



# ACTIVE BYSTANDER COMPANION

A step-by-step guide for Faculty and Staff responding to students

## If a student discloses a sexual assault to you:

### **Step 1: CARE**

#### **Care for the student**

- Believe them
- Ensure that they are safe
- Provide non-judgmental support

### **Step 2: CONNECT**

#### **Connect the student to resources**

- Call 911 or 5411 for emergencies
- Reporting Options *see next page*
- Counseling and Support

### **Step 3: CONTACT**

#### **Contact the Title IX Coordinator**

- Julia Walker
- 804- 524- 1007
- jawalker@vsu.edu

### **Some Do's and Don'ts for Responding to Sexual Assault:**

#### **DO:**

- Encourage the student to seek help
- Inform the student about resources (see reverse)
- Contact an on- campus resource to assist you and inform the student you will do so
- If there is an immediate risk, call campus police or 911
- Allow the student to make their own decisions

#### **DO NOT:**

- Do nothing
- Do not panic- remain calm and concerned
- Do not feel as if you have to have all the answers
- Do not assess, define, or try to investigate what has happened
- Do not try to impose your ideas on someone else
- Do not try to "fix" the "problem"

**Sexual Assault** is non-consensual contact of a sexual nature. Some types of sexual acts which fall under the category of sexual assault include the following: rape, attempted rape and fondling.

Virginia State University has a zero tolerance policy against all forms of sex-based discrimination, inclusive of sexual misconduct, i.e.:

- sexual assault
- sexual exploitation
- dating violence
- domestic violence
- stalking

Retaliation against anyone reporting sexual misconduct is prohibited. For more information on the sexual misconduct policy and resources, go to: [www.vsu.edu/go/sexual-assault](http://www.vsu.edu/go/sexual-assault)

# RESOURCES FOR REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

## SEXUAL ASSAULT, DATING OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND STALKING

### VICTIM REPORTING OPTIONS

#### **Department of Police & Public Safety**

- (804) 524- 5411 (emergency); (804) 524- 5360 (non- emergency)
- Will take a report from the victim and a specially trained officer will conduct an investigation. This can involve asking the student to describe the assailant and the details regarding the incident.
- Can provide assistance in seeking and obtaining medical treatment and pursuing legal action, both on and off campus.

#### **Title IX Coordinator**

- Julia Walker (804) 524- 1007 or (804) 524-5090. Email: jawalker@vsu.edu
- Oversees the University's response to sexual violence complaints.
- Ensures the appropriate measures are taken to address complaints.

#### **Department of Student Conduct**

- DeAndrea Neal, Director (804) 524-5866 or (804) 524-5504
- Oversees the student hearing process.
- Provides options for filing a formal complaint and/ or connecting with local law enforcement.

### CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING AND SUPPORT

#### On-Campus:

#### **Sexual Assault Prevention and University Counseling Center**

- (804) 524- 6942 / (804) 524- 5939
- Provides counseling, advocacy, and information about on/ off campus options for filing complaints and supportive resources.
- 24/7 confidential support (804) 524-5001

#### Off-Campus:

#### **James House**

- (804) 458- 2840
- 24 hour crisis intervention, advocacy for hearings, and support groups available.

#### **Greater Richmond Regional Hotline**

- (804) 612- 6126
- 24 hour hotline for survivors and their loved ones who need support navigating domestic, intimate partner, family, and/ or sexual violence in Chesterfield, Greater Richmond and Tri-Cities area.

#### **LGBTQ Partner Abuse & Sexual Assault Helpline**

- 1 (866)- 356- 6998
- Open from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Created by the VSU Sexual Assault Prevention Program, P.O. Box 9172, located in Memorial Hall.

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