



OPTIONS FOR CONFIDENTIALLY DISCLOSING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

[The State University of New York](#) and [Suffolk County Community College](#) want you to get the information and support you need regardless of whether you would like to move forward with a report of sexual violence to campus officials or to police. You may want to talk with someone about something you observed or experienced, even if you are not sure that the behavior constitutes sexual violence. A conversation where questions can be answered is far superior to keeping something to yourself. Confidentiality varies, and this document is aimed at helping you understand how confidentiality applies to different resources that may be available to you.

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Privileged and Confidential Resources:

Individuals who are confidential resources will not report crimes to law enforcement or college officials without your permission, except for extreme circumstances, such as a health and/or safety emergency. At Suffolk County Community College, this includes:

- Mental Health Services
 - Ammerman Campus 631-451-4069
 - Eastern Campus 631-548-2650
 - Michael J. Grant Campus 631-851-6351
- [Student Health Services](#)
 - Ammerman Campus 631-451-4047
 - Eastern Campus 631-548-2510
 - Michael J. Grant Campus 631-851-6709

Off-campus options to disclose sexual violence confidentially include (note that these outside options do not provide any information to the campus):

- **Off-campus counselors and advocates.** Crisis services offices will generally maintain confidentiality unless you request disclosure and sign a consent or waiver form. More information on an agency's policies on confidentiality may be obtained directly from the agency.
 - [Suffolk County Domestic Violence Task Force](#)
www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Probation/DomesticViolence.aspx
 - [Long Island Against Domestic Violence](#) www.liadv.org/
(call 631-666-8833 to speak with a crisis counselor)
 - [Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk \(VIBS\)](#) www.vibs.org/
(call the hotline at 631-360-3606; email the hotline at hotline@vibs.org)
 - [Response of Suffolk County](#) www.responsehotline.org
(call the hotline at 631-751-7500; for services in Spanish call Conexión 631-751-7423)
 - [Parent's for Megan's Law Crime Victims Center](#) www.parentsformeganslaw.org

(24-hour rape crisis hotline 631-332-9234 in 170 different languages)

- New York State Hotline for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence 1-800-942-6906
<http://nyscasa.org/>
 - The Suffolk County Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner ([SANE](#)) Program has centers located at [Peconic Bay Medical Center](#), [Stony Brook University Hospital](#), and [Good Samaritan Hospital](#). Within 96 hours of an assault, you can get a [Sexual Assault Forensic Examination](#) (commonly referred to as a rape kit) at a hospital. You do not have to pay for a SANE Exam. If you do not have insurance or if you are afraid to use your insurance, New York State Crime Victims Board will pay for your exam. While there should be no charge for a rape kit, there may be a charge for medical or counseling services off campus and, in some cases; insurance may be billed for services.
- **Off-campus healthcare providers**
 - Note that medical office and insurance billing practices may reveal information to the insurance policyholder, including medication and/or examinations paid for or administered. The New York State Office of Victim Services may be able to assist in compensating victims/survivors for health care and counseling services, including emergency compensation. More information may be found here: www.ovs.ny.gov <https://ovs.ny.gov/sites/default/files/brochure/2013guidetocompensation-final.pdf> or by calling 1-800-247-8035. Options are explained here: ovs.ny.gov/help-crime-victims

Note that even individuals who can typically maintain confidentiality are subject to exceptions under the law, including when an individual is a threat to him or herself or others and the mandatory reporting of child abuse.

Non-Confidential/Professional Counselors and Advocates:

Non-confidential/professional counselors and advocates can also assist you without sharing information that could identify you. At Suffolk County Community College, this includes members of the Counseling and Advising staff. These individuals will report the nature, date, time, and general location of an incident to Suffolk County Community College's Title IX Coordinator, but will consult with you to ensure no personally identifying details are shared without your consent. These individuals are not considered confidential resources as discussed above.

Privacy versus Confidentiality:

Even Suffolk County Community College offices and employees who cannot guarantee confidentiality will maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible. The information you provide to a non-confidential resource will be relayed only as necessary to investigate and/or seek a resolution and to notify the Title IX Coordinator or designee, who is responsible under the law for tracking patterns and spotting systemic issues. Suffolk County Community College will limit the disclosure as much as possible, even if the Title IX Coordinator determines that the request for confidentiality cannot be honored.

Requesting Confidentiality - How Suffolk County Community College Will Weigh the Request and Respond:

If you disclose an incident to a Suffolk County Community College employee who is responsible for responding to or reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment, but wish to maintain confidentiality or do not consent to the institution's request to initiate an investigation, the Title IX Coordinator must weigh your request against our obligation to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all members of our community, including you.

We will assist you with academic, transportation, employment, and other reasonable and available accommodations regardless of your reporting choices. While reporting individuals may request accommodations through several college offices, the following office can serve as a primary point of contact to assist with these measures:

- Campus Associate Dean of [Student Services](#)
 - Ammerman Campus/Sayville Center 631-451-4044
 - Michael J. Grant Campus 631-851-6521
 - Eastern Campus 631-548-2514

We also may take proactive steps, such as training or awareness efforts, to combat sexual violence in a general way that does not identify you or the situation you disclosed.

We may seek consent from you prior to conducting an investigation. You may decline to consent to an investigation, and that determination will be honored unless the Suffolk County Community College's failure to act does not adequately mitigate the risk of harm to you or other members of the college community. Honoring your request may limit our ability to meaningfully investigate and pursue conduct action against an accused individual. If we determine that an investigation is required, we will notify you and take immediate action as necessary to protect and assist you.

When you disclose an incident to someone who is responsible for responding to or reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment, but wish to maintain confidentiality, Suffolk County Community College will consider many factors to determine whether to proceed despite that request. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- Whether the accused has a history of violent behavior or is a repeat offender;
- Whether the incident represents escalation, such as a situation that previously involved sustained stalking,
- The increased risk that the accused will commit additional acts of violence;
- Whether the accused used a weapon or force;
- Whether the reporting individual is a minor; and
- Whether we possess other means to obtain evidence such as security footage, and whether the report
- Reveals a pattern of perpetration at a given location or by a particular group.

If the College determines that it must move forward with an investigation, the reporting individual or victim/survivor will be notified and the College will take immediate action as necessary to protect and assist them.

Public Awareness/Advocacy Events:

Many campus prevention events take place throughout the year, sponsored by the Office of Campus Activities and Student Leadership Development, Student Services and academic departments and student clubs and organizations. If you disclose a situation through a public awareness event such as "Take Back the Night," candlelight vigils, protests, or other public event, the College is not obligated to begin an investigation. The College may use the information you provide to inform the need for additional education and prevention efforts.

Anonymous Disclosure:

The Silent Witness Program was developed so that members of the community could report criminal activity, suspicious activity or tips and remain anonymous. All information will be kept confidential. To report a crime, suspicious activity or to pass along any other information to the Suffolk County Community College Public Safety Department, please fill out the form on the following web page and press the submit button:

[Silent Witness www.sunysuffolk.edu/About/1311.asp](http://www.sunysuffolk.edu/About/1311.asp)

The New York State Hotline for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence: 1-800-942-6906 is for crisis intervention, resources and referrals and is not a reporting mechanism.

Institutional Crime Reporting:

Reports of certain crimes occurring in certain geographic locations will be included in the College's Clery Act Annual Security Report in an anonymized manner that neither identifies the specifics of the crime or the identity of the reporting individual or victim/survivor.

- [Public Safety](#)

631-451-4242

- Title IX Coordinator; [Office of Legal Affairs](#) 631-451-4950
- Deputy Title IX Coordinators/Campus Associate Dean of [Student Services](#)
 - Ammerman Campus/Sayville Center 631-451-4044
 - Michael J. Grant Campus 631-851-6521
 - Eastern Campus 631-548-2514
 - Culinary Arts Center 631-548-3707

Suffolk County Community College is obligated to issue timely warnings of Clery Act crimes occurring within relevant geography that represent a serious or continuing threat to students and employees (subject to exceptions when potentially compromising law enforcement efforts and when the warning itself could potentially identify the reporting individual or victim/survivor). A reporting individual will never be identified in a timely warning.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act allows institutions to share information with parents when (1) there is a health or safety emergency, or (2) when the student is a dependent on either parents' prior year federal income tax return. Generally, Suffolk County Community College will not share information about a report of sexual violence with parents without the permission of the reporting individual.

SUNY Policy Link: www.system.suny.edu/sexual-violence-prevention-workgroup/policies/disclosure/

SUNY Link to state wide resources and resources at SUNY campuses: <https://www.suny.edu/violence-response/>