

Campus Sexual Violence Response and Prevention Program

Introduction

Boston College attempts at all times to maintain a safe environment that supports its educational mission and is free from exploitation and intimidation, as well as discrimination based upon gender, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. Sexual violence or sexual misconduct of any kind is antithetical to the mission of Boston College and the values it espouses and will be responded to accordingly. The University strives to eliminate sexual violence on campus, prevent its occurrence, and address its effects.

Purpose

The purpose of this notice, provided in accordance with the Clery Act, is to summarize some of the University's efforts with respect to preventing sex offenses, to direct members of the University community to the University's policies and resources regarding sexual violence, and to inform victims of sexual violence about procedures to follow after a sex offense has occurred. In this notice, the terms "sex offenses" and "sexual violence" are deemed to include sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking, which are defined in the Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, and Sexual Misconduct policy found in the [Student Guide](#). The University also maintains a comprehensive [Sexual Assault Policy and Resources](#) website that includes more detailed descriptions of the University's policy, resources, and reporting options for students. The BC Sexual Assault Network (SANet) is a primary resource for members of the Boston College community who have been affected by sexual violence. For more information on the services and resources provided by SANet and Boston College Police Department, please visit the following websites: [SANet](#) and [BCPD-Crime Prevention](#). In addition, the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator reachable at 617-552-3482, oversees the University's response to student complaints of sexual violence.

Policy

Education Programs

Boston College provides training and education programs to the University community on sexual violence response and prevention on an ongoing basis, including those described in this notice. Each incoming freshman is required to complete an on-line education module that includes information regarding sexual violence and effective consent. In addition, the Bystander Education Intervention Program trains student leaders to deliver an hour-long presentation to Boston College student groups, residential halls, resident assistants, and classrooms on prevention, response, and intervention strategies to combat sexual violence. The University also posts information in the community bathrooms of all first year residence halls to make students aware of the University's resources and responses to sexual violence. The Office of the Dean of Students conducts annual training for administrative hearing board members on sexual violence issues, relevant University policies, and how to adjudicate cases involving sexual violence. The University is also providing training and educational materials to administrators and faculty with respect to how to respond to reports of sexual violence and the University's policies and resources. The Boston College Police Department offers RAD (Rape, Aggression, Defense) classes for students periodically each academic year. SANet trains advocates to work a 24-hour hotline which provides support and resources to any Boston College student affected by sexual assault, rape, relationship violence, stalking and other related crimes.

Reporting Sexual Violence

The first priority of a survivor of sexual violence should be to get to a place of safety and obtain any necessary medical treatment. Victims are encouraged to preserve any physical evidence. (Ideally, after a sexual assault, a victim should not take a shower, wash, or change clothing prior to a medical exam.) If possible, the crime scene should remain undisturbed.

The University strongly encourages, but does not require, victims to report sex offenses and to do so promptly. To report an incident, a victim may contact the Boston College Police at 617-552-4444, the SANet at 617-552-

2211, a member of the Residential Life staff at 617-552-3060, the Office of the Dean of Students at 617-552-3470, or the Student Affairs Title IX Coordinator at 617-552-3482. For sex offenses that occur off campus, the Boston College Police or SANet will assist the survivor in notifying the appropriate local law enforcement agency for the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred if the survivor wishes to do so.

If a victim chooses to report a sexual assault to the Boston College Police, a specially trained officer will conduct an investigation which involves asking the victim to describe the assailant and what happened. The officer may ask questions about the scene of the crime, any witnesses, and what happened before and after. The officer will collect any evidence, including assisting the victim to a hospital to have a sexual assault evidence collection kit performed if the victim chooses, and will assist the victim in meeting with a Victim Witness Advocate. If the victim chooses to speak with the District Attorney's Office or the Dean of Students, the officer will assist the victim in meeting with them if requested. The officer will be available to support the victim through the investigation process.

Victims of domestic or dating violence or stalking are also encouraged to report these crimes to the Boston College Police Department, who will assist the victim as described above and notify the victim about his or her legal options. In addition to pursuing a criminal complaint or pursuing a complaint under University policy, victims of sexual violence may seek a restraining order under civil law to prevent further abuse. Under Massachusetts law, victims of dating or domestic violence may be entitled to obtain an abuse prevention order under Chapter 209A of the Massachusetts General Laws, and victims of stalking or harassment may be entitled to obtain a harassment prevention order under Chapter 258E of the Massachusetts General Laws. These orders require the abuse or harassment to cease and can include no contact and stay-away requirements. They may be issued without prior notice to the abuser or harasser if there is a substantial likelihood of immediate danger of abuse or harassment. The Boston College Police will assist victims in pursuing these orders.

Boston College recognizes the importance of offering victims of sexual violence immediate treatment, counseling support, and assistance. In addition, appropriate interim measures to help assure the safety and well being of the victim on campus will be offered through the Office of the Dean of Students, which may include a University no-contact or stay-away order. The University will provide the complainant with written notification of his or her options, including information about filing a complaint within the University, information about filing a criminal complaint, information about filing for a restraining order, and information about pursuing these options at the same time. This notification will also include a listing of resources and supportive services available to the complainant both on and off campus.

If a crime is considered to represent a serious danger or ongoing threat to members of the Boston College community, the Boston College Police will disseminate a timely warning.

Counseling/Mental Health/Student Services

Survivors who report an incident of sexual violence to the University will be provided with information about the counseling, mental health, and support services that are available on campus and in the community. Among the services available are the following:

- Access to the services of University Counseling;
- Emergency psychological services available 24 hours per day;
- Referral to counseling and mental health services outside the University; and
- Assistance provided by the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Advocate Program.

A fuller list of available resources is included on the University's [Sexual Assault Policy and Resources](#) website.

Disciplinary Action/Sanctions

Disciplinary actions against students are the responsibility of the Office of the Dean of Students. The disciplinary procedures in cases of an allegation of a sex offense are outlined in the “Student Conduct System” section of the [Student Guide](#). The University’s disciplinary proceedings are designed to be prompt, fair and impartial and, in cases of sexual violence, are conducted by individuals who receive annual training on issues related to sexual violence and how to conduct an investigation and hearing process that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability. The standard of proof in student disciplinary proceedings is the preponderance of the evidence. The complainant and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have an advisor and witnesses present during a campus disciplinary proceeding and related meetings, and both the complainant and the accused will be simultaneously informed in writing of the outcome of any campus disciplinary proceeding brought alleging a sex offense. The [Student Guide](#) describes the procedures for appeal and provides that students will be informed of any changes to the results that occur prior to the results becoming final and when the results become final. This section of the [Student Guide](#) also lists the possible sanctions that may be imposed following a finding of “responsible” at a disciplinary proceeding related to sexual violence, which include suspension and dismissal from the University.

Changes to Academic and Living Situations

Following an alleged sex offense, a survivor may request assistance in addressing academic concerns through the Office of the Dean of Students, who will work with the survivor’s academic dean and faculty to provide the survivor with reasonable support services and adjustments. The survivor may also request assistance from the Office in making adjustments to living arrangements, which will be provided through by the Office of Residential Life when reasonably available. In situations in which the alleged assailant seriously disturbs or presents a potential threat to the victim, a University stay away order prohibiting the alleged assailant from having any contact with the victim may be imposed. In situations in which the alleged offender may pose a threat to the victim or to the community, the Dean of Students or designee may also impose on the alleged offender a summary suspension from either housing or the University, pending final resolution of the matter.

Confidentiality

The University respects the privacy interests of victims of sexual violence, and will protect the confidentiality of the victim to the extent allowable under applicable law. The University does not include the names or other identifying information of victims of alleged sexual assault in any publicly available documents, including any publicly available police reports, logs, or safety notices.

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