

Title IX Counseling Resources

Have you or someone you know been the victim of Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking? ***YOU ARE NOT ALONE. HELP IS AVAILABLE!***

The following resources are courtesy of RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network). It is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. For more information and invaluable resources, please visit their website at www.rainn.org.

1. The National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

How does it work?

When you call 800.656.HOPE (4673), you'll be routed to a local RAINN (Rape affiliate organization based on the first six digits of your phone number. Cell phone callers have the option to enter the zip code of their current location to more accurately locate the nearest sexual assault service provider.

How can the hotline help me?

Calling the National Sexual Assault Hotline gives you access to a range of free services including:

- Confidential, judgment-free support from a trained staff member
- Support finding a local health facility that is trained to care for survivors of sexual assault and offers services like sexual assault forensic exams
- Someone to help you talk through what happened
- Local resources that can assist with your next steps toward healing and recovery
- Referrals for long term support in your area
- Information about the laws in your area
- Basic information about medical concerns

2. The National Sexual Assault Online Hotline <https://www.rainn.org/>

How does it work?

A secure, confidential private one-on-one chat with a RAINN support specialist who is trained to meet the unique needs of survivors. The service works like other instant message and online chat systems.

How can the Online Hotline help me?

Chat one-on-one with a RAINN support specialist to access a range of free services including:

- Confidential, judgment-free support from a trained support specialist

- Someone to help you talk through what happened
- Resources that can assist with your next steps toward healing and recovery
- Referrals for long term support in your area
- Information about the laws and resources in your area
- Basic information about medical resources

3. Local Sexual Assault Service Providers

- **Blackburn Center**
(888) 832-2272
www.blackburncenter.org
- **Pittsburgh Action Against Rape**
(866) 363-7273
www.paar.net
- **The C.A.R.E. Center— STTARS Program**
(888) 480-7283
www.sphs.org/the-care-center.html
- **Center for Victims**
(866) 644-2882
www.centerforvictims.org

Local Sexual assault service providers have highly trained staff that can offer assistance in moments of crisis as well as resources for ongoing support related to sexual violence. Their services are usually free or low cost. They can offer information and resources including

- Individual counseling
- Group counseling/support groups
- Medical attention and hospital accompaniment
- Legal/criminal justice system advocacy
- Crime victim assistance advocacy
- Emergency shelter

Reporting a Title IX or Sexual Misconduct Incident

Only a small number of individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct report the incident. There are many reasons why an individual doesn't report. Common reasons include the fear of not being believed, not having enough evidence that the incident occurred, and the fear of having others find out about the incident. In addition, reporting can sometimes re-traumatize a survivor because disclosing the information is similar to reliving the experience.

Douglas Education Center (DEC) strongly advocates that a victim of prohibited conduct report the incident in a timely manner because the ability to gather adequate information, may be limited if a significant length of time has passed. However, we understand that there are reasons why an individual may choose to delay or decline to report.

There is no timeframe to make your decision, and if you do make the decision to report, you can be assured of the following:

1. Your privacy is of the utmost importance to us. Details regarding your case will be kept confidential and only shared with a small number of individuals who need to know.
2. You can file a report anonymously. This applies only to students who file a personal or third-party report. Employees are considered responsible-employees under the law and cannot file anonymous reports.
3. Reporting the incident to the school does not obligate you to report the incident to law enforcement. DEC will not report details of your case to law enforcement unless it involves a minor (individuals under the age of 18). If you decide to report the incident to law enforcement, and would like assistance from the school we can accompany you to the police station.
4. Reporting the incident will not subject you to scrutiny or judgmental opinions from DEC faculty or staff.
5. Reporting an incident does not necessarily mean that you are requesting an investigation. When making a report you have the option to simply request resources, request that no further action be taken, or request an investigation and remediation of the incident.
6. You will be given amnesty from our drug and alcohol policy, if either were involved during the prohibited conduct. This can also include respondents to the complaint prohibited conduct, any witnesses, or an individual making a third-party report to the extent that such individual provides information in good faith regarding an investigation of prohibited conduct. Please note that this amnesty applies only to DEC's policy and does not include any criminal, civil, or legal ramifications that may arise.

How Do I Make a Report?— An individual may make a report using any of the following methods:

1. Contact DEC's Title IX Coordinator Michael Crosby. You may stop in his office during regular business hours Monday –Friday 8:30am-5:00pm, by phone at 724-653-2196, or by email mcrosby@dec.edu.
2. You may file a personal or third-party report through the DEC website at <https://dec.edu/title9>.
3. You may make the initial report to a faculty or staff member that you feel comfortable with. Please note that some employees are obligated to share this information with the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will then follow up with you to offer resources, support, and determine how you would like to proceed.
4. If you would like to file a complaint with law enforcement you may contact the Monessen Police Department at (724) 684-4600.

If you are not ready to make a report, but need someone to talk to about the incident, counseling support is available from Blackburn Center by calling 1-888-832-2272. All of Blackburn Center's services are free, confidential, and can be anonymous.

For our complete Title IX Policy and other important resources, please visit <https://www.dec.edu/title9>.