

## **CLERY/VAWA VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND OPTIONS**

When a student or employee reports being the victim of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whether on or off campus, the following rights and options will be provided.

### **Procedures victims should follow if dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking has occurred:**

- Report the Incident – On-Campus Emergencies: dial 251-460-6312 for University Police or 911 for off-campus emergencies. You may also report to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students: 251-460-6172, or the Director of Housing and Residence Life: 251-341-4663, if you're a resident student.
- Preserve Evidence - Preserving evidence in all cases is imperative. For example, avoid showering, douching, eating, drinking, or brushing your teeth, if at all possible, after a sexual assault; this can destroy vital evidence. Bedding or clothing worn during or after the assault should be preserved and collected by law enforcement.
- Law Enforcement Involvement - Victims have the right to notify police or decline police involvement. If the victim chooses to notify the police, campus security authorities can assist with the notification, if needed.
- Protection Orders and No-Contact Orders - Where applicable, the USA Police Department will assist with the acquisition, service, and enforcement of domestic violence and civil no-contact orders. You may also request a "No Contact Order" from the Dean of Students Office if you are made to feel threatened or unsafe.

### **How will USA protect the confidentiality of victims:**

- The police department will not release the names of victims or witnesses unless required by law. However, records of criminal investigations, including the name of the alleged victim and/or witness, may be released under court order.
- These conversations are kept as confidential as possible, but information about incidents of sexual misconduct must be shared with relevant administrators and the Title IX Coordinator so that the university can take action if necessary for reasons of safety. In planning a response, the wishes of the survivor are given full consideration.

### **What are the existing counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, and other services available, both within USA and in the community:**

- University Counseling & Testing Center – 300 Student Center Circle, 251-460-7051, <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/counseling/>.
- USA Student Health Center – 5870 USA South Drive, 251-460-7151, <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/studenthealth/>.
- USA Children's and Women's Hospital Emergency Room – 1700 Center Street, Mobile, AL 36604, 251-415-1000, <https://www.usahealthsystem.com/locations/childrens-womens-hospital>.
- University Hospital – 2451 University Hospital Drive, 251-471-7000, <https://www.usahealthsystem.com/locations/university-hospital>.
- On-Campus Victim Advocacy – USA Advocate Program: 251-460-7151 (during regular office hours) or 251-341-9884 (after office hours), <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/studentaffairs/violenceprevention/advocateprogram.html>.
- Off-Campus Resources – Spring Hill Medical Center: 251-344-9630, Infirmiry Health: 251-435-2400, Providence Hospital: 251-633-1000, Mobile Rape Crisis Center: 251-602-0909, and Penelope House: 251-342-8994.

**What options and assistance is available to victims in changing academic, living, and working situations.**

- The Dean of Students Office or the Title IX Coordinator can speak to you about possible assistance like changing academic, living, and working situations. These remedies may be made if they are reasonably available, regardless of whether or not you choose to report the incident of sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence to campus police or local law enforcement.

**What are the procedures for disciplinary action in cases of alleged dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking?**

- Victims may choose to file conduct charges for violations of the university policy. The Dean of Students Office is available to guide you through the conduct process and answer any questions. To review the Student Code of Conduct, including the conduct process, please visit <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/studentaffairs/studentconduct/>. You may also review the university's policy on Sexual Misconduct at: <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/studentaffairs/titlenine/resources/sexual-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

**TITLE IX RIGHTS AND OPTIONS**

Title IX regulations require the University Police to notify complainants of their rights to file a Title IX complainant for sexual misconduct with the university in addition to filing a criminal complaint with the police. Whether or not your case qualifies as a criminal offense, you have the option of filing a complaint with the university's Title IX Coordinator. The contact information for the university's Title IX Coordinator is available at: <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/+studentaffairs/titlenine/>.