



Cornell University

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### **Cornell University Office of the Title IX Coordinator Information for Witnesses**

The Office of the Title IX Coordinator investigates complaints of Policy 6.4 violations. All matters referred to the Cornell University Title IX Coordinator are taken seriously and all participants are treated with respect. The Title IX Coordinator will keep all information private to the greatest extent possible, consistent with Cornell University Policy 6.4 and federal and state laws.

You have been identified as an individual who may have relevant information. Part of an investigation involves audio recorded interviews of individuals, such as yourself, who have been identified as witnesses. ***Witnesses are asked to honor privacy and prohibited from distributing documents they obtain in the course of their involvement in this matter.***

#### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

##### **Q. I don't think I know anything about this case. How can I be a witness?**

A. If you are a witness, you may have seen what happened or saw someone just before or after an alleged incident. You may know facts that you do not even know are important. All you need to do is provide an honest account.

##### **Q. I was drinking while underage the night of the incident. Will I get in trouble?**

A. The Investigator is interviewing you as a witness, not as a student charged with violating the Campus Code of Conduct or Policy 6.4. A bystander (including an individual called as a witness) acting in good faith that discloses any incident of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or sexual assault to Cornell's officials or law enforcement will not be subject to Campus Code of Conduct action for violations of the alcohol and/or drug use policies occurring at or near the time of the incident.

##### **Q. Do I have to participate and what are my risks if I alter the information I have?**

A. All Cornell University community members are expected to participate and provide truthful information in the resolution of reports of prohibited conduct under Policy 6.4. "Furnishing false information to the University with intent to deceive" is prohibited and subject to disciplinary sanctions under Cornell University's Campus Code of Conduct. If you have concerns about participating in the investigation or the hearing, discuss your particular situation with the Investigator or the Title IX Coordinator when you meet in person.

##### **Q. What is the Privacy of the Policy 6.4 Process?**

A. Pursuant to Cornell Policy 6.4: The university encourages parties not to reveal any information they learn in the course of their participation in processes set forth in the applicable procedures, other than for the purpose of consulting with advisors and attorneys, and incidental to seeking support and advice from family, clergy, health professionals, and others playing a similar role. Furthermore, ***students are prohibited from distributing documents obtained in the course of their participation in processes*** set forth in the applicable procedures other than for the purpose of consulting with an advisor; incidental to seeking support and advice from family, clergy, health professionals, and others playing a similar role; or as part of a civil, criminal, or administrative legal proceeding. Student parties may choose whether to disclose or discuss with others the outcome of a complaint under Policy 6.4.

**Q. I am afraid that the student will bother me if she/he knows I am a witness.**

A. Retaliation against a person because they participate in a Policy 6.4 investigation is prohibited. Retaliation is an adverse action taken against an individual for making a good faith report of prohibited conduct or participating in any investigation or proceeding under Policy 6.4. Retaliation may include intimidation, threats, coercion, or adverse employment or educational actions. If you feel that anyone involved in the case takes an inappropriate action (for example, asking you to change your statement, badgering you, etc.) or has retaliated, please contact the Title IX Coordinator. If you fear for your safety, call the Cornell Police immediately.

**Q. What else will you need from me during the investigation?**

A. All persons involved in these procedures, whether as the complainant, the respondent, or a witness, are encouraged to preserve all information and tangible material relating to the alleged prohibited conduct. Examples of evidence include electronic communications (e.g., email and text messages), photographs, clothing, and medical information. If you think you have evidence that is material to the investigation, discuss it with the Investigator.

**Q. Will I get a copy of my interview?**

A. All interviews are audio recorded. You will receive a copy of the transcript of your interview, as well as a copy of the audio recording. You will be given an opportunity to review both for accuracy and for completeness. You may not distribute the audio recording or transcript.

**Resources and Additional Information**

*Discuss Reporting Options:*

- **The Title IX Coordinator**, 607.255.2242, [titleix@cornell.edu](mailto:titleix@cornell.edu)
- **Cornell Police** (24/7), 607.255.1111
- **Complainant's Advisors** (complainant's procedural advisor), [complaintadvice@cornell.edu](mailto:complaintadvice@cornell.edu)
- **Judicial Codes Counselors** (respondent's procedural advisor), [jccoffice@cornell.edu](mailto:jccoffice@cornell.edu)

*Confidential Resources:*

- **Cornell Health** (medical and mental health providers, students only: 607.255.5155)
- **The Faculty and Staff Assistance Program (FSAP)** (mental health providers, faculty and staff only: 607.255.2673)
- **Cornell United Religious Work Chaplains (CURW)** (pastoral counseling: 607.255.6002)
- **The Advocacy Center of Tompkins County** 24/7 hotline (607.277.5000)
- **The Cornell Victim Advocate** (607.255.1212, [victimadvocate@cornell.edu](mailto:victimadvocate@cornell.edu))
- **The Director of the Women's Resource Center (WRC)** (607.255.0015, [wrc@cornell.edu](mailto:wrc@cornell.edu))
- **The Director of the LGBT Resource Center** (607.255.4406)
- **The University Ombudsman** (607.255.4321)

*Additional Information:*

- **Policy 6.4, Prohibited Bias, Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual and Related Misconduct:** [policy.cornell.edu/6.4](http://policy.cornell.edu/6.4)
- **Sexual Harassment & Assault — Response & Education:** [SHARE.cornell.edu](http://SHARE.cornell.edu)
- **Office of the Title IX Coordinator:** [titleix.cornell.edu](http://titleix.cornell.edu)
- **Cornell Police:** [cupolice.cornell.edu](http://cupolice.cornell.edu)
- **Cornell Health:** [health.cornell.edu](http://health.cornell.edu)
- **Student Disability Services:** [sds.cornell.edu](http://sds.cornell.edu)
- **International Students and Scholars Office (immigration resources):** [isso.cornell.edu](http://isso.cornell.edu)
- **NYS Bar Association Lawyer Referral & Information Service:** 1.800.342.3661