



# Victim's Rights



DEPARTMENT  
OF SAFETY

## UNSURE OF WHERE TO START?

### YOUR RIGHTS AS A VICTIM

We realize that for many persons, being a victim of a crime is their first experience with the criminal justice and/or university disciplinary system. As a victim, you have certain rights within the system. This brochure is being provided to you to assist you with questions you may have regarding those rights, as well as provide resources available.

Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Complaint Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

You may want more information or to talk to someone confidentially as you decide what you'd like to do moving forward.

You can access crisis counseling, information, and support by connecting with the resources listed below or in the "Assistance" insert.

Engle Health Center

ext. 5357 or 717-796-5357

Professional Counseling Staff

Coordinator of Interpersonal Violence  
Prevention and Education

in Human Resources

Messiah Department of Safety

(717) 691-6005

## THINGS TO CONSIDER

### Are you in danger?

If yes, call 911 (9911 from all building phone on campus)

### Do you need medical attention?

On campus, The Engle Health Center is available. In addition, the Department of Safety staff is trained in basic first aid and has EMT's on staff. The Department of Safety will also assist in contacting an ambulance or assist in setting up a safe way for you to get to a medical facility.

You can receive medical attention at any medical facility; however, if you have been a victim of sexual assault, certain facilities have specially trained staff to help survivors. The following locations have sexual assault nurse examiners:

**Harrisburg Hospital: (717)221-6250**

**Carlisle Regional Medical Center: (717)249-1212**

**Holy Spirit Hospital: (717)763-2100**

**West Shore Pinnacle Hospital: (717)791-2600**

It is important to preserve evidence that may be useful in proceeding with a criminal investigation should you choose to do so. Completing a forensic exam does not require you to file a police report or report to the institution, although we encourage these reports if you are comfortable doing so.

Medical exams can also address other physical needs and assess for sexually transmitted infections or pregnancy.

## MAKING A REPORT

You may choose to report to law enforcement, you may choose to report through our campus disciplinary process, you may report to both, or may choose to access neither of these options. Messiah University will protect your identity in publicly available information, such as within our annual security report or in warnings sent to the campus community. You also can access the accommodations listed (see "Assistance" insert) regardless of where you choose to report and we will keep these accommodations confidential as well, as long as it does not limit our ability to provide them to you. If we need to share information in order to provide an accommodation, we will notify you of what information needs to be shared, why, and with whom prior to sharing the information.

### On Campus

There are people on campus who can support you and assist you in reporting to law enforcement, if you choose to do so. You can contact the Department of Safety at (717) 691-6005, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We can assist you in notifying law enforcement and can help connect you to other people and resources on our campus. Regardless of whether or not you report to the police, you can report to the University by contacting the Department of Safety.

### Law Enforcement

#### In an emergency, dial 911

If you want to contact Upper Allen Police Department directly, you can do so by calling **(717) 238-9676**

If you want to contact Carroll Township Police Department directly, you can do so by calling **(717) 432-3317**

**Please note** that what law enforcement agency to report to can vary depending on the specifics of your case, but we will assist you in reporting to law enforcement.

Many victims find law enforcement to be a great resource. Others choose not to report to law enforcement. We always encourage reporting, but know that only you can determine if doing so is the right decision for you. Regardless of whether or not you report to the police, campus options - including resolution through the University process - are available to you.

**YOUR IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM SAFETY  
IS WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT.**

# YOUR RIGHTS AS A VICTIM

- 1 To receive basic information concerning the services to assist you;
- 2 To be accompanied at all hearing proceedings by a person or advisor of your choice (i.e. a family member, a friend, a counselor, etc.);
- 3 To recover your losses, to the extent possible, through restitution, and the return of property which was seized as evidence when it is no longer needed;
- 4 To see counseling and medical attention through the Engle Health Center or elsewhere as needed, including the nearest hospital emergency room;
- 5 To have the option of reporting crime to the Department of Safety or Law Enforcement agency.

## **RIGHTS SPECIFIC TO DISCRIMINATION, INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE, HARASSMENT, SEXUAL ASSAULT OR STALKING**

*Any student who believes they have been the victim of discrimination, including any type of interpersonal violence, harassment, sexual assault, or stalking is urged to report the matter. Students who report the matter have certain rights under Title IX and VAWA.*

### **RIGHT TO CHOOSE:**

- 1 You have the right to choose when and where you report a violation of the Interpersonal Violence, Harassment, Sexual Assault and/or Stalking Policy.
- 2 You have the right to information about services designed to assist you in the reporting and recovery process.
- 3 You have the right to speak confidentially to a counselor or pastor.
- 4 You have the right to seek or have sought on your behalf counseling and medical attention at the Engle Center or elsewhere as needed—including the nearest hospital emergency room.
- 5 You have the right to a support person to accompany you to all hearings and interviews.
- 6 You have the right to request that an advocate join you in attending appointments.

### **RIGHT TO RESPONSE:**

- 1 You have the right to report a violation of the Interpersonal Violence, Harassment, Sexual Assault and/or Stalking Policy and have Messiah University investigate your complaint promptly.
- 2 You have the right to report the crime to the Department of Safety and/or to a law enforcement agency.

### **RIGHT TO INTERIM MEASURES:**

- 1 You have the right to receive reasonable measures of protection.
- 2 You have the right to request changes in your academic schedule, work schedule and/or location and residence hall or apartment.
- 3 You have the right to request that the University implement a “No Contact Directive” with the respondent.
- 4 You have the right not to “work it out” with the respondent through mediation. Messiah University does not consider mediation to be appropriate in cases involving interpersonal violence.

### **RIGHT TO SUPPORT AND ACCESS:**

- 1 You have the right to a support person of your choice to be present.
- 2 You have the right to an accessible process; including accommodations to navigate the physical, emotional, and mental spaces an investigation requires.
- 3 You have the right to language translation services for materials, support services, or investigatory interactions.

### **RIGHT TO RELIABLE AND IMPARTIAL PROCESS:**

- 1 You have the right to be notified of the timeline for all major stages of the investigation.
- 2 You have the right to present witnesses and evidence in support of your complaint.
- 3 You have the right to review any proceedings documented, including written findings of fact, transcripts or audio recordings.
- 4 You have the right to a resolution of your complaint based on what University officials believe is more likely than not to have happened based upon the investigation (this is called a preponderance of the evidence standard of proof). Messiah University will not use a higher burden of proof.
- 5 You have the right to be informed of the outcome of any disciplinary proceeding held.
- 6 You have the right to be notified in writing of the outcome of your complaint and any appeal, including any sanctions that directly relate to you.
- 7 The appeal process is equally available for both parties.
- 8 You have the right to recover your losses – to the extent possible – through restitution and the return of property that was seized as evidence when it is no longer needed.

# Acknowledgement of Receipt of Victim Rights Information

I acknowledge that I have received the attached information on the services available for victims of crime.

_____	_____
Name (Printed):	Officer's Signature:
_____	_____
Signature:	Date:
_____	_____
Date:	Date:
_____	_____
Cell:	Date:



DEPARTMENT  
OF SAFETY

## ASSISTANCE

### Protection From Abuse (PFA)

To apply for a PFA in Cumberland County a victim needs to call Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties at 1-800-852-2102, and schedule an appointment with a legal advocate/counselor.

This number also serves as a 24 hour hotline that a victim can call simply to speak with a counselor concerning Domestic Violence Issues.

During the appointment, the client will meet with an advocate who will assist the client in filing a Temporary PFA with the courts. Domestic Violence Services will then make arrangements with MidPenn Legal Services for the client to meet with an attorney prior to the hearing.

These services provided are free and confidential.

### No-Contact Mandate

Depending on the nature of the incident, Messiah University may be able to issue a no contact order to prevent contact between two individuals.

For more information regarding no-contact orders please contact:

**Bryce Wickard Ext. 2467**

Director, Department of Safety & Deputy Title IX Coordinator

**Doug Wood Ext. 3200**

Dean of Students & Deputy Title IX Coordinator

### Off-Campus Victim Services

**YWCA Rape Crisis Services**

1-800-654-1211 or 717-238-7273

**Victim Services of Cumberland County**

717-761-5599

**Cumberland County Rape Crisis Services**

1-888-727-2877 or 717-258-4324

**YWCA of York Victim Assistance**

1-800-422-3204

## ASSISTANCE

### Requesting Accommodation & Interim Measures

*Living accommodations:*

**Doug Wood ext. 3200 or Hannah McBride ext. 2608**

*Academic accommodations:*

**Doug Wood ext. 3200 or Hannah McBride ext. 2608**

*Working accommodations:*

**Amanda Coffey ext. 5300**

*Disability Accommodations:*

**Amy Slody ext. 7258**

*Transportation:*

**Dispatch at ext. 6005**

The Department of Safety offers the Safe Walk/Safe Ride program for all students from dusk until dawn. Daytime Safe Walk/Rides are also available for medical situations and crime victims (upon request).

To make a request, please contact Dispatch at ext. 6005. An employee from the Department of Safety will be dispatched to your location to safely bring you to any site on campus.

### Additional Resources

*Coordinator of Interpersonal Violence & Education, Human Resources:*

**Hannah McBride ext. 2608**

*Student Ministries Pastor, Campus Ministries:*

**Mina Choi ext. 7224**

*Engle Health Center:*

**Professional Counseling Staff ext. 5357**

For more information regarding programs, assistance, policies and procedures please see the University's Annual Security Report.

This report can be found on the Department of Safety website ([www.messiah.edu/safety](http://www.messiah.edu/safety)).