Who can I talk to?

All USFSP Faculty, Staff and even Student Employees are mandated reporters. Mandated reporters are required to report any knowledge of sexual misconduct to SOCAT, Title IX, and UPD on campus.

For Students, the university victim advocate should be your first point of contact and can be reached at (727) 873-4422. The victim advocate is confidential and available 24/7 to provide information, crisis response, and emergency support!



Who do I call for help?

University Police Department 727-873-4444

Office of the Dean of Students 727-873-4278

Office of Student Conduct 727-873-5027

Suncoast (24/7 Rape Crisis Hotline) 727-530-7273

CASA (Domestic Violence Counseling/ Advocacy) 727-895-4912

Victim Assistance (St. Petersburg Police Department) 727-892-5280/727-892-5128

USFSP Wellness Center

Student Life Center 140 7th Avenue South, Suite 2200 St. Petersburg Florida 33701

727-873-4422 usfsp.edu/wellness



Tips for Responding to Sexual Misconduct

Information Guide for Faculty, Staff, and Students





Can you hear me?

We are often encouraged to create a "speak up" organizational culture, but we don't hear nearly as much about how to listen and truly hear the messages that victims may bring to us.

It's important to be aware of our responsibility as members of the USFSP community and not only making a report when dealing with disclosure of sexual misconduct. Before any action can take place, we need to first actively listen.

This brochure provides tips and tools to use when dealing with victims that may be affected by sexual misconduct.

What do I need to consider ?

No matter where you are, on or off campus, if a USFSP student discloses being a victim of sexual misconduct, there are important things to remember:

Believe what the person is telling you

It takes a lot of courage for someone to share what has happened, and they trust you to help.

Listen, but don't press for details

Asking for details can result in the victim feeling blamed. Let them decide how much to share and when.

Stay away from statements that justify unacceptable behavior, shifts the blame to the harmed student, or minimizes a student's experience of victimization.

<u>Respect privacy</u>

It's important to not share information about the assault with others who are not involved in the situation with the exception of the Victim Advocate, Title IX coordinator, UPD, Student Conduct, or the SOCAT Case Manager.

What can I do?

- What to say:
- "I believe you"
- "It's not your fault"
- "I am sorry this happened"

"No one deserves to be hurt like that"

"I want to help. Can I call the victim advocate for you?"

Offer support

Due to the sensitive nature of sexual misconduct, recognize that they might be struggling with painful feelings such as anger, fear, denial, or embarrassment.

Give assurance that campus resources are available to help. Encourage them to take advantage of the resources available.

Seeking assistance from any resource must always be the victim's choice and you must respect the person's decision.