

Victim Rights and Options: Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking

If you or someone you know has experienced dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, A&M-San Antonio is here to help.

You have the right to live, learn, and/or work in a safe and welcoming environment. Violence is unacceptable, and University policy prohibits dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

This document provides students and employees with a written explanation of their rights and options, outlining the steps to take depending on the services they want or need.

Dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are significant experiences and can be traumatizing. Each person's experience is unique, and numerous options are available for support and reporting at A&M-San Antonio. It is essential to note that there is no single correct response; rather, there are various options for accessing support and different reporting methods. Your immediate and long-term safety is of the utmost importance. The resources and options outlined below may be helpful as you decide what next steps are a good fit for you.

First Steps: Things to Consider

1. Are you in danger?

- If **yes**, call **911** or the A&M-SA Police Department at **(210) 784-1911**, or activate the emergency notification on the SafeZone app.
- A&M-SA Police can also provide non-emergency support by calling **(210) 784-1900**. The department will coordinate transportation to pick you up from your location, if needed, and make plans for your next steps.

2. Do you need medical attention?

- You can receive medical attention at any medical facility; however, certain facilities have specially trained staff to help survivors of sexual assault and/or have the ability to offer a **sexual assault forensic exam (SAFE)**.
- Medical exams can also address other physical needs or trauma and assess for sexually transmitted infections or pregnancy.
- The following location has a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) available 24/7:
 - **Methodist Specialty Hospital Forensic Nursing Services**
 - 8026 Floyd Curl Drive, San Antonio, TX 78229
 - Phone: **(210) 575-8343**

Confidential Guidance and Crisis Counseling

Unsure of where to start? You may want more information or to talk to someone confidentially as you decide what you'd like to do moving forward. You can access crisis counseling, information, and support by connecting with the resources listed in this document.

- **Students:** May obtain free, confidential guidance 24/7/365 from the Student Counseling Center.
 - Location: MADLA 120
 - Phone: **(210) 784-1331** (after business hours, press “2”)
 - Website: [Student Counseling Center Information](#)
- **Employees:** May obtain confidential guidance from the Employee Assistance Program.
 - Phone: **(866) 301-9623**
 - Website: [Employee Assistance Program Information](#)
 - Organization ID: TAMUS

Preservation of Evidence

It is important to **preserve evidence** that may be useful in obtaining a protection order or in proceeding with a criminal investigation or a disciplinary process should you choose to do so.

- Completing a forensic exam **does not require** you to file a police report or report to the institution, although we encourage these reports if you are comfortable doing so.
- **To preserve evidence**, it is recommended that you do not bathe, douche, smoke, use the toilet, or clean the location where the incident occurred.
- Save items you were wearing, sheets, and towels in a **paper bag**.
- **Digital evidence**, such as text messages, phone call records, emails, pictures, notes, and gifts, can all be pertinent to a report.

Emotional and Physical Impact

Dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are significant and can be traumatizing. Although each person's experience is unique, a wide range of emotions can be felt. These reactions may change over time, and it may be helpful to address them with the assistance of a trained counselor or therapist, victim/survivor advocate, or even a trusted friend or family member.

Possible Physical Effects may include:

- Pain and soreness
- Injuries, Nausea, Vomiting, Headaches
- Panic attacks
- Sleep pattern disturbances (Insomnia or sleeping more than usual)
- Loss of appetite or change in eating habits (overeating or under-eating, etc.)

Possible Psychological and/or Emotional Effects may include:

- Impaired memory, Shock, Denial
- Irritability and anger, Sadness and grief
- Social withdrawal
- Apathy (detachment, loss of caring), Hypervigilance (always on guard)
- Sleep disturbance (including nightmares), Flashbacks
- Difficulty concentrating
- Loss of trust in self or others
- Guilt, shame, or embarrassment
- Thoughts of suicide or death
- Diminished interest in activities or sex, increased interest in sexual activity

Campus Disciplinary Process and Victim Rights

University Disciplinary Proceedings

University disciplinary proceedings are detailed in the Student Handbook and, for employees, in A&M System Regulation 08.01.01, A&M System Policy 32.02, A&M System Regulation 32.02.02, and A&M-San Antonio Procedure 32.02.02.O0.01.

- The university uses the **preponderance of the evidence** standard for sex-based misconduct, which means the conduct is more likely to have occurred than not.
- A student or employee found responsible could be prosecuted in state court and may also face disciplinary action by the University, up to and including **dismissal**.
- The University's disciplinary process includes a **prompt, fair, and impartial investigation and resolution process**. The University strives to resolve complaints within 60 days, although extensions may be necessary in some cases.
- Victims may pursue remedies through an internal complaint process and/or by filing criminal charges. The victim may also pursue an informal resolution through the **Title IX Coordinator**.

- Victims and respondents may be accompanied by an **advisor of their choice** to meetings and proceedings. The University will not limit the choice of advisor or presence for either the accuser or the accused in any meeting or institutional disciplinary proceeding. However, the institution may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in the proceedings, as long as these restrictions apply equally to both parties.
- They also have the same opportunity to have evidence of past sexual history excluded during any hearings except in limited circumstances.

Requesting Accommodations and Supportive Measures

Regardless of whether or not you choose to report to the A&M-San Antonio Police Department or local law enforcement, there are specific options available to you through the university, if requested and reasonably available.

- You may request assistance from campus authorities in notifying law enforcement, including on-campus and local police. You may also decline to have law enforcement notified.
- Victims and respondents have access to **supportive measures** coordinated by the **Title IX Office**, including:
 - No Contact Orders; protective orders; counseling; health services; legal assistance; immigration services; and academic, housing, transportation, work, financial aid, and other accommodations, both within the institution and in the community.

Orders of Protection

Victims are eligible to apply for protective orders and/or no-contact orders or similar lawful orders issued by a criminal, civil, institutional, or tribal court.

- Standard Protective Orders may prohibit the offender from committing further acts of violence or harassment, or threatening the victim.
- Texas law provides for the criminal enforcement of valid protective orders.
- For more information, contact the A&M-San Antonio PD at **(210) 784-1900** or the Bexar County Family Justice Center at **(210) 631-0100** or [Bexar County Family Justice Center Website](#).

No Contact Orders

- **Students** should contact the **Dean of Students** office (**210-784-1354**) to request a no-contact order.
- **Employees** requesting a no contact order should contact **Human Resources (210) 784-2058**).

Amnesty

Universities may not take any disciplinary action against an enrolled student or employee who in good faith reports being the victim of, or a witness to, an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking for a minor code of conduct

violation occurring at or near the time of the incident and reasonably related to it (e.g., personal alcohol consumption, minor drug offense, violating curfew).

Confidentiality

If you do not want to pursue action, you may still consider making a **confidential report**.

- With your permission, A&M-San Antonio's Police Department can file a report on the details of the incident without revealing your identity beyond its reporting to the Title IX Coordinator, if applicable.
- Personally identifiable information will be treated as **private** and shared only with individuals who have a specific need to know, to the extent that maintaining such privacy does not impair the institution's ability to provide support and protective measures.

Reporting Rights and Contacts

To make a report against a student, employee, or third party, contact:

- Title IX Coordinator: (210-784-2061), CAB 439K, and/or
- A&M-San Antonio Police: (210-784-1900), Police Station

Note: The Title IX Coordinator will not provide identifying information to the A&M-San Antonio Police Department or other law enforcement without the victim's permission, except when information demonstrates an immediate danger to the victim or to the community.

You have a right to:

- Decline to participate in an investigation.
- A prompt, fair, and impartial process, completed within specified time frames, that provides timely notice of meetings and equal access to information to both the complainant and the respondent, and is conducted by trained, unbiased officials.
- Have others present during any institutional disciplinary proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by an **advisor of your choice**.
- **Simultaneous notification, in writing, of:**
 - The result of any institutional disciplinary proceeding.
 - The institution's procedures for appealing the results.
 - Any changes to the results.
 - When the result becomes final.

Definitions

- **Dating Violence:** Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a **social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature** with the victim.
- **Domestic Violence:** A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by a current or former spouse/intimate partner, a person with whom the victim shares a child, a cohabitating partner, or a person similarly situated under domestic or family violence laws.
- **Sexual Assault:** An offense that meets the definition of rape, fondling, incest, or statutory rape.
 - **Rape:** Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, **without the consent of the victim.**
 - **Fondling:** Touching of the private parts of another person for the purposes of sexual gratification, **without the consent of the victim.**
 - **Incest:** Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
 - **Statutory rape:** Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.
- **Stalking:** Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to **fear for the person's safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.**

Quick Guide: Additional Resources

On-Campus Resources

- **Title IX Coordinator**
 - Phone: (210) 784-2061
 - Email: titleix@tamusa.edu
 - Location: Central Academic Building Room 439K
 - Website: [Title IX Information](#)
- **Victim/Survivor Advocacy (Victim Services)**
 - Phone: (210) 784-1906
 - Location: Texas A&M-San Antonio Police Station
 - Counseling & Mental Health (Student Counseling Center)
 - Phone: (210) 784-1331 (Available 24/7/365)
 - Email: StuCounseling@tamusa.edu
 - Location: Texas A&M-San Antonio Madla 120
- **A&M-San Antonio Police Department (Non-emergency)**
 - Phone: (210) 784-1900
 - Location: Texas A&M-San Antonio Police Station
 - Student Rights and Responsibilities
 - Phone: (210) 784-1353
 - Email: StudentRR@tamusa.edu
 - Location: Madla Building, Suite 342
- **Associate Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students**
 - Phone: (210) 784-1354
 - Location: Madla Building, Suite 312
 - Student Financial Aid (Scholarships & Financial Aid)
 - Phone: (210) 784-1300
- **Visa & Immigration Assistance (International Affairs)**
 - Phone: (210) 784-1309
 - Location: Central Academic Building 434
 - Employee Assistance Program
 - Phone: (866) 301-9623
 - Website: [Employee Assistance Program Information](#)

Off-Campus Resources

Victim/Survivor Advocacy

- **Rape Crisis Center**
 - (210) 349-7273
 - 4606 Centerview Drive, Suite 200, San Antonio, Texas 78228
- **Bexar County Family Justice Center**
 - (, 2nd Floor, San Antonio, Texas 78204
- **San Antonio Police, South Substation Victim Advocacy Services**

- (210) 207-8191
- 711 West Mayfield Boulevard
- **Bexar County Sheriff's Office Victim Services**
 - (210) 335-2105
 - 200 North Comal Street
- **VINE (Victim Information & Notification Everyday)**
 - (210) 226-6010
 - 200 N. Comal Street
- **The National Sexual Assault 24/7 Hotline RAINN**
 - (800) 656-4673
- **Family Violence Prevention Services**
 - (210) 930-3669
 - 7911 Broadway

Health

- **Methodist Specialty & Transplant Hospital, Forensic Nursing Services**
 - (210) 575-1590
 - 8026 Floyd Curl Drive
- **San Antonio Behavioral Healthcare Hospital**
 - (210) 541-5300
 - 8550 Huebner Road
- **CentroMed**
 - (210) 922-7000
 - Various locations
- **Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic**
 - (210) 399-4838
 - 6333 De Zavala Road, Suite B101
- **Baptist Neighborhood Hospital - Zarcamora**
 - (210) 572-2955
 - 7719 Interstate Highway 35S

Counseling & Mental Health (24/7)

- **Center for Health Care Services, 24-hour helpline**
 - (210) 223-7233
- **National Crisis Text Line**
 - Text "HOME" to 741-741
- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline (English and Spanish)**
 - 988

Legal Assistance

- **Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid**
 - (833) 329-8752
 - 301 South Texas Avenue, Mercedes, Texas
- **Texas Legal Services Center**

- (844) 303-7233
- **Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services**
 - (210) 226-7722

Visa & Immigration Assistance

- **City of San Antonio Office of Immigration Liaison**
 - (210)-207-8993

Additional Resources

- **Catholic Charities**
 - (210) 222-1294
- **Pride Center – San Antonio**
 - (210) 370-7743
 - 1303 McCullough Ave. Suite 160