

## For Faculty and Staff Assisting a Victim of Dating or Relationship Violence

When advising an abuse victim, understand that leaving an abusive relationship is difficult and can be more dangerous than staying. Consequently, the individual may not leave the relationship immediately and getting out safely may require more of an ongoing process.

Find a private place to talk. *Let the student know that federal guidelines require you to report an incident of dating or relationship violence to the Title IX officer on campus* which would result in an email from the Title IX officer letting them know they can come in and talk to her. It is up to them if they want to respond. However, *if they do not want this report to be made, you should refer them to Counseling and Psychological Services, Health Services or the Women's Center.* These are the only places on campus that can guarantee their privacy.

Reassure the individual that emotional and physical abuse in any relationship is not normal or acceptable behavior in a healthy relationship.

### **Provide referrals.**

If it is during regular business hours:

Encourage them to contact the Gender Violence Prevention Program at the Women's Center at 320-308-4958. Sometimes it can be helpful to offer to make the call or to walk over to the Women's Center with the student. An advocate can coordinate all of the victim's needs and assist in obtaining appropriate resources on and off campus. Services are confidential. Reassure them that if they are not ready to leave the relationship, the advocate can work with them to develop an individualized safety plan.

If it is after regular business hours, refer to one of the 24 hour services listed below.

\* **Provide** them with a *Personal Safety Card* with resource numbers listed. (Personal safety cards can be obtained by contacting the Women's Center.)

\* **ASSESS immediate safety concerns by asking, "Will you be safe when you leave here or when you go home?"** If they are unsure or answer no, provide the following referrals and provide information on what services each resource can provide.

**Women's Center, St. Cloud State University**      **Available 8 to 4:30 320-308-4958**  
Can assist with obtaining safe shelter on or off campus, safety plans, threat assessments, assistance with restraining orders, legal advocacy, confidential counseling, and academic advocacy.

**Anna Marie's Alliance**      **Available 24 hours 320-253-6900**  
Provide safe shelter, 24 hour confidential crisis line, support groups, legal advocacy, and assistance with restraining orders.

**Public Safety Department Available 24 hours 320-308-3333**

Can respond to immediate situations on campus, document reports of violent incidences, assist in reporting to the police, and assist with obtaining safe shelter.

**St. Cloud Police Department Available 24 hours Emergency 911 General 251-1200**

Report incidences of Intimate Partner violence, transportation to a shelter, will stand by while moving personal items out of an apartment for safety reasons

**\* Ask if they have any immediate medical concerns or injuries.**

If they say yes, refer them to the St. Cloud Emergency Trauma Center for any serious and immediate medical concerns. Otherwise encourage them to seek treatment from their regular health care provider or campus Health Services. Let them know that even if they do not have a medical concern, Health Services providers can document and photograph injuries. This will be kept in their confidential medical file and available if they decide at any time to report to law enforcement or to campus or obtain a restraining order.

**\*Ask if they have considered their reporting options.**

*Keep in mind they may choose not to report because sometimes this can compromise their safety.*

- Report abuse to the Public Safety Department at 308-3333.
- Report to law enforcement in the location where the incident occurred.

If the individual lives in a residence hall, they have the option of contacting the Community Advisor, Night Supervisor, Assistant Hall Director or the Hall Director for help.

Report the behavior as a Code of Conduct Violation if the abuser is a student as defined in this policy. Reports can be made to the Student Conduct Officer in Student Life and Development. If an accused student is found responsible, sanctions can range from probation to suspension or expulsion. An advocate at the Women's Center's Gender Violence Prevention Program can assist in determining the appropriate reporting offices.

The Student Code of Conduct can be found on the Student Life and Development website, <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/studenthandbook/default.asp>, or a hard copy can be obtained from the Student Life and Development office in Atwood Memorial Center.

**\*Inform them that they may be eligible for a restraining order through civil courts.** The Women's Center's Gender Violence Prevention Program advocates can help them determine eligibility and assist with the process.

**\*Provide information on other possible remedies an advocate can assist them with.**

- Class schedule changes.
- Addressing student organization membership if both students are affiliated.
- Obtain a campus a restraining order from civil courts that specifically outlines contact rules when both parties are on campus.
- Secure housing on campus or relocate to another hall if a student is already living in a residence hall and needs to relocate.
- Assistance with finding safe housing for pets.
- Assistance with terminating housing contracts under Minnesota State Statute 504B.161 (2004) that allows tenants to terminate a lease in the case that they have an order for protection.
- Assistance with academic issue when dating/domestic assault has significantly impacted a student's ability to function in their classes.



**WOMEN'S CENTER**  
**ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY™**