

Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence:

A Step by Step Guide

One in four women, one in six men, and nearly half of those that do not identify with the gender binary, will experience sexual violence in their lifetimes. It is not your role to in any way investigate the incident, but rather ensure that the student has all of the information in order to make a decision about their next steps.

STEP 1

DETERMINE IF THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE RISK—IF YOU WITNESS THE INCIDENT HAPPENING, IF THE PERPETRATOR IS IN THE ROOM OR NEARBY OR IF THE PERSON FEELS UNSAFE AT THIS MOMENT—PLEASE CALL UC MERCED POLICE AT (209) 228-2677 OR 911

STEP 2

IF SOMEONE DISCLOSES, TRY TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE IN A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT. TRY TO MINIMIZE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AROUND / WHO ARE ABLE TO HEAR; FOR EXAMPLE, “DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS OUTSIDE? DO YOU MIND IF I CLOSE THE DOOR?” AND LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU ARE A RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYEE WITH CERTAIN REPORTING DUTIES; FOR EXAMPLE, “AS A STAFF/FACULTY MEMBER, I HAVE TO REPORT INSTANCES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, OR STALKING. HOWEVER, I ONLY HAVE TO TELL THEM THE INFORMATION YOU DECIDE TO SHARE. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SAY OR DO ANYTHING YOU DON’T WANT TO—WHAT YOU DO NEXT IS UP TO YOU”

STEP 3

IF THEY DECIDE TO SHARE MORE, LISTEN ATTENTIVELY AND EMPATHETICALLY; FOR EXAMPLE, “THANK YOU FOR SHARING THAT WITH ME,” “THIS MUST BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU, TAKE YOUR TIME...”

STEP 4

AVOID ASKING DETAILS ABOUT THE INCIDENT—YOU DO NOT NEED TO KNOW SPECIFICS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THEM. INSTEAD FOCUS ANY QUESTIONS ON WHAT THE STUDENT WOULD LIKE TO DO MOVING FORWARD, FOR EXAMPLE, “DO YOU KNOW WHAT NEXT STEPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE (IF ANY)?” “ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE DIFFERENT RESOURCES ON CAMPUS?”

STEP 5

REMIND THEM OF THE DIFFERENT CONFIDENTIAL AND REPORTING RESOURCES ON CAMPUS AND ASK IF THEY WANT YOU TO WALK WITH THEM TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE ETC.

CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES

- CARE – KL 107
 - CONFIDENTIAL CAMPUS ADVOCATE – (209 386-2051
 - CARE.UCMERCED.EDU
 - <https://care.ucmerced.edu/>
- COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)
 - (209) 228-4266
- VALLEY CRISIS CENTER 24 HOUR HOTLINE
 - (209) 722-4357

REPORTING RESOURCES

- OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF HARRASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION (OPHD)
 - OFFICE FOR UNIVERSITY TITLE IX INVESTIGATIONS: (209) 285-9510
- UC MERCED POLICE
 - REPORTING CRIMES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT: (209) 228-2677
- OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF HARRASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION
 - <http://dsvp.ucmerced.edu/report>

STEP 6

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF—YOU CAN CALL THE CAMPUS ADVOCATE TO PROCESS. ALLOW YOURSELF TIME AND SPACE TO PROCESS

WAYS FOR FACULTY AND STAFF TO ENGAGE IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

ADD CARE INFORMATION TO YOUR SYLLABUS • ENCOURAGE ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS • OFFER CONTENT WARNINGS • ALLOW CARE TO GIVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN YOUR CLASS OR STAFF MEETING • CONNECT WITH CARE STAFF TO LEARN MORE OR GET INVOLVED

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