EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE

Information and Procedures for Victims of Sexual Assault, Stalking, Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

Immediate Response Procedures for Victims

• Get to a place of safety
• Try to preserve evidence (Rape victims: do not bathe, shower, brush teeth, douche, or use toilet; place clothing in paper bag. Violence victims: take pictures of bruises or other injuries. Stalking victims: save evidence of communications such as texts, emails, voicemails, writings, etc.)
• Obtain necessary medical treatment
• Report the incident so that evidence may be collected in a timely manner; * college official or Public Safety can assist with report,
• Role of Public Safety: assist with information for filing a restraining order in local court, and enforce the restraining order issued by local court
• Consider talking to a counselor

Reporting options:

• EGSC Public Safety 478-455-0150 Swainsboro / EGSC Statesboro 478-455-1606 Augusta 706-721-2911 or call 911;
• EGSC Director of Student Conduct 278-289-2360
• EGSC Title IX Coordinator: Students 478-289-2105; Employees: 478-289-2035
• Local Law Enforcement 911
• EGSC Counselor 478-289-2039; or Rape Crisis Center* (Confidential Report)
• Decline to file a complaint (EGSC may continue investigation to the extent that it can as required by Title IX)

Victim Confidentiality

Different officials on campus are, however, able to offer varying levels of privacy to victims.

• Public Safety: not a confidential report; will be referred to local law enforcement; may be made public if criminal prosecution. Clery Act Annual Security Report and “Timely Warning” crime alert will not contain victim name or identifying information.
• Title IX Coordinators: due to legal mandates requiring investigation of all reports may not be able to offer full confidentiality if doing so compromises the investigation or safety and security of campus.
• EGSC Counselor: report may be kept confidential and victim identifying information shall not be made public unless disclosure is mandated by law (victim is minor, victim or third party is in imminent danger).
• EGSC Employee: due to legal mandates employees have a duty to report any reports received to Title IX Coordinator

Services Available to Victims:

Counseling: Immediate crisis counseling will be available through the EGSC Counseling and Disability Services office. Employee victims will be then be referred to an off campus provider. Student and employee client contacts with the EGSC Counseling Center are confidential. Exceptions which require disclosure without consent include instances where the Counseling Center believes the client poses a clear and present danger to himself/herself or others and instances where the Counseling Center has reasonable cause to believe that a child (under the age of 18 years old) has been subjected to maltreatment, which may involve abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation or abandonment.

Mental Health Resources and Rape Crisis Centers*: Off campus counseling and support services can be obtained through the Ogeechee Behavioral Health in Swainsboro and Statesboro Regional Sexual Assault Center- (912) 489-0600 or www.srsac.org, Rape Crisis Centers- Statesboro (866) 489-2225 and Rape Crisis Center- Vidalia (912) 538-9935 and Rape Crisis Center at University Hospital in Augusta 706-724-5200. Such licensed off campus provider will also have a privilege with his or her clients and are subject to the above Georgia confidentiality provisions.

Victim Advocacy Programs: Victim advocate programs in Emanuel County District Attorney’s Office in Swainsboro (478) 237-7846, Bulloch County District Attorney’s Office in Statesboro (912) 764-9924, Richmond County (706) 821-1135 can provide on-going information and assistance.

Legal Assistance: Georgia Legal Services (888) 220-8399 can provide legal assistance.

EGSC Interim Measures: Regardless of whether you chose to pursue an investigation of the incident with EGSC or local law enforcement, student victims have the option to change their academic and/or on-campus living and transportation situations after an alleged rape, sexual assault, or relationship offense, regardless of whether the victim pursues campus disciplinary action or criminal
action, if such changes are reasonably available. Contact: Dr. Tim Goodman, Vice President for Academic Affairs: 478-289-2034. EGSC employee victims may have the option to change their work situations, when necessary to protect personal safety, if such changes are reasonably available. Contact: Tracy Woods, Director of Human Resources: 478-289-2035. Accommodations or protective measures provided to a victim will remain confidential to the extent that maintaining confidentiality would not impair the ability of the institution to provide the accommodation or protective measures.

**EGSC Disciplinary Proceedings and Sanctions** are detailed in the *East Georgia State College Employee Handbook*, *East Georgia College Faculty Handbook* and the *East Georgia State College Student Handbook*. The *Student Handbook* provides, in part, that Student Conduct Office may issue a temporary no contact order pending the outcome of a conduct proceeding. Both the Employee Handbook and the Student Handbook provide that the accused and the victim will each be allowed to choose a hearing advisor, a person who has had no formal legal training, to accompany them throughout the hearing and to attend meetings related to the proceeding. Both the accused and accuser shall simultaneously be informed in writing of the outcome made by the hearing panel, appeal procedures, if any, any change to the results that occurs prior to the time that they become final, and when such results become final. A student found guilty of violating the sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual misconduct including domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking could be criminally prosecuted in the state courts and may be suspended or expelled from the college for the first offense. The Office of Student Conduct may also implement other protective measures including but not limited to no-contact orders and bans from campus or certain areas of campus. Violations of any such no-contact order or ban may result in a separate charge of Failure to Comply. An EGSC employee found guilty of violating the EGSC Sexual Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct policy may be suspended or terminated and may face criminal prosecution.

**No Retaliation Policy**: East Georgia State College absolutely prohibits any retaliation, at any time, against the complainant or against those individuals participating in the investigation. The Director of Student Conduct or Title IX Coordinator will advise both the complainant and the respondent of the prohibition of any retaliation, including retaliation by any individuals associated with the respondent, such as social friends and team members. Anyone under the jurisdiction of the College that retaliates against the complainant or individuals participating in an investigation or proceeding under this policy, Title IX policy or the college’s *Discrimination and Harassment Policy* may be subject to disciplinary action.

**Role of the Title IX Coordinator**
The Title IX Coordinator will provide this written information to the victim. Public Safety and/or Title IX Coordinator will refer reports to the Director of Student Conduct for the disciplinary process. An investigation will be conducted with full consideration of the victim’s confidentiality concerns and balancing such concerns with the college’s obligation to maintain a safe and secure campus and meet its compliance obligations under Title IX. East Georgia State College’s Title IX Coordinators responsible for overseeing administrative investigations in compliance with Title IX requirements are the Director of Student Life, vsherrod@ega.edu, 478-289-2105; and the Director of Human Resources, twoods@ega.edu, 478-289-2035.

Please see the following policies on the President’s webpage, “Policies and Procedures” in Section 8 at

http://www.ega.edu/offices/presidents_office/policies_and_procedures_of_the_college

**EGSC Policy Prohibiting Sexual Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct**

**EGSC Discrimination and Harassment Policy (Title IX Process)**

MCS 9/22/14

For an up-to-date copy, go to the policies and procedures page on the EGSC website.