

TITLE IX OFFICE

COVID-19 & TITLE IX UPDATES

Online learning and living off campus has the potential to bring numerous challenges and can also intensify unsafe living environments. The following reminders and resources are meant to help clarify how the Tougaloo College Title IX Policy continues to function during this time of remote learning and how to get assistance and support.

- The Title IX Office is still open (remotely) and serving students, faculty, and staff during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals can report new and old incidents of sexual discrimination, sexual misconduct or retaliation by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Linda J. Daniels at titleix@tougaloo.edu or 601-977-446 or 769-257-1552. Remember that reporting allows you to learn about all the various options, resources, and support mechanisms available to you and be aware that we do not automatically initiate a Title IX investigation upon receipt of a report.
- [Tougaloo College's Title IX Policy](#) still applies to you regardless of where you are living or who else is involved in an incident of sexual discrimination, sexual misconduct or retaliation. This means that you are still held accountable to the Policy and should not violate any aspect of the Policy even while you are off campus. Additionally, all students are still protected under the Policy, meaning that if a student does experience sexual discrimination, sexual misconduct or retaliation, they can receive assistance, resources, and support via the Title IX Office and other campus resources.
- Incidents of sexual harassment may increase via online platforms used during remote learning and social distancing. These types of incidents are unacceptable and reportable under Title IX. Individuals who experience this type of misconduct are able to receive help and assistance by reaching out to the Title IX Coordinator.
- Incidents of domestic violence and dating violence may increase with students living at home, with family or friends, or with their partners. These incidents — regardless of who committed the act of violence and where it occurred — are all reportable via Title IX. Students who have experienced these types of incidents are encouraged to report and get assistance from the Title IX Coordinator.
- While our Title IX Office does not automatically report incidents to local law enforcement, we are legally obligated to share certain types of reports (namely physical/sexual abuse or neglect) with Child Protective Services *only when the victim is under 18 years of age*.
- Many states, including Mississippi, have issued Stay at Home Orders for their residents. Know that these orders *do not mean* that individuals must stay in an unsafe home or relationship. You can still leave your home to seek safety. If you are in a physically or sexually abusive home environment, know that the Title IX Office is here to help as well as the additional resources listed below. Advocacy agencies and sexual assault exams are considered “essential services” during these Stay at Home Orders, meaning that they are available and accessible to anyone who needs them at this time.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Campus resources remain available to assist you if you or a loved one have experienced any form of sexual misconduct (sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and/or sexual exploitation):

- Title IX Coordinator Dr. Linda Daniels is available to speak with students about the options and resources available to them at titleixcoordinator@tougaloo.edu or 601-977-4462.
- Academic deans, department directors or other members of the [Title IX Team](#) are available to assist students and point them toward appropriate resources.
- Tamar Counseling Group remains available to assist students via phone consultation. Learn more about how to get assistance from Tamar Counselors at <https://www.tamarcounselinggroup.com>.
- The College Chaplain is available to speak with students remotely by contacting Dr. Maxine Bolden (College Chaplain, mbolden@tougaloo.edu/ 601-977-7758).

OTHER RESOURCES

If you or a loved one are experiencing sexual, dating, and/or domestic violence, you can contact the following free and confidential resources:

- National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-4673 (online chatting is also available via their website: <https://www.rainn.org/>).
- National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (online chatting and mobile texting is also available via their website: <https://www.thehotline.org/> or <https://www.loveisrespect.org/>).

Mississippi residents can find a sexual assault/domestic violence advocate near them by visiting the Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MSCASA, mscasa.org) and the Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence (MCADV, mcadv.org). Students needing an advocate in other states or countries are welcome to reach out to the Title IX Coordinator or the National Hotlines listed above to get connected to an advocacy agency in their local area.

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center is also cultivating a list of useful resources given the changes and impact of COVID-19. Those resources are accessible [here](#).

The primary purpose of this message is to reiterate that help and support is available to anyone who is experiencing — or has experienced — sexual or interpersonal violence. Even though we are all in our respective locations right now, the web of support available to you at Tougaloo College remains and we do not tolerate incidents of sexual or interpersonal misconduct. We will always be committed to your safety and wellbeing, regardless of how far away you are from campus. Please reach out to Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Linda Daniels for any of the resources listed here if you are in need of assistance or a listening ear. We're here for you.