

Sexual Violence Victim Bill of Rights

SUNY Buffalo State is committed to providing options, support and assistance to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking to ensure that they can continue to participate in College-wide and campus programs, activities, and employment. All victims of these crimes and violations, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, disability, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, domestic violence victim status, or criminal conviction, have the following rights, regardless of whether the crime or violation occurs on campus, off campus, or while studying abroad:

The right to:

- Have disclosures of sexual violence treated seriously.
- Make a decision about whether or not to disclose a crime or incident and participate in the conduct or criminal justice process free from outside pressures from college officials.
- Be treated with dignity and to receive from college officials courteous, fair, and respectful health care and counseling services.
- Be free from any suggestion that the victim is at fault when these crimes and violations are committed, or should have acted in a different manner to avoid such a crime.
- Describe the incident to as few individuals as practicable and not to be required to unnecessarily repeat a description of the incident.
- Be free from retaliation by the College, the accused, and/or their friends, family and acquaintances.
- Exercise civil rights and practice of religion without interference by the investigative, criminal justice, or conduct process of the College.

Options in Brief:

Victims have many options that can be pursued simultaneously, including one or more of the following:

- Buffalo State University Police will assist victims in filing criminal charges with local criminal courts. University Police will provide guidance on how to obtain a restraining order/no contact order and will assist with the enforcing the order.
- University Police Department:
Chase Hall, Room 110
(716) 878-6333
- To file student disciplinary charges against the perpetrator(s). Disciplinary actions are sanctioned in accordance with the Buffalo State Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Freedoms (<http://deanofstudents.buffalostate.edu/sites/deanofstudents.buffalostate.edu/files/uploads/Links/Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf>). Throughout disciplinary hearing, the accused and the accuser will have the same opportunity to have others present. Both parties will receive written notice of the outcome of a disciplinary process. In a campus disciplinary hearing, victims have a range of options for providing testimony, including telephone/videoconferencing or testifying with a room partition. Students have a right to

know the range of sanctions that may be imposed on the accused based upon the outcome of the disciplinary proceeding, which can include suspension, expulsion, disciplinary probation, community service, loss of University privileges, counseling, warning, a no contact order, or other sanction(s) as deemed appropriate based upon the disciplinary finding and severity of the offense.

- Office of Judicial Affairs:
Campbell Student Union, Room 311
(716) 878-4618

When the complaint involves a College employee, a victim may report the incident to the Human Resources Management where disciplinary proceedings will be conducted in accordance with applicable collective bargaining agreements.

- Human Resource Management
Grover Cleveland Hall, Room 403
(716) 878-4822
- To file a report of discrimination and harassment, and/or talk to the Title IX Coordinator for information and assistance. Reports of discrimination and harassment will be investigated in accordance with the Buffalo State policy (<http://equity.buffalostate.edu/policies>). If a victim wishes to keep his/her identity private, s/he may contact the Office for Equity and Campus Diversity anonymously to discuss the situation and identify available options.
 - Office of Equity and Campus Diversity
Grover Cleveland Hall, Room 415
(716) 878-6210
- To have any campus judicial or employee disciplinary proceeding and/or discrimination complaint investigated in a prompt, impartial and thorough manner by individuals who receive annual training in conducting investigations and the issues related to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.
- To pursue more than one of the above options at the same time, or to choose not to participate in any of the above options. Please note that if a criminal complaint is filed, Buffalo State may delay its investigation while the law enforcement agency is gathering evidence.
- To maintain confidentiality regarding the incident and any disciplinary proceedings and/or discrimination complaints. Campus officials will only provide information as necessary to proceed with a hearing or complaint investigation.
- To choose to speak, or not to speak, about the outcome of a disciplinary hearing.
- To obtain a change in academic or housing arrangements in order to avoid remaining in a hostile environment, you are advised to contact the Office of Judicial Affairs as noted above.

- To obtain effective counseling, health, and support services.
 - Counseling Center
219 Weigel Health
Center, 2nd Floor
(716) 878-4436
 - Weigel Health Center
Ground Floor
(716) 878-6711
 - Crisis Services
Erie County 24 hour hotline
(716) 834-3131
The Advocate Program
<http://www.crisisservices.org>
 - NYS Office of Victim Services
<http://www.ovs.ny.gov/>
Victim Advocacy, Buffalo
(716) 847-7996