

## **Resources and Rights for Victims of Sexual Misconduct**

Highland Community College believes members of the College community and visitors should have a learning environment free of sexual misconduct, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. College procedures pertaining to sexual misconduct are contained in the comprehensive policy. The College's first concern is for the safety and well-being of individuals in our campus community who have been the target of any act of gender based or other sexual misconduct.

### **Victims have a number of reporting and assistance options:**

- Victims of sexual misconduct may obtain a forensic medical examination at no cost pursuant to the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act. The nearest facility to campus with this service is FHN Hospital at 1045 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL. The hospital's telephone number is 815-599-6000.
- The College will provide assistance in making reports to law enforcement at a student or visitor's request. Individuals on campus may report to a Stephenson County Sheriff's Sargeant or Deputy assigned to the campus. The Stephenson County Sheriff's Sargeant/Deputy assigned to campus may be contacted at (815) 599-3652.
- Anonymous reporting is available by using the online incident reporting form: <https://publicdocs.maxient.com/incidentreport.php?HighlandCC>
- Confidential reporting is available by using the College's incident reporting form or by contacting the confidential advisor through the HCC Counseling Center (Kami Himes, LCPC) during regularly posted hours of operation, by leaving a message at (815) 599-3654 or by email at [counseling@highland.edu](mailto:counseling@highland.edu). The confidential advisor will listen and identify resources or explain options available to persons who make a confidential report. **DISCUSSING OPTIONS WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFICIAL COLLEGE REPORT AND WILL NOT, ABSENT FURTHER CONSENT AND REPORTING, RESULT IN INVESTIGATION BY THE COLLEGE.**
- Formal reports by a victim or bystander (third party) to a College official:  
When a report of an incident of sexual misconduct or violence is made by a student it will be investigated by the Title IX Coordinator or a deputy investigator. Reports of incidents by College employees may be made to the Title IX Coordinator or filed electronically. If the Title IX Coordinator is the offending person, reports may be made to the Director of Adult Education (investigator) or the Associate Vice President of Human Resources (investigator) who will investigate the complaint. Incidents can be reported in the following ways:
  - Leave a private voice message for the Title IX Coordinator;

- Send a private email to the Title IX Coordinator;
- Mail a letter to the Title IX Coordinator's office;
- Visit the Title IX Coordinator (although it is best to make an appointment first to ensure availability);
- Reporting to another trusted college official (e.g., faculty member, coach, advisor) who will then provide information as required under the policy to the Title IX Coordinator.
- File a report through the online incident reporting system at <https://publicdocs.maxient.com/incidentreport.php?HighlandCC>

Title IX Coordinator  
 Vice President of Student Development  
 and Support Services  
 Liz Gerber  
 M-101  
 815-599-3531  
[Liz.Gerber@highland.edu](mailto:Liz.Gerber@highland.edu)

Title IX Deputy Investigator  
 Adult Education Director  
 Mark Jansen  
 R-132  
 (815) 599-3455  
[Mark.Jansen@highland.edu](mailto:Mark.Jansen@highland.edu)

Title IX Deputy Investigator  
 Associate Vice President of Human  
 Resources  
 Rose Ferguson  
 H-232  
 (815) 599-3402  
[Rose.Ferguson@highland.edu](mailto:Rose.Ferguson@highland.edu)

- Reporting to a Community Based Sexual Assault Crisis Center:

In Stephenson County, the crisis hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at  
 Sexual Assault Crisis Line: 815-232-7200  
 Domestic Violence Crisis Line: 815-235-1641  
 1401 Crestwood Dr. Freeport, IL 61032  
<http://voicesofsc.org/>

In Jo Daviess County, the crisis hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at  
 Galena Sexual Assault  
 1-888-707-8155  
 Galena Domestic Violence  
 1-815-777-3680  
<http://www.riverviewcenter.org/>

In Carroll County, the crisis hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at

Mt. Carroll Sexual Assault  
1-877-273-7772  
Mt. Carroll Domestic Violence  
1-815-244-1320  
<http://www.riverviewcenter.org/>

In Ogle County, the crisis hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at  
HOPE of Ogle County Domestic Violence Services  
(815) 562-8890

- Contact a National Hotline

Sexual Assault and Abuse: Sexual Assault Hotline	(815) 758-7922
Suicide Hotline: 24-Hour Suicide Hotline (1-800-SUICIDE)	(800) 784-2433
National Center for Victims of Crime	(800) 394-2255
National Domestic Violence Hotline	(800) 799-SAFE
Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline	(877) 863-6338

### **Victim Rights on Campus**

Students and bystanders who report sexual assault or sexual misconduct have should expect to have the following rights observed on the HCC campus:

- To the extent necessary the college may take interim measures to assist or protect the parties during the inquiry or investigation process, as deemed necessary and when appropriate with the alleged victim's consent. Such interim measures may include arranging for changes in class schedules, issuing a campus no-contact order, arranging counseling, and modifying test schedules or other class requirements on a temporary basis.
- Highland prohibits any form of retaliation against any individual for reporting, providing information, exercising one's rights or responsibilities under this policy, or otherwise being involved in the process of responding to, investigating, or addressing allegations of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking.
- The College will provide assistance in reporting to law enforcement if requested.
- It is the express policy of the College that individuals who report incidents in good faith will receive immunity from disciplinary procedures for student code of conduct

violations committed by them that become known as a result of investigation by the College, except in the case of egregious misconduct.

- The College will investigate official reports in a timely manner following the process outlined in the policy, which includes providing opportunities for a complainant, victim and respondent to present evidence and witnesses and to have an advisor present for the purpose of providing guidance to the individual.
- Both parties shall be informed of the outcome of any disciplinary proceeding.
- The College recognizes that victims, witnesses and those accused have reasonable expectations of confidentiality and sensitivity in the investigation of sexual misconduct allegations. The College will endeavor to honor and respect such privacy/ confidentiality within the parameters of the law. For example the Title IX Coordinator or investigator is required to disclose certain information to the alleged victim, complainant, accused or witnesses as necessary to give fair notice of the allegations and to conduct the investigation; to other college officials as necessary for coordinating interim measures or for health, welfare, and safety reasons; and to government agencies who review the college's compliance with federal law. The written investigation report and any written decision will be disclosed within seven days of the decision to the alleged victim, complainant, respondent, Title IX Coordinator, and College president or designee for the purpose of adjudicating the complaint, and vice president of student development and college officials as necessary to prepare for subsequent proceedings (e.g., legal counsel or due process hearings).