Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

Rights and Options for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, and Sexual Harassment

If, as a member of the LECOM community, you are the victim of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual harassment there are several options for you to follow.

CRIME REPORTING

Any person who is the victim of a crime, including but not limited to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual harassment either on or off campus, is encouraged, but not mandated, to report the incident to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

If you are in immediate danger and need and want help, contact local law enforcement. Call 911 in an emergency, or one of the following police department phone numbers depending upon your location. If you prefer, the LECOM Police and Security Office and/or Seton Hill University Police Department, can contact local law enforcement for you.

Erie, Pennsylvania
Erie Police Department
(814) 870-1125
Millcreek Police Department
(814) 833-7777

Pennsylvania State Police Department
(814) 898-1641

LECOM Campus Police and Security Office
Located inside the north entrance
1858 West Grandview Boulevard
Erie, Pennsylvania 16509
(814) 866-8415
If an officer is not at the desk, callers may leave a message or call the cell phone of the officer on duty at (814) 434-3927.

Bradenton, Florida
Manatee County Sheriff
(941) 747-3011
Bradenton Police Department
(941) 932-9300

LECOM Security Office for the College of Medicine & School of Pharmacy
Located inside the southwest entrance
5000 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard
Bradenton, Florida 34211
(941) 782-5908
LECOM Security Office for the School of Dental Medicine  
Located inside the south entrance  
4800 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard  
Bradenton, Florida 34211  
(941) 405-1520

DeFuniak Springs, Florida  
Walton County Sheriff  
(850) 892-8111

Greensburg, Pennsylvania  
Greensburg Police Department  
(724) 834-3800

Seton Hill University (SHU) Police Department  
Lowe Hall, room 117 (first floor) (Police Chief in room 115)  
One Seton Hill Drive  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
Dial 4-9-9-9 from Seton Hill University phones  
Dial (724) 830-4999 from non-SHU and non-LECOM phones (Police Chief (724) 830-4998)  
Dial 9-724-830-4999 from LECOM phones  
Dial (724) 244-2192 for the officer on patrol

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

If you are the victim of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual harassment it is recommended that you:

- Preserve any physical evidence that may prove that an incident of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual harassment occurred and/or to obtain a protective order.
- You may need to get an immediate medical examination and treatment.
- The examination will determine if you need treatment for injuries or sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy.
- The examination will also result in the collection of evidence that can be used to identify and convict your attacker.
- You can seek medical attention on your own instead of in conjunction with a report to the police.
- The hospital will treat you and collect the necessary evidence.
- The hospital will notify the police and rape crisis center on your behalf; however, it is your decision to make if you want them involved.
- Even if you do not think that you want to press charges at the time of the medical examination and treatment, it is important to obtain the evidence in case you change your mind at a later date.
- You can seek the services of counselors who specialize in assisting victims and the families of victims of these crimes. These counselors can give advice, assistance, and accompany you
through the process. LECOM personnel will assist you in contacting counselor(s) if you request this assistance. Counseling services are listed immediately below.

CRIME VICTIM COUNSELING SERVICES

Erie, Pennsylvania Resources
Crime Victim Center of Erie County
24 hour hotline: (814) 455-9414

Safe Harbor Mental Health
24 hour Crisis Center: (814) 456-2014
Outpatient Clinic: (814) 459-9300

Safe Net Erie (domestic violence)
24 hour crisis hotline: (814) 454-8161

Millcreek Community Hospital Behavioral Health
(814) 868-8714

Stairways Behavioral Health
(888) 453-5806

Bradenton, Florida Resources
Bradenton- Hope Family Services, Inc.
(941) 747-7790

Rape Crisis Hotline - Bradenton
(941) 708-6059

Sarasota- Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center
24 hour hotline: (941) 365-1976

Centerstone Crisis Center
(941) 782-4600

Bayside Center for Behavioral Health
Sarasota Memorial Hospital
24 hour clinical assessment: (941) 917-7760

Coastal Behavioral Health, Sarasota
24 hour Crisis Stabilization Unit: (941) 364-9355
Assessments: (941) 552-1950

DeFuniak Springs, Florida Resources
Shelter House, Domestic and Sexual Violence Center
Domestic Violence 24 hour hotline: (850) 863-4777 or (800) 442-2873
Sexual Assault 24 hour helpline: (850) 226-2027

Greensburg, Pennsylvania Resources
Rape Crisis Center (Pittsburgh Action against Rape)
24 hour helpline: (866) 363-7273
(412) 431-5665

Westmoreland Mental Health Crisis Intervention Hotline
24 hour hotline: (800) 836-6010

Center for Victims of Violence and Crime
24 hour hotline: (866) 644-2882

**UNUM WORK-LIFE BALANCE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The UNUM Work-Life Balance Employee Assistance Program (“EAP”) is available at no charge to LECOM students and employees. Calls are kept confidential within the constraints of the law. The EAP has counselors available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year by calling (800) 854-1446 (English) or (877) 858-2147 (Spanish) or via its website at www.lifebalance.net; user ID and password: lifebalance. The EAP is available to assist employees with personal or professional problems. Additional information concerning UNUM is available on the LECOM Portal by clicking on the Human Resources tab and then selecting *UNUM Documents*.

**HIGHMARK BLUES ON CALL**

For students or employees who participate in Highmark Insurance, Highmark has the Blues On Call 24 hour nurse line that members can access for referrals to behavioral health coaching. The number is 1-888-BLUE-428 or 1-888-258-3428.

**PROTECTIVE ORDER**

It may be possible for you to obtain a court order requiring the abuser to stop doing certain acts such as abusing you, contacting you, or coming near you and may make the abuser do things such as leaving your home. In addition, it may be possible to impose temporary custody of children and temporary child support, if appropriate. In Pennsylvania it is termed a Protection from Abuse (PFA) order. In Florida it is termed an Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence, or a restraining order. If such an order is obtained from the local court and properly served on the abuser (by law enforcement and not you) and the abuser then violates the order, the abuser may be arrested by the police. To begin the process to obtain a protective order you can go to the courthouse in the county where you live to complete forms or obtain an attorney to assist you. If you have obtained a protective order that has been properly served on the abuser, kindly provide a copy to the LECOM Police and Security Office (Erie, Pennsylvania or Bradenton, Florida) or to the Seton Hill University Police Department (Greensburg, Pennsylvania).
CONFIDENTIALITY IN REPORTING A CRIME

It is critical for the safety of the entire LECOM community that all incidents are reported immediately so that the LECOM Police and Security Department, the Seton Hill University Police Department, or local law enforcement can investigate the situation and determine if follow-up actions are required, including LECOM issuing a timely warning or emergency notification. If crimes are never reported, little can be done to help other members of the community from also becoming victims. LECOM community members are encouraged to report crimes promptly and to participate in and support crime prevention efforts. If you are the victim of a crime, including but not limited to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual harassment but do not want to pursue action within a LECOM disciplinary system, please consider filing a voluntary, confidential report. Depending upon the circumstances of the crime you are reporting, you may be able to file a report while maintaining your confidentiality. The purpose of a confidential report is to comply with your wish to keep your personally identifying information confidential, while taking steps to ensure your safety and the safety of others. A confidential report allows LECOM to compile accurate records on the number and types of incidents occurring on our campuses. Reports filed in this manner are counted and disclosed in the Annual Security Report. In limited circumstances, your confidentiality may not be able to be assured and in that circumstance, you will be informed. Anyone may call to report a crime. Callers may remain anonymous.

Although a criminal investigation and prosecution for the offense is the recommended course of action in cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual harassment, the ultimate decision for such action rests with the victim. Should the victim decide against law enforcement involvement, an administrative disciplinary process may still be invoked if a LECOM employee or student is the alleged offender.

Victims are encouraged to report incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual harassment to the Institutional LECOM Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Coordinator.

LECOM Title IX Institutional Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators

Institutional Title IX Coordinator

Aaron E. Susmarski, J.D.
Institutional Director of Human Resources
(814) 860-5101
asusmarski@lecom.edu

LECOM Erie

Dr. Melanie Dunbar, Deputy Coordinator
Director of Behavioral Health
(814) 866-8160
If the alleged perpetrator is a LECOM employee or student, the procedural process will be as follows:

- Disciplinary action and sanctions for the alleged crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking will be determined by a review process according to the procedures defined in the *Policy Statement on Title IX Compliance and Affirmation of the Prohibition of Sexual Harassment, Misconduct or Violence* document. This document may be found in the Student, Staff, and Faculty handbooks and on the LECOM website.
- There will be a prompt, fair, and impartial investigation and resolution.
- The standard of evidence in the disciplinary proceedings regarding allegations of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking is preponderance of the evidence. A decision using the standard of evidence of preponderance of the evidence means that it will be determined based on the evidence presented that it is more likely than not that the offense did or did not occur.
- Both accuser and accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during campus disciplinary proceedings.
- Both accuser and accused will be simultaneously informed in writing of the outcome of any campus disciplinary proceeding brought forth alleging sexual assault, domestic violence, dating
violence, or stalking as well as appeal procedures. Both shall also be notified of any change prior to the time the results become final and when the results become final.

- If a final determination is made that a LECOM employee or student did perpetrate sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, the offending employee or student is subject to the range of disciplinary sanctions specified in the Policy Statement on Title IX Compliance and Affirmation of the Prohibition of Sexual Harassment, Misconduct or Violence document up to and including termination and/or expulsion. Determinations by a criminal court may separately occur if criminal proceedings are initiated which is separate from LECOM’s disciplinary proceedings.

**INTERIM MEASURES**

- Following an allegation of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking being asserted to LECOM, a student accuser may request a change in a facet of the academic setting. This request will trigger an identification of the available options and LECOM will make reasonable changes. These are available regardless of whether the victim chooses to report the crime to campus police or local law enforcement.
- If the accuser is a LECOM employee, the employee may request a change in employment aspects and LECOM will make reasonable changes.
- Reasonable changes may include, among others, restrictions on contact, course schedule or work schedule alteration, or a leave of absence.
- If applicable, student financial aid guidance is available.
- Counseling may be facilitated. Some counseling options are listed above.