

# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS

## What You Need To Know About Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses and How to Help Your Student Succeed

### Federal and State Laws

**Title IX** is a federal law that requires schools to take action to address gender-based violence and sex discrimination. Colleges are legally required to respond to and remedy hostile educational environments and provide protections to students affected by sexual or intimate partner violence.

**Enough Is Enough** is a New York state law that requires colleges to adopt certain policies and guidelines in an effort to address stalking, sexual assault, dating violence, and domestic violence. Colleges are required to utilize affirmative consent as the standard for consensual sexual activity, and are obligated to provide students with certain rights and protections during campus conduct proceedings.

### Definitions: What is?

#### Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is defined as any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent. It includes acts such as rape, fondling, incest, and statutory rape.

#### 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, or; by a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner.

#### Dating Violence?

Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic/intimate nature with the victim.

#### Stalking?

Intentionally engaging in a course of conduct, directed at a specific person, which is likely to cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others or cause that person to suffer substantial emotional damage.

### Talking with Your Student After An Assault

Sexual assault can happen to anyone. As a parent's worst nightmare, it can be very difficult and overwhelming to hear that your loved one has been sexually assaulted. The most important thing you can do is help your college student feel safe and supported.

Every person responds differently to sexual assault. Frequent responses include feelings of fear, distress, humiliation, anger, confusion, numbness, and guilt. It is important that your student be allowed to experience and process through these feelings without the fear of having them invalidated or dismissed. There are resources to help you and your student heal.

### What Do You Do If Your Student is a Victim? Your student has the right to:

- ▶ Notify campus public safety officials, local law enforcement, and/or state police (NYS Police Hotline: 1-844-845-7269)
- ▶ Be assisted by campus authorities in notifying law enforcement if the victim chooses
- ▶ Decline to notify such authorities
- ▶ Report confidentially to the Counseling Services: 914-740-6402 or off-campus resources
- ▶ Receive emergency access to a Title IX Coordinator
  - **Kelsey McCausland**, New Rochelle: 914-740-6489 | kmccausland@monroecollege.edu
  - **Alvelena Mills**, Bronx: 646-393-8204 | amills@monroecollege.edu

### Key Phrases to Use

- ▶ "I'm so glad you told me."
- ▶ "I am here for you."
- ▶ "There is no excuse for sexual assault. No one deserves to be raped."
- ▶ "Whatever you did to survive the situation was the right thing to do."
- ▶ "I will do my best to help you stay safe however I can."