

What is Sexual Violence*?

Sexual violence, which includes rape, is any unwanted physical sexual act.* This act is perpetrated against a person's will for the purposes of sexual gratification, humiliation, and/or degradation. Sexual Violence can happen to anyone, regardless of gender.

What is Consent*?

Consent is defined by Southern Methodist University as *voluntary, clear, continuous, mutually understandable permission, given by words or actions, regarding one's willingness to engage in sexual activity*. Past consent between the participants does not imply future consent. Silence or the absence of resistance does not imply consent. Consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not imply consent to engage in sexual activity with another. Consent can be withdrawn at any time. Coercion, force, or threat of either invalidates consent. Someone who is incapacitated cannot give consent. Incapacitation may be due to the use of alcohol and/or other drugs, may be if a person is asleep or unconscious, or may be due to an intellectual or other disability that prevents the student from having the capacity to give consent. *A sexual interaction is considered consensual when individuals willingly and knowingly engage in the interaction*

What is Relationship Violence?

Relationship violence (also known as, and can include, intimate partner violence, dating violence, and domestic violence) is a pattern of behavior in an intimate relationship used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation. This can be verbal, emotional, and/or physical. Examples include: slapping, name-calling, damaging property, and threats of abuse or physical harm.

What is Stalking?

Stalking is defined as engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's personal safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress.

*Please note that these definitions are contained within the Southern Methodist University's Sexual Misconduct Policy and may not be the same standard applied in a law enforcement proceedings.

Resources and Contacts

Important Contacts

Office of Violence Prevention & Support Services
Phone: (214) 768-4564

Title IX Coordinator
Institutional Access & Equity
Phone: (973) 313-6132

Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards
Phone: (214) 768-4563

On Campus

SMU Police Department
Non-Emergency: (214) 768-3388
Emergency: (214) 768-3333
Campus Phone Emergency: 9-1-1

Office of the Dean of Student Life
Phone: (214) 768-4564

Counseling Services
Phone: (214) 768-2277

Health Services Phone: (214) 768-2141

Office of the Chaplain & Religious Life
Phone: (214) 768-4502

Off Campus

University Park Police Department
Phone: (214) 363-3000

Highland Park Police Department
Phone: (214) 521-5000

Dallas Police Department
Phone: (214) 670-6206

For more information, please visit
smu.edu/violenceprevention



FAQ's for Respondents of Sexual Misconduct

Violence Prevention & Support Services.
violenceprevention@smu.edu
214.768.4512.
Hughes Trigg Student Center, Suite 302.

Southern Methodist University

is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment. When sexual harassment or sexual violence has occurred and is brought to the attention of an administrator, steps will be taken to end the harassment or violence, prevent its reoccurrence, and address its effects. Within the University's processes, the person making the allegations is referred to as the **Complainant**. The person whom the allegations have been made against is referred to as the **Respondent**.

What do I do if I am accused of sexual violence and/or sexual misconduct?

DO NOT contact the Complainant. You may want to speak with someone in the campus community who can act as your support person. The Institutional Access & Equity Office can explain the University's conduct process for addressing sexual misconduct complaints. You may also want to seek confidential counseling through Counseling Services, the Office of the Chaplain, or seek support through off campus services in the community.

Can I have someone with me throughout this process?

Both the Reporting Individual and the Respondent are permitted to have an advisor of choice. This advisor can be present during any meetings throughout the conduct process, and during any formal hearings, in an advisory and supportive manner. For full details on this policy, please see the Student Code of Conduct at <http://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentLife/StudentHandbook/ConductCode>.

Can I be charged with something on campus and off campus?

Yes, the Reporting Individual has the right to pursue both campus resolution of a complaint as well as civil and/or criminal resolution. It is up to the Reporting Individual to decide how he/she wants to proceed. The University's processes will move forward regardless if there is criminal or civil legal action taken regarding the same incident.

What else should I be thinking about as this situation moves forward?

The University prohibits retaliation in anyway against an individual or group who has reported an allegation of sexual harassment or sexual violence or who has participated in the conduct process in response to such an allegation (see Policy below). Be mindful of your actions and behavior and avoid all direct and indirect contact with the Reporting Individual until the matter is resolved.

We have a strict Non-Retaliation Statement

Retaliation against anyone who reports in good faith or who participates in the investigation process, *is prohibited* and is subject to disciplinary action. Retaliation is defined as an adverse action against an individual who has made a good faith report or complaint, or who has participated in the investigation of a report or complaint or otherwise exercised his/her rights under this policy or the law.

Rights of a Student in the Conduct Review Process

[to be completed with updated information]

Do we want to put a list of "Rights" .. Or basic process headers? Or maybe a link to most updated policy/process?