

FAQs for Respondents/The Accused

What do I do if I am accused of sexual violence and/or sexual misconduct?

DO NOT contact the victim (complainant). You may want to speak with someone in the campus community who can act as your support person. The Office of Student Conduct, The Ombudsperson or the Title IX Coordinator (or their designee) can explain the college's procedures for addressing sexual misconduct complaints. You may also want to seek confidential counseling through the South Texas College Counseling Center by contacting them at (956) 872-2171 or seek support through off campus services in the community.

What about legal advice?

Respondents may want to retain legal counsel given the potential for criminal and/or civil action. The Administrative Student Conduct Process allows for a support party to be present during Conduct Hearings; however, the individual is not allowed to speak on your behalf or participate in any manner other than offering support.

What will my parents be told?

The college's primary relationship is to you, the student, and not to your parent/guardian. College officials will only speak with your parents/guardians if you decide to sign a Consent to Release Confidential Student Information/Records form (**this consent to release is only valid when you are present**). The only exception being when there is a significant threat to your health or safety.

Can I be charged with something on campus and off campus?

Yes, complainants have the right to pursue both campus resolution of a complaint as well as civil and/or criminal resolution. It is up to the complainant to decide how they want to proceed. The colleges' processes will move forward regardless if there is criminal or civil legal action taken regarding the same incident.

Can I have someone with me during college Administrative Student Conduct Proceedings?

Yes, you are allowed to have one support person present during the Administrative Student Conduct Process. Hearings are closed to the public and additional members will not be allowed to be present to ensure confidential and privacy of all parties.

What else should I be thinking about as this situation moves forward?

South Texas College prohibits retaliation in any way against an individual or group because the individual or group has reported an allegation of sexual harassment or sexual violence or has participated in the Administrative Student Conduct Process in response to such an allegation. South Texas College recognizes that retaliation can take many forms, may be committed by an individual or group against an individual or group, and that a respondent can also be the subject of retaliation. South Texas College will take prompt and responsive action to any report of retaliation and may pursue disciplinary or other action as appropriate. Be mindful of your actions and behavior and avoid all direct and indirect contact with the complainant, including postings on social media directly or by acquaintances, until the matter is resolved.