

## **RESPONSE PROTOCOL (will be updated annually)**

Last updated: January 2018

### **1 Disclosing**

As stated above, South House believes that all individuals who experience Sexual Assault may be at risk of further harm or Retaliation, and understands that it is difficult to disclose Sexual Assault. South House recognizes this challenge, but urges individuals to seek support for their own healing. This can take the form of support from a partner, grass-roots community organization, chosen family member(s), friends, South House services, other University services, and/or the police.

#### 1.1 Receiving Disclosures

##### *Initial Contact\**

- Ensure the immediate safety of the person reporting/Survivor/Victim
- Call the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre 24-hour help line at 902-425-0122
- Call the Dalhousie University *Sexual Assault Peer Support Line* at 902-425-1066 (Operating 12pm-12am)
- If emergency medical assistance is required on campus, call Security Services at 902-494-4109
- If emergency medical assistance is required off campus, call 911

\*South House does not necessarily support the manner in which Sexual Assault Complaints are handled by Security Services or the Police, and does not know the level of First Responder training held by these services. However, if emergency medical assistance is required, calling Security Services or 911 is the most appropriate action to take.

##### *If the Sexual Assault has occurred in the **last 5 days***

- It is important to preserve physical evidence, treat any physical injuries, and test for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or pregnancy.
- If the Survivor/Victim is interested in seeking medical attention, discourage the Survivor/Victim from showering, changing clothes, eating, or drinking prior to receiving medical attention to preserve forensic evidence.
- Call the Avalon Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Response Line at 902-425-0122. The SANE is equipped with specialized training as well as a rape kit to collect any forensic evidence that can be later used in any legal proceedings the Survivor/Victim may want to pursue
- Call the Dalhousie University *Sexual Assault Peer Support Line* at 902-425-1066 (Operating 12pm-12am)

*If the Survivor/Victim is interested in making a Complaint*

- **Non-Criminal/On-campus options** – disclosures can be made to a South House Staff member, Dalhousie University Ombudsperson, Dalhousie Human Rights & Equity Services, Dalhousie Student Union Equity and Accessibility Office, and/or Department Head. At Dalhousie University on-campus Complaints can be filed as a violation of the *Code of Student Conduct* or the *Sexual Harassment Policy*. On-campus Complaints at other institutions should occur according to the individual university/college policy.
- **Criminal Option** – reports/Complaints can be made to the police in an effort to pursue criminal charges under the *Criminal Code of Canada*. Prior to reporting in the Criminal Option, Survivors/Victims are encouraged to report acts of Sexual Assault to any of the bodies listed in the Non-Criminal Option, as a member of these bodies may be able to assist with the Criminal Option.

*If the Survivor/Victim would like to access legal assistance, further resources, or services*

- Legal assistance in the case where the Survivor/Victim makes a Non-Criminal and/or Criminal Complaint or no Complaint at all can be received through the Dalhousie Feminist Legal Association or OUTlaw, the LGBTQ Society of the Schulich School of Law (see Section 12 Resources of this policy).
- Refer to the Resources in the *South House Sexual Assault and Sexual Assault Response Protocol*
- Or the South House website at:  
<http://southhousehalifax.ca/wp-content/uploads/South-House-Referral-Guide-2015-1.pdf>

## **2 Investigating Complaints**

- “On-campus investigation of Complaints will be conducted as per King’s and Dalhousie policy, and the Complainant may be supported by South House staff if requested.”
- Internal investigation involving South House staff, board, volunteers, will be overseen by a committee of members of the Staff and Board who are not involved. If complainant does not wish to file the complaint internally, they will be referred to their campus’ sexual assault response policy or if they are not a student, they will be referred to file the complaint off campus

### **2.1 Reporting Investigative Results**

South House is committed to remaining transparent and will aim to provide all necessary information to the Survivor/Victim and South House Community about acts of Sexual Assault and subsequent internal or external investigations. However, if the Survivor/Victim chooses to remain anonymous, South House is committed to not sharing identifying information and upholding confidentiality.

## 2.2 Retaliation

South House will not tolerate any Retaliation, directly or indirectly, against anyone who, in good faith, makes a Sexual Assault Disclosure. The South House Staff, South House Board of Directors, and Sexual Assault Response Team will manage all complaints of reprisals for Disclosures made under the *South House Sexual Assault Policy and Response Protocol* with the investigative support of the appropriate university or college department.

## 3. DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY POLICY

### 3.1 Sexual Harassment Policy

The Sexual Harassment Policy sets out Dalhousie University's commitment to providing a working and learning environment free from sexual harassment and provides fair procedures for handling complaints when they do arise.

[http://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/human-rights---equity/sexual-harassment-policy-.html](http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/human-rights---equity/sexual-harassment-policy-.html)

### 3.2 Code of Student Conduct

The Dalhousie University Code of Student Conduct sets out the offences for which a Dalhousie University student may be subject to non-academic discipline.

[http://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html](http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html)

## 4. RESOURCES

This list of resources should be updated annually on the South House website following the annual review of the Sexual Assault Response Protocol.

### 4.1 Immediate Action Resources

#### ***Avalon Sexual Assault Centre***

General phone line: 902-422-4240

24 hour help line: 902-425-0122

<http://www.avaloncentre.ca/>

1526 Dresden Row, Fourth Floor, Halifax NS B3J 3K3

Provides access to SANEs (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners), low-cost group programming, trauma information, information for non-offending parents, free individual counseling, workshops for survivors, legal support and advocacy. Avalon's counseling services are only offered to WOMEN over 16 years of age except the SANE program, which treats people of all genders and all ages.

#### ***Dalhousie Student Union Survivor Support Centre***

Phone line: 902-425-1066

<http://dsu.ca/survivorsupport>

### ***Dalhousie Security Services***

Campus emergencies: 902-494-4109 or 4109 from any campus pay phone

Blue lights across campus - direct access for emergencies

The responsibility of Dalhousie Security Services is to be in overall control of all activities of University personnel at emergency sites. Provide initial response to incident and conduct scene survey to determine resource requirements to address issues related to safety and security of individuals, property and the environment.

### ***Mobile Mental Health Crisis Team***

429-8167 or 1-888-429-8167 - this line provides crisis support for children, youth, and adults experiencing a mental health crisis which could include thoughts of suicide, distorted or psychotic thinking, intense anxiety, overwhelming depression, feeling unable to cope or out of control. It offers telephone crisis support throughout the HRM, and mobile response to areas served by Halifax Regional Police.

### ***Police – Emergency Line***

Call 911

This is line for emergency situations.

### ***Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner***

24 Hour SANE sexual assault nurse examiner response line: 902-425-0122

A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner is a Registered Nurse who has advanced training and education in forensic examinations of sexual assault victims. The SANE program is a partnership with the IWK Hospital for Women, Children and Families, the QEII Health Sciences Centre, and the Dartmouth General Hospital. On-call SANEs provide 24/7 emergency response to victims and to the emergency departments of the local hospitals, expert testimony in a court of law, supportive follow-up for victims and their families, and the storage of forensic evidence for up to 6 months. **The SANE program WILL NOT provide: transportation, medical services outside the hospital emergency departments, or medical treatment to anyone other than a victim of sexual violence.**

## 4.2 Secondary Resources

### ***Dalhousie Student Health and Wellness (Counselling)***

Can be reached at 902-494-2171

1246 LeMarchant Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, LeMarchant Place

<http://counsellingservices.dal.ca>

Dalhousie Counselling and Psychological Services offers free, confidential assistance by professionally trained counsellors and registered psychologists.

### ***Dalhousie Student Union Equity and Accessibility Office***

<http://dsu.ca/equity>

Can be reached at 902-494-1282 or [dsuequity@dal.ca](mailto:dsuequity@dal.ca)

The Equity and Accessibility Office was formed to address issues of systemic and institutional

oppression at Dalhousie University & within the Dalhousie Student Union. The Office strives to implement a framework of anti-oppression in all the work we do to make the DSU a more equitable and accessible place for everyone. By anti-oppression, we mean the practice of challenging all forms of oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, religion, immigration status, country of origin, age, physical ability, and mental health status.

***Dalhousie University Feminist Legal Association (DFLA)***

dalfeministlegalassociation@gmail.com

DFLA aims to enhance education in the area of gender and the law and feminism, offer resources and support to the law school and Dalhousie community, and provide a safe space for feminist organizing. DFLA advocates for gender equality and inclusivity within the Schulich School of Law and supports the activities of feminist organizations outside of the law school.

***Dalhousie University Human Rights and Equity Services***

Can be reached at 902-494-6672. Members of the Dalhousie community can contact this office if they wish to report sexual harassment or violence on campus.

***Halifax Sexual Health Centre***

Can be reached at 902-455-9656

<http://hshc.ca/>

Formerly Planned Parenthood Metro Clinic

The Halifax Sexual Health Centre offers inclusive, non-judgmental service that promotes sexual and reproductive health within an environment that respects and supports individual choice. Emergency contraception also known as “ECP”, “Plan B”, or “the morning-after pill”), and birth control refills are available during open hours. Anonymous HIV testing and counseling on Tuesdays and Thursdays (8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.). STI testing swabs and urine and treatment; birth control options counseling; birth control prescriptions; IUD insertions and removals; pregnancy tests; pregnancy options counseling; referrals for pre-natal care, adoption services, and therapeutic abortions; Pap tests; breast exams; testicular and prostate checks. HIV nurses perform blood testing for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and syphilis, Hep A/B vaccine for members of higher-risk populations e.g. men who have sex with men, individuals involved with IV drug use, etc.). Counseling services are available as well and include one-on-one or with your partner counseling with a doctor on sexual health issues, which may include but is not limited to: sexuality and relationship issues; sexual assault/rape/trauma; bio-identical hormone treatment assessment.

***Halifax Regional Police Victim Services***

Can be reached at 902-490-5300

The Victim Services Unit of Halifax Regional Police is a police-based victim support unit. The Unit was established in 1996 to provide supportive services to victims of crime, with particular emphasis on victims of domestic violence. The Unit is comprised of civilian employees and volunteers who work with police members. Once officers have responded to a crime and ensured the physical safety of all involved, Victim Services may be called to assist with non-policing issues such as emotional support and referral information. The Unit can also provide safety planning, counseling, and crisis intervention at the scene of violence.

***Healing Our Nations***

<http://www.hon93.ca/>

Healing Our Nations' mandate is to teach and support First Nations people in the manner that is respectful to the native ways of life. They are guided on this mission by the people that they help.

***Hollaback! Halifax***

Can be reached at <http://halifax.ihollaback.org/>, @HollabackHRM (Twitter)

An online peer-support network where people of all ages and genders can share and discuss their experiences of street harassment.

***Nova Scotia Domestic Violence Resource Centre***

<http://www.nsdombesticviolence.ca/>

A site that contains information about what constitutes domestic abuse and violence, how to get help, how to help others, and how to address one's own abusive behaviours. It provides a list and map of organizations throughout Nova Scotia that may be able to help, with contact information for each organization. Run by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

***OUTlaw***

[schulich.outlaw@gmail.com](mailto:schulich.outlaw@gmail.com)

The objectives of OUTlaw are to promote a queer positive atmosphere within the Schulich School of Law, to support queer law students and their allies; and to facilitate a connection between queer law students and the legal community.

***prideHealth***

Can be reached at Phone: 902-487-0470

E-mail: [prideHealth@nshealth.ca](mailto:prideHealth@nshealth.ca)

Aims to improve access to comprehensive and coordinated primary health care for GLBTI people in Nova Scotia's Capital Health district. For more information on the prideHealth program, or if you would like to consult on issues related to sexual orientation or gender identity, contact Cybelle Rieber, prideHealth Coordinator,

***University of King's College Equity Officer***

In the absence of a dedicated ombudsperson or sexual harassment advisor, the equity officer is a resource and support for members of the King's community who experience harassment or assault.