

GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS ACCUSED OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

This document is for students who may be responding to allegations of sexual misconduct.

Being accused of sexual misconduct is a serious matter and can be a traumatic experience. When investigating such allegations, the University has a duty of care to all parties.

The University follows due process and natural justice in the interests of all parties named in the complaint.

A trained Student Conduct and Complaints Officer will be assigned to the case and will be the point of contact during the investigation, should a student have any questions.

The Student Conduct and Complaints Office can be contacted at sccoffice@kent.ac.uk

The [Student Discipline Procedure](#) will be followed by the University and sets out the steps that will be followed in investigating the allegation and possible Disciplinary action, including details of appeal.

The Procedure provides students with information on what might happen next and what role the University may have.

It is important to know that the list of actions detailed in this document are not exhaustive.



SUPPORT FOR YOU: You have the right to be treated with respect and dignity throughout the process.

INTERNAL SUPPORT

- **University's Student Support and Wellbeing team:** this includes access to Counselling and Mental Health support to help deal with feelings related to being accused, decision-making, and concerns about relationships. Contact us Monday to Friday 9:00-17:00:

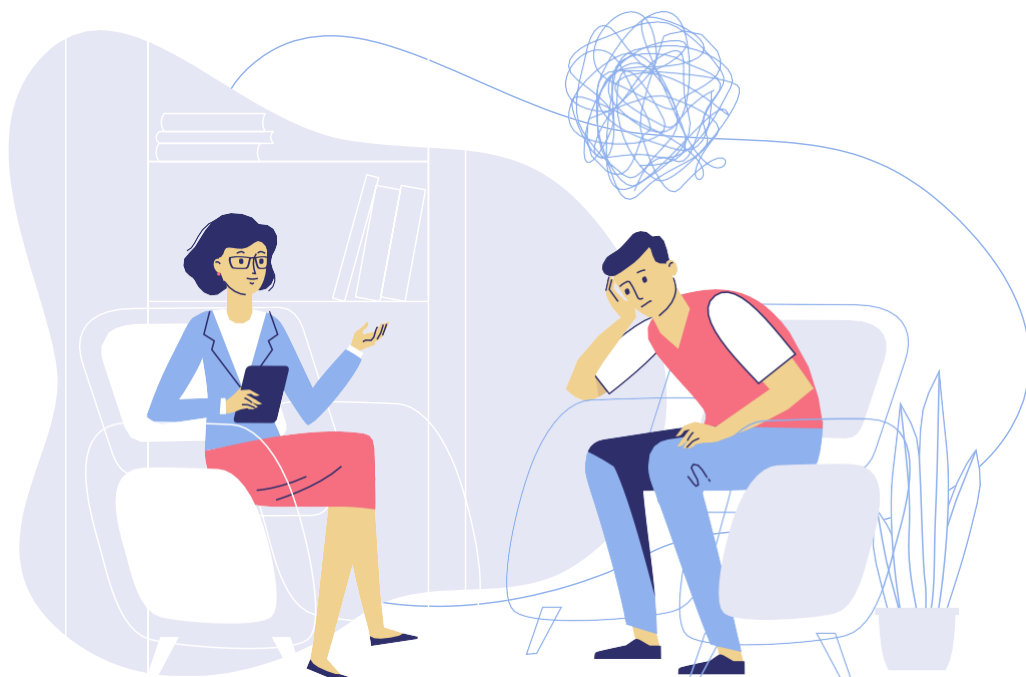
Canterbury: KentSSW@kent.ac.uk

Medway: MedwaySSW@kent.ac.uk

- The **Kent Union Advice Centre** can provide free independent advice and support to students whenever they have a problem in the University.

You have a **right to have a support person with you at any meeting** with the University relating to the Complaint made.

If you are charged and would like **help in gaining independent legal advice**, contact the [Kent Union Advice Centre](#) who may be able to support you in accessing legal services



EXTERNAL SUPPORT

Mental Health Partner organisation: Spectrum Life

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis or need emergency in the moment crisis support outside of Student Support and Wellbeing working hours, our external partners [Spectrum Life](#) can offer you online, text and telephone support from qualified counsellors and mental health professionals.

Spectrum Life will work with you in getting initial support and help during your crisis and the University Student Support and Wellbeing teams will contact you on the next working day. They are available on weekdays evenings from **8pm till 8am Monday to Friday, weekends, and Bank Holidays.**

- Telephone: 0800 0318227 or Text 'Hi' to: 00353 87 369 0010
- Search for the Spectrum Life app on your app store and follow the log in instructions

Nightline

Call [Nightline](#) and speak to a trained student volunteer about anything that may be troubling you. Student volunteers are on hand throughout the night if you just need someone to listen. (**8pm till 8am, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday**).

- Telephone: 01227 824848

Citizens Advice Bureau

Visit the [Citizens Advice Bureau 'Contact Us' page](#)



COMMUNICATION:

Do not contact the person who has made the disclosure or complaint under any circumstance.

This can be considered retaliatory, even if that is not your intent. Family and friends should also make no contact with the person who has made the disclosure or complaint or discuss the matter on social media. It could give rise to additional complaints being raised against you.

Communication includes verbal, email, written, and social media (like Messenger, WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok, Facebook) and any other electronic means.

You should not post updates or comments relating to this matter on social media.

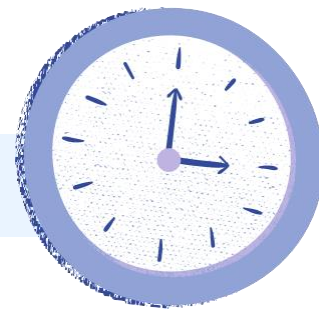
Your social media use may be considered by the University during any investigation and/or disciplinary actions.

Consider whether there is information to gather that might be helpful.

For example, you might gather written material, text messages, emails, Facebook postings, or other social media postings. If you have already deleted text messages, contact your provider to find out if they can be recovered. If you think of possible witnesses, it might be helpful to write down their names so that you do not forget them later, but you should not contact witnesses directly.



THINGS TO BE AWARE OF:



RISK MANAGEMENT

The University may undertake some precautionary measures after conducting a Risk Assessment, before any investigation is undertaken.

It is important to note that this is not a disciplinary process but is intended to use reasonable attempts to ensure the wellbeing of all those involved and also the wider University community. The Risk Assessment does not imply any judgement on the accusation. There are numerous possible outcomes open to the Risk Management Team to respond to any risks identified. These could range from a move in location for teaching and/or living purposes, up to and including temporary exclusion from the University and/or facilities.

Any measures taken to mitigate risk will not impact upon your right to support.

If you have received a temporary exclusion and require support on campus, please contact the Student Conduct and Complaints Office to arrange a suitable time to access support services. Do not attend campus without prior permission.

POLICE INVESTIGATION

If the Police are investigating an incident, the University can commence or continue any precautionary measures whilst the Police investigation is ongoing but will suspend any internal investigation.

If the criminal process ends, the University investigation and disciplinary process can recommence. Any outcome from a criminal or court processes does not determine whether a violation of the Student Disciplinary Procedure has occurred and there is a different burden of proof required. However, any outcome of such processes will be taken into consideration during the investigation.