Sexual Violence, Sexual Assault, and Relationship Violence

A Resource Guide for Prevention, Response, and Support

This brochure provides education, guidance, and resources for victims and survivors of sexual violence, sexual assault, and relationship violence, as well as for friends, family, and those working to prevent, respond, and support.

The Dustdevil community prides itself on an educational, working, and living environment that is conducive to the personal and professional development of all its students and employees. As such, TAMIU strictly prohibits all forms of sex discrimination, sexual harassment (which includes sexual violence, rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking), and related retaliation.

Victims/Survivors Have a Right To:
- Be heard, not be judged, and feel safe.
- Be treated with respect and dignity.
- Ask questions. Receive guidance and assistance.
- Receive confidential counseling (see page 2).
- Choose for yourself to notify police or decline to do so.
- Request that a campus authority assist you in notifying police, if you so choose.
- Make an anonymous, confidential report with police (University or local) using a pseudonym. Your name can remain confidential. (In the Annual Security Report required by the Clery Act, TAMIU will include the statistic without a name or other identifying information.)
- Request that an officer assist you in obtaining your essential personal effects, as well as locating and taking you to a safe place (such as a shelter or the residence of a trusted friend or family member).
- Request that an officer assist you in providing for your safety and your family’s, including filing for a Protective Order or a similar lawful order.
- Request supportive presence at the hospital or police station.
- Request a forensic rape exam even if you choose not to notify police.
- Not be charged for a forensic rape exam.

MYTH:
Domestic violence/abuse, whether physical, sexual, emotional, economic, is a private family matter.

TRUTH:
Violence, in any form, is everyone’s issue. No one deserves to be abused, under any circumstance.

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP
No Violence • No Threats
Respect • Trust • Honesty
Support • Shared Responsibility
Accountability
Responsible Parenting
Economic Partnership
Negotiation • Fairness • Equality

KNOw IT’S NOT RIGHT
Consent – Clear and voluntary agreement to engage in a specific sexual activity. A person who is asleep or mentally or physically incapacitated, either through the effect of drugs, alcohol, or for any other reason, or whose agreement was made under duress, threat, coercion, or force cannot give consent. (TAMUS Regulation 08.01.01, Civil Rights Compliance)

Sexual Assault – Any intentional or knowing penetration of the sex organs, anus, or mouth without the other person’s consent. (TAMUS Regulation 08.01.01, Civil Rights Compliance)

Domestic Violence – An act, other than a defensive measure to protect oneself, against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, or the threat of which reasonably causes fear of such harm. (Texas Family Code Section 71.004)

Dating Violence – An act, other than a defensive measure to protect oneself, by an individual against a victim with whom there is or was a romantic or intimate relationship or marriage, and that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, or that is a threat that reasonably results in a fear of such harm. (Texas Family Code Section 71.0021)

Stalking – Knowingly engaging in conduct, including following a person, that one reasonably believes is threatening the bodily injury or death of themselves, a member of their family or household, or their property. (Texas Penal Code 42.072)
What To Do If You Are a Victim/Survivor
(sexual violence, sexual assault, rape, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking)

1 - GET TO A SAFE PLACE
Go where you are comfortable and safe from harm—home, friend’s room, hospital, police station (University or local).

2 - CALL FOR ASSISTANCE
In life-threatening or violent situations, immediately dial:

2911 – TAMIU Police Department
(on mobile phone, dial 326-2911)

911 – Laredo Police Department or EMS

3 - PRESERVE THE EVIDENCE (sexual violence & assault)
Avoid drinking, eating, rinsing your mouth, brushing your teeth, showering, douching, combing your hair, washing your clothes. Consider getting a forensic rape exam (rape kit) ASAP. Completing a forensic rape exam does not require you to file a police report.

4 - SEEK MEDICAL CARE
Whether or not you choose to file a police report, go directly to a hospital ER to check for injuries, sexually transmitted infections, and/or pregnancy.

Doctor’s Hospital (sexual assault crisis facility)
(956) 523-2000  |  10700 McPherson Rd.
*certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) available

TAMIU Student Health Services
(956) 326-2235  |  Student Center 125

5 - SEEK COUNSELING
Confidential counseling is available to students and employees via services below. Other resources are listed in this brochure and a comprehensive list is available online on the TAMIU Title IX webpage (www.tamiu.edu/compliance/titleixcompliance.shtml) under RESOURCES.

TAMIU Student Counseling & Disability Services
(956) 326-2230  |  Zaffirini Success Center 138

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
1-888-993-7650

6 - REPORT THE INCIDENT
Filing a report with police (University, local) is a criminal process. Filing a report through the TAMIU administrative process is non-criminal. They are separate, independent processes. A victim/survivor is not required to file a report with police but is strongly encouraged to do so. In addition to or in lieu of filing a report with police, a victim/survivor can file a report through the TAMIU administrative process (see page 3).

DOMESTIC & DATING VIOLENCE
(also Relationship Violence or Family Violence)
It is a crime for any person to cause you physical injury or harm, even if that person is a member or former member of your family or household or is a person with whom you have or had a romantic or intimate relationship.

IMPORTANT: Please tell the investigating police officer if you, your child, or any other household resident has been injured OR if you feel you will be in danger when the officer leaves.

PROTECTIVE ORDER
A free court order issued to protect you from a person who has been violent or threatens to be violent. The police can arrest a person for violating a Protective Order. A Protective Order mandates a person to:

♦ not commit further acts of violence.
♦ not hurt you or threaten to hurt you.
♦ not harass you directly or indirectly.
♦ not contact you or go near you, your children, other family members, your home, where you work, or your children’s school.
♦ not have a gun or a license to carry a gun.

The police can assist you in filing a Protective Order through the District Attorney’s Office (956-523-4900). There is no cost to the victim/survivor for filing.

IT CAN HAPPEN TO MEN
Sexual violence, sexual assault, rape, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, etc. can happen to anyone, including men. A man can be victimized by a stranger, family member, or someone he knows/trusts. However, male cases go vastly unreported due to stigma related to sexuality and masculinity and concern over medical procedures and telling others.

As a community, we must work to combat and change these attitudes. Consider telling someone who can help and support you.
RECOGNIZING ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR

You may be in an abusive relationship if your partner does EVEN ONE of the following:

- Embarrasses you with bad names and put-downs
- Looks at you or acts in ways that scare you
- Controls what you do, who you see, who you talk to, or where you go
- Keeps you from seeing or talking to friends or family
- Takes your money or Social Security, makes you ask for money, or refuses to give you money
- Makes all the decisions
- Tells you that you are a bad parent and/or threatens to take away or hurt your children
- Acts like the abuse is no big deal, that it’s your fault, or even denies doing it
- Destroys your property or threatens to kill your pets
- Intimidates you with guns, knives, or other weapons
- Shoves you, slaps you, hits you, or choke you
- Pressures you to perform sex acts, sexually assaults you, or displays sexually harassing behavior
- Forces you to drop charges
- Threatens to commit suicide
- Threatens to kill you

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER REPORTING?

When a report is filed with TAMIU, interim accommodations and/or protective measures will be provided (see below) and a trained investigator may be assigned to the case. The investigation and resolution process is prompt, thorough, and equitable for all parties. The standard used to determine the merits of a report is the preponderance of evidence (i.e., more likely than not that misconduct occurred). Both parties are informed in writing of the outcome and may appeal on limited grounds.

ACCOMMODATIONS & PROTECTIVE MEASURES

TAMIU provides interim accommodations and/or protective measures (such as physical separation, contact limitations, alternative work or housing arrangements, academic adjustments, counseling services, police escort) at the victim’s request and as reasonably available. Requests can be made with the Title IX Coordinator (employees), Student Affairs (students), or the TAMIU Police Department.

POSSIBLE SANCTIONS

Pending investigation, appeal, or final resolution, the accused may be temporarily placed on administrative leave, suspended, reassigned, or placed in another temporary status. Depending on student or employee status, final sanctions may include written reprimand, required training or counseling, employment termination, community service, “no contact” order, academic suspension, conduct probation, and expulsion.

CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY

The confidentiality of information received and the privacy of individuals involved will be limited to those with a reasonable need to know and kept private to the greatest extent possible.

Requests to withhold names (reporter, accused, others affected) or requests not to investigate or seek action will be considered in the context of TAMIU’s duty to provide a safe and non-discriminatory work and educational environment. Although such requests may limit TAMIU’s ability to respond and provide accommodations or protective measures, TAMIU will do so to the greatest extent possible.
Legal Support

- University Police Department (UPD)
  956-326-2100 | KLM 005
- TAMIU Student Counseling & Disability Services
  956-326-2230 | ZSC 138 (confidential counseling)
- TAMIU Community Stress Center
  956-326-3120 | CH 205

Medical Services

- TAMIU Student Health Services
  956-326-2235 | STC 125

Counseling

- TAMIU Student Counseling & Disability Services
  956-326-2230 | ZSC 138 (confidential counseling)
- TAMIU Community Stress Center
  956-326-3120 | CH 205

Advocacy & Support

- TAMIU Title IX Coordinator
  956-326-2857 | KLM 159
- TAMIU Student Affairs
  956-326-2282 | STC 226
- TAMIU Student Conduct & Community Engagement
  956-326-2286 | STC 226
- TAMIU Housing & Residence Life
  956-326-1300 | RLC
- TAMIU Financial Aid
  956-326-2225 | ZSC 214
- Laredo Police Department
  Dial 911
- Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (TRLA)
  956-718-4600 | 1-800-369-2741 | 1702 Convent Ave.
- Family Violence Legal Line
  1-888-296-SAFE (7233)
- Sexual Assault Legal Hotline
  1-888-993-7650

Medical Services

- Doctor’s Hospital (sexual assault crisis facility)
  956-523-2000 | 10700 McPherson Rd.

Counseling

- TAMIU Employee Assistance Program
  1-888-993-7650 (confidential counseling)
- SASI (Sexual Assault Services and Information) Education Program
  956-724-3177 | 1605 Saldana Ave.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline
  1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
  1-800-787-3224 (hearing impaired)
- Texas Abuse Hotline
  1-800-252-5400
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
  1-800-273-TALK (8255)

NON-CITIZEN VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

U.S. law protects individuals in domestic violence situations, including non-citizens, and creates relief for victims so that abusers cannot use the victim’s immigration status to prevent them from calling police or seeking safety. Visit www.uscis.gov for information. Mexican citizens can obtain, information, guidance, and support at the Mexican Consulate in Laredo, 1612 Farragut Street, (956) 723-0990, consul@relaredo.org.

International students or employees on visas who are victims and who have questions about their visa status may contact the TAMIU Student Affairs Office (ext. 2282) or the Human Resources Office (ext. 2365), respectively.

HELP A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER

Sexual violence, sexual assault, and relationship violence are very real, complex, and disturbing issues. Here is what you can do to help and support a victim/survivor:

- Show you care. Listen.
- Never blame them. Tell them you believe them.
- Let them know they are not alone. Guide them to campus or community resources.
- Do not judge. Remind them they are not responsible—the perpetrator is. Remind them that no one deserves to be abused.
- Remind them that their feelings and reactions are natural and normal.
- Seek guidance for yourself on what more you can do to help. You cannot support someone else if you are not supported yourself.

NORMAL FEELINGS & REACTIONS OF A VICTIM/SURVIVOR

Emotional Shock • Numbness • Anger • Disbelief • Denial
Fear • Anxiety • Confusion • Loss of Control • Powerlessness
Shame • Embarrassment • Depression • Isolation
Self-Blame • Guilt • Sleep Disturbance

Non one deserves to be abused. Don’t remain silent.