

## Title IX FAQs for Witnesses

### **If I was not involved in the incident, why do I have to participate in the Title IX investigation?**

Your name was given to a Title IX Investigator as someone who may have direct information about an alleged sexual misconduct incident.

### **Do I have to meet with the Title IX investigators?**

Although it is the expectation that all witnesses cooperate, you are not obligated to meet with anyone. However, your name was likely shared by someone involved in the investigation that feels you have pertinent information to share with the Investigators.

### **I want to assist with the investigation, but this process makes me anxious, can I speak with someone on campus?**

Yes. Counseling Services is a free resource on campus for students. Their office is located in Puryear House. You can contact them directly at [counseling@montevallo.edu](mailto:counseling@montevallo.edu) and by phone at 205-665-6245.

### **Can I remain anonymous?**

This is not likely. If you provide certain information during your meeting, it is likely your name will need to be shared with other students so they can understand the context of questions or information shared with them. It is also important to keep in mind that if you are the only other person to know a specific piece of information, the other parties will likely know the information came from you.

### **Am I in trouble?**

No, if you are called as a witness of an alleged sexual misconduct incident you are not in trouble. If it is discovered that you were in violation of the Student Code of Conduct during the incident, the Office of Student Conduct will not charge you with policy violations. The Title IX Investigators need you to be as forthcoming as possible without fearing consequences for yourself.

### **Who will I be meeting with?**

You will be meeting with two Title IX Investigators.

### **What do I need to do to prepare for a Title IX investigation?**

You will need to be prepared to share with the Title IX Investigators what you know about the incident. If you have any text messages or screenshots from before, during, or after the incident, please be prepared to share those with the Investigators.

### **Who is involved in a Title IX investigation?**

There will likely be two Title IX Investigators gathering information about the incident. The Complainant, Respondent, and necessary witnesses will also participate in the investigation.

### **What will the Title IX investigators do with the information I share?**

The Investigators will use your information along with all other evidence and information collected to complete their investigation. The Complainant and Respondent have the right to know what you shared so they can defend, confirm, or rebut any information you provide.

