



# Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Assault, Relationship Violence, and Stalking

## Mandatory Reporting:

Faculty department chairs and many staff members are Responsible Employees and have a duty to report any information they have suggesting a student may have experienced sexual misconduct (including sexual assault), dating or domestic violence or misconduct, stalking, discrimination, harassment, or related retaliation.

**Suggested phrases to use if you think a student is about to disclose, or if they have already disclosed without knowing that you are obligated to report:**

"I want to make sure that you know when I hear anything suggesting a student has experienced sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, harassment, or related retaliation, I'm required to share it with a member of Bentley's Title IX team, who will ensure that the student gets information about their rights, choices, and available resources"

"If you would prefer to talk with a confidential resource not obligated to contact the Title IX team, like the counseling center, the health center, or another confidential resource, I can help you connect with one"

"I know that was a lot of information, but I want to support your ability to make informed choices. Can I clarify any of the information I just shared with you? What feels like the best way to proceed?"

## Responding to a Disclosure:

"I am so sorry, and I'm really glad that you shared this with me, what are you feeling like you need the most right now? How can I help?"

"As we discussed, I will contact a member of the Title IX team, and that person will provide you with more information and likely invite you to meet in person so they can see what your needs are, make sure you're aware of your rights and available resources, and see how they can help"

"Let's see if I can help you connect with the right resources"

## After the Disclosure:

Contact any member of the Title IX team right away (see reverse for contact information). They will request as much detail as you can recall, all of which will help them respond appropriately to the student.

**\*Remember: you only need to provide the details that were shared with you; there is no need to ask follow-up questions of the student.**

Please visit appendix E of the Title IX: Gender-Based Harassment and Discrimination Policy for a full list of the categories of employees, found at [www.bentley.edu/titleix](http://www.bentley.edu/titleix)

# Helpful Strategies for Talking with a Survivor of Sexual Assault

**Believe them.** Believing someone when they tell you they have been sexually assaulted is the most important thing you can do.

**Assure them that they are not to blame for the assault in any way.** Survivors of sexual assault often blame themselves. It is important to assure survivors that no matter what happened, it was not their fault.

**Assure them they are not alone.** Survivors of sexual assault often feel isolated, scared, and powerless. Tell the survivor that you are there for them and follow through by being there to listen and support.

**Use all available resources.** Tell the survivor: "There are people on campus who are experts in this, who know what to do and who can be trusted."

**Respect their privacy.** Outside of mandatory reporting, it is up to the survivor to decide who knows about the assault. Do not tell others, even if you think the survivor should or would "want them to know." However, if you are worried about the survivor's immediate physical safety, you should contact the police.

**Get help for yourself.** Even those with the best intentions can become over-involved with the survivor's recovery, possibly hurting both of you. Seek advice if you have any concerns about how to help.

# Things to Avoid When Talking with a Survivor of Sexual Assault

- Don't ask the survivor to tell every detail about the assault.
- Don't say that you know how they feel.
- Don't ridicule or shame by saying, "Why didn't you fight?" or give unwanted advice by saying, "I would have..."
- Don't give positive evaluations by saying, "I'm sure you'll be fine. It will all work out."
- Don't order or threaten by saying, "If you don't do \_\_\_\_\_, you'll regret it."
- Don't respond aggressively. Responding violently around a survivor can reinforce the trauma they experienced. Avoid saying things like, "I will hurt the person who did this to you!"

## Confidential On-Campus Resources

### The Counseling Center

**Location:** Callahan Building, 2nd Floor  
**Hours:** Mon – Fri; 8:30am – 4:30pm  
**Summer Hours:** Mon – Thur; 8:30am – 5:30pm  
**Phone:** 781-891-2274

### Health Center

**Location:** Rhodes Hall  
**Hours:** Mon, Wed, and Thur; 8am – 5pm, Tuesday; 8am – 6pm, Friday; 8am – 4:30pm  
**Summer Hours (administrative only):** Mon – Thur; 8:00am – 5:30pm  
**Phone:** 781-891-2222  
**Email:** [healthcenter@bentley.edu](mailto:healthcenter@bentley.edu)

### Spiritual Life Center (Chaplain Team)

**Location:** Student Center 334  
**Phone:** 781-891-2418

### The Wellness Center

**Location:** Callahan Building, 2nd floor  
**Hours:** Mon – Fri; 8:30am – 4:30pm  
**Phone:** 781-891-2600

### Ombudsperson

**Location:** Smith 204  
**Hours:** Mon – Fri; 8:30am – 4:30pm  
**Phone:** 781-891-3102

## Additional Resources

### Bentley University Police Department

**Location:** Callahan Building, 1st Floor  
**Hours:** 24/7  
**Emergency:** 781-891-3131  
**Non-Emergency:** 781-891-2201

### Residential Center

**Phone:** 781-891-2148  
**Email:** [housing@bentley.edu](mailto:housing@bentley.edu)

## Non-Confidential Resources

### Title IX Team

#### Liz Humphries

Director of Student Conduct and Title IX Coordinator  
**Phone:** (781) 891-2225  
**Email:** [ehumphries@bentley.edu](mailto:ehumphries@bentley.edu)

#### Justin Woodard

Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Student Support  
Associate Director, Residential Center  
**Phone:** (781) 891-2319  
**Email:** [jwoodard@bentley.edu](mailto:jwoodard@bentley.edu)

#### Kelly Kelleher

Human Resources Business Partner and Deputy Title IX Coordinator for faculty/staff  
**Phone:** (781) 891-2676  
**Email:** [kkelleher@bentley.edu](mailto:kkelleher@bentley.edu)

#### Courtney Finn

Associate Director of Athletics and Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Athletic Support  
**Phone:** (781) 891-2369  
**Email:** [cfinn1@bentley.edu](mailto:cfinn1@bentley.edu)

## Confidential Off-Campus Resources

### Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)

**Locations:** Boston, Cambridge, and Waltham  
**24/7 Hotline:** 1-800-841-8371  
**Office Phone:** 617-492-8306

### REACH Beyond Domestic Violence (REACH)

**Location:** Waltham  
**24/7 Hotline:** 1-800-899-4000

### VictimConnect

**Telephone-based helpline:** 855-4-VICTIM (855-484-2846)  
**Online chat:** [Chat.VictimConnect.org](https://www.victimconnect.org)