

# University Policies

## Promoting Safety and Security continued

assault of a loved one very personally, almost as if the assault had happened to them. They may feel resentment or anger and unleash this anger on the victim and/or others. Sometimes their sense of frustration and helplessness is pitted against a powerful urge for revenge.

Do not make the mistake of discounting or ignoring your emotional responses. It is very important to realize that you too are responding to an unwanted crisis. You are trying to understand what has happened and adjust to unfamiliar realities. Therefore, do not hesitate to take advantage of support services in your community, which offer counseling for victims of sexual assault and their significant others.

### Crimes of Violence and the Campus Judicial System

Because of the seriousness of the violation and the consequences to the victims of sexual assault, the University of Florida is committed to providing prevention services, educational programming, procedures that encourage reporting of sexual assault incidents, and support services for victims.

An individual who is harmed by a violent act committed by a student in violation of the Code of Student Conduct at the University of Florida may receive special consideration according to state statute within the student judicial process. Acts of violence include, but are not limited to:

- Sexual assault
- Physical assault
- Relationship violence
- Stalking and harassment
- Threatening to commit acts of violence against another

Victims are given options concerning how or whether to proceed with an alleged incident of violence within the student judicial process; however, the Dean of Students Office/Student Judicial Affairs can proceed with judicial action without the victim's consent in order to protect the safety and well-being of the university community. The three options available to victims within the university's student judicial process include:

1. The victim asks for an investigation to be undertaken. If the evidence indicates substantiation, conduct charges are filed against the accused student. The victim is called as a witness in a student judicial hearing.
2. The victim files a report with the Dean of Students Office/Student Judicial Affairs and requests that a discussion take place with the accused student about the alleged incident. Information identifying the victim will not be released during the discussion.
3. The victim files a report with Student Judicial Affairs and affidavits are obtained to preserve the testimony of witnesses in the event that the victim and the university may want to pursue an action in the future. This option is provided to the victim with their understanding that in crimes of violence, especially sexual assault, timeliness is very important for the preservation of physical evidence as well as oral testimony.

Victims of violence whose cases are handled by Student Judicial Affairs will be provided the following to the extent feasible:

- Freedom from intimidation and harassment on

campus after the reporting of an alleged incident including, but not limited to, reassignments within the residence halls and changes of course sections;

- Information describing both the criminal and campus judicial processes;
- Information concerning the status of the case as it proceeds through the student judicial process;
- Information concerning the availability of counseling and medical services on campus as well as academic assistance aimed at retaining the victim as a member of the university community;
- Treatment in a dignified and compassionate manner by representatives of the university community;
- Ability to remain present throughout the evidentiary



portion of the judicial hearing;

- Presence of a person who agrees to accompany the victim throughout any investigation or campus judicial proceeding for the purpose of providing support;
- In cases of sexual assault/abuse or relationship violence, the ability to testify from another room provided that it does not interfere with the accused student's right to question the accuser or a witness;
- Ability to submit proposed questions for all witnesses in advance of the hearing with the understanding that the hearing officer/chair will determine the appropriate questions to be asked;
- Exclusion of previous, unrelated sexual behavior from the student judicial hearing;
- Submission of a written impact statement to the hearing body to be considered during sanctioning, if the charged student is found responsible; and
- Creation of a sensitive environment for the victim throughout the campus judicial process.

In all cases processed through the university's judicial system, the accuser and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during a disciplinary proceeding, and both the accuser and the accused shall be

### Victim Assistance Agencies

If you or someone you know is the victim of a crime or a violation of the Code of Student Conduct, it is important that you contact agencies that can help you resolve the matter. Listed below are some agencies that may be able to assist you:

**UFPD Office of Victim Services**  
Museum Road and Newell Drive  
(352) 392-5648  
[www.police.ufl.edu/ovs/vap.asp](http://www.police.ufl.edu/ovs/vap.asp)

**University of Florida Police Department**  
Museum Road and Newell Drive  
(352) 392-1111 (V/TDD)  
[www.police.ufl.edu](http://www.police.ufl.edu)

**Dean of Students Office**  
202 Peabody Hall  
(352) 392-1261  
(352) 392-3008 TDD  
[www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial)

**Gainesville Police Department**  
721 NW 6th Street  
(352) 334-2400  
[www.gainesvillepd.org](http://www.gainesvillepd.org)

**Alachua County Sheriff's Office**  
2621 Hawthorne Road  
(352) 367-4000  
[www.alachuasheriff.org](http://www.alachuasheriff.org)

**Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center**  
218 SE 24th Street  
(352) 264-6760  
[www.alachuacounty.us/government/depts/css/vicserv/](http://www.alachuacounty.us/government/depts/css/vicserv/)

**Center for Sexual Assault/Abuse Recovery and Education (CARE)**  
320 Infirmary Building  
(352) 392-1161 ext. 4362  
[shcc.ufl.edu/care/](http://shcc.ufl.edu/care/)

**University Counseling Center**  
301 Peabody Hall  
(352) 392-1575  
[www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu)

**Student Mental Health Services**  
245 Infirmary Building  
(352) 392-1171  
(352) 392-3192 TDD  
[shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/](http://shcc.ufl.edu/smhs/)

**Peaceful Paths**  
Domestic Abuse Network  
(352) 377-TALK (8255) (24-hour hotline)  
1-800-393-SAFE (7233)  
[www.peacefulpaths.org](http://www.peacefulpaths.org)

**Shands Hospital at Alachua General**  
801 SW 2nd Avenue  
(352) 733-0111  
[www.shands.org/hospitals/agh](http://www.shands.org/hospitals/agh)

**Shands Hospital Emergency Center**  
1600 SW Archer Road  
(352) 265-0050  
[www.shands.org/hospitals/UF](http://www.shands.org/hospitals/UF)

**North Florida Regional Medical Center Emergency Center**  
Newberry Road at I-75  
(352) 333-4900  
[www.nfrmc.com](http://www.nfrmc.com)

**Alachua County Crisis Center**  
218 SE 24th Street  
(352) 264-6789  
[www.alachuacounty.us/government/depts/css/crisis/](http://www.alachuacounty.us/government/depts/css/crisis/)

Persons with hearing impairments, when trying to contact an office that does not list a TDD number, use the Florida Relay Service (FRS) by calling 7-1-1.