

# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW 2021 Annual Security Report

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In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (20 USC § 1092(f), 34 CFR 668.46)

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This Annual Security Report is available at the following Texas A&M University Office of Risk, Ethics, and Compliance (OREC) website.

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/LawAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>.

Email [vpfa-urc-compliance-officer@exchange.tamu.edu](mailto:vpfa-urc-compliance-officer@exchange.tamu.edu) for assistance if any link does not function.

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## Texas A&M University School of Law

### **Preparation of the Annual Security Report and Disclosure of Crime Statistics**

Enacted in 1990, The Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act was designed to assist the campus community in making decisions which affect their personal safety by requiring institutions of higher education to provide certain campus security information to current and prospective students and employees annually. The Higher Education Act of 1998 and the subsequent amendments of the implementing regulations (34 C.F.R.668.46) significantly expanded institutions' obligations under the Act. The Act was also renamed the "Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act" (hereafter the Clery Act).

The Texas A&M University School of Law (law school) Office of Facilities Coordination, Student Affairs, and Finance & Administration are responsible for preparing and distributing the Annual Security Report to comply with the Clery Act. The Annual Security Report is published every year by October 1st and contains three years of selected campus crime statistics and certain campus security policy statements for the 2020 – 2021 academic year in accordance with the Clery Act. This 2021 Annual Security Report contains crime statistics for calendar years 2020, 2019, and 2018. The full text of this report can be located on the law school's website at <https://law.tamu.edu/about-us/clery-report>.

Annual Security Report statistics for crimes, arrests, and referrals are compiled using campus incident reports and information reported to the law school administration, the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, other university personnel, and local law enforcement (Fort Worth Police Department). Faculty, staff and students may anonymously report criminal or unethical behavior through Crime Stoppers at 817-469-TIPS (8477) or online at <https://469tips.com>.

### **Annual Security Report Notifications**

Each year, an e-mail notification which provides website access to the Annual Security Report is sent to all current students, faculty, and staff. Upon request, prospective students and employees may obtain a written paper copy of the report from the law school Facilities Manager's office at 1515 Commerce Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 or by emailing [mpellegrino@law.tamu.edu](mailto:mpellegrino@law.tamu.edu). The report is found at the following website: <https://law.tamu.edu/about-us/clery-report>.

Prospective employees are notified of the availability of the Annual Security Report through an email distributed when applying for a position. Website access to the Annual Security Report is provided by the Division of Human Resources and Organizational Effectiveness through a link called "A safe and welcoming environment" located on the Prospective Employees webpage (<https://employees.tamu.edu/talent-management/careers/index.html>) and on the Required Employee Notices & Important Reminders webpage (<https://employees.tamu.edu/employees/required-notice.html>) through a link under the "Safety and Security Notices" heading.

Prospective students are notified of the availability of the Annual Security Report through an email distributed when applying for admission. Website access to the Annual Security Report is provided by the Office of Admissions through a link titled “Campus Safety” located at the bottom of the Admissions webpage (<http://admissions.tamu.edu/>). A copy of the report can also be obtained by contacting the law school Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at 817-212-4020.

## **Campus Law Enforcement Policies**

### **Police Department Overview**

The law school outsources campus security for its main campus building and additional on-campus property surrounding the main building. While the security guards are unarmed, they are vigilantly aware of the campus and surroundings and report crimes of suspicious activity to the Fort Worth Police Department and any Campus Security Authority (CSA) immediately. Suspicious activity such as loitering on or contiguous to the property, vehicles, or any buildings used by the law students or employees should be reported to security immediately.

The guards are on duty from open to close seven days a week and can be contacted at 817-212-3999 (3999 on a campus phone). There is a security guard at the front entrance of the law school who is required to log visitors into the main campus building. Visitors are required to provide legal picture identification before allowing entrance, to state their business during their stay, and the guards are to call forward to the office or person to whom the visitor wishes to see. The guard staff is also required to tour, either by foot or by patrol vehicle, all law school property and surrounding immediate areas such as law school vehicle parking lots.

Escorts are provided to/from the parking lots to/from the main law school campus building by calling the guard station at 817-212-3999 (3999 on a campus phone).

A security guard is also on the premises of the law school’s nearby Legal Clinic location weekdays during normal working hours. The security guard oversees the floor occupied by the law school and can be reached at 817-212-3830 (3830 on a campus phone).

### **Jurisdiction**

All criminal incidents are referred to the Fort Worth Police Department which has police jurisdiction over the law school campus and the power to arrest. All crime victims and witnesses are strongly encouraged to immediately report crime to the Fort Worth Police Department and law school campus security. Prompt reporting will assure timely warning notices on-campus and timely disclosure of crime statistics.

### **Arrest Authority**

Law school campus security and/or the Fort Worth Police Department will respond, as appropriate, to all calls for assistance. The campus guards are unarmed and do not have authority to detain or make arrests, but have the authority to patrol the law school campus including parking lots to monitor parking spaces and their authorized use.

### **Enforcement Authority**

All reports to law school campus security are investigated and are referred to law enforcement authorities when appropriate. Criminal matters involving university students or employees may also be referred to the law school Assistant Dean for Student Affairs or Human Resources for disciplinary action.

## Working Relationships and Agreements

Law school campus security has a working relationship with local law enforcement agencies, the law school facilities department, and the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at the law school who administers student disciplinary matters. No written memorandum of understanding is in effect between the Texas A&M University law school and local or state law enforcement agencies including for investigation of alleged criminal offenses. Law school campus security, in cooperation with Fort Worth Police, may maintain working relationships with state and federal agencies on an as needed basis.

A request is distributed to local law enforcement agencies annually to solicit cooperation in informing the institution about crimes. The request is specific to informing law school campus security about situations reported to the given local law enforcement agency that may warrant an emergency response or timely warning notification.

## Monitoring Non-Campus Locations

Neither law school students nor their officially recognized student organizations inhabit non-campus housing or other non-campus facilities.

The Office of the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs maintains contact with recognized law school student organizations. Institutional sponsored travel by students or officially recognized student organizations to locations outside of campus may result in the location meeting the criteria for Clery non-campus property. Law school security does not monitor or record criminal activity at these non-campus locations or provide security. The local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction at the location monitors criminal activity at the non-campus property and responds when police services are requested.

## Professional Standards

The Texas A&M University law school maintains a reciprocal relationship with the community to assure excellent service is provided which is vital to sustaining a safe and secure campus. All members of the Texas A&M community can expect to be treated in a courteous and professional manner by members of the campus community. The law school will not tolerate an employee who acts unprofessionally or does not provide an appropriate level of service.

The quality of service is dependent, in part, on feedback from the community. Please help the department improve by bringing complaints and compliments to the attention of any of the following individuals in a timely manner:

- Law school campus security at 817-212-3999
- Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration, Texas A&M University School of Law, 1515 Commerce Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, 817-212-4082, or [vcrooks@law.tamu.edu](mailto:vcrooks@law.tamu.edu)

## Campus Law Enforcement Telephone Directory

Emergencies- Police/Fire/Medical	911 (on or off campus)	Texas A&M University Law School Security	817-212-3999
Tarrant County Sheriff's Department	817-884-3099	Fort Worth Police Department NPO	817-692-3152
Texas A&M University Police Department	979-845-2345		

## Reporting Crimes

### Incident Reporting and Response

The safety of our students, faculty, staff, and visitors is a top priority at the law school. In the event of an emergency situation, always contact the Fort Worth Police Department first by calling 911. Community members, students, faculty, staff and guests are also encouraged to report inappropriate behavior, all crimes, and public safety related incidents to the law school campus security department in a timely manner by calling 817-212-3999. Any suspicious activity or person observed in parking lots or loitering around vehicles, buildings, or any property directly surrounding the law school facilities should be reported immediately to campus security. The security department is expected to respond to reports immediately and appropriately. Response includes dispatching a security officer to attend to the needs of the victim and secure the scene and, as situations warrant, contact outside services such as local law enforcement, the fire department, or emergency personnel to respond to the incident.

Members of the law school campus community should report suspected instances of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, especially of children, persons 65 years or older, and adults with disabilities. If a professional has cause to believe that a child, elder, or disabled person has been abused or neglected, by state law the professional must make a report not later than 48 hours after learning of the abuse or neglect (even if the belief is premised on incomplete or dated information) to any local or state law enforcement agency, the Department of Family and Protective Services, the state agency that operates, licenses, certifies, or registers the facility in which the alleged abuse or neglect occurred, or the agency designated by the court to be responsible for their protection.

### Reporting Criminal Offenses to University Officials: Campus Security Authorities

In addition to reporting to the law school campus security department or calling 911, as an option, criminal offenses of which students and employees become aware may also be reported to the following law school personnel :

All offices are located in the law school main building at 1515 Commerce St., Fort Worth, TX

Name	Phone	Location
Facilities Manager, Matt Pellegrino, <a href="mailto:mpellegrino@law.tamu.edu">mpellegrino@law.tamu.edu</a>	817-212-4125	Office 1086
Law School Dean, Robert Ahdieh, <a href="mailto:dean@law.tamu.edu">dean@law.tamu.edu</a>	817-212-3838	Office 166
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Rosalind Jeffers, <a href="mailto:rjeffers@law.tamu.edu">rjeffers@law.tamu.edu</a>	817-212-4020	Office 247
Assistant Dean for Finance & Administration, Vivienne Crooks, <a href="mailto:vcrooks@law.tamu.edu">vcrooks@law.tamu.edu</a>	817-212-4082	Office 243
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Terri Helge, <a href="mailto:thelge@law.tamu.edu">thelge@law.tamu.edu</a>	817-212-3942	Office 172

All offices are located at the main campus in College Station, TX

Name	Phone	Location
Office of the Dean of Faculties & Associate Provost, <a href="mailto:dof@tamu.edu">dof@tamu.edu</a>	979-845-4274	YMCA Building 108
Assistant Vice President and Title IX Coordinator, <a href="mailto:civilrights@tamu.edu">civilrights@tamu.edu</a>	979-458-8407	Medical Sciences Library 007
Chief Risk, Ethics, and Compliance Officer, <a href="mailto:civilrights@tamu.edu">civilrights@tamu.edu</a>	979-458-0308	Jack K. Williams Administration Building 302



Crime reports provided to these and other campus security authorities are used by the school to fulfill its responsibility to annually disclose accurate crime statistics and to issue or facilitate the issuance of timely warnings or emergency notifications. Campus security authority crime reports should include sufficient detail such as dates and locations, and where appropriate, personally identifying information, including name and contact information, if available.

Students, faculty, staff, community members, and guests are encouraged to report all crimes and public safety related incidents to law school security and Fort Worth Police in an accurate and prompt manner when the victim of such crimes elects or is unable to make such a report. Law school security and the university officials listed above will assist individuals reporting in notifying the proper law enforcement authorities, if the individual chooses. It is the goal of the institution to provide assistance wherever the report is made and include Clery countable crimes in the annual security report.

Contracted professionally licensed counseling personnel, who are exempt from the reporting requirements of the Clery Act, are available to law school students and employees. As the counseling services are generated through referral using a network of local providers, there are no institutional procedures in place for professional counselors to encourage voluntary, confidential crime reporting for inclusion in the annual disclosure of crime statistics. The law school has no pastoral counselors who are exempt from reporting requirements under the Clery Act.

### **Confidential and Anonymous Reporting of Crimes**

The law school security department encourages anyone who is the victim or witness to any crime to promptly report the incident to them or to local law enforcement. An individual who is involved in or witnesses an active or ongoing emergency should dial 911 and report the emergency immediately. Faculty, staff, and students may anonymously report criminal or unethical behavior through the Fort Worth Police Department Crime Stoppers at 817-469-TIPS (8477) or online at <https://469tips.com>. Also, victims of certain offenses are eligible for a pseudonym in which the victim's identity will not be released when reporting to law enforcement.

While confidentiality cannot be guaranteed by the institution, incident reports will be kept private to as great a degree as legally possible. Voluntary, confidential reports for purposes of inclusion in the annual disclosure of crime statistics and crime log can generally be made by victims, witnesses, and others to the campus security authorities listed above and all other campus security authorities. Annual crime statistics and the crime log are confidential in that personally identifiable information is not included in the disclosure.

### **Timely Warning Policy**

This policy applies to the issuance of timely warnings (crime alert) required by the Clery Act to the campus community. It delineates the process for issuance of crime alerts by senior members of management. The circumstances in which a crime alert will be generated include, but are not limited to, the receipt of a report to campus security, or any campus security authority, of a crime reportable under the Clery Act that poses a serious or continuing threat to the campus community. Crimes that may warrant a crime alert under the Clery Act include, but are not limited to, major incidents of arson, murder/non-negligent manslaughter, robbery, aggravated assault, sex offenses, or other crimes as determined necessary. Anyone with information warranting a crime alert should report the circumstances to law school security or the campus security authorities (listed below) by telephone, email or in person. If the law school security or other campus security authorities are not notified of a crime in a manner that would allow timely notice, a crime alert may not be issued, depending on the circumstances. All situations will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

After the consideration of all available facts of the situation, such as the nature and whether or not a continuing danger to the campus community exists, the determination to issue a crime alert is made on a case by case basis by any one of the following campus security authorities:

Law School Security at 817-212-3999 (1515 Commerce Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102)

Facilities Manager, Matt Pellegrino at 817-212-4125 or [mpellegrino@law.tamu.edu](mailto:mpellegrino@law.tamu.edu)

Law School Dean, Robert Ahdieh at 817-212-3838 or [dean@law.tamu.edu](mailto:dean@law.tamu.edu)

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Rosalind Jeffers at 817-212-4020 or [rjeffers@law.tamu.edu](mailto:rjeffers@law.tamu.edu)

Assistant Dean of Finance and Administration, Vivienne Crooks at 817-212-4082 or [vcrooks@law.tamu.edu](mailto:vcrooks@law.tamu.edu)

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Terri Helge at 817-212-3942 or [thelge@law.tamu.edu](mailto:thelge@law.tamu.edu)

The law school Assistant Dean for Student Affairs or designee is then responsible for writing and issuing (sending) a crime alert. Crime alerts are issued through email to students (from the Office of the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs) and employees (from the Administration Office) in a manner that is timely, that withholds the names of victims as confidential, and that will aid in the prevention of similar occurrences. Crime alerts contain sufficient information about the nature of the identified threat so members of the campus community can take appropriate action to protect themselves or their property. The crime alert will generally include:

- A readily understandable description of the type of crime or occurrence.
- The general location, date, and time of the offense.
- A physical description of the suspect(s), if available, if there is sufficient detail that would reasonably help identify a specific individual suspect or group of suspects.
- Possible connection to other incidents.
- Date and time the alert was issued.
- Suggested measures which members of the university community can take to help protect themselves.

It is important to note that in some cases the law school may need to withhold some facts if releasing the information would compromise an ongoing investigation or the identity of the victim. Victim names and other identifying information of victims are not included in crime alerts. An institution is not required to provide a timely warning with respect to crimes reported to a pastoral or professional counselor.

## **Emergency Response and Evacuation Policy**

The procedures disclosed in this section apply to significant emergencies and dangerous situations occurring on the law school campus, i.e. on-campus property. The institution does not have separate procedures for non-campus property.

### **Emergency Notification System**

Code Maroon Law Alert is law school's emergency notification system for the law school community. This alert system gives the ability to communicate health and emergency information by some or all of the following mechanism: SMS text message, Texas A&M email, pop-up messages on equipped university-owned computers, Twitter, RSS, and a mobile app.



The law school uses the system only to provide official notification of these critical emergencies (i.e., situations that pose an imminent threat to the community). It is the policy of the law school to immediately notify the campus community via the Code Maroon Law Alert Emergency Notification System upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees occurring on the campus.

The law school has an Emergency Operations Plan in place that informs students and employees about threats to their health and safety. This plan includes investigating emergencies to determine validity through all available sources. According to the information available, a determination will be made by any one of the authorized law school individuals (see individuals authorized to determine whether or not a crime alert should be issued on the previous page) regarding whether or not a significant emergency or dangerous situation exists involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of the campus community. If so, a Code Maroon Law Alert will be immediately issued.

The Code Maroon Law Alert emergency notification message does not replace the crime alert requirement. They differ in that the crime alert requirement applies to Clery reportable crimes, while the emergency notification system addresses a much wider range of threats (i.e., gas leaks, tornadoes, active shooter, etc.) If an emergency notification is issued, the institution is not required to issue a crime alert based on the same circumstances; however, the institution must provide adequate follow-up information to the community as needed.

The law school campus security authorities (see page 7) act as the emergency response team by overseeing the issuance of emergency notifications to the law school campus. Any one (or more) of the team members will confirm whether a significant emergency or dangerous situation exists by evaluating the situation and information received from entities which may include, but are not limited to: law enforcement, fire department, National Weather Service, Fort Worth Emergency Management Office, FEMA, and other campus officials. Confirmation must be reasonable. The law school will not wait to issue an emergency notification due to incomplete information or lack of confirmation. Once this determination has been made, the Dean of the law school, or designee, will without delay and taking into account the safety of the community determine the content of the notification and request initiation of the notification system, unless the notification will, in the professional judgment of responsible authorities, compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency. Victim names and other identifying information of victims are not included in emergency notifications.

Law school personnel authorized to issue/send a Code Maroon Law Alert are:

- Level One and Two Code Maroon Law Alert Authority - Matt Pellegrino (Facilities Manager, 817-819-1163, [mpellegrino@law.tamu.edu](mailto:mpellegrino@law.tamu.edu)), Erayne Hill (Director of Marketing, 817-212-3933, [ehill@law.tamu.edu](mailto:ehill@law.tamu.edu)), or Ryan Williams (IT Help Desk Technician, 817-212-3845, [rwilliams@law.tamu.edu](mailto:rwilliams@law.tamu.edu))

Additionally, Texas A&M University administration (the Texas A&M University Associate Vice President for Safety and Security in the Office of Safety and Security) may, in rare cases, confirm an emergency or dangerous situation and generate and request issuance of a modified emergency notification on behalf of the campus. These cases include: if the emergency prevents the local campus from issuing the alert or if a centralized global message is determined to be necessary by the President of Texas A&M University.

In all cases where notifications are issued, the law school campus receives the distribution, not portions or segments of the campus. Individuals receiving the emergency notification will also be advised with updated information, as needed, using the same method(s) as the original notification.

The law school conducts pre-scheduled testing of the Code Maroon Law Alert emergency notification system during the fall and spring semesters. After each test, or actual alert, the functionality of each communication device within the notification system is analyzed, and a report with the results of the findings is provided to the members of the task force on campus emergencies.

### **Registering for Emergency Notifications**

To register to receive Code Maroon Law Alerts by text message, students and employees who have been issued a UIN, a NetID, and have a password can register their personal cell number to receive text message alerts. Emergency alerts are automatically sent to all Texas A&M email addresses belonging to law school students and employees regardless of registration. The system also pushes the emergency notification messages by Twitter, RSS, and enabled computer alerts. To register, go to <http://law.tamu.edu/emergency-information> and click on the statement under the CODEMAROONLAW icon, then follow the directions.

### Public Access

Parents, family, and friends of Texas A&M can receive emergency alerts by subscribing to Code Maroon Law Alert's RSS feed which can be accessed through email clients (Microsoft Outlook or Mozilla Thunderbird), various news readers (My Yahoo, Feedly and Flipboard), and internet browsers (Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc.).

Parents and other guests of Texas A&M University may register for text message alerts at the Code Maroon Law Alert vendor's subscriber portal. A personal email address and private password are required to create a guest account and register one phone number to receive SMS text message alerts. The portal to register can be found at: <https://tamu-law.safety.info/Subscribers/>.

The public can receive Code Maroon Law Alerts through Twitter, however, delivery by Twitter cannot be guaranteed since Texas A&M University does not manage this notification outlet. Twitter users can follow TAMUCM Law to see alerts in your Twitter feed and/or receive push alerts on a mobile device through the Twitter mobile app. Once TAMUCM Law is followed, click the Bell Icon on the TAMUCM Law profile page to turn on push notifications for any mobile device with the Twitter app installed.

Also, anyone with a device that uses the Android or iOS operating systems can download the free Code Maroon Law Alerts mobile app for receiving alerts on their device via push notifications. The app requires a connection to the internet to receive the alerts. The application is available for download on Google Play and Apple Store. <https://codemaroon.tamu.edu/LawMobileAppNotification.aspx>

Setup instructions can be found here: <https://codemaroon.tamu.edu/LawPublicAccess.aspx>.

### **Disseminating Information to the Larger Community**

The law school does not disseminate emergency information to the entire larger community outside the campus; however, notification is provided to local law enforcement as necessary through phone communication from the law school Facilities Manager.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

In preparation for any emergencies, students and employees receive instructions and training appropriate to the nature of the emergency in accordance to the Emergency Operations Plan for the law school. Depending on the nature of the emergency, students and employees receive procedures to evacuate the building, evacuate to the lowest level of the building, stand-in-place, etc. according to the Emergency Operations Plan for the law

school. The plan includes emergency response and evacuation procedures that are tested and evaluated annually.

The law school conducts announced and unannounced emergency training exercises each year. These may include training classes, tabletop exercises, and drills which are designed to assess and evaluate the emergency plans and response capabilities of the law school. The law school Safety Committee is responsible for documenting testing to include a description of the exercise, date, time, whether announced or unannounced. The Safety Committee is also responsible for publicizing emergency response and evacuation procedures through an email each fall to law school students and employees in conjunction with a test. Each department is provided with an Emergency Information Manual, which includes policies and evacuation procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency on campus.

## **The Daily Crime Log**

A daily crime log is recorded by law school security or other trained personnel. This summary document identifies the nature of the crime, location of each alleged offense, the date and time(s) of occurrence, the date the crime was reported to law school security, and disposition. The printed copy of the Daily Crime Log may be viewed by the public free of charge during business hours and upon request from the law school Facilities Manager at Texas A&M University School of Law, 1515 Commerce Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 or by calling 817-212-4125.

## **Security of and Access to Campus Facilities**

### **General Provisions**

The law school is open to students, parents, employees, contractors, guests and invitees.

It is unlawful for any person to trespass on the grounds of any state institution of higher education of this state or to damage or deface any of the buildings, statues, monuments, memorials, trees, shrubs, grasses, or flowers on the grounds of any state institutions of higher education as indicated in *Texas Education Code Section 51.204*. Texas Penal Code *Criminal Trespass Section 30.05* and *Criminal Mischief Section 28.03* are State statutes that are similar in nature and are also widely utilized to help support *Texas Education Code Section 51.204*.

The governing board of a state institution of higher education or its authorized representatives may refuse to allow persons having no legitimate business to enter on property under the board's control, and may remove any person from the property on his or her refusal to leave peaceably on request. Identification may be required of any person on the property. (*Texas Education Code Section 51.209*)

### **Residence Halls**

No on-campus housing or residence halls are owned or controlled by the law school.

### **Parking**

The law school has three surface lots located across from the main law school facility. A security guard monitors the parking lots via foot patrol, patrol vehicle or security cameras during law school building hours. Each parking lot is equipped with emergency phones that are readily visible and identifiable by the bright blue lights located on top of the phone cabinets. Instructions adjacent to the keypads advise customers that the call will be immediately forwarded to local 911.

The law school Legal Clinics are located at 307 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St., LL50, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Parking is available through Platinum Parking in the parking garage attached to the building. The garage provides an attendant during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. After 7:00 p.m., vehicles are moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and locked by

the attendants. Owner's keys are left with building security to be picked up by the owner when the patron is ready to leave. The law school provides security for the 7<sup>th</sup> St. building's law school space but not for the entire building or parking garage.

### **Academic and Administrative Buildings**

Law school identification and security access cards are provided to law school students and employees for access to the main law school campus building and the Legal Clinic facility. Persons who do not hold a law school identification and security access card must enter through the west (main) entrance of the facility, present a legal picture ID to the security registration guard, state the nature of business during use of the facility, and sign in. All visitors are required to wear a temporary name badge while on campus. The check in security guard will call the necessary department to advise that a guest has arrived. The law school campus security guards have full authority to check identification before giving a guest access to the facilities and to escort unauthorized persons off the property.

The law school main campus building is open from 7:00am to midnight, Monday through Thursday; 7:00am to 8:00pm, Friday; 8:00am – 8:00pm, Saturday; and 10:00am to 8:00pm, Sunday. The law library, located in the main campus building, is open from 7:30am to midnight Monday through Thursday; 7:30am to 8:00pm, Friday; 9:00am to 8:00pm, Saturday; and 10:00am to 8:00pm, Sunday. Later hours for the building and library are observed near and during exam time. However, the law library is restricted to students, faculty, staff, and alumni after 8:00pm. Hours and public access is subject to change due to holiday and exam schedules.

### **Maintenance of Campus Facilities**

The Facilities Operations department is responsible for maintaining campus facilities. This includes interior and exterior security lighting, monitoring equipment and other physical safety areas. Safety related issues may be reported by contacting law school security at 817-212-3999 (3999 on campus phone) or facilities operations at 817-212-4125.

### **Alcoholic Beverages, Illegal Drugs, and Weapons**

#### **Education Programs**

The university provides drug/alcohol counseling, treatment and rehabilitation programs for students and university employees. For more information, employees should review University Rule 34.02.01.M1, Substance Abuse Prevention, at <https://rulesadmin.tamu.edu/rules/download/34.02.01.M1> and students should visit <http://studentlife.tamu.edu/hp/>.

Additionally, in accordance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, the university reviews its programs, services, and policies to prevent unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs. The results of the biennial review are published at <https://nokwv2p4iir3h3frsml79d3t-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/dfsca.pdf>.

#### **Alcohol Policy**

The following alcohol policy applies to the law school.

As an institution interested in the intellectual, physical and psychological well-being of the campus community, Texas A&M University deems it important to curtail the abusive or illegal use of alcoholic beverages. The Texas A&M University System strictly prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution (including sales), possession, or use of alcohol on Texas A&M University System property, while on official duty, and/or as part of any Texas A&M University System activities ([System Policy 34.02, Drug and Alcohol Abuse](#)). Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on property under control of the Texas A&M University System will

not be permitted except in special use buildings and facilities that may be designated by the chief executive officer of the member, approved by the chancellor, and subsequently reported to the board on an annual basis ([System Policy 34.03, Alcoholic Beverages](#)).

A listing of locations at Texas A&M University that are approved for possession or use of alcohol can be found at [https://rules-saps.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Approved\\_Sites.pdf](https://rules-saps.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Approved_Sites.pdf) as authorized in [University Standard Administrative Procedure \(SAP\) 34.03.99.M0.01, Alcoholic Beverages](#). A licensed contracted vendor must be used to serve (sell) alcohol at events held in these approved locations. [Texas A&M University Student Rules, Student Conduct Code, 24.4.13, Alcohol](#) also prohibits alcohol use, possession, manufacturing, or distribution (including sales) of alcoholic beverages on Texas A&M University premises and at university sponsored events, except as expressly authorized by university policies.

The purchase, service (including sales), possession, and consumption of alcohol beverages in facilities under the control of the Texas A&M University System shall in all respects comply with state law ([System Policy 34.03, Alcoholic Beverages](#)). Texas A&M University prohibits the use or possession of alcoholic beverages on campus by any individual under the age of 21, including within on-campus housing facilities ([University SAP 34.03.99.M0.01 Alcoholic Beverages](#) and [Texas A&M University Student Rules, Student Conduct Code, 24.4.13, Alcohol](#)).

All purchases of alcoholic beverages by any member must comply with guidelines as established in [System Policy 34.03, Alcoholic Beverages](#) regarding the purchase's source of funds, purpose, and required documentation.

Consequences for policy violations could result in sanctions by the university and/or criminal charges/arrest by law enforcement agencies for state law violations.

The law school Assistant Dean for Student Affairs (817-212-4020) and the Office of the Dean of Student Life (979-845-3111) at the main campus are committed to promoting responsible decision-making regarding alcohol and other drugs through educational programming, resources, and referrals for students through the Student Assistance Program and Work-Life Services Program (1-855-270-3349). The Work/Life Solutions Program by GuidanceResources (1-866-301-9623) manages the alcohol and drug abuse and rehabilitation program available to law school employees and provides licensed counseling and referral services.

### **Illegal Drugs Policy**

The following illegal drugs policy applies to law school.

Federal law prohibits the unlawful possession, use, sale, or distribution of drugs. Texas state law prohibits the possession, use, sale, manufacture, or delivery of a controlled substance without legal authorization. A controlled substance includes any drug, substance or immediate precursor covered under the Texas Controlled Substances Act, including but not limited to opiates, barbiturates, amphetamines, marijuana, and hallucinogens. The possession of drug paraphernalia is also prohibited under Texas state law. Drug paraphernalia includes all equipment, products and material of any kind that are used to facilitate, or intended or designed to facilitate, violations of the Texas Controlled Substances Act. According to [System Policy 34.02, Drugs and Alcohol Abuse](#), all students and employees are expected to abide by federal and state laws pertaining to controlled substances and illicit drugs. More specifically, Texas A&M University Student Rules prohibit using, possessing, being under the influence of, manufacturing, or distributing illegal drugs or illegally obtained/possessed controlled substances ([Texas A&M University Student Rules, Student Conduct Code, 24.4.12, Drugs](#)). Alleged violations of federal and state laws may result in criminal charges. University conduct charges may be pursued



against those alleged to have violated university policies and/or state/federal laws concerning controlled substances.

The law school Assistant Dean for Student Affairs (817-212-4020) and the Office of the Dean of Student Life (979-845-3111) at the main campus are committed to promoting responsible decision-making regarding alcohol and other drugs through educational programming, resources, and referrals for students through the Student Assistance Program and Work-Life Services Program (1-855-270-3349). The Work/Life Solutions Program by GuidanceResources (1-866-301-9623) manages the alcohol and drug abuse and rehabilitation program available to law school employees and provides licensed counseling and referral services.

### **Weapons Policy**

The following weapons policy applies to the law school.

In accordance with [Texas Penal Code Ch. 46.03](#), it is a felony to intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly possess a firearm, location restricted knife, club, or prohibited weapon on the physical premises of a school or educational institution, to include any grounds or buildings on which an activity sponsored by a school or educational institution is being conducted, or a passenger transportation vehicle of a school or educational institution. The following exception applies. A license to carry holder under Chapter 411, Texas Government Code, may carry a concealed handgun on or about the license holder's person while the license holder is on the campus of Texas A&M (all land and buildings owned or leased by Texas A&M) or in a university vehicle, unless prohibited by state law, federal law, or [University Rule 34.06.02.M1](#), *Carrying Concealed Handguns on Campus*.

Currently license to carry holders may carry a concealed handgun in law school facilities with the exception of their clinical facilities located at 307 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102. Per University Rule 34.06.02.M1 other prohibited areas include but are not limited to campus daycares, counseling centers, health care facilities, collegiate interscholastic events, collegiate sporting events if effective notice under 30.06 is provided, specific premises where formal administrative hearings/investigations are conducted, locations with official Texas Penal Code 30.06 signage, and certain high hazard research areas/laboratories as approved by the president. The open carry of handguns is prohibited everywhere on campus including all land and buildings owned or leased by Texas A&M University. Licensed peace officers are authorized by law to carry firearms at all times. [University SAP 34.06.02.M1.01](#) and [Student Conduct Code 24.4.14](#) contain additional weapons policy information.



## Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking

In accordance with federal law and [Texas A&M University System Regulation 08.01.01 Civil Rights Compliance](#) (System Regulation 08.01.01), Texas A&M University prohibits discrimination and harassment including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, (as those terms are defined for the purposes of the Clery Act) and/or related retaliation. The following are statements of policy that address discrimination, harassment (including, but not limited to, sexual harassment<sup>1</sup> and sex-based misconduct<sup>2</sup>), complicity, and retaliation<sup>3</sup>. The policies apply whether this conduct occurs on or off campus and when it is reported to the university.

### Procedures for Reporting Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Related Retaliation

Individuals have the option of notifying on-campus and local law enforcement authorities to report sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking. Below is a list of local law enforcement agencies. Reports should be filed with the agency where the incident occurred.

Agency	Phone
Fort Worth Police Department	911
Tarrant County Sheriff's Department	817-884-3099
Law School Campus Security	817-212-3999

The Fort Worth Police Department is available to receive and investigate reports of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, assist in securing medical attention; participate in evidence preservation and collection; conduct criminal investigations of crimes; and inform the individual of legal and administrative options both on and off campus. Criminal investigations may occur independent from a conduct proceeding and are handled in accordance with the Texas Penal Code, the Texas Code of Criminal

<sup>1</sup> Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination. Unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex (of a sexual nature or otherwise): (1) by an employee of the university who conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the university on an individual's participation in that unwelcome sexual conduct; (2) determined by a reasonable person to be so severe and pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the university's education program or activity; or (3) sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking based on sex. For the purposes of defining sexual harassment specified in (2): severe means of sufficient seriousness to interfere with the rights, privileges, and legal activities of an individual, as well as actions that would be deemed by a reasonable person to be extreme or life-threatening; pervasive means conduct existing in or spreading over a large area of an activity or program over a period of time; and objectively offensive means behavior determined by a reasonable person to be offensive (actions that cause unreasonable harm or distress to another individual or group of people). Includes complaints based on sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity.

<sup>2</sup> Sex-based misconduct is unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex that is severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create a work, educational, or campus living environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, abusive, or offensive. Sex-based misconduct is explicitly prohibited under System Regulation 08.01.01. Aiding another in the commission of sex-based misconduct is also prohibited by System Regulation 08.01.01. Sex-based includes, but is not limited to, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking based on sex. Sexual exploitation is defined as a situation in which an individual(s) takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for his or her own advantage or benefit, or to benefit or advantage anyone other than the one being exploited. For example, sexual exploitation could include such actions as secretly videotaping sexual activity, voyeurism, invasion of sexual privacy, exposing one's genitals or causing another to expose one's genitals, and knowingly exposing another person to a sexually transmitted infection or disease. Sexual exploitation is a form of sex-based misconduct. Includes complaints based on sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity.

<sup>3</sup> Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured under civil rights laws and regulations, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing. The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute prohibited retaliation, nor does the filing of a mandatory report as required by System Regulation 08.01.01. In addition, a university official who files a mandatory report or charges an individual with making a materially false statement in the course of an investigation has not engaged in prohibited retaliation. Retaliation is explicitly prohibited under System Regulation 08.01.01. Aiding another in the commission of retaliation is also prohibited under this regulation.

Procedure, and information from the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office. Law enforcement will help individuals understand the process of obtaining protective orders, restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by the courts.

All Texas A&M University employees are mandatory reporters who must report all known information about an alleged or suspected incident of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or complicity that is experienced by, observed by or made known to an employee in the course and scope of their employment as soon as possible<sup>4</sup>. Student workers are not required to report conduct prohibited by this policy if the student worker experiences, observes, or becomes aware of the prohibited conduct outside the context of their employment.

An employee is also not required to report an incident where: (1) the employee was a victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking; (2) the incident about which the employee received information was due to a disclosure made at a sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking public awareness event sponsored by the university or by a student organization affiliated with the university; or (3) the person has either learned of the incident during the course of their employer's review or process, or has confirmed with the designated office overseeing the review or process, that the incident has been previously reported.

An employee's failure to report alleged or suspected discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or complicity may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment. An employee must be dismissed if, in accordance with disciplinary processes, the employee is determined to have knowingly failed to make a required report, or that employee, with the intent to harm or deceive, knowingly made a report that is false. Notwithstanding the above mandatory reporting requirement for employees, anyone may report matters which they believe are criminal to the appropriate local law enforcement agency.

Students and third parties are strongly encouraged, but not required, to report conduct prohibited by this policy.

At the law school, reports that a student, an employee, or a third party has engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy should be made to:

Assistant Vice President and Title IX Coordinator  
Department of Civil Rights and Equity Investigations (CREI)  
Medical Sciences Library  
202 Olsen Blvd., Suite 007  
College Station, TX 77843  
979-458-8407  
[civilrights@tamu.edu](mailto:civilrights@tamu.edu)  
Website Reporting Form: <https://titleix.tamu.edu/report/>

CREI's Assistant Vice President and Title IX Coordinator's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, (1) overseeing Texas A&M University's civil rights protections program; (2) ensuring all complaints of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and complicity are promptly, thoroughly, and equitably reviewed, investigated, and resolved in accordance with System Regulation 08.01.01, [Texas A&M University Rule 08.01.01.M1, Civil Rights Compliance](#) (Rule 08.01.01.M1), and [Texas A&M University SAP 08.01.01.M1.01, Investigation and Resolution of Allegations of Discrimination, Harassment, Retaliation, and Complicity Against Students, Employees, and Third Parties](#); and (3) identifying and addressing any patterns or systematic problems that arise from the review of such complaints. The Assistant Vice President and Title IX

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<sup>4</sup> Exceptions include confidential employees and are described in the "Confidentiality/Privacy" section of this report.

Coordinator or designee shall decide whether this policy shall be applied to such conduct on a case by case basis. Some conduct, while inappropriate and unprofessional, does not rise to the level of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or complicity. These behaviors will be forwarded by CREI to be addressed by the appropriate disciplinary authority, e.g., Supervisor, Student Conduct, Residence Life, etc., under rules or regulations other than this policy.

CREI is the department designated by the university to receive, investigate, and resolve all reports alleging discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and/or complicity. However, reports that the following individuals have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy: the Texas A&M University System Chancellor; the Texas A&M President; a Chief Operating Officer; an employee who reports directly to the Chancellor, President, or Chief Operating Officer; the Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator; the Chief Risk, Ethics, and Compliance Officer; or the Hearing Officer should be made to:

Texas A&M System Ethics and Compliance Office (SECO)

301 Tarrow, 6<sup>th</sup> floor

College Station, TX 77843

979-458-6120

[civilrightsreporting@tamus.edu](mailto:civilrightsreporting@tamus.edu)

Additional options for reporting to the university include:

- Submitting an anonymous report through [Tell Somebody](#), an electronic reporting option. Anonymous reporting may also limit the university's ability to respond to the allegation.
- Submitting an electronic report through the "Make a Report" form found at <https://titleix.tamu.edu/>

Individuals may file a complaint at any time with any local, state or federal civil rights office, including, but not limited to, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Texas Workforce Commission's Civil Rights Division, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Justice.

CREI has procedures in place to inform individuals of their rights to file criminal charges as well as the availability of services on and off campus. A complainant<sup>5</sup> may request assistance from and/or will be assisted by CREI in notifying law enforcement authorities if the complainant so chooses. A report to law enforcement, is separate from a report to the university. An individual wishing to simultaneously pursue a law enforcement investigation and a university resolution of conduct prohibited by this policy should make a report to both entities. Individuals are notified of their right to report the incident to local police immediately, but always have the right to decline to notify such authorities. Reporting to law enforcement does not preclude an individual from pursuing disciplinary remedies with the university.

Although a report of conduct prohibited by this policy may be made at any time, regardless of when the conduct occurred, a report should be filed as soon as possible after the actions that caused the report. Prompt reporting assists investigators in the collection and preservation of evidence.

The filing of a report will not stop, delay, or affect pending personnel or disciplinary actions. This includes, but is not limited to, performance evaluations or disciplinary actions related to an employee or student who is not performing at acceptable levels or standards or who has violated System policies or regulations or university rules or SAPs.

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<sup>5</sup> The individual(s) who is alleged to have been subjected to discrimination.

The university's response to allegations of conduct prohibited by this policy will be prompt and equitable. The response is intended to stop/prevent recurrence of any harassment and remedy discriminatory effects of the conduct, as appropriate. A substantiated allegation of prohibited conduct will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or separation from the university. Third parties who commit prohibited conduct may have their relationship with the university terminated and/or their privileges of being on university premises withdrawn.

CREI conducts an initial review and preliminary assessment of all reports/complaints that are received by CREI to assess and address the safety and well-being of the complainant, respondent<sup>6</sup>, and the community. As part of the initial review, CREI will take the following step: (1) inform the individual reporting of the right to file a complaint with law enforcement (if applicable) in addition to filing a complaint with CREI, (2) provide assistance in notifying appropriate law enforcement authorities if the individual so chooses, (3) inform the individual of the right to decline to contact law enforcement, and (4) inform the individual of the right to file a complaint with state and federal agencies. CREI will offer the opportunity to request supportive measures to provide for the safety of the individual and campus community.

CREI will also take steps to advise about (1) the importance of preserving evidence, if applicable, that could assist in proving that a criminal offense occurred or may be helpful in obtaining a protective order or assist in an investigation, (2) the university's procedures for investigation and options for formal and informal resolutions, and (3) the university's prohibition against retaliation. At this time, CREI will determine whether the complainant is a minor, elderly, or disabled and, if required, contact the appropriate agency in accordance with the Texas law.

CREI provides a written notification of available resources, rights, and options to each individual reporting discrimination, harassment, or retaliation (whether the offense occurred on or off campus) regardless of whether the individual chooses to report the incident to local law enforcement or chooses to pursue informal or formal remedies through the university or criminal remedies through law enforcement. The written notification includes information regarding:

- the importance of preserving physical evidence that may assist in proving that the alleged criminal offense occurred or may be helpful in obtaining a protective order;
- procedures about how and to whom the alleged offense should be reported;
- the option to notify proper law enforcement authorities including on-campus and local police;
- the option to be assisted by campus authorities in notifying law enforcement if the victim chooses;
- the option to decline to notify such authorities;
- the rights of individuals and the institution's responsibilities for orders of protection, no contact orders (mutual no contact restrictions), restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by criminal, civil, or tribal court or the institution;
- information about how the institution will protect confidentiality;
- existing on-campus and community resources/contacts (counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other services available to students, faculty, and staff);
- the options for, available assistance in, and how to request changes to academic, living, transportation, and working situations or supportive/protective measures;
- protection from retaliation; and

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<sup>6</sup> An individual who has been alleged to have engaged in discriminatory conduct as defined in this policy.

- an explanation of procedures for institutional disciplinary action in cases of alleged sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

### **Guidelines or Suggestions to Follow After an Incident of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence or Stalking (as applicable to the specific incident)**

- Go to a safe place as soon as you can.
- Contact the Fort Worth Police Department at 911.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible to make sure you are physically well and to collect important evidence in the event you may later wish to take legal action. JPS Hospital in Fort Worth (817-702-8828) has a sexual assault program with trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) and a forensic unit offering detailed physical examinations, evidence collection and expert testimony. Go to the hospital's emergency room and request to be seen by a SANE.
- Try to preserve all physical evidence. Do not wash, use the toilet, swim, brush teeth, or change clothing if you can avoid it. If you do change clothes, put all the clothing you were wearing at the time of the attack in a paper, not plastic bag.
- Preserve evidence by saving text messages, instant messages, social networking pages, communications, pictures, or other documents, if any, that would be useful to police or investigators.
- Personnel are available to help explain options, give information, and provide emotional support. Personnel include: Facilities Manager 817-212-4125; Student Affairs 817-212-4020; Human Resources 817-212-4082; Main campus services include: CREI 979-458-8407 and Student Assistance Services 979-845-3113. Fort Worth area services include: Student Assistance Program and Work-Life Services Program (1-855-270-3349), Work/Life Solutions Program by GuidanceResources (1-866-301-9623), and the Women's Center/Rape Crisis and Victims Services (817-927-2737).

### **Medical Treatment (as applicable to the specific incident)**

It is important to seek immediate and follow-up medical attention for several reasons: first, to assess and treat any physical injuries sustained; second, to test for sexually transmitted infections or pregnancy and treat or take preventive measures; and third, to gather and preserve evidence that may assist in proving that the alleged criminal offense occurred or is occurring or may be helpful in obtaining a protection order. Physical evidence should be collected immediately, ideally within the first 24 hours. It may be collected later than this, but the quality and quantity of the evidence may be diminished. If individuals do not opt for forensic evidence collection, health care providers can still treat injuries and take steps to address concerns of pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted infection.

### **Confidentiality/Privacy**

Students and employees have the option to disclose incidents to confidential reporters who are employees designated or permitted by the university to receive complaints of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and complicity and maintain confidentiality. Confidential reporters include, but are not limited to, licensed health care personnel and certain mental health providers (professional psychologists/counselors) who receive reports when acting the course and scope of their employment as part of their official employment. When an individual shares information with a confidential reporter, the confidential reporter cannot legally disclose the communication to another person or the institution except under very limited circumstances. Such information could be disclosed when: (1) the individual gives written consent for its disclosure; (2) there is a concern that the party poses an imminent danger to themselves or others; (3) the information concerns conduct involving suspected abuse or neglect of a minor under the age of 18, the disabled, or the elderly; or (4) required by law.

Confidential reporters are required to provide general nonidentifying information as required to comply with the Clery Act or other applicable laws/regulations, and must report de-identified statistics to the Title IX Coordinator for any type of sex-based incident made known to them, and may not include any information that would violate that person's expectation of privacy. Publicly available recordkeeping, including Clery Act reporting and disclosures, must not include personally identifying information<sup>7</sup>. Incidents are shared in a way that does not identify the individuals. For example, licensed healthcare providers share de-identified information regarding conduct that may be a statistic in the Clery Annual Security Report and/or disclosed in the daily crime log without identifying the individuals concerned. Additionally, researchers are deemed confidential only when the research project is federally funded and the identity of research subjects on the specific project are deemed confidential by law.

At the law school, the following are considered confidential reporters: Mental health providers for students - The Student Assistance Program & Work-Life Services (1-855-270-3349); mental health providers for employees and the employee's benefits-eligible dependents - Work/Life Solutions Program by GuidanceResources (1-866-301-9623). The law school does not provide licensed health care service to students or employees. Confidential reports are available to support both complainants and respondents.

All other employees informed of possible discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and/or complicity should advise the reporting party that they cannot keep the information confidential and are required to report it to the university. Employees should inform the reporting party where confidential guidance can be obtained, such as the student counseling center or employee assistance program. To the extent possible, the university will protect the privacy of all parties to the report (see definition of private<sup>8</sup>).

Employees receiving a complaint under this policy may not disclose the identity of the complainant to any law enforcement authority unless:

- expressly authorized by the complainant;
- imminent threat to health or safety exists; or
- required by law.

Requests from complainants to withhold any name, or a request not to investigate or seek action against the respondent, will be considered by the university in the context of the university's duty to provide a safe and nondiscriminatory work, educational, and campus living environment. This may require that the university take actions when the complainant requests no action, such as when violence is involved, when the threat of violence exists, or when required by law, as in the case of elderly, disabled, or child abuse. A request to withhold information or not to investigate the alleged misconduct may limit the university's ability to respond.

Although individuals reporting sexual assault are not required to file criminal charges, the following program is offered in the State of Texas. In accordance with the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 57, when reporting certain sex offenses to a Texas law enforcement agency, victims may use a pseudonym to protect their identity. The offenses applicable to this program are identified in Chapter 62 of the Texas Code of

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<sup>7</sup> Personally identifying information is defined as individually identifying information for or about an individual, including information likely to disclose the location of a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, regardless of whether the information is encoded, encrypted, hashed, or otherwise protected, including a first and last name; a home or other physical address; contact information (including a postal, email, or internet protocol address, or telephone or facsimile number); a social security number, a driver's license number, passport number or student identification number; and any other information, including date of birth, racial or ethnic background, or religious affiliation that would serve to identify any individual.

<sup>8</sup> Private - that which affects, characterizes, or belongs to an individual person, as opposed to the general public. With respect to this regulation, private means restricting information to those with a reasonable need to know.



Criminal Procedure, defined by the Texas Penal Code, and include sexual assault. The pseudonym will replace the victim's name in all public files and records concerning the offense, including police records, press releases, and records of judicial proceedings.

### Resources, Rights, and Options

Following an allegation of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and/or related retaliation the complainant, the respondent, and other affected individuals have certain resources, rights, and options available to them. Parties with an inquiry or complaint are informed of resources, rights, and options in writing when CREI receives notification of an incident whether it occurred on or off campus and regardless of whether the individual elects to pursue a criminal complaint or disciplinary measures. Other personnel likely to receive reports of conduct prohibited by this policy in the Division of Student Affairs, Human Resources, or the Facilities Manager at the law school may also provide resources, rights, and options in writing. Available assistance information is also provided through prevention and awareness education and can be found on the Title IX webpage at <https://titleix.tamu.edu/get-help/>. Additional information about any of the resources, rights, and options discussed in this section can be requested from CREI.

In addition to the Case Managers at CREI, the following are on-campus and community resources available to complainants, respondents, and others.

#### Law Enforcement

Name	Phone	Address	Website
Fort Worth Police Department	911 or 817-392-4222	505 W. Felix St. Fort Worth, TX 76115	<a href="https://police.fortworthtexas.gov">https://police.fortworthtexas.gov</a>
Tarrant County Sheriff's Department	817-884-3099	200 N. Taylor St. Fort Worth, TX 76196	<a href="http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/sheriff.html">http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/sheriff.html</a>
Law School Campus Security	817-212-3999	1515 Commerce St. Fort Worth, TX 76102	n/a
Fort Worth Police Department NPO, Ron Andriotto	817-692-3152 (Ronald.Andriotto@fortworthtexas.gov)	350 W. Belknap St. Fort Worth, TX 76102	n/a

#### Counseling and Mental Health

Name	Phone	Address	Website
Student Assistance Program and Work-Life Services	1-855-270-3349 (TTY: 711)	n/a	<a href="http://law.tamu.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-wellness/student-assistance-program-work-life-services">http://law.tamu.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-wellness/student-assistance-program-work-life-services</a>
The Work/Life Solutions Program by GuidanceResources (for employees)	1-866-301-9623	n/a	<a href="https://employees.tamu.edu/eap/">https://employees.tamu.edu/eap/</a>

Medical and Health Services

Name	Phone	Address	Website
JPS Hospital	817-702-8828	1575 S. Main Fort Worth, TX 76104	<a href="https://www.jpshealthnet.org/locations/emergency-department">https://www.jpshealthnet.org/locations/emergency-department</a>
Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital	817-250-2000	1301 Pennsylvania Ave. Fort Worth, TX 76104	<a href="https://www.texashealth.org/en/Locations/texas-health-fort-worth">https://www.texashealth.org/en/Locations/texas-health-fort-worth</a>
No on-campus medical/health services are in place at the law school campus.			

Support, Advocacy, Legal Assistance, and Other Resources

Name	Phone	Address	Website
Student Affairs (conduct)	817-212-4020	1515 Commerce St. Fort Worth, TX 76102	<a href="https://law.tamu.edu/current-students/student-affairs">https://law.tamu.edu/current-students/student-affairs</a>
Human Resources	817-212-4082	1515 Commerce St. Fort Worth, TX 76102	<a href="https://law.tamu.edu/faculty-staff/policies-hr/human-resources">https://law.tamu.edu/faculty-staff/policies-hr/human-resources</a>
Student Assistance Services (College Station campus)	979-845-3113	Student Services Building, 2nd Floor Texas A&M Campus	<a href="https://studentlife.tamu.edu/sas/">https://studentlife.tamu.edu/sas/</a>
Student Legal Services <sup>9</sup> (College Station campus)	979-862-4502	Student Services Building, 2nd Floor Texas A&M Campus	<a href="http://studentlife.tamu.edu/sls">http://studentlife.tamu.edu/sls</a>
Offices of the Dean of Student Life (College Station campus)	979-845-3111	Student Services Building, 2nd Floor Texas A&M Campus	<a href="https://studentlife.tamu.edu/">https://studentlife.tamu.edu/</a>
Human Resources Employee Relations (College Station campus)	979-862-4027	750 Agronomy Rd., General Services Complex, Ste. 1201 College Station, TX	<a href="https://employees.tamu.edu/employee-relations/index.html">https://employees.tamu.edu/employee-relations/index.html</a>
Women's Resource Center (College Station campus)	979-845-8784	Student Services Building, 2nd Floor Texas A&M Campus	<a href="https://studentlife.tamu.edu/wrc/">https://studentlife.tamu.edu/wrc/</a>
LGBTQ + Pride Center	979-862-8920	Student Services Building, 2nd Floor Texas A&M Campus	<a href="https://studentlife.tamu.edu/lgbtq/contact/">https://studentlife.tamu.edu/lgbtq/contact/</a>
Texas Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) for Law Students	1-800-343-8527	n/a	<a href="http://law.tamu.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-wellness/texas-lawyers-assistance-program-for-law-students">http://law.tamu.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-wellness/texas-lawyers-assistance-program-for-law-students</a>

<sup>9</sup> Student Legal Services does not render advice to students in a dispute against other Texas A&M University students or against Texas A&M University and does not represent students in court.

Name	Phone	Address	Website
Women's Resource Center of Tarrant County	817-927-2737 or 817-927-4000	1723 Hemphill Fort Worth, TX 76110	<a href="http://womenscentertc.org/">http://womenscentertc.org/</a>
Fort Worth Police Department Victim Assistance	817-392-4390	350 W. Belknap St. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Fort Worth, TX 76102	<a href="https://police.fortworthtexas.gov/Crime-Information/victim-assistance">https://police.fortworthtexas.gov/Crime-Information/victim-assistance</a>
Safe Haven of Tarrant County	817-701-7233	1100 Hemphill St. Suite 303 Fort Worth, TX 76104	<a href="http://www.safehaventc.org/">http://www.safehaventc.org/</a>
Tarrant County Victim Assistance Program	817-884-3697	200 Taylor St. 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor Fort Worth, TX 76196	<a href="http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/sheriff/operations-bureau/criminal-investigations/victim-assistance.html">http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/sheriff/operations-bureau/criminal-investigations/victim-assistance.html</a>
Recovery Resource Council	877-332-6329	2700 Airport Freeway Fort Worth, TX 76111	<a href="http://www.recoverycouncil.org/">http://www.recoverycouncil.org/</a>
One Safe Place	817-916-4323	1100 Hemphill St. Fort Worth, TX 76104	<a href="http://www.onesafeplace.org/">http://www.onesafeplace.org/</a>
The Gatehouse	817-912-0317	670 Westport Pkwy. Fort Worth, TX 76051	<a href="https://www.gatehousegrapevine.com/">https://www.gatehousegrapevine.com/</a>
National Sexual Assault Hotline	(800) 656-HOPE	n/a	<a href="https://rainn.org/get-help/national-sexual-assault-hotline">https://rainn.org/get-help/national-sexual-assault-hotline</a>
National Domestic Violence Hotline	(800) 799-7233	n/a	<a href="http://www.thehotline.org">http://www.thehotline.org</a>
No on-campus support, advocacy, or legal assistance services are in place at the law school campus.			

#### Visa and Immigration Assistance

Name	Phone	Address	Website
International Student Services Charlotte Ku, Director of Global Programs	817-212-4039	Texas A&M University School of Law Campus, Office 137	<a href="http://iss.tamu.edu">http://iss.tamu.edu</a>
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Texas – San Antonio Field Office	(800) 375-5283	20760 North US Highway 281, Suite A San Antonio, TX	<a href="https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-a-uscis-office/field-offices">https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-a-uscis-office/field-offices</a>

Student Financial Aid

Name	Phone	Address	Website
Financial Aid	817-212-4090 or 800-733-9529	1515 Commerce St., Room 246 Fort Worth, TX 76102	<a href="https://law.tamu.edu/prospectiv&lt;br/&gt;e/financial-aid">https://law.tamu.edu/prospectiv e/financial-aid</a>
Scholarships & Financial Aid	979-845-3236	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Pavilion Texas A&M Campus	<a href="https://financialaid.tamu.edu/">https://financialaid.tamu.edu/</a>
Veteran Services	979-845-8075	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Pavilion Texas A&M Campus	<a href="http://veterans.tamu.edu">http://veterans.tamu.edu</a>
Federal Student Aid Information Center	(800) 433-3243	n/a	<a href="https://studentaidhelp.ed.gov/a&lt;br/&gt;pp/home/site/studentaid">https://studentaidhelp.ed.gov/a pp/home/site/studentaid</a>

Institutional Rights and Options (Supportive Measures)

The institution is obligated to offer and provide assistance to students, employees, and third parties in obtaining a range of supportive measures. Supportive measures are intended to restore or preserve equal access to the workplace and educational programs or activities without unreasonably burdening the other party; stop and prevent the reoccurrence of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation; and support the complainant and respondent during the investigation and resolution process. Supportive measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services. Supportive measures are offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent.

In all complaints of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation, CREI promptly contacts the parties to discuss the availability of supportive measures, considers the parties' wishes with respect to supportive measures, informs the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explains to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint. The university must maintain the privacy of any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent to the extent that maintaining such privacy would not impair the ability of the university to provide supportive measures.

CREI is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures. In addition to facilitating supportive measures, CREI can provide parties with access to university officials with information about counseling, medical, mental health, victim advocacy, visa and immigration information, impact of a leave of absence on student financial aid, and other services available to complainants and respondents (on campus and in the community). CREI will also notify the parties that options such as protective orders and criminal trespass warnings may be available through law enforcement agencies and the judicial system. A party may request a supportive measure through CREI (979-458-8407) at any time, regardless of whether a formal complaint has been filed and regardless of whether the individual chooses to report the incident to law enforcement or pursue disciplinary remedies.

CREI can assist with supportive measures that may include but are not limited to changes to academic, living, transportation and working situations or supportive measures according to the list below. In determining which supportive measures to impose and the reasonableness of the related measures, CREI considers the request; the safety of the complainant, respondent, and the university community; the specific needs of the individuals; the severity or pervasiveness of the allegations; continuing effects; sharing of residence halls, dining halls, classes, transportation, or job locations; other judicial measures already in place; and other factors as appropriate. The university also provides reasonable supportive measures to third parties as appropriate and

available, taking into account the role of the third party and the nature of any contractual relationship with the university. Parties seeking a supportive measure should discuss their options with their CREI case manager.

Supportive measures provided by the institution vary and may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Assistance in obtaining access to medical, mental health, legal (protective orders and criminal trespass warnings available through law enforcement and the judicial system), counseling support, victim advocacy, visa and immigration information, and financial aid guidance
- Extension of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, e.g., in cases in which a student complainant and student respondent are enrolled in the same course, either student may elect to drop the course without any academic penalty
- Modifications of work or class schedules
- Campus escort services
- Mutual no contact restrictions between the parties as described below
- Changes in work or housing locations
- Leaves of absence
- Increased security and monitoring of certain areas of campus or workplace
- Other similar measures

*Mutual No Contact Restriction.* A mutual no contact restriction is a supportive measure issued by the institution that prohibits two parties from contacting one another through any means. Mutual no contact restrictions can be issued in addition to court ordered protection but may also serve as an alternative for those who do not want to seek a court order. A complainant or a respondent can request a mutual no contact restriction through the CREI at 979-458-8407. CREI may issue a mutual no contact restriction at any time prior to or during a conduct investigation based on information provided by the requestor. If good cause for a mutual no contact restriction is determined, both parties are notified of the restrictions in writing. Mutual no contact restriction records are maintained in CREI's tracking system.

Individuals should be aware that direct contact, refusal to leave a protected area, appearing at a location one reasonably knows the protected party is at, third-party contact, or even an anonymous contact are all potential violations of a mutual no contact restriction. Violations should be reported to CREI and may result in further disciplinary action. Failure to comply with the terms of supportive measures such as mutual no contact restrictions may be considered a separate violation of system policies and regulations and university rules and procedures.

CREI will also consider an interim removal of the respondent from university programs or activities if the respondent is an immediate threat to the health or safety of the community or another individual. Both an interim removal for student respondents and an interim administrative action for employee respondents, such as a leave of absence, are described below.

*Interim Removal of Students:* A student may not be expelled or suspended prior to a decision of responsibility for a violation(s) of a university rule, policy, regulation, code, or SAP except as provided below.

The Dean of Student Life may remove a student from an education program or activity on an emergency basis only after an individualized safety and risk analysis has determined that the student is an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any other student or individual arising from the allegations. The Dean of Student Life must provide the removed student with notice and opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. Upon being removed, the removed student must be granted the

opportunity for a hearing within 5 business days to review whether or not the removal is warranted. The outcome of this hearing is not subject to appeal and is not a disciplinary action.

The Dean of Student Life works in collaboration with appropriate law school administrators to implement the interim suspension. During the interim removal, a student may be denied access to campus housing and/or the campus (including classes) and/or all other university activities or privileges for which the student might otherwise be eligible.

The interim removal does not replace the investigation and resolution process. The investigation and resolution process shall proceed as outlined in this policy, except that the timelines referenced in this policy may not be followed and the allegations will be resolved as soon as possible.

*Interim Administrative Actions for Employees:* In accordance with university rules and SAPs, CREI may request that an employee be placed on leave, suspended with pay, reassigned and/or place in another type of temporary status pending completion of the investigation and resolution process. CREI may also issue interim restrictions to an employee, which include, but are not limited to, contact restrictions (no-contact directives); representation of the university; “no trespass” orders, etc. Such interim actions will remain in place as specified in a notification to the employee or until the allegations are resolved.

*Confidentiality/Privacy of Accommodations and Supportive Measures:* The university will maintain as private any accommodations or supportive measures provided to the extent that maintaining such privacy would not impair the ability of the institution to provide the accommodations or supportive measures. CREI is responsible for determining what information and to whom information will be disclosed based on the circumstances of the allegation, the individuals involved, and related safety needs. CREI uses discretion and only discloses information to key officials at the institution who perform the tasks necessary for obtaining or providing the particular accommodation or supportive measure. The identity of an alleged victim of sexual harassment, sex-based misconduct, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, or stalking may only be disclosed to: (a) persons employed or under contract with the institution, who are necessary to conduct an investigation of the report or any related hearings; (b) a law enforcement officer as necessary to conduct a criminal investigation of the report; (c) the person or persons alleged to have perpetrated the incident, to the extent required by other law; or (d) potential witnesses to the incident as necessary to conduct an investigation of the report. Other areas receiving information related to supportive measures may include, but are not limited to: Offices of the Dean of Student Life, Scholarships and Financial Aid, Student Activities, Division of Human Resources and Organizational Effectiveness, law school Facilities Manager, academic departments (direct supervisor, Dean, or Associate Dean), or non-academic departments (direct supervisor, Vice President, or designee). Prior to disclosure, CREI will receive consent to disclose the identity of the alleged victim, inform the individual of the information that will be shared, with whom it will be shared, and why.

### Legal Rights and Options

The law school provides information and assistance to the complainant, respondent, and other affected individuals in obtaining lawful orders issued by criminal, civil, or tribal court including protective orders and criminal trespass warnings as discussed below. Failure to comply with any of the terms of these supportive measures may be considered a separate conduct violation in the institutional disciplinary proceeding.

*Protective Orders:* Individuals may apply for protective orders through the Texas criminal justice system. A protective order is a supportive measure that requires the recipient to stay away from the protected individual’s home, workplace, and/or children’s schools (if the children are protected persons in the order) depending on the documented circumstances. It can require the recipient to stop communicating with the protected individual in a harassing or threatening manner, attend counseling, pay child support, and/or pay spousal



support. An application for a protective order may be filed by an individual, a prosecuting attorney, or the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (1-800-252-5400) on behalf of an individual. The application is obtained through the district attorney (Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office, 817-884-1623, [pounit@tarrantcountytx.gov](mailto:pounit@tarrantcountytx.gov)), or a private attorney. Information and forms associated with applying for a protective order are found on the following webpage:

<http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/criminal-district-attorney/civil-division/protective-orders.html>

The application for a protective order must be filed in either the county where the applicant lives or the county where the recipient lives. The applicant's address can be kept confidential. If the legal criteria for a protective order is met, the county or district attorney's office will prepare and file all of the paperwork necessary to request a protective order from a court. Such orders provide effective tools for law enforcement when they are called upon to protect an individual and their family. Additionally, an emergency protective order may be recommended and automatically issued by the court following the original report and arrest of the respondent. A hearing is held at a later date to determine if the order should be extended or modified.

Local law enforcement agencies are notified of all existing protective orders in their area. If the requestor or other institutional personnel become aware that a protective order is violated, Fort Worth Police should be contacted immediately at 817-392-4222. The Tarrant County Sheriff's Department (817-884-3099) can also be contacted for protective order violations. Law school campus security (817-212-3999) can assist with this process. Violating protective orders generally carry authority for the violator's immediate arrest by the responding law enforcement agency.

*Criminal Trespass Warning:* A criminal trespass warning is a supportive measure issued by the Fort Worth Police Department directed at those who are considered a danger to the campus community or a danger to a certain individual in the campus community. The warning advises the respondent to leave the premises and forbids him/her from entering and/or remaining on certain property which can cover either the entire campus or a specific campus location. To request a criminal trespass warning, contact Fort Worth Police at 817-392-4222 and request to speak with an officer. The officer issues the criminal trespass warning if the respondent is determined to pose a risk to campus safety based on information provided by the requestor as it relates to applicable state law. When the warning is issued, the officer is responsible for providing notice to the requestor and the person receiving the warning.

Law enforcement officers are notified of criminal trespass warnings that exist in their area. If a criminal trespass warning is violated, Fort Worth Police should be contacted immediately at 817-392-4222. A violation of the criminal trespass warning occurs when the individual is issued a warning but refuses to leave campus or is subsequently found in a prohibited area based on the trespass warning. The requestor and other institutional personnel should take appropriate action by contacting Fort Worth Police for a responding officer when they become aware of a potential violation of a criminal trespass warning. Fort Worth Police generally enforces these warnings by charging violators with criminal trespass resulting in arrest and/or fine.

If the complainant, respondent, or member of the university community has obtained an order of protection, civil no-contact order, or similar order from a court as described in this section, against another member of the university community, a copy of the order should be provided to the Chief Risk, Ethics, and Compliance Officer. In conjunction with Fort Worth Police and other university officials, the Chief Risk, Ethics, and Compliance Officer will take all reasonable actions authorized by law to implement the order.

*Other Legal Options:* The Texas A&M University Police Department's Community Services Division (979-458-6875) and the Fort Worth Police Department's Victim Assistance Unit (817-392-4390) are available to provide information about personal safety, Texas Crime Victim's Rights, Texas Crime Victims Compensation Fund

and other information upon request. Or visit the Office of the Texas Attorney General's website at <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/crime-victims-compensation>.

### **Investigations and Disciplinary Proceedings<sup>10</sup> for Sexual Assault, Dating violence, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Related Retaliation**

Proceedings from an allegation of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking are provided in a prompt, fair, and impartial manner from the initial investigation to the final result, including any appeals. They are consistent with the institution's policies and transparent and equitable to the complainant and respondent. The investigation provides that:

- Both the complainant(s) and the respondent(s) must receive equitable treatment in all facets of the investigation and resolution process including, but not limited to, the right to an advisor (if any), the right to present evidence and witnesses, and the right to be informed of the outcome of the investigation.
- Timely and equal access to any information (inculpatory and exculpatory) discovered during the investigation as well as any information that will be used during informal and formal disciplinary meetings and hearings will be provided to the complainant, respondent, and appropriate officials.
- During the investigation the complainant and respondent have timely notice of meetings at which the complainant or respondent, or both, may be present.
- Determinations use the preponderance of the evidence standard, i.e., what is more likely than not to be true, based on the totality of the available evidence.
- If the respondent has multiple roles at the university, such as when the respondent is both a student and an employee, the Chief Risk, Ethics, and Compliance Officer will consult with other relevant university officials and determine which procedure(s) to follow in the investigation and resolution of the allegations of prohibited conduct as well as other policy violations. The Chief Risk, Ethics, and Compliance Officer will consider the known facts and circumstances, including which role predominates in the context of the prohibited conduct.
- The university's disclosure of information related to an investigation, the DA's decision and/or the sanctions rendered are governed by the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Texas Public Information Act (TPIA), the Texas Education Code Section 51.971, and other applicable confidentiality laws.

Individuals conducting investigations and other decision makers, at a minimum, receive annual training on the issues related to sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking and how to conduct an investigation and hearing process that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability. All of those involved in the administration of civil rights complaints at the university (including but not limited to: reporting, administering, investigating, adjudicating, advising, and informal resolution) complete annual training specific to their roles in accordance with requirements established by SECO in [System Regulation 08.01.01, Appendix B, Minimum Training Requirements for Civil Rights Investigations, Advisement, Adjudication, Appeals, and Informal Resolution in The Texas A&M University System](#). Minimum training requirements include university rules and procedure, applicable federal and state laws, how to conduct comprehensive civil rights investigations and prepare reports, trauma-informed investigation techniques and considerations, due process protections, how to value and weigh evidence and assess credibility, sanctioning, appellate processes, etc.

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<sup>10</sup> For the purposes of this section, proceeding means all activities related to a non-criminal resolution of an institutional disciplinary complaint, including, but not limited to, fact-finding investigations, formal or informal meetings, and hearings. Proceeding does not include communications and meetings between officials and the complainant, respondent, and other affected individuals concerning accommodations or supportive measures.

If an employee reasonably believes that an incident constitutes sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking and that the incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who was a student enrolled at or an employee of the institution at the time of the incident, the employee must promptly report the incident to CREI. Students and third parties (including, but not limited to, anyone receiving services from the university, vendors and private business associates) are strongly encouraged to report the incident(s) promptly to CREI. An employee is not required to report an incident in which that employee was a victim of the sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking. Once an individual discloses information to CREI, a complaint will be considered to be made with the university, and the institution's process is initiated regardless of whether the complainant chooses to pursue criminal charges.

Complaints are initially reviewed by CREI, not only to assess and address safety, but also to determine whether a violation of the System Regulation 08.01.01 and/or Rule 08.01.01.M1 and/or any other university rule, SAP, code, or policy could have occurred. During the initial review and preliminary assessment CREI will:

- Inform the complainant about options for formal and informal resolutions and solicit the complainant's preferred method for resolving the matter. Complainants may request a formal resolution, an informal resolution, or "no resolution" of the allegations of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and/or complicity.
- Offer assistance to the complainant in submitting a written formal complaint<sup>11</sup> that details the nature and circumstances of the allegations, including the names of the complainants and respondents, if so inclined.

#### No Resolution

If the complainant requests that no resolution of the allegations occur, the university will seek to honor the request whenever possible without impeding the university's ability to enhance the safety and security of the complainant and the university community. The university may initiate an investigation based on the seriousness of the allegation, whether or not there are multiple allegations, and/or whether or not a respondent poses a risk of harm to others. CREI will consider the following factors when evaluating such requests:

- All of the known circumstances, including any corroborating evidence;
- The nature and scope of the alleged conduct, including whether the reported behavior involves the use of a weapon;
- The respective ages and roles of the complainant and respondent;
- Whether there have been other reports of prohibited conduct or other misconduct by the respondent;
- Whether the report reveals a pattern of misconduct related to prohibited conduct (e.g. via illicit use of drugs or alcohol) at a given location or by a particular group;
- Fairness considerations for both the complainant and the respondent;
- Whether the university possesses other means to obtain relevant information and evidence;
- The university's obligation to provide a safe and non-discriminatory environment;
- Admissions of responsibility by the respondent, if any; and
- The impact of honoring the request on the complainant and the university community, including the risk of additional violence.

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<sup>11</sup>A formal complaint is a document or electronic submission (such as by electronic mail or through an on-line portal provided for this purpose) filed by a complainant, or signed by the Title IX Coordinator, alleging sex-based discrimination against a respondent and requesting that the university investigate the allegation(s). The formal complaint must contain the complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicate that the complainant is the person filing the complaint. Alternatively, a Title IX Coordinator may sign a formal complaint but is not a complainant or otherwise a party to the complaint. The university may consolidate formal complaints as to allegations of sex-based violations against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against the other party, when the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

If the university is able to honor the complainant's request for no resolution, the university may close the matter with no action taken, or the university may proceed with other appropriate steps, including investigation and disciplinary action against the respondent for violations of other rules, SAPs, regulations, policies, or codes, if applicable.

If the university determines that the complainant's request cannot be honored, the complainant will be notified of the decision, and CREI will take appropriate actions, including but not limited to, (1) offering support services or academic adjustments and (2) initiating a formal investigation.

### Informal Resolution

Informal resolutions do not utilize a formal hearing and may or may not involve the establishment of findings of fact and the application of sanctions.

At any time prior to the determination of a final decision, the parties may seek informal resolution to resolve the complaint. The following conditions apply to informal resolution:

- Informal resolution is a voluntary process. No party may be compelled to participate in informal resolution. The university, in consultation with SECO, must agree to allow an informal resolution to move forward and must obtain the parties' voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process.
- Prior to an informal resolution, the parties will be provided with: (a) written notice of the allegations; (b) the requirements of the informal resolution process, including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising from the same allegations; and (c) the consequences of withdrawing from the informal process and resuming the formal process, and including the records that will be maintained or could be shared.
- Once a party agrees to participate in informal resolution, they may withdraw from the process at any time prior to a final agreement and resume the formal grievance process. Information shared in the informal resolution process may not be introduced into the formal process without independent evidence.
- Once a final agreement is established through informal resolution, the complaint may not return to the formal complaint process unless one or both parties fails to abide by any conditions established in the agreement.
- Informal resolution options include mediation, restorative conferences, shuttle facilitation, and other forms of facilitated dialogue.
- Mediation may not be used to resolve complaints of rape, statutory rape, dating violence, domestic violence, or any case in which imminent threats of harm may exist.
- The university may not offer an informal resolution process in sex-based complaints unless a formal complaint is filed and may not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

### Formal Resolution

The allegations will be considered for investigation pursuant to the following procedures. CREI reserves the right to resolve the complaint informally or through no resolution if the allegation does not rise to the level of conduct prohibited by System Regulation 08.01.01.

Upon receipt of a report, CREI may consult with the Texas A&M University System Office of General Counsel (OGC) as needed and make a preliminary determination about whether to conduct a formal investigation of the allegations. The preliminary determination may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- An assessment of whether there is sufficient known or obtainable information to proceed with an investigation of the complaint;
- An assessment of whether the allegations are baseless;
- An assessment of whether the allegations, if true, would constitute a violation of System Regulation 08.01.01; and/or
- An assessment of whether a complainant's request for no resolution may be honored.

If it is determined that there is insufficient information to proceed with an investigation; or that the allegations are baseless; or that the allegations, if true, would not constitute conduct prohibited by System Regulation 08.01.01 and/or Rule 08.01.01.M1; or, that an investigation will not occur due to the complainant's request for no resolution, CREI may, after consultation with OGC:

- dismiss the complaint,
- close it for insufficient evidence to investigate or lack of jurisdiction,
- refer the report to a different office at the university (the university office may review the conduct and take appropriate action, including but not limited to, disciplinary action against the respondent for violations of other university rules, codes, regulations, policies, or SAPs, if applicable), or
- with the consent of the parties, as well as the approval of SECO, refer the complaint to informal resolution (cases involving allegations based on sex require the submission of a formal complaint before they may be referred to informal resolution).

CREI will notify the complainant of such action in writing. Complaints that have been dismissed or referred may be appealed in accordance with the appeal procedures section of this policy.

Once it has been determined that the university will proceed with a formal investigation, CREI will appoint the Investigative Authority (IA)<sup>12</sup> within 5 business days to initiate the process of determining whether a violation of System Regulation 08.01.01 or other university rule, SAP, code, or policy occurred.

The Assistant Vice President and Title IX Coordinator (or designee) shall simultaneously notify the complainant(s) and respondent(s) in writing of the commencement of the investigation. The notice of investigation will include:

- receipt of the complaint stating the allegation of a violation of this policy;
- interim supportive measures, if any;
- admonishments regarding cooperation and prohibiting retaliation;
- any informal resolution process that may be available;
- the appointed IA; the appointed Designated Administrator (DA) and Appellate Authority (AA);<sup>13</sup> and

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<sup>12</sup> The IA is one or more trained individuals appointed to conduct a formal investigation to discover and examine the facts related to an allegation and conclude if, based on the preponderance of the evidence, the allegation is substantiated, unsubstantiated, or if there is insufficient information. In complaints involving allegations of sex-based behaviors, the IA will be limited to only reporting the evidence collected during the investigation, as well as issuing appropriate determinations surrounding credibility of parties, witnesses, and evidence.

<sup>13</sup> The DA is the decision-making entity specified in university rules. This may be an administrator or a hearing officer/panel but may not include a person with a clear conflict of interest (e.g., supervisor, subordinate, and/or family member of either party) or personal bias. The role of the DA is to determine whether or not allegations of misconduct rise to the level of a violation of System Regulation 08.01.01 based on the evidence provided and utilizing the preponderance of the evidence standard. The DA cannot have served as an investigator nor may they later serve as an appellate authority in the same case. Title IX Coordinators may not serve as a DA in any case involving an allegation of discrimination or harassment based on sex. The AA is any individual or panel responsible for rendering appeal decisions as specified in university rules. The role of the AA is to review the process by which an original decision was reached and render an appellate decision, consistent with the grounds for appeal. Title IX Coordinators may not serve as an AA in any case involving an allegation of discrimination or harassment based on sex. All persons serving as DAs, AAs, and IAs will be impartial and free of conflicts of interest or bias for or against the complainant or the respondent. Parties who are concerned about the impartiality of an individual serving in one of these roles should submit their concerns, in writing, to the Chief Risk, Ethics, and Compliance Officer ([civilrights@tamu.edu](mailto:civilrights@tamu.edu)) who may designate alternative individuals to fulfill any of these roles.

- an unredacted version of the complaint to an employee respondent(s) and their advisor, if applicable, with admonishments regarding privacy.

If in the course of an investigation the university decides to investigate allegations about the complainant or respondent that were not included in the original notice, the university must provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties.

If the respondent is an employee, the Assistant Vice President and Title IX Coordinator (or designee) shall notify, in writing, the respondent's supervisor that CREI is investigating an allegation that the respondent has engaged in conduct that may be a violation of System Regulation 08.01.01 and/or Rule 08.01.01.M1 or other university rules, SAPs, codes, or policies.

CREI is responsible for all administrative actions required to conduct the investigation. These include, but are not limited to, informing the parties of extensions or other delays affecting the investigation, contacting supervisors or faculty regarding their employees' or students' time away from work or class to participate in the investigative process, making reports to university administrators, coordinating supportive measures, and undertaking any other tasks necessary to properly conduct the investigation.

The IA will review the complaint, conduct a prompt, fair, thorough, and impartial investigation. Abuse of the investigation and resolution process is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal or separation from the university. Examples of abuse of process include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to appear at a meeting, interview, hearing, or conference as set forth in a notice issued by CREI;
- Falsification, distortion, destruction, or misrepresentation of evidence or information;
- Disruption or interference with the orderly conduct of an investigation, interview, meeting, hearing or conference;
- Intentionally initiating or causing a false report to be initiated;
- Attempting to discourage an individual's proper participation in, or use of, the investigation and resolution process, disciplinary process, or legal process;
- Attempting to influence the impartiality of the IA, AA, or DA prior to, and/or during the course of the investigation and resolution process;
- Verbal or physical intimidation, and/or retaliation of any party to the investigation and resolution process prior to, during, and/or afterwards;
- Failure to abide by the terms of university administered sanctions;
- Influencing or attempting to influence another person to commit an abuse of the investigation and resolution process; and/or
- Failure to cooperate fully with the IA (applies to employees only).

Students, employees, and third parties who are found responsible for abuse of the investigation and resolution process are subject to the sanctions as described in this policy.

During the investigation, the complainant and the respondent will have an equal opportunity to be heard, submit information and corroborating evidence, identify witnesses who may have relevant information, and submit questions to be asked of the other party. Questions for the other party will be asked by and at the discretion of the IA. The IA will meet separately with the complainant, the respondent, and any witnesses, and will gather other relevant and available evidence and information. The IA may also consult medical, forensic, technological, or other experts when expertise is needed in order to achieve an understanding of the issues under investigation.



Witnesses must (1) have observed the acts in question, (2) have information related to or relevant to the incident, or (3) have information about impact, mitigation, aggravation, and/or character in order to participate in the investigation process.

Investigations provide both the complainant and respondent the same opportunities to have others present during any institutional proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by an advisor<sup>14</sup> of their choice. The advisor may be present at any time in which the party participates in the investigation and resolution process, including the filing of the complaint, the interview with the IA, and all other meetings related to the investigation and resolution of the complaint. A party may select any person to be an advisor, including legal counsel.

If the allegations are related to sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct, a party must have an advisor for the hearing to provide guidance and to conduct cross examination. If a party does not have an advisor for a hearing involving sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct allegations, the university will appoint an advisor for the party. To the extent reasonably possible, the university will provide a party without an advisor with a list of trained advisors and allow the party to select an advisor to be appointed from the list.

Restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor will participate in the proceedings may be established and applied equally to both parties. In all instances, the advisor's participation will be limited to the role of an observer, except that the advisor will conduct the cross examination during a hearing on allegations of sexual harassment and sex-based misconduct. An advisor can be barred from being present during the investigation and resolution process if, in the judgment of the IA, the DA, the AA, or the Assistant Vice President and Title IX Coordinator, the advisor attempts to advocate on behalf of a party (other than cross-examination), or is otherwise disruptive. All parties, including advisors, are informed of participation restrictions before a proceeding is conducted so that parties understand and respect the limitations.

When the university is made aware that there is a concurrent criminal investigation, CREI may inform the law enforcement agency that a university investigation is also in progress; ascertain the status of the criminal investigation; and determine the extent to which any evidence collected by law enforcement may be available to the university in its investigation.

At the request of law enforcement, the university may temporarily defer part or all of the investigation until after the initial evidence-gathering phase of the law enforcement investigation is complete. The IA will communicate with the parties (as appropriate) about the law enforcement agency's request to the extent allowed by law; the university's obligations and supportive measures; procedural options; anticipated timing; and the implementation of any necessary interim measures for the safety and well-being of all affected individuals.

Standards for the resolution of criminal allegations are different than the standards for resolution of a violation of System Regulation 08.01.01 and/or any other university policy, rule, SAP, or code; therefore, the university will not base its decisions on any law enforcement determination and/or the outcomes of any criminal proceedings.

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<sup>14</sup> An advisor is an individual selected by each complainant and respondent to provide guidance, support, or advice during the investigation and resolution process and to conduct cross-examination when a complaint is referred to a formal hearing. An advisor may be an attorney. The university may appoint an advisor of the university's choice for a complainant or respondent for a hearing if either party does not have an advisor present. Advisors may not otherwise represent or speak for the party they are advising. Each party is allowed one advisor, although the university may establish circumstances under which a second advisor would be permitted (e.g., accommodating a party with a disability).

Within 30 business days, the IA will prepare an initial draft investigation report at the conclusion of the investigation and provide it to OGC for review. The initial draft investigation report includes the following but does not contain speculation, opinions, findings, decisions, or recommendations for sanctions<sup>15</sup>:

- statement of the allegation(s)
- listing of individuals interviewed including dates of the interviews
- all inculpatory evidence (evidence that would tend to support a finding that a respondent is responsible for the alleged misconduct) that is directly related to the allegations
- all exculpatory evidence (evidence that would tend to support a finding that a respondent did not commit the alleged misconduct) that is directly related to the allegations
- credibility assessments which may not be based on an individual's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness
- listing of relevant documents attached to the report as exhibits

The IA has the sole discretion to determine the relevance of evidence and whether it should be included in or excluded from the investigation report. OGC will coordinate with SECO and provide its review of the initial draft investigation report to the IA within 10 business days.

The IA will have 5 business days to create a final draft investigation report and share that document electronically with both the complainant, respondent, and their advisors, if any. The university provides parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the formal complaint, including the evidence upon which the university does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility, and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence related to the allegations whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation. This includes sending to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the final draft investigation report (with exhibits) subject to inspection and review. Both the report and the collected evidence will be unredacted to the extent allowed by law.

The complainant and the respondent will be given 10 business days to review the final draft investigation report and evidence and submit a written response to the IA for the IA to consider prior to final completion of the investigative report. A party's response may include: (1) written comment or feedback; (2) additional evidence or information; (3) the names of additional witnesses or a request for the collection of other information by the IA; and/or (4) questions to be asked (at the discretion of the IA) of the other parties or witnesses. The IA must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as repetitious or not relevant. A party's written response, if any, will be shared with all other parties and incorporated in the investigation report as an exhibit.

While it is the IA's responsibility to undertake a thorough search for relevant facts and evidence and to gather evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility, the IA must conclude the investigation within a reasonably prompt time frames and without the power of subpoena.

At the conclusion of the review and respond period, the IA will determine if any new or relevant information was provided by one or both of the parties. If necessary, the IA may pursue additional investigative steps and/or amend the final draft investigation report. The IA will have 10 business days to complete this process.

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<sup>15</sup> The investigation report for a non-sex based civil rights complaint must also include the IA's conclusion, based on the preponderance of the evidence, whether or not the alleged behavior/conduct occurred, did not occur, or there was insufficient evidence to establish that the behavior occurred or not, but will not determine whether or not the behavior establishes a violation of system or university regulations or rules.

The IA will then have 5 additional business days to prepare a final report (as amended, if applicable), and forward it along with exhibits, responses from the parties, and other information directly related and relevant to the allegations, to OGC and SECO for legal review. OGC and SECO will then have 5 business days to provide feedback to IA. The latter review provided by OGC and SECO may be waived by mutual agreement between the university and OGC/SECO if no substantive changes were made following the initial review. After receiving the legal review, the IA will have 5 business days to finalize the investigation report and submit to the DA for decision-making and sanctions.

Circumstances may warrant extensions to the time frames in this section. The IA should send an extension request, if needed, to CREI. Both the complainant(s) and the respondent(s) are notified of any extensions in writing.

The respondent is presumed to not have engaged in prohibited conduct until the DA finds that there is sufficient evidence based on a preponderance of the evidence to find that the respondent has violated System Regulation 08.01.01 and/or Rule 08.01.01.M1. If violation(s) are found, the DA may issue sanctions.

***Procedures governing the resolution of all sexual harassment and sex-based misconduct allegations, see definitions on page 14***

The university's Chief Risk, Ethics, and Compliance Officer will appoint a university official and/or a hearing officer to be the DA. The university official and/or hearing officer will render decisions in cases with allegations against employees, third parties, and students<sup>16</sup>.

The DA will review the unredacted final investigation report, the documentary evidence, the record of the hearing (if applicable), and any other relevant information. The DA or designee will provide the final investigative report and exhibits to the parties. The parties will also be provided a pre-hearing conference to review the hearing process as well as to explore any available options for informal resolution. The parties have at least 10 business days to review the final investigative report and to respond in writing to the DA (if desired) prior to the hearing. The DA has the sole discretion to determine the relevance of evidence and whether it should be heard at a hearing. The Rules of Evidence do not apply in hearings. At any time prior to the adjudication of a formal complaint, the parties may seek informal resolution to resolve the complaint.

Unless waived by the parties, following the pre-hearing conference the parties will be given a minimum of 5 business days notice of any formal hearing. The notice must include the date, time, and location of the hearing, as well as instructions for those participating in hearings through online means.

The DA will conduct a live hearing<sup>17</sup> to allow the parties to question witnesses, submit evidence or information, and to allow the DA and the parties' advisors to cross-examine other parties or witnesses. The complainant and the respondent at a hearing must have an advisor with them. In cases in which a party does not have an advisor, the university will provide a trained advisor to assist them in the hearing process.

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<sup>16</sup> Exceptions: The chancellor or designee will serve as the DA in complaints against the Texas A&M President or an employee who reports directly to the Texas A&M President; a Chief Operating Officer or an employee who reports directly to the Chief Operating Officer; or an employee who works in the department of CREI. The chair of the Board of Regents or designee will serve as the DA in complaints against the chancellor or an employee who reports directly to the chancellor.

<sup>17</sup> Hearings will be closed to the public. The university will create an audio or audiovisual recording, or transcript, of any live hearing and make it available to the parties for inspection and review. Physical access to the recording or transcript must be provided upon request for the purpose of preparing an appeal following the hearing. Attendance at a hearing may be in person or may be conducted through remote means, provided that all parties and the DA can see and hear one another in real time during the course of the hearing.

Cross-examination of the complainant, respondent, and any witnesses may not be conducted by the opposing party but must be conducted by their advisor. Questions are to be directed to the DA, who will determine whether or not each question will be admitted into the hearing. If a question is deemed repetitious or not relevant, the decision-maker must explain the decision to exclude it. When parties are being subject to cross-examination, the advisor may not answer on behalf of the party.

The DA will preside over the hearing and make final determinations on the relevance of questions and evidence asked during the cross-examination. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the alleged conduct, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent.

If a complainant, respondent, or witness is not in attendance at a live hearing, the DA cannot rely on the previously submitted statements of the absent party in reaching a determination, but may utilize all other evidence, including witnesses who interacted with the absent party, but not hearsay testimony of what the absent party told that individual. A complainant, respondent, or witness statement can also not be utilized in a determination if that person refuses to submit to cross-examination at a live hearing. The DA cannot draw an inference regarding responsibility based solely on a party's or witness's absence from the live hearing or refusal to answer cross-examination or other questions.

Following the hearing, the DA will develop a draft result<sup>18</sup> (hereafter called decision), based on the preponderance of the evidence, as to a) whether or not the alleged conduct occurred; and b) whether each allegation is substantiated, unsubstantiated, or there is insufficient information to substantiate that the respondent violated System Regulation 08.01.01 and/or Rule 08.01.01.M1. If applicable, the DA will also include a decision as to whether the respondent violated any other university regulation, code, policy, SAP, or rule. If the DA determines that any regulations, policies, rules, SAPs, or codes have been violated, the DA will consider any information about impact, mitigation, aggravation, and the respondent's character (see factors listed in the Sanctioning Considerations section on page 37) and include a decision about sanctions. The DA will submit the draft to SECO within 2 business days. SECO will have a maximum of 3 business days to provide feedback to the DA.

Thereafter, the DA will have a maximum of 3 additional business days to issue a decision letter. The decision letter must be sent simultaneously to notify the parties, in writing, of the decision on responsibility and sanctions except when to do so would violate state or federal law [e.g. Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)]. The decision must include any sanctions imposed by the institution. Notwithstanding section 444 of the General Education Provision Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g), commonly referred to as FERPA, the decision letter must include the rationale for the decision and the sanctions<sup>19</sup>. The decision will include information about appealing the decision and/or sanctions.

Decision letters must include (1) identification of the allegations; (2) a description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of a formal complaint through determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held, if

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<sup>18</sup> Result is defined as any initial, interim and final decision by any official or entity authorized to resolve disciplinary matters within the institution. The result must include any sanction imposed by the institution.

<sup>19</sup> The decision of the DA will include how the university weighted the evidence and information presented during the hearing, how the evidence and information support the decision and sanctions, and how the standard of evidence was applied.

any; (3) a finding for each allegation as to whether the conduct occurred and findings of fact supporting the determination; (4) conclusion regarding the application of the university's conduct standards to the facts; (5) a statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation including a determination regarding responsibility (substantiated, unsubstantiated, or there is insufficient information to substantiate that the respondent violated System Regulation 08.01.01 and/or Rule 08.01.01.M1), any disciplinary sanctions the university imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the university's education program or activity will be provided by the university to the complainant, and; (6) the university's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal the decision and/or sanctions. If it was alleged that any other system regulations or university rules, SAPs, codes, or policies were violated, there will be a statement of responsibility as to these allegations as well. The decision on responsibility made by the DA does not constitute an employment action with respect to faculty and non-faculty employees. Any sanction against an employee, imposed as a result of a substantiated finding, will constitute an employment action.

If for any reason there is reasonable cause for the university to delay the issuance of the decision letter, this will be communicated to the parties by the DA or designee. If a student respondent withdraws or graduates from the university pending the resolution of a complaint, the process will continue and, the university will not issue a transcript on behalf of the student until the conclusion of the process.

Upon request by another postsecondary educational institution, the university must provide to the requesting institution any determination that a student violated the university's code of conduct by committing sexual harassment, sexual assault, sex-based misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking based on sex.

The goal is to resolve complaints in a reasonably prompt timeframe; however, extenuating circumstances requiring additional time may necessitate an extension for good cause. Written notice of the delay and the reason for the delay is provided to the complainant and the respondent by CREI or designee.

***Procedures governing the resolution of all other civil rights complaints (allegations other than sexual harassment and sex-based misconduct)***

Following are the resolution procedures for non sex-based complaints based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, and/or veteran status. When a complaint involves allegations of misconduct that involve both sex-based allegations and allegations of other civil rights violations, the process shall be conducted under the requirements established for sex-based offenses (see page 34).

The DA will review the unredacted final investigation report (see footnote 15), the documentary evidence, and any other relevant information. If the DA has substantial doubts about the thoroughness, fairness, and/or impartiality of the investigation, the DA may refer the matter back to the IA with further instructions, which could include the appointment of a different IA. At any time prior to the adjudication of a formal complaint, the parties may seek informal resolution to resolve the complaint.

The DA will develop a draft decision (see footnote 18), based on the preponderance of the evidence, as to a) a finding for each allegation as to whether conduct occurred; and b) a finding of responsibility for each allegation: substantiated, unsubstantiated, or there is insufficient information to substantiate that the respondent violated System Regulation 08.01.01 and/or Rule 08.01.01.M1. If it was alleged that any other system regulations or university rules, SAPs, codes, or policies were violated, there will be a statement of responsibility as to these allegations as well.

The DA will submit the draft decision to OGC within 5 business days after receiving the final investigation report and consult, as needed, with respect to sanctioning. OGC will coordinate with SECO and provide its

review of the draft decision within 5 business days. For a complaint against a student, it may be impractical for OGC to review the intended decision prior to issuance by the DA. Universities are therefore exempt from obtaining OGC review of the decision, for student complainants, prior to issuance but may request assistance from OGC and SECO when needed.

The DA will have 5 business days to finalize the decision and simultaneously notify the parties, the IA, and any other university official with a need to know, in writing, of the decision and sanctions. In cases in which the allegations are substantiated, the final decision will also be provided to an employee respondent's supervisor. The decision must include any sanctions imposed by the institution. Notwithstanding section 444 of the General Education Provision Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g), commonly referred to as FERPA, in the decision, the DA will state the rationale for the decision and the sanctions, if any (see footnote 19). The final decision will include instructions for appealing the decision and/or sanctions.

Circumstances may warrant extensions to the time frames in this section. The DA should send an extension request, if needed, to the office or individuals who appointed them. Both the complainant(s) and the respondent(s) should be notified of any extensions in writing.

### ***Sanctioning Considerations***

In determining appropriate sanctions, many factors may be considered. Factors include, but are not limited to:

- the expressed wishes of the complainant(s),
- the nature of the conduct,
- the impact of the conduct on the complainant(s) and university community and the need to protect the safety of the university community,
- prior disciplinary history of the respondent,
- whether the respondent has accepted responsibility for the conduct,
- the necessity of any specific action in order to eliminate the discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation and prevent its recurrence, as well as the need to remedy its effects on the complainant(s) or other university community members, and/or
- any other mitigating, aggravating, or compelling circumstances.

### ***Sanctioning for Employees***

If an employee is found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct, the sanction will be termination of employment. If an employee is found to have engaged in conduct prohibited by System Regulation 08.01.01 and/or Rule 08.01.01.M1 (other than sexual harassment and/or sex-based misconduct), the DA may assign appropriate sanction(s) which may have educational, restorative, punitive, and rehabilitative components. Sanctions include written warning or reprimand, required training and/or attendance at counseling, no contact directives, probation, suspension, and termination.

If an employee is found responsible for violating any other rule, policy, SAP, code, or regulation, the DA may assign appropriate sanction(s) or may refer the sanctioning to any other appropriate university administrator.

### ***Sanctioning for Students***

If a student is found responsible for sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct, the student will be sanctioned in accordance with the [Texas A&M University Title IX Cumulative Student Sanctioning Matrix](#) which is described in the following table. Behavior examples identified in the table are not intended to represent an exhaustive listing of sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct. If a student is found responsible for engaging in any other form of conduct prohibited by System Regulation 08.01.01 or Rule 08.01.01.M1, or if the student

is found responsible for violating any other university rule or System regulation, the DA will assign appropriate sanctions which may have educational, restorative, and rehabilitative components and/or may place a student in a probationary or review status or separate the student from the university.

Sexual Harassment (defined on page 14)			
Stage 1 Sanction	Stage 2 Sanction	Stage 3 Sanction	Stage 4 Sanction
Severe, persistent, and objectively offensive sexual innuendos, jokes, remarks, questions, gestures, and/or gifts of a sexual nature	Any one or the combination of Stage 1 behaviors, plus:	Any one or the combination of Stage 1 and/or Stage 2 behaviors, plus a behavior from another category	Any one or the combination of Stage 1, Stage 2 and/or Stage 3 behaviors, plus a behavior from another category
Display of sexually explicit visual material	A behavior from another category		
Unwelcome kissing or non-fondling sexual touching	Offering to trade an education benefit for a date or sexual favors		
Dating or Domestic Violence (defined on pages 54-55)			
Stage 1 Sanction	Stage 2 Sanction	Stage 3 Sanction	Stage 4 Sanction
Intimidation: Using actions, gestures, and tone of voice to indicate a threat of violence	Any one or combination of Stage 1 behaviors, plus:	Any one or combination of Stage 2 behaviors, plus:	Any one or combination of Stage 1, Stage 2 and/or Stage 3 behaviors
	Preventing complainant from calling for help	Displaying weapons and/or throwing objects at a person with potential to injure	
	Destruction of property		
	Physical abuse: Pushing, shoving, hair-pulling, scratching, and/or hitting		
Stalking (defined on pages 55-57)			
Stage 1 Sanction	Stage 2 Sanction	Stage 3 Sanction	Stage 4 Sanction
Repeated, unsolicited phone calls, emails, texts, and/or gifts to another person and/or their family/household	Any one or combination of Stage 1 behaviors, plus:	Any one or combination of Stage 1 and/or Stage 2 behaviors, plus a behavior from another category	Any one or combination of Stage 1, Stage 2 and/or Stage 3 behaviors
Repeatedly following another person or conducting surveillance of another person and/or their family/household	Second violation of stalking		
	Repeated, unsolicited visits to another person's home, business, and/or class, and/or that of their family/household		
	Repeated, unsolicited contact or attempts to contact via social media		
	Assuming another's identity in order to make contact with complainant		
Sexual Exploitation (defined on page 14)			
Stage 1 Sanction	Stage 2 Sanction	Stage 3 Sanction	Stage 4 Sanction
Viewing of nudity or engaging in sexual behaviors without attempts to shield others	Any one or combination of Stage 1 behaviors, plus:	Any one or combination of Stage 1 and/or Stage 2 behaviors, plus:	Any one or combination of Stage 1, Stage 2 and/or Stage 3 behaviors, plus:
Allowing others to observe sexual activity without the other person's consent	Taking or transmitting images or videos of another person in a sexual, intimate, or private act without that person's consent	Engaging in sexual activity while knowingly infected with an STD without the other person's knowledge	Prostituting another person



	Distributing sexual or intimate images or recordings of another person without that person's consent	Indecent exposure	
	Collecting, creating, viewing and/or distributing child pornography/sexual images of those under 18		
Sex-based Misconduct (defined on page 14)			
Stage 1 Sanction	Stage 2 Sanction	Stage 3 Sanction	Stage 4 Sanction
Severe, persistent, or pervasive sexual innuendos, jokes, remarks, questions, gestures, and/or gifts of a sexual nature	Any one or combination of Stage 1 behaviors, plus a behavior from another category, plus:	Any one or combination of Stage 1 and/or Stage 2 behaviors	Any one or combination of Stage 1, Stage 2 and/or Stage 3 behaviors
Display of sexually explicit visual material	Offering to trade an education benefit for a date or sexual favors		
Unwelcomed kissing or non-fondling sexual touching			
Allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking based on sex that are dismissed from the Title IX process under <a href="#">08.01.01 Section 4.2.10(d) and (e)</a>			
Sexual Assault (defined on page 49-54)			
Stage 1 Sanction	Stage 2 Sanction	Stage 3 Sanction	Stage 4 Sanction
n/a	Fondling of breasts, groin, genitals, or buttocks above or below clothing	A Stage 2 behavior and/or:	Any one or combination of Stage 2 and/or Stage 3 behaviors with predation <sup>20</sup>
		Oral sex	
		Penetration (by sex organs)	
		Penetration (by means other than sex organs)	
		Incest	
		Statutory rape	
Retaliation (defined on page 14)			
Stage 1 Sanction	Stage 2 Sanction	Stage 3 Sanction	Stage 4 Sanction
n/a	Threats in retaliation for reporting sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and/or stalking	A Stage 2 behavior and/or:	Any one or combination of Stage 2 and/or Stage 3 behaviors
		Intimidation or physical abuse in retaliation for reporting sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and/or stalking	

<sup>20</sup> Predation is an intent to engage in acts of misconduct prior to its occurrence, demonstrating premeditation, planning or forethought. Predation is reflected in communicated intent (physical, verbal, visual, or written), threats directed at a party, attempts to incapacitate a party, attempts to isolate a party, utilizing physical force or violence, or other actions that a reasonable person would construe as a pre-meditation to engage in actions that are unwanted by/against the recipient. Committing any of these actions with an individual under the age of consent is also considered predatory.

The Stage 4 sanction is expulsion. The Stage 3 sanction is suspension. The Stage 2 sanction is conduct probation. Stage 1 sanctions include conduct reviews, restrictions, restitution, community/university service, educational requirements, and letters of reprimand. Texas A&M University sanctions are defined below.

*Texas A&M Student Sanctioning Matrix - Stage 4 Sanctions*

**Expulsion:** Separation of the student from the university whereby the student is not eligible for readmission to this University.

*Texas A&M Student Sanctioning Matrix - Stage 3 Sanctions*

**Letter of Enrollment Block:** A letter stating that the student may not reenter Texas A&M University without prior approval through CREI, the Offices of the Dean of Student Life, or the Vice President for Student Affairs (in collaboration with appropriate law school administrators) if enrollment has been blocked for a previous student conduct problem.

**Suspension:** Separation of the student from the university for a definite period of time. The student is not guaranteed readmission at the end of such period of time, but is guaranteed a review of the case and a decision regarding eligibility for readmission. The suspension takes effect when the appeal for the offense is exhausted, waived or time limit has passed. Suspensions may be implemented in one of two ways: immediate implementation of suspension or deferred implementation of suspension. The sanction of suspension may be placed in deferred status. If the student is found in violation of any university's regulations, policies, rules, codes, or SAPs during the time of deferred suspension, the suspension takes effect immediately without further review. Additional student conduct sanctions appropriate to the new violation also may be applied. A student who has been issued a deferred suspension sanction is deemed "not in good standing<sup>21</sup>" with the university.

At the end of the suspension period, the student is eligible for reenrollment. Actual admission to the university will be determined by the academic rules in place at the time of application for reenrollment. If admitted, the student is required to attend a mandatory meeting with the Student Conduct Office (979-847-7272) prior to course registration.

*Texas A&M Student Sanctioning Matrix - Stage 2 Sanctions*

**Conduct Probation:** An official warning that the student's conduct is in violation of Texas A&M University regulations, policies, rules, codes, or SAPs, but is not sufficiently serious to warrant expulsion or suspension. A student on conduct probation is deemed "not in good standing" with the university (see footnote 21). If there is a finding of responsibility for subsequent violations of the university's regulations, policies, rules, codes, or SAPs during this period of time, more severe sanctions may be administered.

*Texas A&M Student Sanctioning Matrix - Stage 1 Sanctions*

**Conduct Review:** An official warning that the student's conduct is in violation of Texas A&M University regulations, policies, rules, codes, or SAPs, but is not sufficiently serious to warrant expulsion, suspension, or conduct probation. A student on conduct review shall have their conduct under review for a specified period of time. This sanction may require regular meetings with an

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<sup>21</sup> A student who is not in good standing is subject to the following restrictions: (1) Ineligibility to hold an office in any student organization recognized by the university or to hold any elected or appointed office of the university. (2) Ineligibility to represent the university in any way, including representing the university at any official function, intercollegiate athletics or any forms of intercollegiate competition or representation. This includes events taking place both on and off of the university campus. (3) Ineligibility to receive a university administered scholarship when the length of the period of not in good standing is greater than one semester. Some scholarships adhere to more strict guidelines, and, therefore, ineligibility may result from a lesser length of not in good standing. This sanction implies a serious offense and must be uniformly applied by the office administering the scholarship upon notification by CREI. (4) Additional restrictions or conditions also may be imposed, depending on the nature and seriousness of the misconduct.

appropriate official to ascertain and evaluate compliance with student rules. Additional restrictions or conditions also may be imposed, depending on the nature and seriousness of the misconduct. Students placed on this sanction remain in good standing with the university. If there is a finding of responsibility for subsequent violations of regulations, policies, rules, codes, or SAPs during this period of time, more severe sanctions may be administered.

**Restrictions:** The withdrawal of specified privileges for a definite period of time, but without the additional stipulations contained in the imposition of a sanction which results in a student being not in good standing. The restrictions involved will be clearly defined.

**Restitution:** A payment for financial injury to an innocent party in cases involving theft, destruction of property or deception. The assessed costs to be paid may be in addition to receipt of any of the above sanctions.

**Community/University Service:** A student may be offered an opportunity to complete a specified number of hours of community/university service. The type of community/university service must be approved by the respondent's CREI Case Manager.

**Educational Requirements:** A provision to complete a specific educational requirement. Such educational requirements may include, but are not limited to, completion of an alcohol education workshop, a diversity awareness workshop, essays, reports, reflective writing assignments, etc.

**Letter of Reprimand:** A letter that makes a matter of record any incident that reflects unfavorably on the student or the university.

### *Minimum Sanctions*

In addition, students found responsible for committing dating or domestic violence and/or non-consensual sexual penetration of another person will be subject to a minimum sanction of a one-year suspension, in the absence of significant mitigating factors. Students found responsible for these acts who have demonstrated predation for the purpose of carrying out these acts will be subject to permanent expulsion.

Students found responsible for committing acts of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking based on sex, and/or any other sex-based misconduct who are allowed to return after a suspension of one year or more will be ineligible to hold an office in any student organization, ineligible to represent the university in any way (including intercollegiate athletics or other competitions, both on and off campus), and ineligible to receive an institutional scholarship, in the absence of significant mitigating factors.

### *Campus Housing Sanctions*

In addition to the sanctions specified in the [Texas A&M University Title IX Cumulative Student Sanctioning Matrix](#), occupants of each residence hall, by majority vote, have the power to establish additional "in house" rules approved by the Department of Residence Life. Generally, "in house" rule infractions are handled by Residence Life staff. Campus housing sanctions are described below.

**Loss of Campus Housing Privilege:** Removal from university housing for conduct reasons.

**Deferred Loss of Campus Housing Privilege:** The sanction of loss of campus housing privilege may be placed in deferred status. If a student is found in violation of any university rule during the time of the deferred sanction, removal from housing takes effect immediately without further review.

Additional student conduct sanctions appropriate to the new violation also may be taken. In addition, a student is ineligible to hold an elected or appointed office in any affiliated housing organization. This includes but is not limited to the following offices/positions: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, Residential Housing Association delegate.

**Campus Housing Probation:** An official notice that the student's conduct is in violation of residence hall rules, university apartments rules and/or university rules and that more stringent student conduct sanctions, including removal from housing, may result if future violations occur. In addition, a student is ineligible to hold an elected or appointed office in any affiliated housing organization. This includes but is not limited to the following offices/positions: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, Residential Housing Association delegate.

### *Corps of Cadets Sanctions*

In addition to any of the sanctions listed in this section, members of the Corps of Cadets are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Corps Operations Manual.

### ***Appeals procedures governing the resolution of all sexual harassment and sex-based misconduct allegations, see definitions on page 14***

An appeal of a complaint dismissal, hearing decision, and/or sanctions related to an allegation of sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct may be made by the complainant and/or the respondent. The AA, the individual or panel responsible for rendering appeal decisions, is assigned based on the status of the respondent in accordance with the following table. AAs shall not have had any previous involvement and/or participation in the investigation and/or decision pertaining to an appeal under review.

If the allegations are against a:	Student	Non-Faculty Employee and Third Party	Faculty Employee
Then the AA is:	University Disciplinary Appeals Panel (UDAP) who may refer the appeal to the Dean of Student Life or designee <a href="https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule58/">https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule58/</a>	Vice President for the Division of Human Resources and Organizational Effectiveness or designee <a href="https://policies.tamus.edu/32-01-02.pdf">https://policies.tamus.edu/32-01-02.pdf</a>	Provost and Executive Vice President or designee who may seek an advisory opinion from the University Committee on Faculty Disciplinary Appeals (UCFD) before rendering decision

All appeals will be confined to a review of the record from the investigation and any relevant evidence, as well as the DA's decision as related to the grounds for appeal. The appeal does not create an entitlement to a new investigation. The appeals process carries a presumption that the original decision was correct unless a preponderance of the evidence demonstrates that one or more of the conditions of the appeal are met, and that either or both parties was deprived of a fair process.

Appeals must be submitted in writing and must include a statement outlining the basis for the appeal<sup>22</sup> and any evidence which supports the appeal. Appeals must be filed at the location and within the timeframe dated in the DA's written notice of the decision (within 5 business days of notification of the decision). Decisions made

<sup>22</sup> Results (decision and/or sanctions) or dismissal of a complaint can be appealed on any of all of the following bases, as applicable: (a) A procedural irregularity that affected the outcome; (b) New evidence, not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter. The new evidence must be provided at the time of the appeal through the designated mechanism for filing an appeal; (c) The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s) or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter; or (d) The appropriateness or severity of the sanctions. If an employee was found to have sexually harassed another member of the university or agency community, the appropriateness or severity of the sanction cannot be appealed.

by the DA shall not be final until an appeal deadline is passed, or when the appeal process is exhausted, or when all parties choose not to appeal.

To be a valid appeal, the appeal must: (1) be filed at the location and within the time frame stated in the DA's written notice; (2) identify one of the bases for appeal (see footnote 22); and (3) provide credible information or evidence substantiating the identified bases for appeal.

If the AA determines that an appeal is not valid, the AA will provide simultaneous written notice to the parties and CREI that no valid appeal was filed and that the decision of the DA is final and the case is closed.

If a timely and valid appeal is filed by either party, the other party will be notified as soon as practical thereafter by the AA. The parties will be given 3 business days to review the appeal and submit a written response a) that provides support for or challenges the decision by the DA, and b) that responds to the appeal bases submitted by the appealing party. Any written response must be submitted to the AA.

The AA will review the investigation report, the DA's decision on responsibility and/or sanctions, the documentary evidence, the record from the hearing (if applicable), and any other relevant information and render a written decision on the appeal. If both parties file a valid appeal, the AA will review both appeals and will render decisions accordingly.

The AA will render one or more of the following written decisions:

- Affirm the DA's decision on responsibility and, if applicable, the sanctions. There are no relevant issues of concern related to the ground(s) of the appeal, and, therefore, the decision is affirmed and final.
- Remand the complaint back to the DA because new evidence, not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, appears to be relevant and could have significantly affected the outcome of the decision on responsibility, dismissal of the complaint, or the sanctions. The DA will reconvene the hearing for the limited purpose of considering the new evidence. The DA will issue a new decision which may be appealed by the parties in accordance with the previously described appeal procedures.
- Remand the complaint back to the DA with an instruction to correct the procedural error or omission. If the procedural error occurred in the investigation phase, the DA will instruct the IA to correct the procedural error or omission and amend the Investigative Report, as appropriate. The IA will then submit the amended investigative report to the parties for review and response and then to the DA for a new decision in accordance with formal resolution procedures. If the procedural error occurred in the resolution phase, the DA will correct the procedural error or omission and then issue a new decision in accordance with the formal resolution procedures. The new decision of the DA may be appealed by the parties in accordance previously described appeal procedures.
- Remand the complaint to 1) CREI or 2) SECO with the instruction to remedy a bias by the IA or DA or the Title IX Coordinator. If bias was present in the IA, CREI will appoint a new IA to review the investigation, collect additional evidence or information as appropriate, and follow the investigation requirements as outlined in the formal resolution procedures. A new report will be written and provided to the DA for a new hearing. If the bias was present in the DA, CREI will appoint a new DA to re-hear the case with the existing investigation. If the bias was present in the Title IX Coordinator, SECO will appoint a new staff member to address the influence of the Title IX Coordinator on the case.

- Modify the decision on sanctions because the sanctions given were inappropriate or disproportionate to the severity of the conduct after considering all the circumstances<sup>23</sup>. The AA will impose new sanctions, which are final.

Notwithstanding section 444 of the General Education Provision Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g), commonly referred to as FERPA, the AA will render a written decision simultaneously to the parties that includes a rationale for the decision as to each of the grounds appealed, changes occurring based on appeal, and when such results become final (see footnote 19).

To the extent reasonably possible:

- For student respondents: The AA will provide the written decision simultaneously to the parties and CREI within 10 business days following the 3 business day review deadline. AAs are exempt from obtaining OGC review of decisions for student respondents prior to issuance but may request assistance from OGC and SECO when needed.
- For employee or third-party respondents: The AA will provide a draft decision to OGC for review within 5 business days following the 3 business day review deadline. System Office officials will provide its review of the draft decision to the AA within 5 business days. To the extent possible, the AA will provide a final written decision simultaneously to the parties and CREI within 5 business days of receipt of the review from the System Office. If the complaint on appeal is substantiated, the respondent's supervisor will also be informed.

The decision of the AA is considered be final and binding on all involved parties.

Circumstances may warrant extensions to the timeframes outlined in this section. The AA may send an extension request to the office or individual who appointed them with a rationale for an extension. If the extension is granted, the AA will notify the parties and CREI in writing.

***Appeal procedures governing the resolution of other complaints (allegations other than sexual harassment and sex-based misconduct)***

Any employee disciplined pursuant to this regulation may appeal that action in accordance with [System Policy 12.01, Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure](#); [System Policy 32.01, Employee Complaint and Appeal Procedures](#); [System Regulation 32.01.01, Complaint and Appeal Procedures for Faculty Members](#); [System Regulation 32.01.02, Complaint and Appeal Process for Nonfaculty Employees](#); and/or other system policies or regulations as appropriate.

Any student receiving a sanction of separation (expulsion or suspension) pursuant to this regulation may appeal the sanction in accordance with the code of conduct for student grievances, [Student Rule 51. Student Conduct Separation and Appeal](#).

***Extensions***

The university will make every reasonable effort to comply with the timelines contained in this procedure. However, extensions may be obtained by the IA, DA, or AA, as appropriate under the circumstances. Time frames for the receipt, investigation, and adjudication of complaints may be extended for good cause. Good cause is to be determined by the university in consultation with OGC and SECO and reasonable extensions

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<sup>23</sup> If an employee was found to have sexually harassed another member of the university or agency community, the AA may not render a decision which modifies the sanctions.

may be granted at the discretion of the university. Circumstances that warrant an extension may include, but are not limited to:

- Temporary unavailability of the complainant(s), respondent(s) or witnesses;
- Delays in issuance and/or receipt of information to or from the IA;
- Temporary unavailability of the IA, DA, or AA due to illness, family needs or professional commitments;
- Holidays or other periods when the complainant, respondent, witnesses, or other university employees may be unavailable; and/or
- New allegations, new evidence, new witnesses, or any other fact or circumstance that would require further investigation.

All requests for extensions must be justified in writing and shall be sent by the IA, DA, or AA to OREC for review and approval by the Chief Risk, Ethics, and Compliance Officer or designee. CREI will simultaneously notify the complainant and respondent in writing of any extensions and the reason for the extensions.

#### Dismissals under Title IX

Cases involving allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking based on sex are subject to mandatory or discretionary dismissal from the Title IX process<sup>24</sup> under federal law. However, at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with OGC and SECO, cases dismissed from the Title IX process may be subject to investigation and adjudication as sex-based misconduct which provides for the same investigation and resolution process as cases meeting sexual harassment under Title IX.

#### ***Mandatory dismissals***

If the conduct alleged in the formal complaint would not constitute sexual harassment as defined even if proved, did not occur in the university's education program or activity, or did not occur against a person in the United States, then the university must dismiss the formal complaint with regard to that conduct for purposes of sexual harassment under Title IX only. Such dismissal does not preclude action under

- Sex-based Misconduct procedures as outlined on page 34 or
- Another provision of the university's conduct standards.

#### ***Discretionary dismissals***

The university may dismiss a formal complaint for the purposes of sexual harassment under Title IX if the complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant wishes to withdraw it, if the respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the university, or if specific circumstances prevent the university from collecting evidence sufficient to reach a determination (for example, when the complainant has ceased participating in the process; in certain fact specific cases when the passage of time precludes the collection of sufficient evidence; when complainant's identity is not known; and when the exact same allegations have already been investigated and adjudicated). Such dismissal does not preclude action under

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<sup>24</sup> Complaints will be processed under Title IX if all of the following apply: (1) The university has actual knowledge of a notice of sexual harassment or a complaint involving allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and/or dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking based on sex to the Title IX Coordinator or any university official who has authority to institute corrective measures and redress harassment on behalf of the university including Deputy Title IX Coordinators, the Chief Risk, Ethics and Compliance Officer, the Director of Employee Relations, the Vice President for Human Resources, the Dean of Faculties, the Office of the Provost, the Dean of Students, the Dean of Student Life, and the Associate Director of Student Life. Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge; (2) A formal complaint is filed by the complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator; (3) The alleged behavior/conduct must have occurred against a person while in the United States; (4) At the time the formal complaint was filed, the complainant was participating or attempting to participate in the university's education program or activity. This includes an enrolled student, an employee, and applicants for admission or employment at the university, and; (5) The alleged conduct meets the definition of sexual harassment as set forth in this policy.



- Sex-based Misconduct procedures as outlined on page 34 or
- Another provision of the university's conduct standards.

Upon a dismissal required or permitted pursuant to the above, the university must promptly send written notice of the dismissal and the reason(s) therefore simultaneously to the parties. The parties must be given the opportunity to appeal a dismissal to the designated AA in accordance with the appeal procedures referenced above.

### **Prevention and Awareness Programs<sup>25</sup>**

Primary prevention programs are directed at incoming students and new employees. The primary programs are defined as programming, initiatives, and strategies informed by research or assessed for value, effectiveness, or outcome that are intended to stop dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking before they occur through the promotion of positive and healthy behaviors that foster healthy, mutually respectful relationships and sexual interactions, encourage safe bystander intervention, and seek to change behavior and social norms in healthy and safe directions.

The law school provides culturally relevant, inclusive primary prevention and awareness education to incoming students at new student orientation to clearly define sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and consent. A video presentation identifies sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking as conduct prohibited by the university and provides information regarding bystander intervention, risk reduction in recognizing warning signs of abusive behavior, ways to avoid potential attacks, and victims' rights and options. The training includes procedures victims should follow if sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking occurs and procedures the institution will follow when one of these behaviors is reported. This includes, but is not limited to, the importance of preserving evidence, options for notifying law enforcement and campus authorities, procedures for institutional disciplinary action and conduct proceedings, possible sanctions following a proceeding, on-campus and community resources, rights and options for obtaining lawful orders, assistance in receiving support measures and remedial action, how the institution will protect the confidentiality of victims and other necessary parties, and protection from retaliation.

The university requires a mandatory online training module (Sexual Assault Prevention) focused on sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Each semester, the training is sent to all incoming Texas A&M University undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. New students are required to complete this training at all campuses with the exception of Texas A&M University Qatar.

New employees currently receive web-based *Creating a Discrimination Free Workplace* training mandated by The Texas A&M University System. All employees are required to complete the training every two years thereafter.

Ongoing prevention and awareness campaigns are directed at students and employees. The ongoing campaigns are defined as programming, initiatives, and strategies that are sustained over time and focus on increasing understanding of topics relevant to and skills for addressing dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking using a range of strategies with audiences throughout the institution. The same

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<sup>25</sup> For the purposes of this section awareness programs means community-wide or audience-specific programming, initiatives, and strategies that increase audience knowledge and share information and resources to prevent violence, promote safety, and reduce perpetration. Programs to prevent dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking means comprehensive, intentional, and integrated programming, initiatives, strategies, and campaigns intended to end dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking that are culturally relevant, inclusive of diverse communities and identities, sustainable, responsive to community needs, and informed by research, assessed for value, effectiveness, or outcome; and consider environmental risk and protective factors as they occur on the individual, relationship, institutional, community, and societal levels.

information included in the institution's primary prevention and awareness programs is incorporated into ongoing prevention and awareness campaigns. The university supports ongoing campaigns for students and employees to promote awareness and preventions of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking as described below.

Health Promotion (including an interpersonal violence unit) provides Green Dot Bystander Intervention training that addresses the dynamics and frequency of sexual assault; safety against and prevention of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking; recognizing signs of unhealthy relationships; and active bystander intervention. Through Green Dot training, participants learn how to use the 3 D's (direct, delegate, and distract) to intervene in any acts of power-based personal violence they may witness. Health Promotion furthers prevention of power-based interpersonal violence at the university by offering Green Dot and other education and training on the topics of bystander intervention, consensual language, healthy relationships, and responding to and assisting survivors of sexual assault. These programs occur throughout the year and are available upon request (<https://studentlife.tamu.edu/hp/presentations/>, [healthpromotion@tamu.edu](mailto:healthpromotion@tamu.edu) or 979-845-0280). Presentations are provided for classes, student organization meetings, orientations, residence hall programs, and other events. Green Dot related training is available at the law school for students and employees annually through the Office of Student Affairs.

The Women's Resource Center (WRC) provides visibility, advocacy, support, and programming for students, faculty, and staff by educating campus and community constituencies on women's issues and functions as a resource and referral center (<http://studentlife.tamu.edu/wrc>, [wrc@tamu.edu](mailto:wrc@tamu.edu), or 979-845-8784). In the Fort Worth area, the Women's Resource Center of Tarrant County provides advocacy, education, prevention programs and support service for students, faculty, and staff and can be contacted at (817) 927-2737, <http://womenscentertc.org/>.

The Division of Human Resources and Organizational Effectiveness offers training for employees regarding fostering respect in a diverse workplace and inclusion that covers information about the employee's and supervisor's role in maintaining a work environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. Participants have the opportunity to review federal equality laws, identify and discuss behaviors that might unknowingly contribute to a disrespectful or hostile environment, and identify ways to be proactive in creating a respectful work environment. Other online courses are offered that provide guidance in following university policies and rules and reporting and addressing complaints.

The law school distributes a notice of nondiscrimination to students and employees annually which describes university resources, support, and reporting procedures to those impacted by sexual harassment and sexual violence. The nondiscrimination notice is maintained on the webpage, [notice of nondiscrimination](#). A law school webpage called Title IX, Resources, and Assistance (<http://law.tamu.edu/current-students/student-affairs/title-ix>) provides similar information concerning resources, rights, and options available in response to sexual harassment, sexual violence (including dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), reporting, and other institutional assistance.

All students are provided a written notification about existing resources for law school students including counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other services available for victims both on the law school campus and in the Fort Worth community. The written notification is provided to students by the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and to employees by Human Resources. These contacts distribute an annual email (fall semester) that contains information covering how to report incidents, applicable policies, and other available options in addition to existing services and resources.

## **Bystander Intervention and Risk Reduction<sup>26</sup>**

Everyone has a role in changing community knowledge, attitudes and behaviors. Change happens as each person is able to identify risky situations and take action to confront, interrupt, or prevent acts of sexual violence. Bystander intervention programs can help individuals observe a situation and determine an appropriate intervention where someone could use some help. Bystander intervention means just that; people taking care of others. If you find a friend in a situation that concerns you, consider the following strategies to intervene safely and effectively.

- Create a distraction to interrupt the flow of events
- Involve others to help you
- Make an excuse to remove a friend from the situation
- Point out the unwanted behavior in a safe and respectful manner
- Call for help, if needed

Sexual assault is never a victim's fault. However, there are ways that may reduce the risk of being sexually assaulted including being prepared, alert, and assertive. Consider the following tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Practice responsible drinking; alcohol is a factor in many sexual assaults
- Never leave your drink unattended
- Don't accept drinks from someone you don't know or trust
- Stay with your friends and make sure your friends stay with you
- Be careful of online relationships
- Trust your instincts

We are reminded to think about relationships, specifically relationships that may be, or become abusive. Be aware of the signs:

- Is one of the partners verbally and emotionally abusive?
- Is one of the partners isolating the other from friends and family?
- Is one of the partners controlling, intimidating or always jealous?
- Is there a threat of harm?

## **Other Considerations**

### **Prohibition of Retaliation**

The law school prohibits retaliation. Texas A&M University or an officer, employee, or agent of Texas A&M University may not retaliate, intimidate, threaten, coerce, or otherwise discriminate against any individual for exercising their rights or responsibilities under any provision of the Clery Act.

### **Victim Notification**

In accordance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act, upon written request, the law school will disclose to the alleged victim of any crime of violence, or non-forcible sex offense, the report on the results of any disciplinary proceeding conducted by the law school against a student who is the alleged perpetrator of such

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<sup>26</sup> For the purposes of this section bystander intervention means safe and positive options that may be carried out by an individual or individuals to prevent harm or intervene when there is a risk of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Bystander intervention includes recognizing situations of potential harm, understanding institutional structures and cultural conditions that facilitate violence, overcoming barriers to intervening, identifying safe and effective intervention options, and taking action to intervene. Risk reduction means options designed to decrease perpetration and bystander inaction, and to increase empowerment for victims in order to promote safety and to help individuals and communities address conditions that facilitate violence.

crime or offense with respect to such crime or offense. If the alleged victim is deceased as a result of such crime or offense, the next of kin of such victim shall be treated as the alleged victim for the purposes of this paragraph.

Institutions are required to provide both the complainant and the respondent with simultaneous written notification of any result of any institutional conduct proceeding that arises from an allegation of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. In these cases, it is not necessary for the victim to make a written request.

## **Sex Offender Registry**

Section 121 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16921) provides for the tracking of registered sex offenders and instructs states to post sex offender data on the internet.

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is the official Texas internet source for Sex Offender Registration information. The Sex Offender Registration open record information is extracted from the DPS Sex Offender Registration Database. The DPS maintains files based on registration information submitted by criminal justice agencies and represents a statewide source of information on sex offenders required to register by law. The DPS Texas Public Sex Offender Registry website is found at:

<https://publicsite.dps.texas.gov/SexOffenderRegistry>.

## **Definitions of Clery Act Offenses**

**Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter:** The willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.

**Manslaughter By Negligence:** The killing of another person through gross negligence.

**Sexual Assault:** An offense that meets the definition of rape, fondling, incest or statutory rape. A sex offense is any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent (see consent section below).

Rape: The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. This offense includes the rape of both males and females.

Fondling: The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

Incest: Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Statutory Rape: Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

Consent:

[Texas A&M University System Regulation](#)

[System Regulation 08.01.01, Civil Rights Compliance](#) provides guidance in complying with local, state and federal civil rights laws and regulations and related system policy. This regulation establishes

system-wide standards for the receipt and processing of complaints, appeals, or reports of discrimination, sexual harassment and/or related retaliation based on protected class including complaints made by employees, students, and/or third parties.

According to [System Regulation 08.01.01, Civil Rights Compliance](#), consent is clear, voluntary, and ongoing agreement to engage in a specific sexual act. Persons need to verbalize their consent to engage in a sexual act for there to be permission. Permission to engage in a sexual act may be indicated through physical actions rather than words. A person who is asleep or mentally or physically incapacitated, either through the effect of drugs or alcohol or for any other reason, or whose agreement was made by threat, coercion, or force, cannot give consent. Consent may be revoked by any party at any time.

#### Texas Penal Code

According to the [Texas Penal Code, Sec. 1.02. Objectives of Code](#), the general purposes of the Texas Penal Code are to establish a system of prohibitions, penalties, and correctional measures to deal with conduct that unjustifiably and inexcusably causes or threatens harm to those individual or public interests for which state protection is appropriate.

*Consent* is defined in the [Texas Penal Code, Section 1.07\(11\)](#) as assent in fact, whether express or apparent. Without consent is also defined in the [Texas Penal Code, Section 22.011\(b\)](#) within the definition of sexual assault (see below).

*Sexual Assault* is defined in the [Texas Penal Code, Section 22.011](#) as follows.

- (a) A person commits an offense if:
  - (1) the person intentionally or knowingly:
    - (A) causes the penetration of the anus or sexual organ of another person by any means, without that person's consent;
    - (B) causes the penetration of the mouth of another person by the sexual organ of the actor, without that person's consent; or
    - (C) causes the sexual organ of another person, without that person's consent, to contact or penetrate the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of another person, including the actor; or
  - (2) regardless of whether the person knows the age of the child at the time of the offense, the intentionally or knowingly:
    - (A) causes the penetration of the anus or sexual organ of a child by any means;
    - (B) causes the penetration of the mouth of a child by the sexual organ of the actor;
    - (C) causes the sexual organ of a child to contact or penetrate the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of another person, including the actor;
    - (D) causes the anus of a child to contact the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of another person, including the actor; or
    - (E) causes the mouth of a child to contact the anus or sexual organ of another person, including the actor.
- (b) A sexual assault under Subsection (a)(1) is without the consent of the other person if:
  - (1) the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by the use of physical force, violence, or coercion;
  - (2) the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by threatening to use force or violence against the other person or to cause harm to the other person, and the other person believes that the actor has the present ability to execute the threat;
  - (3) the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unconscious or physically unable to resist;

- (4) the actor knows that as a result of mental disease or defect the other person is at the time of the sexual assault incapable either of appraising the nature of the act or of resisting it;
- (5) the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unaware that the sexual assault is occurring;
- (6) the actor has intentionally impaired the other person's power to appraise or control the other person's conduct by administering any substance without the other person's knowledge;
- (7) the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by threatening to use force or violence against any person, and the other person believes that the actor has the ability to execute the threat;
- (8) the actor is a public servant who coerces the other person to submit or participate;
- (9) the actor is a mental health services provider or a health care services provider who causes the other person, who is a patient or former patient of the actor, to submit or participate by exploiting the other person's emotional dependency on the actor;
- (10) the actor is a clergyman who causes the other person to submit or participate by exploiting the other person's emotional dependency on the clergyman in the clergyman's professional character as spiritual adviser;
- (11) the actor is an employee of a facility where the other person is a resident, unless the employee and resident are formally or informally married to each other under Chapter 2, Family Code; or
- (12) the actor is a health care services provider who, in the course of performing an assisted reproduction procedure on the other person, uses human reproductive material from a donor knowing that the other person has not expressly consented to the use of material from that donor.

(c) In this section:

- (1) "Child" means a person younger than 17 years of age.
- (2) "Spouse" means a person who is legally married to another.
- (3) "Health care services provider" means:
  - (A) a physician licensed under Subtitle B, Title 3, Occupations Code;
  - (B) a chiropractor licensed under Chapter 201, Occupations Code;
  - (C) a physical therapist licensed under Chapter 453, Occupations Code;
  - (D) a physician assistant licensed under Chapter 204, Occupations Code; or
  - (E) a registered nurse, a vocational nurse, or an advanced practice nurse licensed under Chapter 301, Occupations Code.
- (4) "Mental health services provider" means an individual, licensed or unlicensed, who performs or purports to perform mental health services, including a:
  - (A) licensed social worker as defined by Section 505.002, Occupations Code;
  - (B) chemical dependency counselor as defined by Section 504.001, Occupations Code;
  - (C) licensed professional counselor as defined by Section 503.002, Occupations Code;
  - (D) licensed marriage and family therapist as defined by Section 502.002, Occupations Code;
  - (E) member of the clergy;
  - (F) psychologist offering psychological services as defined by Section 501.003, Occupations Code; or
  - (G) special officer for mental health assignment certified under Section 1701.404, Occupations Code.
- (5) "Employee of a facility" means a person who is an employee of a facility defined by Section 250.001, Health and Safety Code, or any other person who provides services for a facility for compensation, including a contract laborer.
- (6) "Assisted reproduction" and "donor" have the meanings assigned by Section 160.102, Family Code.
- (7) "Human reproductive material" means:
  - (A) a human spermatozoon or ovum; or
  - (B) a human organism at any stage of development from fertilized ovum to embryo.

- (d) It is a defense to prosecution under Subsection (a)(2) that the conduct consisted of medical care for the child and did not include any contact between the anus or sexual organ of the child and the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of the actor or a third party.
- (e) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under Subsection (a)(2):
- (1) that the actor was the spouse of the child at the time of the offense; or
  - (2) that:
    - (A) the actor was not more than three years older than the victim and at the time of the offense:
      - (i) was not required under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure, to register for life as a sex offender; or
      - (ii) was not a person who under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure, had a reportable conviction or adjudication for an offense under this section; and
    - (B) the victim:
      - (i) was a child of 14 years of age or older; and
      - (ii) was not:
        - (a) a person whom the actor was prohibited from marrying or purporting to marry or with whom the actor was prohibited from living under the appearance of being married under Section 25.01; or
        - (b) a person with whom the actor was prohibited from engaging in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse under Section 25.02.

Text of subsection as amended by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 436 (S.B. 1259), Sec. 2

- (f) An offense under this section is a felony of the second degree, except that an offense under this section is:
- (1) a felony of the first degree if the victim was a person whom the actor was prohibited from marrying or purporting to marry or with whom the actor was prohibited from living under the appearance of being married under Section [25.01](#); or
  - (2) a state jail felony if the offense is committed under Subsection (a)(1) and the actor has not received express consent as described by Subsection (b)(12).

Text of subsection as amended by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 738 (H.B. 667), Sec. 2

- (f) An offense under this section is a felony of the second degree, except that an offense under this section is a felony of the first degree if the victim was:
- (1) a person whom the actor was prohibited from marrying or purporting to marry or with whom the actor was prohibited from living under the appearance of being married under Section [25.01](#); or
  - (2) a person with whom the actor was prohibited from engaging in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse under Section [25.02](#).

*Indecent Assault* is defined in the [Texas Penal Code, Section 22.012](#) as follows.

- (a) A person commits an offense if, without the other person's consent and with the intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person, the person:
- (1) touches the anus, breast, or any part of the genitals of another person;
  - (2) touches another person with the anus, breast, or any part of the genitals of any person;
  - (3) exposes or attempts to expose another person's genitals, pubic area, anus, buttocks, or female areola; or
  - (4) causes another person to contact the blood, seminal fluid, vaginal fluid, saliva, urine, or feces of any person.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.
- (c) If conduct that constitutes an offense under this section also constitutes an offense under another law, the actor may be prosecuted under this section, the other law, or both.

*Aggravated Sexual Assault* is defined in the [Texas Penal Code, Section 22.021](#) as follows.



- 
- (a) A person commits an offense:
- (1) if the person:
    - (A) intentionally or knowingly:
      - (i) causes the penetration of the anus or sexual organ of another person by any means, without that person's consent;
      - (ii) causes the penetration of the mouth of another person by the sexual organ of the actor, without that person's consent; or
      - (iii) causes the sexual organ of another person, without that person's consent, to contact or penetrate the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of another person, including the actor; or
    - (B) regardless of whether the person knows the age of the child at the time of the offense, intentionally or knowingly:
      - (i) causes the penetration of the anus or sexual organ of a child by any means;
      - (ii) causes the penetration of the mouth of a child by the sexual organ of the actor;
      - (iii) causes the sexual organ of a child to contact or penetrate the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of another person, including the actor;
      - (iv) causes the anus of a child to contact the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of another person, including the actor; or
      - (v) causes the mouth of a child to contact the anus or sexual organ of another person, including the actor; and
  - (2) if:
    - (A) the person:
      - (i) causes serious bodily injury or attempts to cause the death of the victim or another person in the course of the same criminal episode;
      - (ii) by acts or words places the victim in fear that any person will become the victim of an offense under Section [20A.02\(a\)\(3\)](#), (4), (7), or (8) or that death, serious bodily injury, or kidnapping will be imminently inflicted on any person;
      - (iii) by acts or words occurring in the presence of the victim threatens to cause any person to become the victim of an offense under Section [20A.02\(a\)\(3\)](#), (4), (7), or (8) or to cause the death, serious bodily injury, or kidnapping of any person;
      - (iv) uses or exhibits a deadly weapon in the course of the same criminal episode;
      - (v) acts in concert with another who engages in conduct described by Subdivision (1) directed toward the same victim and occurring during the course of the same criminal episode; or
      - (vi) with the intent of facilitating the commission of the offense, administers or provides to the victim of the offense any substance capable of impairing the victim's ability to appraise the nature of the act or to resist the act;
    - (B) the victim is younger than 14 years of age, regardless of whether the person knows the age of the victim at the time of the offense; or
    - (C) the victim is an elderly individual or a disabled individual.
- (b) In this section:
- (1) "Child" has the meaning assigned by Section 22.011(c).
  - (2) "Elderly individual" has the meaning assigned by Section 22.04(c).
  - (3) "Disabled individual" means a person older than 13 years of age who by reason of age or physical or mental disease, defect, or injury is substantially unable to protect the person's self from harm or to provide food, shelter, or medical care for the person's self.
- (c) An aggravated sexual assault under this section is without the consent of the other person if the aggravated sexual assault occurs under the same circumstances listed in Section 22.011(b).
- (d) The defense provided by Section 22.011(d) applies to this section.
-

- (e) An offense under this section is a felony of the first degree.
- (f) The minimum term of imprisonment for an offense under this section is increased to 25 years if:
  - (1) the victim of the offense is younger than six years of age at the time the offense is committed; or
  - (2) the victim of the offense is younger than 14 years of age at the time the offense is committed and the actor commits the offense in a manner described by Subsection (a)(2)(A).

*Prohibited Sexual Conduct* is defined in the [Texas Penal Code, Section 25.02](#) as follows.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person engages in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse with another person the actor knows to be, without regard to legitimacy:
  - (1) the actor's ancestor or descendant by blood or adoption;
  - (2) the actor's current or former stepchild or stepparent;
  - (3) the actor's parent's brother or sister of the whole or half blood;
  - (4) the actor's brother or sister of the whole or half blood or by adoption;
  - (5) the children of the actor's brother or sister of the whole or half blood or by adoption; or
  - (6) the son or daughter of the actor's aunt or uncle of the whole or half blood or by adoption.
- (b) For purposes of this section:
  - (1) "Deviate sexual intercourse" means any contact between the genitals of one person and the mouth or anus of another person with intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person.
  - (2) "Sexual intercourse" means any penetration of the female sex organ by the male sex organ.
- (c) An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree, unless the offense is committed under Subsection (a)(1), in which event the offense is a felony of the second degree.

**Dating Violence:** Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be based upon the reporting party's statement with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. Dating violence includes, but not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse. Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence. Any incident meeting this definition is considered to be a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting.

*Dating Violence* is defined in the [Texas Family Code, Section 71.0021](#) as follows.

- (a) "Dating violence" means an act, other than a defensive measure to protect oneself, by an actor that:
  - (1) is committed against a victim or applicant for a protective order:
    - (A) with whom the actor has or has had a dating relationship; or
    - (B) because of the victim's or applicant's marriage to or dating relationship with an individual with whom the actor is or has been in a dating relationship or marriage; and
  - (2) is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the victim or applicant in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault.
- (b) For purposes of this title, "dating relationship" means a relationship between individuals who have or have had a continuing relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on consideration of:
  - (1) the length of the relationship;
  - (2) the nature of the relationship; and
  - (3) the frequency and type of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
- (c) A casual acquaintanceship or ordinary fraternization in a business or social context does not constitute a "dating relationship" under Subsection (b).

**Domestic Violence:** A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim; by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred. Any incident meeting this definition is considered to be a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting.

*Family Violence* is defined by the [Texas Family Code, Section 71.004](#) as follows.

- (1) an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself;
- (2) abuse, as that term is defined by [Sections 261.001\(1\)\(C\), \(E\), \(G\), \(H\), \(I\), \(J\), \(K\), and \(M\)](#) by a member of a family or household toward a child of the family or household; or
- (3) dating violence, as that term is defined by Section 71.0021.

**Stalking:** Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress. Course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about, a person, or interferes with a person's property. Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling. Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim. Any incident meeting this definition is considered to be a crime for the purposes of Clery Act reporting.

*Stalking* is defined in the [Texas Penal Code, Section 42.072](#) as follows.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person, on more than one occasion and pursuant to the same scheme or course of conduct that is directed specifically at another person, knowingly engages in conduct that:
  - (1) constitutes an offense under Section 42.07 (see below), or that the actor knows or reasonably should know the other person will regard as threatening:
    - (A) bodily injury or death for the other person;
    - (B) bodily injury or death for a member of the other person's family or household or for an individual with whom the other person has a dating relationship; or
    - (C) that an offense will be committed against the other person's property;
  - (2) causes the other person, a member of the other person's family or household, or an individual with whom the other person has a dating relationship to be placed in fear of bodily injury or death or in fear that an offense will be committed against the other person's property, or to feel harassed, annoyed, alarmed, abused, tormented, embarrassed, or offended; and
  - (3) would cause a reasonable person to:
    - (A) fear bodily injury or death for himself or herself;
    - (B) fear bodily injury or death for a member of the person's family or household or for an individual with whom the person has a dating relationship;
    - (C) fear that an offense will be committed against the person's property; or
    - (D) feel harassed, annoyed, alarmed, abused, tormented, embarrassed, or offended.
- (b) An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree, except that the offense is a felony of the second degree if the actor has previously been convicted of an offense under this section or of an offense

under any of the following laws that contains elements that are substantially similar to the elements of an offense under this section:

- (1) the laws of another state;
- (2) the laws of a federally recognized Indian tribe;
- (3) the laws of a territory of the United States; or
- (4) federal law.

(c) For purposes of this section, a trier of fact may find that different types of conduct described by Subsection (a), if engaged in on more than one occasion, constitute conduct that is engaged in pursuant to the same scheme or course of conduct.

(d) In this section:

- (1) "Dating relationship," "family," "household," and "member of a household" have the meanings assigned by Chapter 71, Family Code.
- (2) "Property" includes a pet, companion animal, or assistance animal, as defined by Section 121.002, Human Resources Code.

#### Sec. 42.07. Harassment.

(a) A person commits an offense if, with intent to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass another, the person:

- (1) initiates communication and in the course of the communication makes a comment, request, suggestion, or proposal that is obscene;
- (2) threatens, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the threat, to inflict bodily injury on the person or to commit a felony against the person, a member of the person's family or household, or the person's property;
- (3) conveys, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the report, a false report, which is known by the conveyor to be false, that another person has suffered death or serious bodily injury;
- (4) causes the telephone of another to ring repeatedly or makes repeated telephone communications anonymously or in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another;
- (5) makes a telephone call and intentionally fails to hang up or disengage the connection;
- (6) knowingly permits a telephone under the person's control to be used by another to commit an offense under this section; or
- (7) sends repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, embarrass, or offend another.

(b) In this section:

- (1) "Electronic communication" means a transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photo-optical system. The term includes:
  - (A) a communication through the use of electronic mail, instant message, network call, a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, text message, a social media platform or application, an Internet website, any other Internet-based communication tool, or facsimile machine; and
  - (B) a communication made to a pager.
- (2) "Family" and "household" have the meaning assigned by Chapter 71, Family Code.
- (3) "Obscene" means containing a patently offensive description of or a solicitation to commit an ultimate sex act, including sexual intercourse, masturbation, cunnilingus, fellatio, or anilingus, or a description of an excretory function.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor, except that the offense is a Class A misdemeanor if:

- (1) the actor has previously been convicted under this section; or
- (2) the offense was committed under Subsection (a)(7) and:
  - (A) the offense was committed against a child under 18 years of age with the intent that the child:
    - (i) commit suicide; or
    - (ii) engage in conduct causing serious bodily injury to the child; or
  - (B) the actor has previously violated a temporary restraining order or injunction issued under Chapter 129A, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

**Robbery:** The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

**Aggravated Assault:** An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by a means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

**Burglary:** The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. For reporting purposes this definition includes: unlawful entry with intent to commit a larceny or felony, breaking and entering with intent to commit a larceny, housebreaking, safecracking, and all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned acts.

**Motor Vehicle Theft:** The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

**Arson:** Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

**Hate Crime:** A criminal offense reported to local police agencies or to a campus security authority that manifests evidence that the victim was intentionally selected because of the perpetrator's bias against the victim. For Clery Act purposes, hate crimes include any of the following offenses that are motivated by bias: Murder and non-negligent manslaughter, manslaughter by negligence, sexual assault (rape, fondling, incest, statutory rape), robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, arson, larceny-theft, simple assault, intimidation, or destruction/damage/vandalism of property. Following are the bias categories.

**Race:** A preformed negative attitude toward a group of persons who possess common physical characteristics, e.g. color of skin, eyes, and/or hair; facial features, etc., genetically transmitted by descent and heredity which distinguish them as a distinct division of humankind, e.g. Asians, blacks, or African Americans, whites.

**Gender:** A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a person or group of persons based on their actual or perceived gender, e.g. male or female.

**Religion:** A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons who share the same religious beliefs regarding the origin and purpose of the universe and the existence or nonexistence of a supreme being, e.g. Catholics, Jews, Protestants, atheists.

**Sexual Orientation:** A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is the term for a person's physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to members of the same and/or opposite sex, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and heterosexual (straight) individuals.

**Gender Identity:** A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a person (or group of persons) based on their actual or perceived gender identity, e.g. bias against transgender or gender non-conforming individuals (a person who does not conform to the gender-based expectations of society).

**Ethnicity:** A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of people whose members identify with each other, through a common heritage, often consisting of a common language, common culture (often including a shared religion) and/or ideology that stresses common ancestry. The concept of ethnicity differs from the closely related term race in that “race” refers to grouping based mostly upon biological criteria, while “ethnicity” also encompasses additional cultural factors.

**National Origin:** A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of people based on their actual or perceived country of birth. This bias may be against people that have a name or accent associated with a national origin group, participate in certain customs associated with a national origin group, or because they are married to or associate with people of a certain national origin.

**Disability:** A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons based on their physical or mental impairments, whether such disability is temporary or permanent, congenital or acquired by heredity, accident, injury, advanced aged or illness.

#### **Additional Hate Crime Definitions:**

**Larceny-Theft:** The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Constructive possession is the condition in which a person does not have physical custody or possession, but is in a position to exercise dominion or control over a thing.

**Simple Assault:** An unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness.

**Intimidation:** To unlawfully place another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words and/or other conduct, but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to actual physical attack.

**Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property (Except “Arson”):** To willfully or maliciously damage, deface, or otherwise injure real or personal property without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it.

**Arrests and Referrals for Disciplinary Action:** Arrest is defined as persons processed by arrest, citation, or summons. Referred for disciplinary action is defined as the referral of any person to any official who initiates a disciplinary action of which a record is established and which may result in the imposition of a sanction. Clery Act statistics are disclosed for arrests and referrals regarding state or local violations of liquor, drug abuse, and weapons laws. Only violations of the law resulting in arrest or referral are disclosed. Violations of institutional policy alone are not included in Clery Act statistics.

**Weapons: Carrying, Possessing, Etc.:** The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, concealment, or use of firearms, cutting instruments, explosives, incendiary devices or other deadly weapons. This classification encompasses weapons offenses that are regulatory in nature. Classify as weapons carrying, possessing, etc. violation: manufacture, sale, or possession of deadly weapons; carrying deadly weapons, concealed (except as

permitted by state law and institutional policy through state law) or openly; using, manufacturing, etc. of silencers; furnishing deadly weapons to minors; aliens possessing deadly weapons; and attempts to commit any of the aforementioned acts.

**Drug Abuse Violations:** The violation of laws prohibiting the production, distribution, and/or use of certain controlled substances and the equipment or devices utilized in their preparation and/or use. The unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, use, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance. Arrests for violations of state and local laws, specifically those relating to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, manufacturing, and making of narcotic drugs. The relevant substances include: opium or cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine); marijuana; synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadone); and dangerous non-narcotic drugs (barbiturates, Benzedrine). Classify as a drug abuse violation: all drugs, without exception, that are illegal under local or state law where your institution is located and all illegally obtained prescription drugs.

**Liquor Law Violations:** The violation of state or local laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession or use of alcoholic beverages, not including driving under the influence and drunkenness. Classify as a liquor law violation: the manufacture, sale, transporting, furnishing, possessing, etc. of intoxicating liquor; maintaining unlawful drinking places; bootlegging; operating a still; furnishing liquor to a minor or intemperate person; underage possession; using a vehicle for illegal transportation of liquor; drinking on a train or public conveyance; and attempts to commit any of the aforementioned acts.

## Definitions of Clery Act Locations

**On-campus:** Any building or property owned or controlled by an institution within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area and used by the institution in direct support of, or in a manner related to, the institution's educational purposes, including residence halls. This also includes any building or property that is within or reasonably contiguous to the geographic area that is owned by the institution but controlled by another person, is frequently used by students, and supports institutional purposes (such as a food or other retail vendor).

**Non-campus:** Any building or property owned or controlled by an institution that is used in direct support of, or in relation to, the institution's educational purposes, is frequently used by students, and is not within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area of the institution. This also includes any building or property owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the institution.

**Public Property:** All public property, including thoroughfares, streets, sidewalks, and parking facilities, that is within the campus, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus.

**On-campus Student Housing Facilities (Residential Facilities):** No on-campus student housing facilities are owned or controlled by the law school, therefore, on-campus student housing statistics are not required to be disclosed.



## Texas A&M University, School of Law - Reportable Crimes

The following statistics include all incidents of Clery Act crimes reported to the institution that occurred within the campus' Clery Act locations, regardless of whether the individual reporting was a member of the campus community and regardless of whether the individual chose to move forward with the criminal justice or campus disciplinary proceedings. To prepare the annual disclosure of crime statistics, the institution collects information from internal sources such as campus police and other campus security authorities and requests information from external sources such as local law enforcement. The statistics obtained from local law enforcement agency responses are included in reportable crimes tables below.

<b>Criminal Offenses</b>				
<b>Offense</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>On Campus Property</b>	<b>Non-Campus Property</b>	<b>Public Property</b>
Murder / Non-negligent Manslaughter	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0
Manslaughter By Negligence	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0
Sex Offenses, Rape	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0
Sex Offenses, Fondling	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0
Sex Offenses, Incest	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0
Sex Offenses, Statutory Rape	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0
Robbery	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	1
	2020	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	1
	2020	0	0	0
Burglary of Structure	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	2
	2020	0	0	0
Arson	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0

<b>Hate Crimes</b>				
<b>Offense</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>On Campus Property</b>	<b>Non-Campus Property</b>	<b>Public Property</b>
Hate Crimes *	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) Offenses				
Offense	Year	On Campus Property	Non-Campus Property	Public Property
Domestic Violence	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0
Dating Violence	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0
Stalking	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0

Arrests and Disciplinary Referrals				
Offense	Year	On Campus Property	Non-Campus Property	Public Property
Arrests: Weapons Carrying, Possessing, Etc.	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals: Weapons Carrying, Possessing, Etc.	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0
Arrests: Drug Abuse Violations	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	1	0	0
Disciplinary Referrals: Drug Abuse Violations	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0
Arrests: Liquor Law Violations	2018	0	0	1
	2019	0	0	2
	2020	0	0	1
Disciplinary Referrals: Liquor Law Violations	2018	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0

The following are in reference to the reportable crimes tables.

\* In 2018, 2019, and 2020 there were no reported criminal incidents involving hate/bias.

## Texas A&M University, School of Law - Unfounded Crimes

Unfounded crimes are crimes that sworn or commissioned law enforcement personnel have investigated and made a formal determination that the report is false or baseless and are, therefore, subsequently withheld from Clery crime statistics. Following are the unfounded crimes as reported for all law school Clery Act locations and Clery Act offenses:

- Calendar year 2020: 0 unfounded crimes
- Calendar year 2019: 0 unfounded crimes
- Calendar year 2018: 0 unfounded crimes

## Crime Prevention and Security Awareness

It is important for all of us to understand our role in the reduction of crime. A conceptual aid often employed by crime prevention practitioners is referred to as the Crime Triangle. For any crime to occur three elements must be present: desire, ability, and opportunity.



Members of the law school community easily recognize there is little that can be done to control the criminal's ability and desire. The law school community's greatest strength in the prevention of crime is our initiative to reduce or eliminate the opportunity for a crime to occur.

A primary goal of the law school security department is the prevention of crime before it occurs. Because security personnel cannot be everywhere all the time, they need the help of all members of the law school community to take an active role in their personal safety and property protection. Crime prevention is important to the campus community. Reporting any crime or suspected crime immediately is helpful to the law school security department and may prevent someone else from becoming a victim of a more serious crime. Following are programs that are designed to encourage students and employees to be responsible for their own security and the security of others

Students, faculty and staff should help to ensure their safety and the safety of their property by practicing fundamental crime prevention techniques. Safety and crime prevention information is published periodically in available campus publications. The law school makes every effort to accommodate any reasonable requests for training students and employees regarding recognition of crime, preventing crime, and responding to crime. Training efforts include Campus Safety Awareness Week which is held each spring and is available to all law school faculty, staff, and students. It incorporates presentations regarding Title IX, building safety, security, logistical safety, and includes situational awareness focused on reporting suspicious activity and contacting local law enforcement. In these presentations information is provided regarding campus security procedures and practices. Materials included in the training are from the "If you See Something, Say Something" national campaign. Fire drills are also conducted each fall.

The Fort Worth Police Department is also dedicated to providing quality service in partnership with the community to communicate security procedures and practices and create a safe environment. The following describes the interactive endeavors typically available to the citizens of Fort Worth. Due to COVID-19, the availability of the following programs or service requests may be restricted to online only or unavailable if the request cannot meet COVID-19 guidelines. In person requests that cannot meet the COVID-19 guidelines will resume once it is safe for all involved.

- National Night Out is hosted each fall to heighten awareness of crime prevention.
- Several Crime Prevention Specialists are employed to serve each Fort Worth division.
- Crime Watch and Business Watch creates enhanced ongoing crime reporting, burglary preventions, physical security, personal safety and awareness through training and a partnership between police and citizens.
- Other crime prevention programs such as security surveys completed by a representative of the police department, vehicle identification number etching, safety fairs, kids programs, a burglary deterrent program, and other presentations are available upon request.
- Citizens Police Academy is a 12 week program, one night per week, for citizens to learn about the specific areas of the police department.

## Important Telephone Numbers

Area Code 817 (for all numbers listed below unless otherwise indicated)

Emergencies-from off campus phone / Cell phones Police/Fire/Medical	911	Law School Security	212-3999
Fort Worth Police	392-4222	Fort Worth Fire	392-3000
Tarrant County Sheriff	884-3099	Counseling & Referral, Alcohol & Other Drugs	1-855-270-3349
Law School Facilities	212-4125	Crime Stoppers	817-469-TIPS
Department of Public Safety	882-8263	Office of Student Affairs	212-4020
Fort Worth Transportation Authority	215-8600	Student Services/Registrar	212-4001
Department of Civil Rights and Equity Investigations	979-458-8407		

## Other Annual Security Reports and Annual Fire Safety Reports

Annual Security Reports and Annual Fire Safety Reports for other Texas A&M University locations are as follows and are available at the following Texas A&M University OREC website:

<https://orec.tamu.edu/clery/annual-security-report/>.

### Other Texas A&M University Annual Security Reports

Texas A&M University College Station

<https://orec.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/CSAnnualSecurityReport.pdf>

Texas A&M University O.D. Butler, Jr. Animal Science Complex and University Farm

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