

OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY STATEMENT

Oklahoma Wesleyan University is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes Biblically-based personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex. The University considers sex discrimination in all its forms to be a serious offense. Discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes verbal, visual or physical sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, constitutes a violation of this policy, is unacceptable, and will not be tolerated.

The University educates the campus community about sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking through mandatory freshman orientations each fall and provides employees with this policy statement in their orientation package. The Office of Student Development offers sexual assault education and information to University students and employees upon request.

Upon the filing of a formal complaint of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking, the University will implement procedures to investigate the complaint pursuant to the requirements imposed by the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Education under Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the regulations promulgated thereunder, including the Final Rules issued by the Department of Education on May 6, 2020, with an effective date of August 14, 2020 relating to sexual harassment and sexual assault on campus, both of which are forms of sex discrimination under Title IX. *Because of the terms of the University's policies with respect to Conduct Expectations and Disciplinary Processes, the University's disciplinary processes are at least as rigorous as, but will be consistent with, the intent and requirements of Title IX.*

If you are a victim of a sexual assault at the University, your first priority should be to get to a place of safety. You should then obtain necessary medical treatment. Time is a critical factor for evidence collection and preservation. An assault can be reported directly to the Vice President for Student Development, at 918-335-6289 and if you are living on campus, to your Resident Director, Campus Safety Office or to any other campus authority. The University strongly advocates that a victim of sexual assault report the incident to the local police authorities in a timely manner. Filing a police report will not obligate the victim to prosecute, nor will it subject the victim to unwarranted scrutiny or judgmental opinions from University representatives.

Filing a police report will:

- ensure that a victim of sexual assault receives the necessary medical treatment and tests, at no expense to the victim;
- provide the opportunity for collection of evidence helpful in prosecution, which cannot be obtained later;
- assure the victim has access to free confidential counseling from counselors specifically trained in the area of sexual assault crisis intervention.

When a sexual assault victim contacts the Vice President for Student Development or Campus Safety Office, at the request of the student, the department will notify the appropriate Police Agency. In cases involving a student, a representative from the Office of Student Development will also be notified. The victim of a sexual assault may choose for the investigation to be pursued through the criminal justice system and the University's disciplinary procedures, or only the latter. A University representative from the Office of Student Development or the Campus Safety Department will guide the victim through the available support options, including counseling options and support services outside the University system, and will support the victim in his or her decision.

The University follows the procedures of the Campus Sexual Assault Victims Bill of Rights in regard to providing assistance and support to sexual assault victims, and of Title IX in regard to the investigation and adjudication of formal complaints. Upon the filing of a formal complaint, the investigative process, the procedures for informal resolution, and the adjudication of claims, if there is an adjudication, will proceed in accordance with the University's disciplinary process and the requirements set forth in the then-current regulations implementing Title IX.

Sex Offender Registry Information:

In accordance to the "Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act" of 2000, which amends the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, the Jeanne Clery Act and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the Oklahoma Wesleyan University provides a link to the State of Oklahoma – Sex Offender Registry. In order to access the Registry, visit www.OKWU.edu/disclosures and click on the link provided.

This act requires institutions of higher education to issue a statement advising the campus community where law enforcement information provided by a state concerning registered sex offender may be obtained. It also requires sex offenders already required to register in a state to provide notice of each institution of higher education in that state at which the person is employed, carries a vocation, or is a student.

In Oklahoma, convicted sex offenders must register with the Oklahoma Public Sex Offender Registry maintained by the Department of Corrections. The Oklahoma Public Sex Offender Registry is available via Internet at:

http://www.ok.gov/doc/Organization/Field_Operations/Field_Support/Sex_Offender_Registratio_n.html and the Washington County Sex offender Registry is available via Internet at: <http://www.cityofbartlesville.org/offenders.php?cat=1013>