

Your Rights and Options

If you have experienced a crime of sexual violence (including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking), you have several rights and opportunities available to you. It does not matter whether the incident occurred on- or off-campus. You have the right to

- seek medical attention
- utilize confidential resources
- report or not report what happened to the police, and receive assistance from NSU in doing so
- report or not report what happened to NSU
- request interim measures and support from NSU, regardless of whether or not you file a formal complaint
- request a formal investigation and resolution through NSU
- seek legal and campus protective orders
- be accompanied to relevant campus meetings by a person of your choosing (whose role is to assist and support you, not *represent* you)

What if It Isn't a Crime?

In addition to crimes of sexual violence, NSU also prohibits sexual harassment and other forms of misconduct that may not be crimes, but that may affect your ability to go to class, study, work on campus, feel safe, or otherwise participate in a program or activity at NSU. Contact the Title IX Coordinator to discuss your rights and options in these situations.

What About Retaliation?

Any form of retaliation toward a victim or witness—including intimidation, harassment, threats, or other adverse action—is prohibited. Talk with the Title IX Coordinator about how to protect your privacy and how to report retaliation to law enforcement and/or to NSU.

Resources

NSU Title IX Coordinator

Laura Bennett
Phone: (954) 262-7858
Email: laura.bennett@nova.edu
Website: nova.edu/title-ix
Office: Office of Human Resources
NSU East Campus
3100 SW 9th Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33315-3025

Campus Confidential Resources

Henderson Counseling Center: (954) 424-6911 (for students)
Employee Assistance Program (EAP): 877-398-5816 (for employees)

Comprehensive Medical/Community Resources

Nancy J. Cotterman Center (NJCC)
NJCC is Broward County's certified rape crisis center, offering confidential comprehensive services including forensic sexual assault exams, crisis intervention, advocacy, and counseling.

24-Hour Helpline: (954) 761-RAPE (7273)

Women In Distress

This full-service domestic/dating violence center provides crisis response, emergency shelter, counseling, and other services.

24-Hour Crisis Line: (954) 761-1133

Victim Advocates

You can obtain assistance from victim advocates through the state attorney's office or the local law enforcement.

State Attorney: myfloridalegal.com/directory
Davie Police: (954) 693-8285

Law Enforcement

To report a crime, contact the municipal police department with jurisdiction over the location where the crime occurred. For the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus, this is the Davie Police.

Davie Police Department

Address: 1230 South Nob Hill Road, Davie, Florida 33324
Phone: (954) 693-8200

National Hotlines

If you are not in Broward County, you can access local resources through these national hotlines.

Sexual Assault

Contact RAINN (the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network) to find a local crisis response center.

RAINN: 800-656-HOPE (4673)
rainn.org

Domestic Violence

Visit the National Domestic Violence Hotline.
Hotline: 800-799-7233
thehotline.org

Your Rights and Resources if You Have Experienced Sexual Violence

Title IX

Nova Southeastern University is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy educational and employment environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, and misconduct based on sex—including sexual orientation and gender-related identity and expression. This applies to students, employees, and others when the behavior occurs on campus; at NSU recognized activities; or off-campus when the behavior poses a serious threat of harm to, or has the effect of creating a hostile environment for, a member of the university community. Prohibited behaviors include

- sexual violence
- sex-based harassment, including creation of a hostile environment
- intimate relationship violence, including dating and domestic violence
- stalking
- sexual exploitation

For definitions and examples, please visit nova.edu/title-ix.

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After an Incident

Preservation of Evidence

If you have been a victim of sexual violence, it is important to consider preserving evidence through a forensic sexual assault exam. This may help in investigating a crime or obtaining a protective order. You have the right to a forensic exam, even if you are not sure whether you want to pursue legal action. If you are able to avoid showering, washing, brushing your teeth and hair, or changing clothes, that may help preserve evidence. It is natural to want to do these things, so you can still have an exam performed even if you have done any or all of the aforementioned. It is ideal to have an exam completed as soon as possible, but you generally can have one performed up to 120 hours after the event. If you remove any clothing, place it in a **paper** bag to preserve it. You can learn more about a forensic sexual assault exam at <https://rainn.org/get-information/sexual-assault-recovery/rape-kit> or by calling the Nancy J. Cotterman Center's (NJCC) 24-hour helpline at (954) 761-7273.

Reporting the Incident

You have three different options to report the incident. You may choose any, some, or none of them.

- **Law Enforcement:** If what occurred may be a crime, you are encouraged to report it to law enforcement. You should report it in the jurisdiction where it occurred or where you experienced the crime.
- **Campus:** If you would like NSU to investigate the incident, provide you with support/remedies, and/or pursue formal action, you can report violations of NSU policy (including crimes) to the Title IX Coordinator via the secure online reporting form at nova.edu/title-ix. Please be aware that the Title IX Coordinator may be required to report potential threats or crimes to law enforcement, but it is up to you to determine how much you participate in any criminal investigation.
- **Anonymous:** You can report the incident to NSU anonymously at nova.edu/title-ix by not including your name/contact info on the reporting form. NSU will review the information. Since the entry will be anonymous, the university may not be able to offer direct support, but may still respond to the information reported.

Seeking Medical Attention

Regardless of whether you report the incident to anyone, you are encouraged to seek medical care for your physical health. This can include tests for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy, as well as general physical health care. You can receive basic health care through medical providers, community resources, or at the NSU medical center.

Confidential Counseling

Confidential counseling can support your emotional well-being and is a good place to start if you are not sure where to go. In Broward County, NJCC and Women In Distress offer free, confidential counseling. In addition, NSU students can contact Henderson Counseling and university employees can contact the Employee Assistance Program.

Interim Measures/Remedies

NSU can arrange for a variety of interim and other measures to support victims of sexual violence, including changes to your academic or work schedule, campus no-contact orders, public safety escort service, assistance obtaining or enforcing a civil order of protection, and other possible actions that help you feel safe on campus. In all situations, only the information needed to enforce or implement the chosen measures will be shared with those who need to know. Any burden on your access to your education will be minimized as much as is practical. Contact the Title IX Coordinator to learn more.

Your Privacy and NSU's Obligations

Your privacy will be maintained as much as possible during the investigation and resolution processes. Most faculty and staff members are responsible employees, who must report incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator, as well as crimes to Public Safety. The Title IX Coordinator will respect your preferences for privacy when it is possible and reasonable, but must also weigh the safety of the university community when considering your request. To ensure your confidentiality, it is best to seek confidential resources. Go to nova.edu/title-ix for more information about how NSU evaluates requests for privacy.

NSU Accountability Processes

What to Expect

Once you report an incident to NSU, or the university becomes aware of it, the Title IX Coordinator will offer you resources and information (usually by email). The Title IX Coordinator can also assist you in learning about the scope and jurisdiction of the campus policy, as well as options for formal and informal resolution. Campus investigations are conducted by trained officials and use the preponderance or "more likely than not" standard of evidence. It is up to you how much you participate in the process. If a sex crime may have occurred, you have the right to be accompanied by an adviser of your choosing during any meeting or proceeding related to the resolution process (including investigation meetings) and to review and respond to the relevant case information.

What Happens in an Investigation?

During an investigation involving another member of the campus community, you and the reported party are interviewed separately. Any witnesses are interviewed, and then an investigation summary is compiled. Go to nova.edu/title-ix for additional information about the investigation and accountability processes involving NSU students, NSU employees, and NSU University School students. If the person who caused harm is not a member of the NSU community, protective and supportive options may still be available to affected members of the NSU community.

Possible Outcomes

Outcomes correlate to the nature of the violation. These range from education and warnings against future violations to expulsion (for students) and termination (for employees). Additional details about possible outcomes are available at nova.edu/title-ix.

Questions?

Visit nova.edu/title-ix or contact the Title IX Coordinator at laura.bennett@nova.edu for more information.