

Snow College Response to USHE Student Safety Information Request

- 1. Procedure and policy for processing complaints from student victims to ensure the privacy and rights of victims.**

Student victims are allowed to file an informal or formal statement. We let the victim maintain control of the case, within reason. We hold the interviews in confidential settings and we give the victims information on their rights. In addition, we limit case information sharing in order to respectively protect all persons in the process.

- 2. How is sensitive evidence of crime being protected from in-department and out of department dissemination beyond that which is reasonably necessary to investigate and prosecute the crimes alleged? How long is evidence held and what is the policy for returning or destroying the evidence to victim at the conclusion of the case?**

All evidence is stored in the evidence room which is only accessible by the evidence tech. Evidence will normally be retained until the following has occurred.

- 1. The judicial proceedings are completed and appeal times have expired*
- 2. The statute of limitations has expired*
- 3. The case is unfounded*
- 4. The appropriate prosecuting attorney declines to prosecute*
- 5. The appropriate prosecuting attorney has authorized its release or destruction*

Items not claimed after the owner of those items has been notified, will be destroyed after 90 days.

- 3. What measures are taken to discipline law enforcement officers who violate policy and procedures that would violate victim's privacy including reporting violations to Utah agencies that have oversight over law enforcement officers?**

College policy 318 governs corrective action for all staff members including public safety officers. <https://www.snow.edu/general/policies/318%20Corrective%20Action.pdf>. Snow College requires all public safety officers to comply with all POST requirements and regulations. Officers are directed to carefully manage sensitive information. Officers who willfully or recklessly disregard this directive are subject to disciplinary action up to termination depending on facts. When it comes to reporting misconduct to POST, Snow College Public Safety will comply with Utah code 53-6-21(6)(a).

- 4. What training has been given to campus law enforcement officers regarding best practices and procedures for handling victims reporting crimes—especially crimes involving sexual violence, criminal stalking and dating violence. Has law enforcement been given adequate training by professionals outside of the department?**

Officers have attended Sexual Assault trainings held by different outside agencies including the Utah AG's Office, VAWA Conference at Westminster College and forensic interviewing technique classes and trauma informed training, held by the Child Justice Center.

- 5. Does the campus provide victim advocate resources for students? How is this information regarding availability of victim advocate resources being delivered to students?**

Although the College does not have a victim advocate office, the College utilizes two resources to assist victims. The victim is given victim advocate information provided through the County. They also receive a pamphlet with resource information they can access at a later date. In addition, the College has an effective counseling department which victims of sexual violence, stalking, and dating violence are given a top priority.

- 6. Are victims made aware of their right to obtain victim advocate support and how to access those resources? Are victims made aware of the availability of obtaining personal protective orders, including stalking, dating violence and sexual violence injunctions? Are they provided the forms or directions on how to access these self-help protections?**

Yes. As stated above, we give the information victims need to contact the victim advocate at the County Attorney's Office. Also, we provide them information on how to obtain personal protective orders/injunctions as well as offer to support them in the court process. In addition, we offer to give them rides to and from the victim advocate office and to the hospital or other medical appointments, as needed.

- 7. After the most recent incident regarding alleged mishandling of evidence by law enforcement, how do you establish the confidence and trust of students in campus law enforcement and administration that their complaints will be handled seriously and with sensitivity so victims will feel comfortable in coming forward to report abuse and acts of violence inflicted on students?**

Extensive training occurs with both in-person and online methods. Last year the Public Safety and Title IX offices partnered to provide these trainings to a multitude of student audiences. In addition, prevention awareness campaigns are geared at educating the campus on rights, resources, and support. Campaigns are carefully and specifically designed to engage the entire campus community in helping to stop sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, and sexual harassment.