

Counseling and Advocacy Services at Connecticut Higher Education Institutions

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Issue

Which Connecticut laws require higher education institutions to provide confidential counseling and advocacy services to victims of sexual assault, stalking, or intimate partner violence?

Required Victims' Services

Connecticut law requires higher education institutions to assist victims by (1) providing information on available services, (2) creating and maintaining campus resource teams, and (3) maintaining formal relationships with community-based service providers.

By law, higher education institutions must adopt a policy to provide certain information to students and employees who report or disclose being the victim of sexual assault, stalking, or intimate partner violence. This information explains how to (1) access campus, advocacy, counseling, and health and mental services; (2) notify law enforcement; (3) seek a protective order; and (4) change academic, living, campus transportation, or working situations ([CGS § 10a-55m\(b\)\(3\)](#)).

Additionally, [CGS § 10a-55n](#) requires each higher education institution to have a campus resource team to help any employee or student who is the victim of sexual assault, stalking, or intimate partner violence. Campus resource team members are responsible for, among other things, providing services to or assisting in locating services for victims. The team must consist of individuals selected by each institution's president, as well as, among others, (1) the institution's Title IX coordinator and chief student affairs officer, or their designees, and (2) at least one member from its administration, counseling services office, faculty, and student body.

Each institution must also maintain a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with at least one community-based sexual assault crisis service center and at least one community-based domestic violence agency. These MOUs must give on- or off-campus access to free and confidential counseling or advocacy services to any student or employee who reports or discloses being a victim ([CGS § 10a-55o](#)).

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