campus, feel safe, or otherwise affect your ability to participate in a program or activity at NSU. Contact the Title IX Coordinator(s) to discuss your rights and options in these situations.

What about retaliation?

Any form of retaliation towards a victim or witness, including intimidation, harassment, threats, or other adverse action is prohibited. Talk with the Title IX Coordinator(s) about how to protect your privacy and how to report retaliation to law enforcement and/or to NSU.

RESOURCES

NSU Title IX Coordinator: Laura Bennett

Phone: (954) 262-7858

Email: laura.bennett@nova.edu

Website: <http://www.nova.edu/title-ix>

Office: Office of Human Resources, East Campus
3100 SW 9th Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315-3025

Campus Confidential Resources

For students: Henderson (945) 424-6911

For employees: EAP (877) 398-5816

Comprehensive Medical/Community Resources

The **Nancy J. Cotterman Center (NJCC)** is Broward County's certified Rape Crisis Center, offering confidential comprehensive services including forensic sexual assault exams, crisis intervention, advocacy, & counseling. **24 Hour Helpline:** (954) 761-RAPE (7273)

Women in Distress is a full service domestic/dating violence center providing crisis response, emergency shelter, counseling, and other services.

24 Hour Crisis Line: (954) 761-1133

Victim Advocates

You can obtain assistance from victim advocates through the state attorney's office or the local police:

State Attorney: www.myfloridalegal.com/directory

Davie Police: Judy Nesbitt (954) 693-8285

Law Enforcement

To report a crime, contact the municipal police with jurisdiction over the location where the crime occurred. For the NSU Davie campus, this is:

Davie Police Department
1230 South Nob Hill Road
Davie, FL 33324
(954) 693-8200

National Hotlines

Sexual Assault: Contact RAINN at 800-656-HOPE (4673) or visit www.rainn.org to find a local crisis response center.

Domestic Violence: Visit the National Domestic Violence Hotline at www.thehotline.org or call 1-800-799-7233.



Your Rights & Resources if you are a Victim of Sexual Violence

Nova Southeastern University is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy educational and employment environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, and misconduct based on sex, including sexual orientation and gender-related identity and expression. This applies to students, employees, and others when the behavior occurs on campus; at NSU recognized activities; or off-campus when the behavior poses a serious threat of harm to or has the effect of creating a hostile environment for a member of the University community. Prohibited behaviors include:

- Sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion
- Sex-based harassment, including hostile environment
- Intimate relationship violence, including dating and domestic violence
- Stalking
- Sexual exploitation

For definitions and examples, please visit
<http://www.nova.edu/title-ix>.

AFTER AN INCIDENT

Preservation of Evidence

If you have been a victim of sexual violence, it is important to consider preserving evidence through a forensic sexual assault exam that may help to investigate a crime or obtain a protective order so that you maximize your options. You have the right to a forensic exam, even if you are not sure whether you want to pursue legal action. If you are able to avoid showering, washing, brushing your teeth or hair, or changing clothes, that may help preserve evidence. It is natural to want to do these things, so you can still have an exam performed even if you have done any or all of these. It is ideal to have an exam completed as soon as possible, and up to 120 hours at the NJCC. If you remove any clothing, place them in a **paper** bag to preserve them. You can learn more about a forensic sexual assault exam at <https://rainn.org/get-information/sexual-assault-recovery/rape-kit> or by calling the Nancy J. Cotterman Center's 24-hour helpline at (954) 761-7273.

Reporting the Incident

You have three different reporting options available to you. You may choose any, some, or none, of these:

- **Law Enforcement:** If what occurred may be a crime, you are encouraged to report to law enforcement. You should report in the jurisdiction where it occurred or where you experienced the crime.
- **Campus:** If you would like NSU to investigate the incident, provide you with support/remedies, and/or pursue formal action, you can report violations of NSU policy (including crimes) to the Title IX Coordinator via the secure online reporting form at www.nova.edu/title-ix. Please be aware that the Title IX Coordinator may be required to report potential threats or crimes to law enforcement, but it is up to you to determine how much you participate in any criminal investigation.
- **Anonymous:** You can report the incident to NSU anonymously by leaving your name/contact info off the online reporting form at www.nova.edu/title-ix. NSU will still review and consider the information, but may be limited in our response without the ability to offer you support or ask follow up questions.

Seeking Medical Attention

Regardless of whether you report the incident to anyone, you are encouraged to seek medical care for your physical health. This can include tests for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy, as well as general physical health care. You can receive basic health care through medical providers, community resources, or at the NSU medical center.

Confidential Counseling

Confidential counseling can support your emotional well-being, and is a good place to start if you are not sure where to go. NJCC and Women in Distress offer free, confidential counseling. In addition, students can contact Henderson Counseling and NSU employees can contact the Employee Assistance Program.

Interim Measures/Remedies

NSU can arrange for a variety of interim or long-term measures to support victims of sexual violence including changes to your academic or work schedule, campus no-contact orders, public safety escort service, assistance obtaining or enforcing a civil order of protection, and potentially other actions that help you feel safe on campus. In all situations, only the information needed to enforce or implement these will be shared with those who need to know. Any burden on your access to your education will be minimized as much as is practical. Contact the Title IX Coordinator to learn more.

Your Privacy & NSU's Obligations

Your privacy will be maintained as much as possible and practical during the investigation and resolution processes. Most faculty and staff are responsible employees and must report incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator and crimes to Public Safety. If you want to ensure your confidentiality, seek out confidential resources. The Title IX Coordinator will respect your preferences for privacy when possible and reasonable, but must also weigh the safety of the University community when considering your request. More information about how NSU evaluates requests for privacy is available at www.nova.edu/title-ix.

NSU ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESSES

What to Expect

Once you report an incident to NSU or NSU becomes aware of it, the Title IX Coordinator will offer you resources and information (usually by email). The Title IX Coordinator can also assist you in learning about the scope and jurisdiction of the campus policy, as well as options for formal and informal resolution. Campus investigations are conducted by trained officials and use the preponderance or "more likely than not" standard of evidence. It is up to you how much you participate in the process. If a crime may have occurred, you have the right to be accompanied by an advisor of your choosing during any meeting or proceeding related to the resolution process (including investigation meetings), and to review and respond to the relevant case information.

What Happens in an Investigation?

During an investigation, you and the person reported to have committed the act are interviewed separately. Any witnesses are interviewed, and then an investigation summary is compiled. Additional information about the investigation and accountability processes involving students, employees, and University school students is available at www.nova.edu/title-ix.

Possible Outcomes

Outcomes correlate to the nature of the violation. These range from education and warnings against future violations to expulsion (for students) and termination (for employees). Additional details about outcomes are available at www.nova.edu/title-ix. In addition, interim remedies may be extended or become permanent.

Questions?

Visit www.nova.edu/title-ix or
Contact the Title IX Coordinator at
laura.bennett@nova.edu.