

# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS

## What You Need To Know About Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses and How to Help Your Student Succeed

### Federal and State Laws

**Title IX** is a federal law that requires schools to take action to address gender-based violence and sex discrimination. Colleges are legally required to respond to and remedy hostile educational environments and provide protections to students affected by sexual or intimate partner violence.

**Enough Is Enough** is a New York state law that requires colleges to adopt certain policies and guidelines in an effort to address stalking, sexual assault, dating violence, and domestic violence. Colleges are required to utilize affirmative consent as the standard for consensual sexual activity, and are obligated to provide students with certain rights and protections during campus conduct proceedings.

### Definitions: What is?

#### Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is defined as any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent. It includes acts such as rape, fondling, incest, and statutory rape.

#### Domestic Violence?

A felony or misdemeanor crime 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, or; by a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner.

#### Dating Violence?

Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic/intimate nature with the victim.

#### Stalking?

Intentionally engaging in a course of conduct, directed at a specific person, which is likely to cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others or cause that person to suffer substantial emotional damage.

### Talking with Your Student After An Assault

Sexual assault can happen to anyone. As a parent's worst nightmare, it can be very difficult and overwhelming to hear that your loved one has been sexually assaulted. The most important thing you can do is help your college student feel safe and supported.

Every person responds differently to sexual assault. Frequent responses include feelings of fear, distress, humiliation, anger, confusion, numbness, and guilt. It is important that your student be allowed to experience and process through these feelings without the fear of having them invalidated or dismissed. There are resources to help you and your student heal.

### What Do You Do If Your Student is a Victim? Your student has the right to:

- ▶ Notify campus public safety officials, local law enforcement, and/or state police (NYS Police Hotline: 1-844-845-7269)
- ▶ Be assisted by campus authorities in notifying law enforcement if the victim chooses
- ▶ Decline to notify such authorities
- ▶ Report confidentially to the Counseling Services: 914-740-6402 or off-campus resources
- ▶ Receive emergency access to a Title IX Coordinator
  - **Paula Green**, New Rochelle: 914-740-6612 | [pgreen@monroecollege.edu](mailto:pgreen@monroecollege.edu)
  - **Jeannette Makodila**, Bronx: 646-393-8547 | [jmakodila@monroecollege.edu](mailto:jmakodila@monroecollege.edu)

### Key Phrases to Use

- ▶ "I'm so glad you told me."
- ▶ "I am here for you."
- ▶ "There is no excuse for sexual assault. No one deserves to be raped."
- ▶ "Whatever you did to survive the situation was the right thing to do."
- ▶ "I will do my best to help you stay safe however I can."

## Overview of Steps to Take

1. Believe your student when they confide in you. Do not place blame on them for the sexual assault, and don't pressure them to talk. It is better to go slowly and let them set the pace.
2. Take the necessary steps to protect and ensure both your student's and your safety.
3. Seek medical attention, but understand that your student has the right to decide what medical attention is necessary. It's important that your student regain control of their body.
4. Discuss with your student their options and ask them what they want to do next. This may or may not include contacting an advocate and/or the police. Reporting a sexual assault crime is often a very difficult, long, and painful process for survivors. It is not an appropriate option for everyone, but a trained advocate or supportive counselor can help you both navigate through your student's options.

## Dos and Don'ts

### DO:

- ▶ Listen and try to understand. Reassure them that they have your love and support.
- ▶ Reassure them that it was not their fault.
- ▶ Listen to their reasons if they didn't tell you immediately; they may have been scared of your reaction, felt shame or embarrassment, or tried to protect you. It is very common for survivors to wait before sharing with people they love.
- ▶ Give control to the survivor, by allowing them to speak for themselves and make their own decisions about how to proceed. It is crucial for survivors to regain power over their own lives.

### DON'T:

- ▶ Blame your student or yourself. Avoid asking "why" questions as much as possible to avoid implying blame.
- ▶ Over simplify or minimize what happened.
- ▶ Judge them for how they are reacting.
- ▶ Let your student make their own decisions. Don't force them to file a report against their wishes or if they aren't ready. Let your student make their own decisions.

## On-Campus Resources

### Confidential Resource

- ▶ David Dimond, Senior Vice President  
914-740-6436 | ddimond@monroecollege.edu

### New Rochelle, Non-confidential, yet information will be treated with utmost privacy

- ▶ Paula Green, Title IX Coordinator  
914-740-6612 | pgreen@monroecollege.edu
- ▶ Allison Hall 24/7 Security | 914-740-6854

### Bronx Campus, Non-confidential, yet information will be treated with utmost privacy

- ▶ Jeannette Makodila, Title IX Coordinator  
646-393-8547 | jmakodila@monroecollege.edu
- ▶ King Hall 24/7 Security, 646-393-8495
- ▶ Dr. Karenann Carty, Senior Vice President  
646-393-8772 | kcarty@monroecollege.edu

### Confidential Services

- ▶ Counseling Services  
646-393-8442

## Off-Campus Resources

### Law Enforcement

#### New York State

- ▶ NYS Police Sexual Assault Unit Hotline:  
1-844-845-7269

#### Bronx

- ▶ NYPD 52nd Precinct, Peter Fiorello, Commanding Officer:  
718-220-5254

#### New Rochelle

- ▶ New Rochelle Police Department, Yadilene Machado:  
914-654-2356

### Counseling, Advocacy, and Legal Services

#### Bronx

- ▶ Bronx District Attorney's Office, Crime Victims Assistance Unit, Sophie Walters, College Campus Sexual Assault Coordinator, 718-590-2115
- ▶ Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, Changing Futures Program | 718-884-0700, ext. 140
- ▶ Safe Horizons, 24/7 hotline: 212-227-3000
- ▶ NYC Family Justice Center, Bronx: 718-508-1220

#### New Rochelle

- ▶ WestCOP Victims Assistance Services, Ariana Cember, College Campus Sexual Assault Prevention Educator  
914-345-3113 ext. 313 | acember@westcop.org