

# SMU Sexual Harassment Policies, Prevention And Resources

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Sexual harassment is a violation of SMU's Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy, as well as state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. SMU's policy is online in the University Policy Manual at [smu.edu/policy](http://smu.edu/policy), and on the Office of Equal Opportunity website at [smu.edu/oeo](http://smu.edu/oeo).

Sexual harassment encompasses sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. SMU prohibits sexual harassment in any form and vigorously enforces University policies while supporting state and federal laws. SMU is committed to promptly and effectively resolving complaints and holding violators accountable, while treating all students fairly. Students found responsible for sexual harassment will face disciplinary sanctions up to and including expulsion from the University. Please consult the [Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy](#) for definitions and examples of the various forms of sexual harassment and for a complete list of sanctions.

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## CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Any student who experiences sexual harassment is urged to seek help as soon as possible.** SMU provides various resources to all students, including students who have been accused of sexual harassment, witnesses in these cases and friends of students involved in these cases. It is important to note that all SMU faculty and staff members are mandatory reporters, meaning they are required by law to report cases of sexual harassment to SMU's Title IX Coordinator. This obligation applies to all employees, including confidential counselors in Counseling Services and the Chaplain's Office, although these employees are only required to report the type of incident and may not include any information that would violate a student's expectation of privacy.

### CAMPUS RESOURCES

In addition to reporting cases of sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator, the following officials are some of the Campus Security Authorities (CSAs) required by the federal Clery Act to notify SMU Police when a case of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking has been reported. However, they are not required to provide the identity of the person reporting the case to SMU Police.

- **SMU Police** (for criminal reporting)  
214-768-3333, [smu.edu/police](http://smu.edu/police)
- **SMU Title IX Coordinator** (for internal grievance information and reporting)  
214-768-3601, [smu.edu/oeo](http://smu.edu/oeo)
- **Office of Student Advocacy and Support**  
214-768-4564, [smu.edu/StudentAffairs/OfficeoftheDeanofStudents/StudentSupport](http://smu.edu/StudentAffairs/OfficeoftheDeanofStudents/StudentSupport)

### CONFIDENTIAL CAMPUS RESOURCES

The following resources must honor confidentiality, except under very limited circumstances such as an imminent threat of danger to oneself or others or to report the type of incident to the Title IX Coordinator.

- **SMU Counseling Services**  
214-768-2277 (an emergency contact number is provided at all hours), [smu.edu/studentaffairs/health-center/counseling](http://smu.edu/studentaffairs/health-center/counseling)
- **SMU Chaplain's Office**  
214-768-4502, [smu.edu/chaplain](http://smu.edu/chaplain)

### CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- **Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center (DARCC)**  
972-641-7273 (24-hour hotline), [dallasrapecrisis.org/](http://dallasrapecrisis.org/)
- **Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program**  
214-345-6203, [texashealth.org/Community-Health/Texas-Health-Sexual-Assault-Nurse-Examiner](http://texashealth.org/Community-Health/Texas-Health-Sexual-Assault-Nurse-Examiner)

## GETTING HELP IN CASE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, DATING VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR STALKING

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SMU is committed to providing a supportive environment for students to report sexual assault and obtain help. All campus community members should be aware that sexual assault can happen to anyone and is not the victim's fault. SMU and community resources are available, including SMU Police, SMU Counseling Services, the Office of Student Advocacy and Support and the SMU Title IX Coordinator.

It is critical that any student who has experienced sexual assault find safety and seek medical attention immediately. Students also are urged to report a sexual assault to police as soon as possible; call 911 or SMU Police at 214-768-3333. See "Reporting to Police and Pursuing Criminal Charges" section for more information.

### SEEK MEDICAL CARE AND PRESERVE EVIDENCE

Victims of sexual assault are urged to obtain medical care and a sexual assault exam as soon as possible. If victims do not opt for forensic evidence collection, health care providers still can treat injuries and address concerns of pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted diseases.

Obtaining a forensic exam does not require a person to file a police report, but it will help preserve evidence in case the victim decides later to do so. Time is of the essence because certain types of evidence can dissipate or become unavailable. Prior to a sexual assault exam: do not change clothes, bathe, shower or douche; do not eat, drink or use toothpaste or mouthwash; do not wash clothing, bedsheets, pillows or other potential evidence.

### WHERE TO GO FOR A FORENSIC EXAM

- SANE Exam at SMU Health Center, 6211 Bishop Blvd., a certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) will provide medical care and a sexual assault exam; call 1-800-886-7273 or visit [smu.edu/SexualHarassment/Get-Help/SANE-Exam-at-SMU](http://smu.edu/SexualHarassment/Get-Help/SANE-Exam-at-SMU)
- At Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas, 8200 Walnut Hill Lane, a certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) will provide medical care and a sexual assault exam; call 214-345-6203 or visit [texashealth.org/Community-Health/Texas-Health-Sexual-Assault-Nurse-Examiner](http://texashealth.org/Community-Health/Texas-Health-Sexual-Assault-Nurse-Examiner)
- The Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center (DARCC) is a community resource that provides confidential counseling and can assist students at Texas Health; call 972-641-7273 (available 24/7) or visit [dallasrapecrisis.org/](http://dallasrapecrisis.org/).
- SMU Police officers, who are trained in sexual assault issues, are available to transport and accompany students to the hospital; call 214-768-3333. Officers will not be present during the exam. Students may bring a friend or family member for support. Please note that if asked to provide transport, SMU Police will file a police report. See "Reporting to Police and Pursuing Criminal Charges" section for more information.
- A confidential counselor in SMU Counseling Services who specializes in sexual assault issues can also accompany students to the hospital. Call 214-768-2277 (an emergency contact number is provided at all hours), or SMU Police can contact SMU Counseling Services for students.

Other area hospitals that have health care professionals authorized to perform medical/legal examinations include:

- Parkland Hospital, 5200 Harry Hines Boulevard  
Victim Intervention Program/Rape Crisis Center: 214-590-0430 or [parklandhospital.com/vip-rape-crisis-center](http://parklandhospital.com/vip-rape-crisis-center)
- Methodist Dallas Medical Center: 1441 N. Beckley Avenue  
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE): Call Emergency Room 214-947-8100 (Ask for SANE Coordinator)
- Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano, 6200 W. Parker Road  
Emergency room: 972-981-8003 or [texashealth.org/Community-Health/Texas-Health-Sexual-Assault-Nurse-Examiner](http://texashealth.org/Community-Health/Texas-Health-Sexual-Assault-Nurse-Examiner)

### ACADEMIC AND CAMPUS ASSISTANCE

SMU also can assist victims by providing no contact orders, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications to class or work schedules, changes in campus housing locations, escort and transportation services, assistance filing protective orders through the district attorney's office and assistance contacting local law enforcement if the sexual assault occurred off campus. Please consult the [Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy](#) for more information about supportive measures.

For more information, please contact SMU's Title IX Coordinator; call 214-768-3601 or email [equalopportunity@smu.edu](mailto:equalopportunity@smu.edu).

You also may contact the [Office of Student Advocacy and Support](#); call 214-768-4564 or email [deanofstudents@smu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@smu.edu).

## **DATING VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR STALKING**

Similar to cases of sexual assault, the first priority for victims of dating violence or domestic violence should be to get to a safe place and obtain medical attention and a forensic exam that preserves evidence. Victims of dating violence, domestic violence or stalking also are urged to contact police as soon as possible. Victims of violence or stalking also should save evidence such as any letters, emails, phone calls, videos, photos, texts, social media postings, computer screenshots, voicemails or other information that may be helpful in obtaining a protective order or pursuing criminal charges.

In addition to the SMU resources listed, community and national resources include:

- Genesis Women's Shelter and Support in Dallas: 214-946-4357 or [genesishshelter.org](http://genesishshelter.org)
- The Family Place in Dallas: 214-941-1991 or [familyplace.org](http://familyplace.org)
- Texas Council on Family Violence: 512-794-1133/toll free 888-450-8238 or [tcfv.org](http://tcfv.org)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233 or [thehotline.org/](http://thehotline.org/)
- The National Center for Victims of Crime: 855-484-2846 or [victimsofcrime.org](http://victimsofcrime.org)

## **THE CRIMINAL PROCESS AND SMU GRIEVANCE PROCESS**

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Students reporting sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking have the right to choose to pursue a criminal process, an SMU internal grievance process or both processes. Students may also choose not to file a grievance or pursue criminal charges. The internal grievance process and the criminal process, which are independent of each other, can be pursued at the same time. Please see the following sections for more information.

## **REPORTING TO POLICE AND PURSUING CRIMINAL CHARGES**

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SMU urges anyone who has experienced sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking to alert police as soon as possible. SMU campus authorities can notify law enforcement authorities at the victim's request.

**On campus**, SMU Police can be reached at 911 from a campus phone; at 214-768-3333 from a cell phone; or by utilizing a blue-light phone on campus at any time.

**In the case of an off-campus incident**, students should call 911 to reach police in that jurisdiction or call 214-768-3333 to reach SMU Police, who can connect callers with police in the appropriate jurisdiction.

Crime victims have the right to choose to talk to police when they feel ready or can decline involvement with the police. Reporting an incident to police does not automatically lead to criminal charges being filed or criminal prosecution. However, when a victim immediately reports an incident, police are better able to collect evidence that may be helpful in building a criminal case, even if the victim decides to wait until a later date to pursue criminal charges. In addition, the victim will have input about his or her case after talking with police.

SMU is committed to responding to reports in a timely and respectful manner. When a victim makes a report to SMU Police, the police will request information about the circumstances of the incident and the alleged perpetrator to aid the investigation and build a criminal case. In their operations and criminal investigations, SMU Police follow state and federal rules of procedure and evidence. The SMU Police investigation can include gathering evidence and witness statements and obtaining search warrants and arrest warrants from a judge.

An SMU Aware alert is issued if it is determined that the campus community needs to be warned of an imminent danger, or the likelihood of a continuing danger, or if an alert could prevent similar crimes in the future. These alerts are also posted online at [smu.edu/Aware](http://smu.edu/Aware) and [smu.edu/police](http://smu.edu/police).

SMU Police notify the Dallas County District Attorney's Office or other appropriate external law enforcement agency when a case of sexual assault is reported and under investigation. When a victim decides to pursue criminal charges, a prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office determines whether sufficient evidence exists to press charges after SMU Police have presented the findings of their investigation. The District Attorney then presents the case to a grand jury to obtain an indictment and proceed with a trial. SMU Police are available to counsel and accompany students through the criminal process; call 214-768-3333 for more information.

When a case of sexual harassment is reported to SMU Police, the police notify the SMU Title IX Coordinator, as required by state and federal law. The SMU Title IX Coordinator will provide information to the victim about the option to pursue an SMU

grievance process under University policy, in addition to the criminal process. See “Reporting to the SMU Title IX Coordinator and Pursuing an Internal Grievance Process” section for more information.

In addition to violating SMU policy and federal law, sexual assault is a crime punishable under Texas law by imprisonment from two to 20 years plus a fine up to \$10,000. A person convicted of sexual assault must register as a sex offender for the remainder of his or her life – <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/?tab=1&code=PE&chapter=PE.22&artSec=>.

#### **PROTECTIVE ORDERS**

Crime victims in Texas are guaranteed certain rights, as outlined in the Code of Criminal Procedure. The Office of the Attorney General has more information: [texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/crime-victim-publications](https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/crime-victim-publications).

SMU Police can assist victims in applying for a protective order, which instructs the person named in the order to stay 500 feet from where the protected person lives or works, not to commit or threaten violence or stalk the person applying for protection. Applications for protective orders are made at the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office Family Violence Division at the Frank Crowley Courthouse, 133 N. Riverfront Blvd., 214-653-3600.

For more information: [dallascounty.org/government/district-attorney/divisions/family-violence.php](https://dallascounty.org/government/district-attorney/divisions/family-violence.php)

SMU Police keep a copy of protective orders on file. SMU complies with the state laws honoring protective orders. If a protective order is violated, the protected person should call police immediately. For more information, call SMU Police at 214-768-3333.

#### **PROTECTING INFORMATION**

In accordance with the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 57, victims may use a pseudonym to protect their identity. A pseudonym is a set of initials or a fictitious name chosen by the victim to be used in all public files and records concerning the alleged offense. SMU will not include a victim’s personally identifying information in any publicly available recordkeeping, including Clery Act reporting and disclosures such as the annual security report and the daily crime log. In some cases, SMU may need to disclose some information about a victim to a third party to provide protective and supportive measures in a timely manner.

### **REPORTING TO THE SMU TITLE IX COORDINATOR AND PURSUING AN INTERNAL GRIEVANCE PROCESS**

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A student may file a complaint of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking under the University’s [Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy](#) by submitting a [Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Form](#) to the SMU Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity.

The Title IX internal grievance process includes an investigation of the allegations, a hearing, sanctions if a student is found responsible and an appeal process. Pending the outcome of the grievance process and to protect the safety of the SMU community, the University may impose interim protective steps, such as no-contact orders, campus restrictions and temporary suspension.

Students involved in a sexual harassment case may qualify to receive amnesty for other violations of the [Student Code of Conduct](#), such as alcohol violations, as outlined in the Conduct Review Process. The investigation will focus primarily upon the allegations of sexual harassment.

For more information about this process or to file a grievance, contact the SMU Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity at 214-768-3601 or email [equalopportunity@smu.edu](mailto:equalopportunity@smu.edu) or consult the [Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy](#).

#### **RETALIATION PROHIBITED**

SMU prohibits threats or acts of retaliation against students who are involved in any manner of a sexual harassment report, investigation, proceeding or hearing under SMU’s [Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy](#). Retaliation can take many forms, including sustained abuse or violence, threats, coercion, intimidation and discrimination. Students who engage in retaliation or harassment by any means – including in person, through others or on social media – will be subject to disciplinary action. Retaliation is also a criminal offense under Texas law, and students may face criminal charges.

Students who observe retaliation or who are threatened in any way should promptly notify SMU Police, 214-768-3333; the SMU Title IX Coordinator, 214-768-3601; or the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, 214-768-4563.

#### **ANONYMOUS REPORTING**

Individuals who wish to anonymously provide SMU Police with information regarding suspicious or criminal activity may call 214-768-2TIP (2847) or submit a report online at [smu.edu/2tip](https://smu.edu/2tip). The form may be submitted anonymously or with a name and contact information. Those who wish to anonymously report information regarding Title IX sexual harassment to SMU’s Title IX

Coordinator can complete the [Title IX Sexual Harassment Third-Party Report Form](#). The form may be submitted anonymously by using a pseudonym.

## TITLE IX COORDINATOR AND DEPUTY TITLE IX COORDINATORS

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As defined by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance, including SMU, and prohibits all forms of sexual harassment. Title IX also requires the University to appoint a Title IX Coordinator. SMU's Title IX Coordinator works in the Office of Equal Opportunity which oversees the University's nondiscrimination policies and procedures.

SMU's Title IX Coordinator and deputy coordinators are available to assist students who have questions or concerns regarding sexual harassment or who wish to file a complaint under the University's [Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy](#). The coordinator and deputies can also provide students with information about SMU and community resources. Please feel free to contact any of the following SMU employees for assistance. Deputies serve campus-wide; their departments and schools are listed for informational purposes only.

### **SMU Title IX Coordinator**

Samantha Thomas, Office of Equal Opportunity, 214-768-3601 or [thomassa@smu.edu](mailto:thomassa@smu.edu)

### **SMU Deputy Title IX Coordinators**

- Denise Gauthier, Office of Equal Opportunity, 214-768-3601 or [dgauthier@smu.edu](mailto:dgauthier@smu.edu)
- Jasper Chieng, Office of Equal Opportunity, 214-768-3601 or [jchieng@smu.edu](mailto:jchieng@smu.edu)
- Stephen Yeager, Dedman School of Law, 214-768-4178 or [syeager@smu.edu](mailto:syeager@smu.edu)
- Bonnie Hainline, Intramurals/Sport Clubs, Student Affairs, 214-768-3367 or [bhainline@smu.edu](mailto:bhainline@smu.edu)
- Alan Itkin, Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, 214-768-4202 or [aitkin@smu.edu](mailto:aitkin@smu.edu)
- Dawn Rogers, Athletics, 214-768-4963, Cell: 480-353-8675 or [dawnr@smu.edu](mailto:dawnr@smu.edu)

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

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SMU's Office of Student Advocacy and Support, the Women & LGBT Center and Counseling Services coordinate and provide educational and prevention programs on sexual harassment. The Office of Equal Opportunity also provides education on Title IX and the University's [Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy](#).

Education for incoming students includes a required comprehensive online course. Information about SMU's sexual harassment policy, procedures and resources is posted at [smu.edu/SexualHarassment](http://smu.edu/SexualHarassment).

Campus-wide programs include Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Relationship Violence Awareness Month, National Night Out and Take Back the Night. Programs also are available to individual classes, residential commons and fraternities and sororities upon request. Students may call the Office of Student Advocacy and Support, 214-768-4564, or email [deanofstudents@smu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@smu.edu). Students involved in raising awareness of sexual assault and relationship violence include the student organizations the Feminist Equality Movement (FEM) and Wellness Champions.

### **CAMPUS SECURITY**

SMU Police officers are sworn police officers, licensed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, who have the responsibility and duty to enforce campus regulations and all local, state and federal laws. SMU Police patrol campus 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The department coordinates actions with neighboring agencies and criminal investigations with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office. Emergency blue-light phones across campus connect directly to SMU Police. SMU Police provide crime prevention education, self-defense training, and secure rides on campus; call 214-768-3333.

The SMU Aware Safety App connects users to campus safety resources including one-button calls to SMU Police or other emergency and non-emergency assistance, along with many other features designed to promote personal safety. The campus community is encouraged to download the app through the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

SMU urges students to use a safety escort. SMU Safety Escort by Passio GO! provides free safe rides on campus from 7:00 P.M. to 3:00 A.M., 7 days a week while classes are in session. To learn more about the SMU Safety Escort program and to download the Passio GO! app, please visit [smu.edu/businessfinance/police/community-resources/safety-escort](https://smu.edu/businessfinance/police/community-resources/safety-escort).

#### **CRIME REPORTS**

SMU Police maintain a daily crime log, which is available online at [smu.edu/police](https://smu.edu/police) and to the public for review during business hours at the dispatch window at Patterson Hall, 3128 Dyer Street.

SMU's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, posted online at [smu.edu/cleryreport](https://smu.edu/cleryreport), includes reported crimes for the previous three calendar years.