



**Office of Sexual Violence Prevention and Title IX Support**

Support for students who have reported sexual or relationship violence, stalking, or harassment and students who are responding to a report.

**titleixsupport@rice.edu**

**x. 3311/ (713) 348-3311 (24/7)**

**Walk-ins welcome 9AM - 5PM M-F Located in the Gibbs Wellness Center**

**Office Overview**

Rice University's Office of Sexual Violence Prevention and Title IX Support offers care and guidance to students who are reporting an incident of interpersonal violence perpetrated against them and to students who have been accused of perpetrating interpersonal violence. The Office also provides prevention education to the Rice community on sexual and domestic violence, sexual harassment, stalking and Title IX requirements.

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**My Navigator's name is:**

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**My Navigator's phone number/email is:**

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## Options for Support

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Rice encourages any student who has experienced an incident of sexual violence, relationship violence, or other interpersonal violence to seek support. There are many options available both on and off campus for all graduate and undergraduate students, regardless of whether the perpetrator was a fellow student, a staff or faculty member, or someone not affiliated with the university.

Students should be aware when seeking support on campus that most employees are required by Title IX to disclose all incidents of non-consensual interpersonal behaviors to professionals on campus who can act to support that student and meet their needs. The therapists at the Rice Counseling Center and the doctors at Student Health Services are confidential, meaning that Rice will not be informed about the incident if a student discloses to one of these Rice staff members; all other Rice staff and faculty are required to inform the university's Title IX personnel. Rice prioritizes student privacy and safety, and only shares disclosed information on a need-to-know basis.

### **Navigation Services**

Depending on need, students are assisted with: safety planning and accommodations; hospital, police, court and protective order accompaniment; filing for Crime Victims Compensation; and mental health and advocacy referrals both on and off campus. Students are assisted fully throughout each process they choose to engage in.

Students may also opt to have a Title IX Resource Navigator accompany them to make reports to RUPD and SJP. Students who have been accused of violations may also opt to have a Title IX Resource Navigator accompany them to meetings with either department. Navigators assist students with support accompaniment, accommodation requests and management, and with guidance through the Rice University system.

Navigators are available to talk to students about their options in terms of resources, accommodations, and reporting. Options can include: no contact orders to alleged perpetrator, assistance with changing extracurriculars or campus work schedule, change to housing, withdrawal from a class/provide academic support including makeup work, extra time, and movement to another section.

Title IX Resource Navigators Can:

...talk with you about any concerns you have.

...answer your questions about any of the resources available at Rice, including supportive and reporting options.

...help you make appointments with other offices such as SJP, RUPD, RCC, and Student Wellbeing, and in some cases accompany you to these appointments.

...connect you to supportive and reporting resources off-campus such as Memorial Hermann, Ben Taub, HPD, Houston Area Women's Center, and The Montrose Center

...help you get academic, living, and other accommodations to keep you safe on campus and to keep the experience from continuing to interfere in your education.

...make a safety plan with you.

### **Confidential Counseling and Medical Support**

Confidential support is available on campus so that you can discuss what happened to you with a supportive person without anyone else knowing. If you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct or relationship violence to one of these on-campus services in the course of your counseling or medical appointment, the information will not be shared with anyone else.

#### **Rice Counseling Center**

x. 3311 (24/7) (713) 348-3311 (24/7)

#### **Student Health Services**

x. 4966 (713) 348-4966

### **Off Campus Resources**

The **Houston Area Women's Center** is an off-campus resource that provides confidential support to women, men, and children who experience sexual or domestic violence. Services include 24/7 hotlines, shelter, individual and group counseling, housing assistance, court services for children, and hospital accompaniment.

(713) 528-7273 (24/7)

The **Montrose Center** is an off-campus resource that provides behavioral health services specifically to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. Services include domestic and sexual violence therapy, support groups, case management, and hospital and police accompaniment. (713) 529-0037

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## Options for Reporting

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### Learning About Title IX Accommodations Without Filing Charges

Students can receive accommodations under Title IX without having to file criminal charges through the legal system or starting a disciplinary process with Student Judicial Programs. Accommodations will vary; every case and every student is different. An example of an available accommodation may be moving from one class section to another in order to stay safe from the perpetrator.

These accommodations are designed to address threats to students' educational environment and to their physical or emotional safety, regardless of whether they press legal charges or start adjudication with the university or not. Students do not need to give the name of the perpetrator to receive many accommodations under Title IX.

To learn more about getting accommodations, talk to the Title IX Resource Navigator by [emailing us](#) or by calling x. 3311/ (713) 348-3311.

### Adjudication Through Rice University

The university discipline process holds students accountable to the Code of Student Conduct, which includes the Sexual Misconduct Policy through Student Judicial Programs (SJP). A student can meet and consult with SJP about options for disciplinary proceedings prior to deciding whether or not to move forward with University level charges. If the student then decides to pursue disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator, SJP will handle the investigation and adjudication following the report of sexual misconduct or relationship violence.

An SJP investigation typically involves one or more meetings with the reporting student, the accused student, any witnesses, and an opportunity for each party to submit further information for consideration. These meetings occur separately; for the safety of all parties, reporting students and accused students do not sit in the same meeting and will not be in SJP at the same time. SJP often works with RUPD to gather statements from the parties involved. The SJP staff member investigating the matter will make a determination of whether to charge the alleged perpetrator under the Code of Student Conduct, whether (based on a preponderance of the evidence) a violation occurred, and what sanction will apply if a responding student is found In Violation.

The adjudication process through SJP usually takes less than 60 days, but can vary depending on the complexity of the case. During an investigation interim sanctions may be issued to the accused student to protect the safety of the

reporting student. These vary, but can include no contact orders and removal from campus.

Students should be aware that when a formal SJP disciplinary process commences, all reporting and responding students involved will be notified of the existence of the proceeding, and the responding student will have access to the identity of the reporting student.

Contact SJP by emailing [sjp@rice.edu](mailto:sjp@rice.edu) or by calling x. 4786/ 713-348-4786.

### **Filing Criminal Charges Through the Legal System**

Students who have been a victim of domestic or sexual violence may want to pursue criminal charges outside of Title IX and Rice Student Judicial Programs. In order to do so, students can file charges through Rice University Police Department (RUPD), a law enforcement agency, through the Houston Police Department (HPD) or Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO). It is important to acknowledge that filing criminal charges is different from reporting incidents through the university and its judicial programs. Although Rice University works closely with law enforcement, should a report be made, the university itself is not a law enforcement agency.

If you want to file criminal charges, you may find it helpful to bring along a support person. This person can be a friend, a family member, or an "accompaniment" person from an outside agency, such as the Houston Area Women's Center or the Montrose Center (LGBT).

To file a criminal complaint, students can call or go to RUPD, HPD, or HCSO and ask to make a report.

Speaking up is a brave and commendable action. Rice supports you and will help you by providing navigation services and/or referrals to assist you during this process.

### **Civil Protections Through the Legal System**

Safety can be one of the biggest concerns for victims/survivors. If you are concerned that someone who has committed sexual assault, stalking, or relationship violence may try to do so again, you can apply for a Protective Order. Navigators are available to assist you with this process.

A Protective Order is a civil procedural document that orders the perpetrator not to use any further violence against you, not to contact you, and not to come to your home, place of work, and/or school. If the person violates the direction of the Protective Order, they can be arrested and criminally charged.

Victims/survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence including dating violence, and stalking can apply for these orders, usually through the District Attorney's Office. You do not have to file criminal charges or make any police reports to receive a Protective Order.

If the incident(s) happened in Harris County, you can apply for a Protective Order at no charge through the Harris County District Attorney, Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, or the Houston Volunteer Lawyer Program.

RUPD can also provide Rice students assistance in understanding and applying for Protective Orders. Contact them by dialing x. 6000/ (713) 348-6000.

## Medical Assistance and Forensic Evidence Collection

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### Forensic Evidence Collection

If you have experienced a sexual assault, you are entitled to undergo a medical exam to collect forensic evidence, sometimes also called a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) exam, forensic exam, or rape kit. Forensic exams are also available after physical assaults, including assaults that occur within the context of domestic or relationship violence.

The purpose of a forensic exam is to collect evidence that may be used in a sexual assault trial. You can get a forensic exam even if you do not want to make a report to the police, in which case the evidence collected will be kept on file for 2 years in case you decide to file a case during that time period.

Forensic exams must be performed within 96 hours of the incident.

A trained doctor or nurse, often by a Forensic Nurse or a SANE, or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, performs the exam at a hospital. Forensic Nurses/SANEs are RNs who receive specialized training in sexual assault patient care and sensitivity, evidence collection, and courtroom testimony.

During the exam other medical needs may be addressed, including pregnancy prevention and STI prevention. Medication may be offered, including emergency contraception (must be taken within 120 hours of the incident) or PEP, which is post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV (must be started within 72 hours). The Forensic Nurse or SANE will explain the possible risks and benefits of these medications and advise you on whether you may want to take them.

There is no cost to receive a forensic evidence collection kit for sexual assault survivors in Texas, though other costs associated with your hospital visit may arise.

Many hospitals provide these exams, but two recommended programs are Memorial Hermann Hospital or Ben Taub Hospital in the medical center. Forensic exams are NOT available at Student Health Services.

You can request a free ride to and from the hospital for a forensic exam from RUPD by calling x. 6000/ 713-348-6000 from the Houston Area Women's Center (all men, women, and children) or the Montrose Center (LGBT).

**The Houston Area Women's Center**  
(713) 528-7273 (24/7)

**The Montrose Center (LGBT specific)**  
(713) 526-3211 (24/7)

The Houston Area Women's Center or the Montrose Center (LGBT) also provide hospital accompaniment, which means they can send an advocate to meet with you at the hospital, help you understand the process and the resources available to support you in the community, and stay with you during portions of the exam if you want. You can find out more about their hospital accompaniment programs or request an advocate by calling these agencies.

### **Other Medical Attention**

If you have experienced any kind of sexual or relationship violence, stalking, or other interpersonal violence that resulted in any injury, you may need medical attention. Rice encourages you to seek medical attention as soon as you are able to, but it is important to note that it is never too late to seek care. Some injuries may not present themselves immediately; you can seek medical support at any time after an assault.

Student Health Services provides many services that may meet your needs, or can refer you to other services off-campus. The doctors at Student Health Services are confidential employees; anything you disclose to them during your appointment about an incident of sexual or relationship violence, or other interpersonal violence, is kept between you and your doctor, unless you are an imminent threat to yourself or others.

## Houston Community Resources

### Advocacy and Therapy Services

Houston Area Women's Center  
*Domestic and sexual violence hospital  
and police accompaniment, counseling,  
and support (confidential)*  
1010 Waugh Dr.  
Houston, Texas 77098  
hawc.org  
(713) 528-7273 Sexual Violence (24/7)  
(713) 528-2121 Domestic Violence

the Montrose Center (LGBT specific)  
*Domestic and sexual violence hospital  
and police accompaniment, counseling,  
and support (confidential)*  
401 Branard, second floor  
Houston, Texas 77006  
Montrosecenter.org  
(713) 526-3211 (24/7)

### Emergency Shelters

Houston Area Women's Center-  
*confidential*  
1010 Waugh Dr.  
Houston, Texas 77098  
hawc.org  
(713) 528-2121 Domestic Violence  
(24/7)

the Montrose Center (LGBT specific)-  
*confidential*  
401 Branard, second floor  
Houston, Texas 77006  
Montrosecenter.org  
(713) 526-3211 (24/7)

### Medical-Family/STI/Well-Person

El Centro de Corazon (Spanish)  
12 Telephone  
Houston, TX 77023  
(713) 660-1880

### Medical-Forensic Exams

Memorial Hermann  
*Forensic Nurse Examinations (sexual assault  
and domestic violence)*  
6411 Fannin St  
Houston, Texas 77030

Ben Taub General Hospital  
*Forensic Nurse Examinations (sexual assault  
and domestic violence)*  
1504 Taub Loop  
Houston, Texas 77030

Rides to the hospital for forensic nurse  
examinations are available through RUPD,  
Houston Area Women's Center and the  
Montrose Center.

### Medical-Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV Testing

Legacy Community Health Services  
1415 California  
Houston, Texas 77006  
(832) 548-5100

the Montrose Center (HIV only)  
401 Branard St, second floor  
Houston, Texas 77006  
(713) 529-0037

### Crime Victims Compensation

Office of the Attorney General  
Crime Victim Services Division - CVC  
Program  
Office of the Attorney General - MC011  
PO Box 12198  
Austin, TX 78711-2198  
1 (800) 983-9933

Houston Police Department  
1200 Travis

Legacy Community Health Services  
1415 California  
Houston, Texas 77006  
(832) 548-5100

Planned Parenthood  
4600 Gulf Fwy  
Houston, TX  
(800) 230-7526

### **Protective Orders**

Harris County District Attorney's Office  
- Family Criminal Law Division  
*Assistance with filing for a protective order*  
Walk-in appointments  
Monday - Friday: 8:00am - 4:00pm  
Thursdays: 8:00am - 3:00pm  
1201 Franklin, Suite 2160

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse  
*Assistance in filing for a protective order and divorce and custody papers*  
1001 Texas Ave., Suite 600  
713-224-9911 (call for appointment)

Houston Volunteer Lawyers  
*Assistance in filing for a protective order and divorce and custody papers*  
806 Main 16th Floor  
713-228-0732 (call for appointment)

Houston, Texas 77002  
Victim Services  
(713) 308-0080-Sexual and Domestic Violence  
(713) 308-1180-Sexual Violence

Crime Victims Compensation may be available to survivors of certain crimes if expenses were incurred as a result of the crime.

### **Victim Notification System**

VINE  
(877) 894-8463

This tool allows victims, whose perpetrators are in jail/prison, to be notified 24 hours before the perpetrators release.

### **Batterer Intervention and Prevention Programs**

AVDA  
*Self-referral and court mandated batterer treatment*  
Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 4:00pm  
1001 Texas Ave., Suite 600  
713-224-9911 (call for appointment)

## Is What I'm Feeling Normal?

If you have experienced sexual violence, relationship violence, stalking or other non-consensual interpersonal behaviors, it is not your fault. Shame, guilt, and self-blame are common feelings after an assault, either within your own thoughts or because of the words and actions of others, but it is not your fault.

Survivors commonly experience a wide range of emotional, physical, and mental reactions to the trauma they have been through, such as:

- Eating too much/not enough
- Not caring for your hygiene needs
- Sleeping too much/not enough
- Depression
- Desire to self-harm
- Anxiety
- Feeling isolated/wanting to isolate
- Lack of enjoyment in activities
- Shame/guilt/fear
- Crying/inability to cry
- Numbness/heightened sensitivity
- Changes in sexual desires (no sex/more sex than usual)

It is okay to feel any of these things. There is no prescribed set of reactions to violence; you may feel none, some or all of these, and your feelings may change over time. All of these reactions are common and normal. You may want or need help to cope with these thoughts or feelings, especially if they start interfering with your daily functioning. Rice encourages students to talk to someone. You can talk to friends or family, or to one of the resources on campus available to support students.

## **My Relationship Rights**

- I have the right to my own body, thoughts, feelings, and opinions
- I have the right to feel safe in my relationship and for it to be free of coercion, violence and intimidation
- I have the right to be respected and listened to and have my boundaries and values heard
- I have the right to say yes or no to any sexual activity (without pressure). If a sexual encounter feels unsatisfying or threatening - physically, emotionally, spiritually, or sexually, I have the right to say no
- I have the right to communicate about what I do and don't enjoy sexually
- I have the right to reliable information about STI protection and birth control and to practice safe sex
- I have the right to spend time with my friends and family, as well as time by myself
- I have the right to equal decision making power in my relationship
- I have the right to control my own schedule, work, classes, money, and possessions
- I have the right to access resources in whatever way works best for me if my right are violated in anyway
- I have the right to end a relationship for any reason, including if it's unhealthy or abusive