

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA)

Victims' (Complainant's) Rights, Options, and Resources - Revised, 10.2020

(For those who report sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking)

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, NOVA CC is here to help. Sexual misconduct, the umbrella term for the above, is not tolerated at Northern Virginia Community College. Reports of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, or stalking are taken seriously. It is important to NOVA that victims (complainants) are informed, protected, and respected. Each person's experience is unique and numerous options are available for support and reporting. The NOVA Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy on Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking is available at <http://www.nvcc.edu/titleix/index.html>. Your immediate and long-term safety is what's most important.

The following rights are afforded to any NOVA community members as well as any visitors who experiences such an incident. It is NOVA's hope that these rights will provide you with adequate information from which to choose your options.

CONFIDENTIALITY. Above all, confidentiality of victims must be protected. Identifying information of a victim will be protected as much as possible. This means that a victim's name will not be published or otherwise publicized without her/his permission. When a person makes an official complaint to authorities, all possible protections will be afforded this individual, whether or not she/he participates in any investigation. When the College needs to act to protect the safety of others, absolute confidentiality may not be possible. Your personal and identifying information may only be disclosed when: (1) you give written consent for its disclosure; (2) it is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals; or (3) the information concerns conduct involving suspected abuse or neglect of a minor. **For absolute confidentiality,** contact NOVA's confidential Victim Advocate at 703.323.2136.

TIMELY WARNINGS. Any timely warning that is broadcast through NOVA websites or emails for the safety of our community will not identify a victim by name. Timely warnings are triggered when NOVA Police determines that someone presents a serious or continuing threat to the NOVA community.

REPORTING OPTIONS. It is your choice whether or not you decide to report your victimization. At NOVA, there are several offices to report an incident if you choose to do so. See list below. In an emergency, call 911

College Police – 703-764-5000

To report an incident that occurred **on** campus and begin a criminal investigation. This may also trigger the college's administrative processes.

Local Police Department – 911

To report an incident that occurred **off** campus and begin a criminal investigation that may not involve college administrative processes.

NOVA's Title IX Office –703.323.2262 or email: titleix@nvcc.edu.

To report the incident, seek academic or other accommodations, seek assistance when your Financial Aid is impacted, and discuss your administrative resolution options to address and resolve the incident.

Campus Dean of Students – Contact the Dean of Students at your own campus or center to report the incident and begin a Student Code of Conduct investigation.

NOVA's Confidential Victim Advocate - 703.323.2136

***To access [confidential support, advocacy and information](#) for those affected by these issues.

Office of Wellness and Mental Health – www.nvcc.edu/novacares

To send a non-emergency incident report and seek assistance from the College.

NO CONTACT or PROTECTIVE ORDERS. The College will honor any protective order that you may have acquired through the local courts. Please bring a copy of such a court order to the College Police for their information and enforcement. In addition, a NOVA administrative no contact order may be created by the Dean of Students, Office of Rights and Responsibilities or Title IX Coordinator once the incident is reported to that office.

PRESERVING PHYSICAL EVIDENCE. It is extremely important to preserve all evidence of an assault. If you go to a hospital as a result of a penetrating sexual assault or physical dating/domestic violence, you are entitled to a free evidence collection examination called a FACT exam. FACT stands for Forensic Assessment and Consultation Team. In Northern Virginia, the preferred hospitals for such an exam are INOVA Fairfax in Fairfax CO and Sentara Hospital in Prince William CO, where they have specially trained nurses on call 24 hours a day for such purposes. The FACT nurse will collect the evidence and ask the police in the jurisdiction where the crime occurred to pick it up and store it for at least six months. The evidence will be in a box marked only with a number, not your name. You are not required to make an official police report for this evidence to be collected. If you later decide to make such a report, the hospital will give your name to the police and the evidence kit will be tested for possible use in a court case. For more information about how to preserve evidence, contact NOVA Police at 703.764.5000 or NOVA's Confidential Victim Advocate at 703.323.2136.

REQUESTS FOR CHANGES. You may request a change in academic setting (class or campus) or work assignment in order to be more clearly separated from the accused perpetrator. Such a request will be granted to the greatest extent possible. These requests should be made to the Title IX Coordinator (if you are a student) or the Director of Human Resources or Title IX Coordinator (if you are an employee). Requested changes will be made as soon as alternative arrangements can reasonably be made and regardless of whether you choose to pursue an investigation.

FAIR AND IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION AND RESOLUTION. You can expect a fair and just process as your complaint is handled. For more information, go to <http://www.nvcc.edu/titleix/get-help.html>

RETALIATION CONCERNS. Threats, intimidation, and any form of retaliation for bringing a complaint of sexual misconduct are prohibited by the Sexual Misconduct Policy as well as Federal law and may be grounds for disciplinary action. If any retaliation occurs, it is important to contact either the Campus Dean of Students, the College Police, or the Title IX Coordinator.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES. Since NOVA does not offer mental health counseling to students or employees, it is important to be aware of community resources that are both free and confidential. Most offer 24- hour services. It is best to choose the service listed below that is closest either to your home or your campus. Every student or employee can use NOVA's Confidential Victim Advocate, however, no matter where you live, work, or study.

NOVA Confidential Victim Advocate – 703.323.2136

ALEXANDRIA CITY – Sexual Assault Center – 703.683.7273

FAIRFAX COUNTY - Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (DSVS) – 703.360.7273

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY – ACTS – 703.492.1192 for sexual assault, 703.221-4951 for domestic violence

LOUDOUN COUNTY - LAWS – 703.777.6652

Consider reporting any of these crimes to the police. NOVA Police can be reached at 703.764.5000.