

*Federal and state laws ensure survivors are protected.  
What are your rights as a survivor of sexual assault on campus?*

## Your school is responsible for preventing and responding to sexual violence

- Once a school has “actual knowledge” of an instance of sexual violence, they are legally obligated to respond. Once the Title IX office or an employee designated by the school is made aware of an offense then they must respond. There is no excuse.
- Annual awareness and prevention programming must take place on all Connecticut campuses.\*

## You have the right to support from your school

- Title IX and other designated staff must respond to survivors in a trauma-informed manner.
- Schools should offer survivors a variety of supportive measures to ensure they can continue to access their education (housing, work, and class changes, counseling, no contact orders, etc.).
- All cases will be decided by the “preponderance of the evidence” standard in Title IX hearings, meaning more than 50% of the evidence is or is not credible.\*
- Individuals being investigated for sexual misconduct have a “presumption of innocence”; however, the school must never presume that a survivor is lying.
- Whether there was affirmative consent must be considered in all investigations and programming.\*

## You have a right to additional protections from your school

- Most Connecticut schools have additional institutional misconduct policies to address gaps in the 2020 Title IX regulations, including
  - incidents of sexual violence that take place off-campus or involve parties not currently enrolled at the institution, and
  - sexual harassment that falls outside of the Department of Education’s definition.

## You have the right to be treated fairly

- Survivors have a right
  - to an advisor through all Title IX proceedings which may include access to free and confidential legal assistance
  - to assistance from an advocate from a community-based sexual assault crisis center
  - to receive written notification of their rights and options upon reporting
  - to receive written notification of the outcome of the case\*
  - to ongoing support if not pursuing a formal report or if the person being investigated is found “not responsible”

## You have a right to a timely investigation

- Investigations are conducted in a fair and appropriate timeframe and can never be put on hold indefinitely.
- Criminal investigations or the Covid-19 pandemic cannot cause a delay with the school's investigative process. They can happen simultaneously.

## You have a right to a fair hearing

- Survivors' and witnesses' statements must be part of the process. Survivors are not required to submit to cross-examination during a formal Title IX hearing.
- Schools should prevent needless traumatization and include standards of behavior for advisors.
- All questions for cross-examination must be relevant to the incident and ensure non-relevant sexual history is not used against the survivor.

## You have recourse if you believe your rights were violated

- If you feel that your school has failed to protect your rights under Title IX, you can file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights. A sexual assault crisis advocate or attorney, the numbers below, can assist you.

## Need Help?

Specialized campus advocates can help you anywhere in Connecticut. Your local sexual assault crisis services center can provide short-term counseling, be with you during events, help with safety planning, and offer other free and confidential services. Call the numbers below anytime, 24/7, and someone will be there to help or just listen to you.

- Statewide Hotline (English): 888-999-5545 (call or text)
- Statewide Hotline (Spanish): 888-568-8332 (call)

## Victims Rights Center of Connecticut

The Victim Rights Center of Connecticut offers free-of-charge legal services for victims of crime, including survivors in Title IX cases, in most regions of Connecticut.

- Office: 203-350-3515
- Email: [vrctreferrals@endsexualviolencect.org](mailto:vrctreferrals@endsexualviolencect.org)

## Additional Resources

- [Questions and Answers on the Title IX Regulations on Sexual Harassment \(July 2021\)](#)
- [Know Your IX](#)
- [Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence - Campus Services](#)

\*Connecticut state law

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Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence | 860-828-9881 | [www.endsexualviolencect.org](http://www.endsexualviolencect.org)

