

Guidelines for Talking to Students About Your Duty to Report Sexual Misconduct, Relationship Violence, and Stalking

MIT Staff have a responsibility to share information about incidents involving sexual assault/ harassment, relationship violence, or stalking with administrators who are specifically trained to handle these types of concerns.

You will need to notify the Title IX Coordinator or Investigator if a student discloses a case of sexual assault or harassment, relationship violence, or stalking.

If a student seems like they want to tell you something sensitive, but is hesitant or wants you to promise “not to tell anyone.”

“I’m glad you want to talk to me about a concern and that you feel comfortable speaking with me about something that I can see may be difficult to talk about. I want to make sure you understand my role here. I will do everything I can to protect your privacy but depending on what you tell me I may need to inform another administrator at the Institute.

I am happy to talk to you more about your concerns, however if you would like to talk with someone on campus who can assure you a higher level of confidentiality, I can immediately connect you with a counselor at Mental Health or an advocate from Violence Prevention and Response (VPR).

My main concern is your safety and well-being, so I want to ensure you understand what my role might be in the process. I am happy to listen more if you feel comfortable speaking with me further.”

If a student discloses an incident of sexual misconduct and is NOT in immediate crisis.

Listen to the student without asking questions. It is important to allow the student to decide what information to share with you and what information to keep private. At the end of that conversation, you should inform the student of your obligation to inform the Title IX Coordinator.

“Thank you very much for talking with me about your experience. I am very sorry to hear about what occurred. I want to assure you that the Institute will handle this matter in a sensitive manner and that we take these concerns extremely seriously. I want to let you know that I have a responsibility to inform the Title IX Coordinator who is responsible for responding to your concerns and ensuring we are responding appropriately. She will be contacting you soon to inform you of your options. Please know that any response will be guided by what you would like to do.”

If a student discloses an incident of sexual misconduct and IS in crisis

Listen to the student and when you identify that they need immediate, additional support, inform the student that you can call Violence Prevention and Response’s 24-hour hotline (a trained advocate is available to speak with the student immediately) or the MIT Police Department. Ensure that the student is connected to support services and contact the Title IX Coordinator or Investigator for reporting the incident and to discuss the next steps.

Resources

Reporting Resources

Title IX Reporting
TitleIX@mit.edu

Title IX Coordinator
Judy Robinson
Judrob@mit.edu
617.253.4052

Title IX Investigator
Sarah Rankin
SRankin@mit.edu
617-324-7526

MIT Police Department
617-253-1212

Confidential Resources

VPR 24-hour helpline
617.253.2300

Mental Health and Counseling
617.253.2916

MIT Chaplains
<http://studentlife.mit.edu/rl/mit-chaplains>

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
617.492.7273

For more information on reporting options and resources:
Sexualmisconduct.mit.edu