Notification of Rights and Options

For Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking

WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Sept 2026

Report

WDTC is Here to Assist and Support Victims

When domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking occurs, WDTC encourages all individuals to immediately seek assistance from law enforcement by dialing 911 and from a medical provider. This is the best option to ensure preservation of evidence to assist in proving that the alleged criminal offense occurred and may be helpful in obtaining a protection order and to begin a timely investigative and remedial response.

The College also encourages all individuals to make a report to Kelly Oehlerking, the VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success, who serves as the Title IX Coordinator. She is available to assist and provide support. Contact the Title IX Coordinator by calling 605-718-2931, emailing *Kelly.Oehlerking@wdt.edu*, or reporting to her office – D206.

Reporting options are not mutually exclusive. Both internal and criminal reports may be pursued simultaneously.

Assistance

The Title IX Coordinator and Assistant Coordinators (here on out referred to as Coordinator) are here to assist victims through this difficult time and are well trained in matters of trauma, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Upon receiving a report, the Coordinator will:

- Help the victim contact law enforcement and initiate criminal proceedings if they so choose. Victims will not be pressured to report and may decline to notify law enforcement authorities.
- Provide to the victim a comprehensive list of resources, both within the College and in the community, to assist them through this difficult time including existing counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other services available for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking occurs;
- Provide to the victim written information on and assist them in requesting supportive measures by the College such as changes to academic, living, transportation, and working situations. The College will provide such accommodations/ supportive measures if the victim requests them and if they are reasonably available, regardless of whether the victim chooses to report the crime to law enforcement;
- Explain to the victim the procedures for College disciplinary action/resolution options in cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and be by their side throughout the process.

Supportive Measures

The Coordinator will work with the victim to ensure that their wishes are taken into account with respect to the supportive measures that are planned and implemented. These actions may include, but are not limited to:

- Referral to counseling, medical, and/or other healthcare services
- Referral to the Employee Assistance Program
- Referral to community-based service providers
- Visa and immigration assistance
- Student financial aid counseling
- Education to the institutional community or community subgroup(s)
- Altering work arrangements for employees or student-employees
- Implementing contact limitations (no contact orders) between the parties
- Academic support, extensions of deadlines, or other course/ program-related adjustments
- Be-On-the-Lookout (BOLO) orders
- Class schedule modifications
- Any other actions deemed appropriate by the Coordinator

Off-Campus Resources

Mental Health/Counseling

- West River Mental Health– 605-343-7262 *(students may request to speak to a Licensed Professional Counselor through their Student Success Coach without revealing they have been a victim. If the student informs the Student Success Coach they have been a victim, the Coach will be obligated to inform the Title IX Coordinator.)*
- Pivot Point (crisis care) – 605-391-4863
- Lutheran Social Services –605.348.0477

Victim Advocacy

- WAVI – *www.wavi.org*; 888-716-9284 or 605-341-4808
- National Domestic Violence Hotline – *https://www.thehotline.org/*; 800-799-SAFE (7233) or Text "START" to 88788
- National Domestic Sexual Assault Hotline/RAINN – *https://www.rainn.org/get-help*; 800-656-4673
- Pennington County Sheriff's Office Victim Specialists – 605-394-6115
- Ellsworth Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Office – *https://www.ellsworth.af.mil/Home/Support-Resources/Legal/;* 605-385-7272

Health

- Monument Health – *https://monument.health/*; 605-755-1000
- Oyate Health Center – *https://www.oyatehealth.com/*; 605-355-2500

Legal Assistance

- Dakota Plains Legal Services – 605-342-7171
- Penn. Co. State's Attorney – 605-342-2191

VISA and Immigration Assistance

USCIS Application Support Center – 800-375-5283

Financial Aid/Support

- Crime Victim's Compensation Program – 605-773-6317

Protection Order

Any person who obtains a protection order, no contact-order, restraining order, or similar lawful orders issued by a criminal, civil, or tribal court should provide a copy to the Title IX Coordinator. The Coordinator will help develop a safety action plan, which is a plan for the College and the victim to reduce the risk of harm while on campus or coming and going from campus. SDCL 25-10-3.1 states persons entitled to apply for a protection order includes any person who is involved in one of the following relationships with the other party:

1. Spouse or former spouse;
2. Is in a significant romantic relationship or has been in one during the past twelve months with the abusing party;
3. Has a child or is expecting a child with the abusing party;
4. Parent and child, including a relationship by adoption, guardianship, or marriage; or
5. Siblings, whether of the whole or half blood, including a relationship through adoption or marriage.

SDCL 22-19A-8 allows those who do not meet the definitions of individuals identified above to obtain a protection order in cases of stalking behavior, physical injury as a result of an assault, or a crime of violence.

WDTC Confidentiality

Most employees at WDTC are obligated to report all details which they are aware of to the Title IX Coordinator. All information is confidential to the Coordinator and will be protected. The Coordinator will contact the victim once a report is made to discuss options.

All accommodations and supportive measures provided to the victim will be maintained as confidential as long as it does not impair the ability to institute those measures. WDTC will not include any personally identifiable information about victims to Clery Act reporting as required in the Violence Against Women's Act.

WDTC Disciplinary Procedures

Policy 4430/9090 and associated procedures may be located at https://www.wdt.edu/about/policy/. A summary is below.

Meeting – The Coordinator works with the victim to file a formal complaint with the College, provide supportive measures, be given their rights and options brochure, and explain the grievance process.

Initial Assessment – The Coordinator reviews the complaint under policy 4430/9090. The parties are notified of dismissal or notice of investigation of allegations per policy guidelines.

Notice of Investigation of Allegations – Written notice is made to both the complainant and the respondent to prepare for investigation and for the ability to choose an advisor. WDTC will make a good faith effort to complete the resolution in 60-90 days.

Informal Resolution – An informal resolution can be offered to the complainant prior to reaching a determination in the formal resolution process and if the Coordinator approves. This is not an option for allegations of sexual harassment between a student and employee.

Investigation – An investigator is appointed within two days of determining an investigation should proceed and will normally be completed within 30 days. WDTC will update the parties on the progress of the investigation and will evaluate evidence objectively. Investigators will provide an investigative report upon completion.

Hearing – The complaint is referred to a hearing which cannot occur in less than ten days from the conclusion of the investigation. Hearings include decision maker, facilitators, investigators, parties, advisors, witnesses, the Coordinator, and anyone providing accommodations. Relevant information is presented including cross examination of all involved. The decision maker has two days to submit the deliberation report to the Coordinator.

Standard of Evidence – The standard of evidence is based on preponderance of evidence meaning that the policy violation is more likely than not to have occurred (over 50%).

Notice of Outcome – The Coordinator uses the decision maker's deliberation statement and disciplinary sanctions, if any, to prepare the notice of outcome to share with the parties and their advisors within seven days of receiving the deliberation statement from the decision maker.

Appeals – Any party can request an appeal for determination regarding responsibility as a result of the resolution process or WDTC's dismissal of formal complaint.

Possible Sanctions

Students: Warning, required counseling, conduct probation, conduct suspension, expulsion, organizational disciplinary sanctions, other as deemed appropriate.

Employees: Warning, performance improvement plan, required counseling, required training, probation, loss of oversight, transfer, assignment to new supervisor, suspension with or without pay, termination, other as deemed appropriate.

Title IX Coordinator

Kelly Oehlerking
VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success
605.718.2931
Kelly.Oehlerking@wdt.edu

WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE