

Options for Confidentially Disclosing Sexual Violence

The State University of New York and SUNY Adirondack want you to have information and to get the support you need regardless of whether you want to move forward with a report of sexual violence to College officials or to police. You might want to talk with someone about something you observed or experienced, even if you aren't sure it constitutes sexual violence. A conversation where questions can be answered is far better than keeping something to yourself. Confidentiality varies, and the information below is aimed at helping you understand how confidentiality applies to the different resources that are available to you.

SUNY has created a thorough list of resources available in New York State. Visit the [SUNY Sexual Assault & Violence Response \(SAVR\) Resources](#) to search by proximity to campus or by geographic region.

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I. Privileged and Confidential Resources

Individuals who are confidential resources will not report crimes to law enforcement or college officials without your permission, except for extreme circumstances such as a health or safety emergency. Please note that even individuals who can typically maintain confidentiality are subject to exceptions under the law, including the mandatory reporting of child abuse.

SUNY Adirondack Confidential Resources:

- **Holly Irion, Licensed Mental Health Counselor:** 518-681-5620; irionh@sunyacc.edu; Residence Hall 161
- **Beth Braxton, Licensed Mental Health Counselor:** 518-743-2249; braxtone@sunyacc.edu; Warren Hall 147

Off-campus Counselors and Advocates:

- **Planned Parenthood 24-Hour Rape Crisis Hotline:** 1-866-307-4086
- **Domestic Violence Project 24-Hour Hotline:** 518-793-9496
- **Saratoga County Wellspring Victim Services 24-Hour Hotline:** 518-584-8188

Note that these outside services do not provide any information to SUNY Adirondack. They will generally maintain confidentiality unless you request disclosure and sign a

consent or waiver form. More information on an agency's policies on confidentiality may be obtained directly from the agency.

Off-campus Healthcare Providers:

- **Glens Falls Hospital SANE Program in the Emergency Department:**
518-926-3000; 100 Park Street; Glens Falls, NY 12801
- **Saratoga Hospital SANE Program in the Emergency Department:**
518-583-8313; 211 Church Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
- [List of New York State SANE Services by County](#)
- **Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson, Glens Falls Center:** 518-792-0994;
135 Warren St. Glens Falls, NY 12801
- **Warren County Public Health:** 518-761-6580; Warren County Municipal Center,
1340 State Route 9, Lake George, NY 12845
- **Washington County Public Health:** 518-746-2400; Washington County Annex
Building, 415 Lower Main Street, Hudson Falls, NY 12839
- **Saratoga County Public Health:** 518-584-7460, ext.8365; Saratoga Community
Health Center, 24 Hamilton Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
 - o You MUST be a Saratoga County resident to utilize this clinic. Otherwise, please contact Warren or Washington County Public Health Services who will assist any SUNY Adirondack student regardless of county of residence.

Note that medical office and insurance billing practices may reveal information to the insurance policyholder, including medication and/or examinations paid for or administered.

- In the event that you choose to have a sexual assault forensic exam, we strongly encourage calling the **Planned Parenthood Victim Advocacy Services 24-Hour Hotline (1-866-307-4086)** or the **Saratoga County Wellspring Victim Services 24-Hour Hotline (518-584-8188)**. One of their trained staff members can attend the exam with you as your advocate, offer support, and advise you through the process, including making sure your health insurance is not billed.
- If you do not utilize advocacy services, you are encouraged to let hospital personnel know if you do not want your insurance policyholder to be notified about your access to these services.
- The New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) may be able to assist in compensating victims/survivors for healthcare and counseling services, including emergency compensation. More information may be found on OVS's webpage for the [Forensic Rape Examination \(FRE\) Direct Reimbursement Program](#), or by calling OVS at 1-800-247-8035.
 - o A list of additional services offered by OVS can be found [here](#).

II. Non-Professional Counselors and Advocates

Non-Professional counselors (those who are not licensed mental health counselors) and advocates can also assist you without sharing information that could identify you. At SUNY Adirondack, this includes our [Counseling Center](#) (Warren Hall 117; 518-743-2278 or frenchm@sunyacc.edu to schedule an appointment). Our counselors who are not licensed mental health counselors will report the nature, date, time and general location of an incident to the Title IX Coordinator, but will consult with you to ensure no personally identifying details are shared without your consent; these individuals are not considered confidential resources as discussed above.

III. Privacy vs. Confidentiality

Even SUNY Adirondack offices and employees that cannot guarantee confidentiality will maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible. The information you provide to a non-confidential resource will be relayed only as necessary to investigate and/or seek a resolution and to notify the Title IX Coordinator or designee, who are responsible for tracking patterns and spotting systemic issues. SUNY Adirondack will limit the disclosure as much as possible, even if the Title IX Coordinator determines that a request for confidentiality cannot be honored. For information on how SUNY Adirondack weighs a request for confidentiality, see below.

IV. Requesting Confidentiality: How SUNY Adirondack Will Weigh the Request and Respond

If you disclose an incident to a SUNY Adirondack employee who is responsible for responding to or reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment, but wish to maintain confidentiality or do not consent to SUNY Adirondack's request to initiate an investigation, the Title IX Coordinator must weigh your request against our obligation to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all members of our community, including you.

We will assist you with academic, housing, transportation, employment, and other reasonable and available accommodations regardless of your reporting choices. While reporting individuals may request accommodations through several college offices, the Title IX Coordinator can serve as a primary point of contact to assist with these measures (Tressie LaFay: 518-743-2319; lafayt@sunyacc.edu; Scoville Learning Center Suite 316). We also may take proactive steps, such as training or awareness efforts, to combat sexual violence in a general way that does not identify you nor the situation you disclosed.

We may seek consent from you prior to conducting an investigation. You may decline to consent to an investigation, and that determination will be honored unless the College's failure to act does not adequately mitigate the risk of harm to you or other members of the SUNY Adirondack community. Honoring your request for confidentiality may limit our ability to meaningfully investigate and pursue conduct action against an accused individual.

When you disclose an incident to someone who is responsible for responding to and/or reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment but wish to maintain confidentiality, SUNY Adirondack will consider many factors to determine whether we must proceed despite your request. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- Whether the accused has a history of violent behavior or is a repeat offender;
 - Whether the incident represents escalation, such as a situation that previously involved sustained stalking;
 - The increased risk that the accused will commit additional acts of violence;
 - Whether the accused used a weapon or force;
 - Whether the reporting individual is a minor;
 - Whether we possess other means to obtain evidence such as security footage;
- and

- Whether the report reveals a pattern of perpetration at a given location or by a particular group.

If the College determines that we must move forward with an investigation despite the request for confidentiality, the reporting individual or victim/survivor will be notified and the College will take immediate action as necessary to protect and assist them.

V. Public Awareness and Advocacy Events

If you disclose a situation through a public awareness event such as “Take Back the Night,” candlelight vigils, protests, or other public event, SUNY Adirondack is not obligated to begin an investigation. The College may use the information you provide to inform the need for additional education and prevention efforts.

VI. Anonymous Disclosure

If a reporting individual wishes to keep his/her identity anonymous, he or she may call Title IX Coordinator Tressie LaFay anonymously to discuss the situation and available options (518-743-2319).

Reporting individuals may also call the New Your State Hotline for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence (1-800-942-6906). The Hotline is for crisis intervention, resources, and referrals and is not a reporting mechanism.

VII. Institutional Crime Reporting

Reports of certain crimes occurring in certain geographic locations will be included in the SUNY Adirondack Clery Act Annual Security Report in an anonymized manner that neither identifies the specifics of the crime nor the identity of the reporting individual or victim/survivor. Questions about recording crimes in the Annual Security Report can be directed to:

- **Tressie LaFay, Title IX Coordinator:** 518-743-2319; lafay@sunyacc.edu; Scoville Learning Center Suite 316.
- **Anthony Palangi, Director of Facilities and Public Safety:** 518-743-2240; palangia@sunyacc.edu; Warren Hall 007

SUNY Adirondack is obligated to issue timely warnings of Clery Act crimes occurring within relevant geography that represent a serious or continuing threat to students and employees. (This is subject to exception when the warning could potentially compromise law enforcement efforts and/or when the warning itself could potentially identify the reporting individual or victim/survivor.) A reporting individual will never be identified in a timely warning.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows the College the option to share information with parents when (1) There is a health or safety emergency, or (2) The student is a dependent on either parents' prior year federal income tax return. Generally, SUNY Adirondack will not share information about a report of sexual violence with parents without the permission of the reporting individual.

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