The SAFE Office

The SAFE Office: Interpersonal Misconduct Prevention and Support (safe.rice.edu) offers support to students experiencing interpersonal violence, which can include sexual and relationship violence, stalking, sexual harassment, family violence, or gender discrimination.

Students can report any form of interpersonal violence, including sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, and sexual harassment as long as the respondent is also a student.

STRIVE (Students Transforming Rice into a Violence-Free Environment) is made up of an executive board and 2-3 liaisons per residential college. Liaisons are the student arm of the SAFE office and are trained to help survivors identify and navigate on and off-campus resources.

STRIVE liaisons are a confidential service. STRIVE liaisons are NOT obligated to disclose what you tell them to college A-Teams, the SAFE Office, or SJP.

A SAFE Office staff member (called Title IX Resource Navigator) will help students navigate SJP, law enforcement, or Title IX coordinator reports. They will assist reporting and responding students through navigating the system.

For more information, visit safe.rice.edu or email titleixsupport@rice.edu. The Director of the SAFE office is Cathryn Councill. Contact SAFE at titleixsupport@rice.edu or their 24/7 number is (713) 348-3311. They are located in the Morton Rich center (the health center).

SJP investigates violations of the student code of conduct and the sexual misconduct policy, and decides and enforces sanctions if a student is found in violation.

Students can report any form of interpersonal violence, including sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, and sexual harassment as long as the respondent is also a student.

SJP will open an investigation only if a survivor chooses to make a report and proceeds with the investigation. There is no limit on how much time survivors can take to decide to make a report, as long as the respondent is still a student.

For more information, visit sjp.rice.edu. The Director of SJP is Emily Garza. Contact SJP at sjp@rice.edu.

Title IX Coordinator

The Coordinator keeps the university up to date on regulations and ensures compliance of Title IX. At Rice, the Coordinator takes Title IX reports and investigates the reports against staff and faculty, whether the reporter is a student or other staff or faculty. They can facilitate making a report to SJP, RUPD, or other law enforcement agencies.

Title IX Coordinator is Dr. Richard Baker (rab20@rice.edu), and Deputy Title IX Coordinators are Allison Vogt and Stacy Mosely.
FAQs

What do "reporting student" and "responding student" mean?
The reporting student is the one who initiates the SJP report, alleging violation(s) of the student code of conduct and/or sexual misconduct policy by the responding student, the person who has been accused.

What is the Dean of Undergraduates’ role in SJP cases?
After SJP notifies the responding and reporting parties of the results of the case, either party has the opportunity to appeal the decision within 10 business days. Appeals are made in writing, and they must be sent to the Dean of Undergraduates or Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, depending on who the appealing student is. For more information about the appeals process, visit https://sjp.rice.edu/code-of-student-conduct#appeals.

What happens if I tell a Rice faculty/staff member that something happened to me?
"Responsible employees" include all Rice employees, i.e. faculty and staff, except those at the Rice Counseling Center and Rice Student Health Services. If you tell a responsible employee that you experienced interpersonal violence, they are required to disclose the incident to a Title IX coordinator. After a responsible employee informs a Title IX coordinator, the SAFE office reaches out to the student who experienced interpersonal violence to provide them with support and reporting options. The student chooses if and when to speak to someone from the SAFE office, but this in no way means that the student must make an SJP report.

What is the difference between an RUPD report and an SJP report?
RUPD deals with violations of the law, while SJP deals with violations of the student code of conduct and sexual misconduct policy. A student can initiate reports to either body without pursuing disciplinary process or criminal charges. RUPD officers are also responsible employees.

Do I have amnesty if I talk to support services?
Yes, if a student reports being a victim of or witness to sexual violence, they will be granted amnesty, i.e. they will not be punished for the possession or use of alcohol or other drugs.

Produced by the Student Association Committee for Interpersonal Violence Policy