

Sexual Assault and Interpersonal Violence Protocol of Stockton University Panhellenic Association

The following guidelines are intended to provide leaders in the Panhellenic Community with information to consider when responding to disclosures and allegations of sexual assault and interpersonal violence. While each situation is different, the guidelines in this document would likely apply to many scenarios. These guidelines are suggested practices and not official policy, and we encourage you to consider following them to ensure a more consistent and supportive process for students. Always feel free to consult with a confidential victim advocate with the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Center, and/or the Office of the Title IX Coordinator if you are uncertain about a specific situation.

Section 1. Chapter Response to Member Experiencing Interpersonal Violence

It is the expectation of all chapter members to support anyone in the community that has experienced sexual- or gender-based violence.

The Stockton University [Student Conduct Code](#) prohibits sexual- or gender-based violence, specifically dating violence, stalking, domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion as consistent with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations. The Code also prohibits retaliation for anyone who reports any of these behaviors and/or participates in the investigation of one. In addition to these University definitions, the state prohibits sexual- and gender-based violence as defined in other sections of the New Jersey State Criminal Code which defines [prohibited conduct](#).

Guidelines on how to speak with the person who shared they've been hurt:

- There are some messages that are helpful for someone who's experienced violence to hear, and there are some messages that may be less helpful. If someone shares that they've been harmed, here are some helpful responses:
 - "Thank you for trusting me with this information."
 - "I'm sorry you experienced this."
 - "I will respect your privacy, and I want you to know your rights and options."
- Encourage the individual to meet with a [Victim Advocate](#).
 - Victim Advocates are CONFIDENTIAL. The advocate will listen to your concerns and provide guidance and safety plans tailored to your situation.
 - Important note: survivors can choose to make a report to the Office of Student Conduct, the university's Title IX officer, and/or the appropriate police department.
- Please do not ask the person who shared that they were harmed to share with you what happened; if someone wants to share on their own, they may. Simply begin by listening and let them know you care about them. Part of letting them know you care is letting them know it's their decision what happens next. Accordingly, don't tell them what you think they should do.
- Do *not* try to investigate what happened yourself. If the person whose experienced harm wants the situation to be addressed, they may ask University staff who are trained in how to conduct trauma-informed investigations to investigate. Sometimes asking the wrong questions can be more harmful than helpful.
- Respect the privacy of the individual who shared information with you. It's their information to tell others.

Section 2. Chapter Response to Allegations Against Member for Interpersonal Violence

It is the responsibility of chapter leadership to determine what misconduct and/or chapter bylaws have been compromised due to the incident.

- Based on the information received, it is recommended that chapter leadership consult with advisors to determine if the chapter wants to move forward with an internal judicial process in accordance with their organization's national policies. This should *not* be in place of [reporting](#) it to the University.
- If the chapter is not sure whether the incident is being investigated, complete [an Incident Report Form](#) in case.
- If the University or police are investigating, it is recommended that chapter leadership also consult with the Fraternity and Sorority advisor.

If the chapter decides to move forward with the internal judicial process, it is recommended that chapter leadership temporarily suspend the member under investigation in accordance with your organization's national policies. This is an interim measure, especially if a University or criminal investigation is ongoing.

Section 3. Resources

- [Victim Advocacy Center](#)
- Crisis Intervention Hotline, (609) 849-8473
- [Incident Report Form](#)
- [Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Center](#)
- Stockton Police Department, (609) 652-4390
 - Can file a police report for an incident that occurred off-campus.
 - A prosecuting attorney will review the detective's investigation and determine if there is enough evidence to move forward; if the prosecutor decides to move forward, a criminal case will be opened, and the alleged perpetrator (now a "defendant") will be charged with a crime.
- Medical Care
 - Medical care after experiencing sexual assault or intimate partner violence may be helpful for treating or preventing illness and injury. It is also a way to preserve evidence. Generally, you may want to get medical care as soon as possible.
 - If you have been sexually assaulted, medical providers can offer:
 - A physical exam that will identify any injuries.
 - Emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy.
 - Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing.
 - Medication (prophylaxis) to prevent contracting HIV and other STIs.
 - Testing to determine if you were given a sedating substance or other drug.
 - Not all hospitals provide forensic exams/rape kits. If you are interested in evidence collection, as well as medical care, you must go to a hospital with trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE). SANE nurses are specially trained to work with patients who have been sexually assaulted. The nearest SANE Examiners are located at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, Mainland Campus, 65 W. Jimmie Leeds Road, (609) 652-1000
 - Important things to know:
 - You are not required to make a police report to get a SANE exam.

- There is no charge for a SANE exam.
- You may bring a friend, family member or advocate with you.
- You can contact Avanzar for a confidential advocate:
 - Call: 1-800-286-4184
 - Text: 609-569-5437
- Preserving evidence keeps your options open in case you decide to report.
- If possible, do not wash your clothes or shower prior to the exam.
- It is recommended to be treated as soon as possible; evidence is best collected within 120 hours (five days) of the assault.
- Accommodations
 - Title IX supportive measures are available (i.e. no contact orders, working with faculty, housing relocation, etc.). No formal report needed to issue supportive measures.
 - Hardships Withdrawal – Stockton Cares and WGSC available to assist in navigating withdrawals and/or leaves of absence. Can also provide general support for challenges related to academics, mental health, etc.
 - Protection Orders– Issued through Office of Student Conduct (confidential advocate can assist in making request). No formal report or evidence needed to request no contact order.

Edited on 6/27/2022 by:

Joseph Thompson, Assistant Director of Student Development

Teresa Barone, Assistant Director of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Center

Brooke Valan, Panhellenic President