

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND THE WORKPLACE POLICY**

APPROVED BY POLICY COMMITTEE 10/2/2023

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<b>SUNY MORRISVILLE</b>		

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## I. SUMMARY

The State University of New York at Morrisville (the College) is committed to maintaining a campus and a workplace free from domestic and other forms of gender-based violence. The College in its continuing effort to facilitate a safe and welcoming environment in education and employment, and in support of federal and state gender-based violence prevention legislation, has adopted the following policy in furtherance of such efforts.

Domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence impact the lives of thousands of New Yorkers each day, with tragic, destructive, and often fatal results. The impact of such violence transcends beyond the various locations at which such incidents take place and are felt in the workplace. The safety of victims, co-workers, and clients have the potential to be compromised.

The College recognizes that domestic and gender-based violence occurs within a wide spectrum of relationships and is committed to taking every appropriate measure to support employees who may be experiencing victimization in a survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive manner.

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## II. POLICY

### A. Persons Covered by this Policy

This Policy shall extend to all full, part-time, and temporary employees, volunteers, and interns engaged by the college in any official workplace capacity. Whenever possible, this Policy shall be extended to consultants, contractors, and other on-site providers.

### B. Statement of Confidentiality

The College recognizes and respects every employee's right to privacy and confidentiality. All information, including employee disclosures about victimization, shall be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law and the College policy. Disclosure of such information may occur when an employee provides written informed consent or when the failure to disclose would create a substantial risk of imminent danger to the victimized employee, other employees, or worksite. Should that circumstance occur, the victimized employee will be notified of the actions that will be taken by the College and information sharing will be limited to the employees deemed necessary for securing the safety of the victim, other employees, or worksite. All information shared with the employees identified will be as limited in scope as possible. Employees may be required to sign an acknowledgement of confidentiality stating that any information obtained regarding the victimized employee must be used for the sole intended purpose of facilitating the safety and security of the impacted parties and campus at large, as applicable.

### C. Responsibilities

#### 1. SUNY Morrisville

- a. SUNY shall designate at least one employee as its SUNY System-wide Domestic Violence Agency Liaison (System DVAL) to

support the entire State University. SUNY will also appoint an appropriate DVAL liaison for each individual campus (Campus DVAL) to manage reports on the campus level, work with employees who make reports under this Policy. The Campus DVALs shall be an individual currently working in the Office of Human Resources at each campus. Where possible, a liaison shall be an employee with advocacy, social work, or counseling experience. However, employees who work as Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Coordinators shall not be designated as the System DVAL or as a campus-level DVAL. Campus DVALs shall be responsible for providing periodic reports to the System DVAL, who will transmit one aggregated report to OPDV on behalf of SUNY.

- b. The College must post the name and contact information of the System DVAL and Campus DVALs on their respective website and provide annual written notice of such information to their entire communities, including faculty, staff, and students. Such information should also be distributed to all new community members, including faculty, staff, and students upon arrival on campus. The campus community must also be notified within two weeks of a change in the designation of its Campus DVAL. The SUNY System Administration and campus Offices of Human Resources and Student Affairs shall collaborate with the System DVAL and Campus DVALs' supervisor to ensure that the System DVAL and Campus DVAL contact information is distributed as outlined in this section.
- c. All campuses must provide to the System DVAL the contact information for their campus level DVAL including, the name of the supervisor for the campus DVAL and shall provide to the System DVAL updates on any changes to the designated Campus DVAL within one week of such change. System DVAL will communicate any such changes to OPDV on behalf of the SUNY System. Any updates to the Campus DVAL shall be communicated to the System DVAL within two weeks of such change. The System DVAL will be responsible for communicating such changes to OPDV.
- d. The College will take all appropriate actions to promote safety in the workplace by efficiently and effectively responding to gender-based violence and the needs of victims to the fullest extent possible without violating any existing rules, regulations, statutory requirements, contractual obligations, or collective bargaining agreements.

- e. All SUNY campuses, including SUNY Morrisville must comply with this Policy as outlined and establish internal processes and procedures necessary to comply with such requirements. Any campus that wishes to recommend changes to this Policy on a local level, must submit a request to the System DVAL with justification for the proposed change. Any approved amendments or modifications to this Policy will be approved by the Responsible Office noted above.
- f. Employee Awareness
  - (1) The College will increase awareness around domestic and gender-based violence and create an informed workforce regarding available sources of assistance for those experiencing domestic or gender-based violence.
  - (2) The College will increase awareness around possible disciplinary practices that may be implemented in the event of retaliation or used with employees who perpetrate acts of domestic or gender-based violence, in each case under the existing collective bargaining agreements, if applicable.
  - (3) The College shall include this Policy as part of the written materials that are provided to all new employees and shall provide the Policy to all employees on an annual basis.
  - (4) A detailed explanation of employee's rights under this Policy shall be given during new employee orientation, including information for contacting the System DVAL and the appropriate Campus DVAL.
  - (5) If the College suspects that an employee is a victim of domestic and gender-based violence but the employee has not disclosed victimization, the College shall refer the employee to:
    - (a) the System DVAL and/or Campus DVAL,
    - (b) EAP, and/or
    - (c) The NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline (call: 800-942-6906, text: 844-997-2121, website: <https://opdv.ny.gov/survivors-victims>) (or the statewide hotline for workplace sexual harassment, as may be appropriate), and any local programs serving victims of domestic and sexual violence.

- g. Referrals must be offered to anyone who discloses they are a victim of domestic or gender-based violence, as follows to:
- (1) the System DVAL and/or Campus DVAL;
  - (2) EAP,
  - (3) The NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline (call: 800-942-6906, text: 844-997-2121, website: <https://opdv.ny.gov/survivors-victims>) (or the statewide hotline for workplace sexual harassment, as may be appropriate), and
  - (4) any local programs serving victims of domestic and sexual violence.
- h. The College shall post information on domestic and gender-based violence as outlined below, this Policy, and any additional available resources at the College workplaces. This information shall be posted in such places where employees are able to utilize the information without having to request it or be seen removing it. Such places may include: The College and campus intranet, employee newsletters and announcements, all restrooms, kitchen, pantry and lounge areas, and any other frequently attended areas. Information must include sources of assistance, contact information for the System DVAL(s) and Campus DVAL, EAP information, Human Resources staff, the NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline Number (1-800-942-6906), Chat and Text Line (1-844-997-2121), and contact information for local domestic violence programs.
- (1) Additional referrals shall be made to the appropriate resources to best meet the employee's needs.
  - (2) The College shall consider conducting programs and activities throughout the year to increase awareness about domestic and gender-based violence such as:
    - (a) Supply drives for local domestic and gender-based violence programs
    - (b) Brown bag lunch discussions
    - (c) Presentations by local domestic and gender-based violence programs, the System DVAL and/or Campus DVAL, or OPDV.

2. The System DVAL and Campus DVALs

A DVAL's responsibilities include:

- a. Ensure SUNY-wide implementation of, and compliance with, this Policy.
- b. Ensure victimized employees are aware of and understand this Policy and their rights.
- c. Upon notification that an employee is a victim of domestic or gender-based violence, the System DVAL and/or the Campus DVAL, must provide the employee with confidential support services, including referrals to:
  - (1) EAP,
  - (2) The NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline (or the statewide hotline for workplace sexual harassment, as may be appropriate), and
  - (3) any local programs serving victims of domestic and sexual violence.
- d. Ensure that the victimized employee is informed of all possible options available to them, such as the use of alternative scheduling or a change in work location and assisting the employee in identifying the best use of attendance and leave benefits.
- e. Ensure that the victimized employee is aware of and receiving any necessary accommodations as outlined in section VII of this Policy.
- f. Ensure that all employees receive a copy of this Policy annually, and regularly receive information about how to contact the System DVAL and Campus DVAL, and what supportive services are offered by the College.
- g. Conduct basic workplace safety strategizing with victimized employees.
- h. The System DVAL will serve as the primary contact for OPDV, including reporting bi-annual data.

3. Human Resources

- a. SUNY System Human Resources staff and respective members of local campus HR staff shall ensure that each office, campus and location establish a workplace culture that is safe and supportive

for anyone who has experienced domestic or gender-based violence by communicating that information and resources are available to victims and that abusive behavior by any employee will not be tolerated.

- b. All Human Resources staff shall also ensure that all employees who are required to attend training from OPDV pursuant to the Policy complete the required training.
- c. All Human Resources staff shall ensure that employees shall receive a copy of this Policy upon hire as well annually. This shall also include information about how to contact the System DVAL and Campus DVAL, and the supportive services offered by the College.
- d. All Human Resources staff shall ensure that any employee who discloses being a victim of domestic or gender-based violence is aware of and receiving any necessary accommodations and shall consult with the College leadership, the Office of General Counsel, and OPDV counsel as appropriate, to address complex cases.
- e. All Human Resources staff shall assist supervisors and the College to ensure that all employees who violate this Policy are held accountable.

4. Supervisors

- a. Supervisors shall ensure that any employee who discloses being a victim of domestic or gender-based violence is aware of this Policy and understands this Policy and their rights, including the right to request accommodations or time off as discussed below.
- b. If any employee discloses being a victim of domestic or gender-based violence, or if the supervisor suspects that the employee may be a victim of domestic or gender-based violence, the Supervisor must refer the employee to:
  - (1) the System DVAL and/or campus DVAL,
  - (2) EAP,
  - (3) The NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline (or the statewide hotline for workplace sexual harassment, as may be appropriate), and
  - (4) any local programs serving victims of domestic and sexual violence.

- c. There is no mandatory reporting of domestic or gender-based violence, unless it may constitute sexual harassment as defined in this Policy.

### III. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND RESPONSIVE PERSONNEL POLICIES

All the College policies and procedures should be trauma-informed, survivor-centered, and culturally responsive to victims' needs, and should not discriminate. Under the New York State Human Rights Law, all persons covered by this Policy are protected from discrimination in the workplace on the basis of status as a victim of domestic violence, and on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

- A. Subdivision 34 of section 292 of the Executive Law of New York State establishes persons who qualify as a "victim of domestic violence."
- B. Victims of domestic violence are a protected class under New York State Human Rights Law (Executive Law § 296(22)).
  1. Employers may not refuse to hire or license and may not terminate someone solely based on their status as a victim of domestic violence.
  2. Employers may not discriminate against victims of domestic violence in compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment.
  3. Employers must prohibit inquiries about an applicant's status as a current or past victim of domestic violence and may not make any employment decisions based on assumptions or actual knowledge about someone's status as a current or past victim of domestic violence. Employers may inquire about status as a victim of domestic violence in order to provide reasonable accommodations.
- C. Employers must allow any employee who has disclosed their status as a victim of domestic or gender-based violence (or disclosed that a family member is a victim of domestic or gender-based violence) and must be out of work for a reasonable time to use accrued sick leave<sup>1</sup> for the following purposes:
  1. to obtain services from a domestic violence shelter, rape crisis center, or other services program;
  2. to participate in safety planning, temporarily or permanently relocate, or take other actions to increase the safety of the employee or employee's family members;
  3. to meet with an attorney or other social services provider to obtain information and advice on, and prepare for or participate in any criminal or civil proceeding;

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<sup>1</sup> Labor Law § 196-b(4).



4. to file a complaint or domestic incident report with law enforcement;
  5. to meet with a district attorney's office;
  6. to enroll children in a new school;
  7. to address issues relating to technology or financial abuse; or
  8. to take any other actions necessary to ensure the health or safety of the employee or the employee's family member or to protect those who associate or work with the employee.
- D. Employees can choose to use appropriate leave accruals to cover any absences, if available. If the employee does not have adequate leave accruals to cover the absence or chooses not to charge leave accruals, the absence shall be treated as leave without pay.
- E. Any employee who must be absent from work to utilize accommodations in this section is entitled to the continuation of any health insurance coverage provided by the employer to which the employee is otherwise entitled during any such absence, in accordance with any existing collective bargaining agreements, regulations, and the College policy.
- F. Employees who must be absent to utilize accommodations as listed in this section shall provide their employer with reasonable advanced notice of the absence whenever possible.
- G. Employers are also required to grant time off, with prior day notification, and may not penalize any employee who, as a victim or witness of a criminal offense, is appearing as a witness; consulting with a district attorney; or exercising their rights as provided by law.<sup>2</sup> Employees can choose to use appropriate leave accruals to cover any absences, if available. If the employee does not have adequate leave accruals to cover the absence or chooses not to charge leave accruals, the absence shall be treated as leave without pay. Any questions regarding leave that must be granted to victims or subpoenaed witnesses should be directed to the appropriate SUNY personnel office (campus level or System Administration) or the Attendance and Leave Unit at the Department of Civil Service.
- H. Employers should be aware that there may be occurrences when an employee is absent due to incidents of domestic or gender-based violence where they are unable to follow the colleges protocol to report the absence. In that situation, the employee may lack documentation, may be unable to obtain documentation or may not want to share documentation containing confidential information. An employer may not require the disclosure of confidential information relating to an absence from work due to domestic violence, a sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking, as a condition of providing sick leave.

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<sup>2</sup> Penal Law § 215.14

- I. Employees who are victims of domestic violence or gender-based violence who separate from a covered family member due to an incident or incidents of domestic or gender-based violence shall be allowed to make reasonable changes in benefits at any time during the calendar year, where possible and in accordance with statute, regulation, contract, and policy.
- J. The College recognizes that victims of domestic and gender-based violence may experience temporary work performance difficulties or be unable to complete certain job aspects because of safety reasons. (Examples include overnight travel, “off” hour shifts, etc.) If it is found that the employee’s work performance is being affected as a result of being a victim of domestic or gender-based violence, the College will work with the employee to try to create a satisfactory resolution, including, but not limited to, specific work plans, the ability to take leave, provision of reasonable accommodations, referrals to the System DVAL and/or the campus level DVAL designee, EAP, and/or the local domestic violence service provider. OPDV is available for case specific technical assistance as needed. Employees will be given clear information of performance expectations, priorities, and performance evaluations. Employees should be made aware that not all employees requests for resolutions can be accommodated. If a disciplinary process is initiated, special care should be taken to consider all aspects of the victimized employee's situation, and all available options in trying to resolve the performance problems should be exhausted, including making a referral to the System DVAL and/or the campus level DVAL designee, EAP, domestic violence program or other relevant services, consistent with existing collective bargaining unit agreements, statute, regulations, and the College policy.
- K. If all reasonable measures have been exhausted to resolve related performance problems of employees who are victims of domestic or gender-based violence, but the performance problems persist and the employee is terminated or voluntarily separates from employment, the employee shall be informed of their potential eligibility for unemployment insurance and the College shall respond quickly to any requests for information that may be needed in the claims process. New York State law provides that a victim of domestic violence who voluntarily separates from employment may, under certain circumstances, be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.<sup>3</sup>
- L. New York State law prohibits insurance companies and health maintenance organizations from discriminating against domestic violence victims by prohibiting status as a domestic violence victim to be considered a “pre-existing condition.” Insurance companies may not deny or cancel an insurance policy or require a higher premium or payment because the insured party is a current or former victim of domestic violence.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> NYS Labor Law § 593(1)(b)(i)

<sup>4</sup> NYS Insurance Law § 2612

- M. Sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression are all protected classes under the New York State Human Rights Law. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and is unlawful under the New York State Human Rights Law § 296.1, Human Rights Law § 296-c (for interns), and Human Rights Law § 296-d (for non-employees working in the workplace), and Title VII, the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964. Sexual harassment includes harassment based on sex, sexual orientation, self-identified or perceived sex, gender expression, gender identity and the status of being transgender (see page 2-3 for definition of sexual harassment). Gender-based violence may constitute sexual harassment when it subjects an individual to inferior terms, conditions, or privileges of employment.
1. Every employer in New York State must have a policy on sexual harassment prevention, which includes a procedure for the receipt and investigation of complaints of sexual harassment. The sexual harassment policy and procedure should be distributed to new employees and made available to all staff regularly. SUNY's Systemwide sexual harassment and discrimination policy may be found at: [https://www.TheCollege.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc\\_id=878](https://www.TheCollege.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=878)
- N. For all forms of discrimination and harassment, if an employee, including an intern or contractor working in a SUNY workplace, experiences sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of their status as a victim of domestic or other gender-based violence, or observes discrimination in the workplace, the employee may file a complaint in accordance with SUNY's University-wide Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure, available at: [https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc\\_id=451](https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=451), or campus-based equivalent.
1. Any complaint of potential discrimination, whether verbal or written, must be investigated. Furthermore, any supervisory or managerial employee who observes or otherwise becomes aware of conduct of a sexually harassing nature must report such conduct so that it can be investigated. The College shall maintain the confidentiality of the complainant to the extent practical.

#### **IV. NON-RETALIATION POLICY**

The College shall not engage in any retaliatory practices against any employee that discloses they are a victim of domestic or gender-based violence, or any employee seeking accommodations or to exercise their rights under this Policy.

The College will not retaliate, tolerate retaliation by any superiors, terminate, or discipline any employees for reporting information about alleged incidents of domestic violence that may have been committed by an employee, including those in management positions.

Retaliatory practices may include, but are not limited to, fewer promotions, inappropriate jokes, snide comments, excluding employee from conversations, etc., and may be carried out by everyone, not just the original perpetrator. Retaliation includes commencing discipline against victimized employees for actions taken to promote their safety.

Any employee or the College engaging in retaliatory practices may be subject to disciplinary actions. If you believe you have been subject to retaliatory practices, please see Section XIV: Violations of Policy.

## **V. WORKPLACE SAFETY PLANS**

SUNY System Administration and campuses shall have workplace safety response plans in place, including procedures for reporting to supervisors or contacting law enforcement, if necessary, should an event take place in the workplace. Additional information is contained in the College Workplace Violence Prevention Policy.

- A. SUNY System and its campuses shall comply and assist with enforcement of all known OP.
  1. If requested by the victim, or by law enforcement, SUNY System or the relevant campus will provide any relevant information regarding an alleged order of protection violation.
- B. Employees are encouraged to disclose any active orders of protection to the System DVAL and/or campus level DVAL designee or designated staff member at their work site. Copies of orders of protection will be maintained in a locked, confidential location, separately from the employee's personnel file. In the event of an emergency or that the OP needs to be presented to law enforcement, the liaison, other designated staff member, director of human resources, or a member of executive staff shall retrieve and present the order. Employees should be made aware that they are responsible for notifying the liaison in the event of a relevant modification or revocation of the OP.
- C. When requested by the victim, the System DVAL, and/or the campus level DVAL designee, and/or Human Resources staff will work with the employee to develop a plan to how best increase safety for the victim, other employees, and the workplace. Options may include, but are not limited to:
  1. Providing front desk security or reception staff with a copy of the Order of Protection with a photo of the perpetrator;
  2. Blocking the perpetrator from being entered into the Visitor Management System (VMS) or a similar database;
  3. Protocols for reporting to law enforcement;
  4. Allowing the employee to work staggered hours, an "off shift", or move to a different work location, either temporarily or permanently;
  5. Temporary reassignment of certain duties, such as overnight travel;

6. Reassignment of parking space;
  7. Providing employees an escort for entry and exit from the worksite;
  8. Allowing security to escort perpetrator out of the building and off the worksite premises;
  9. Working with the employee to address any identified concerns about the use of technology;
  10. Assigning a new email account or phone number if the perpetrator has been able to access the existing accounts;
  11. Creating a personalized safety plan in consultation with the local domestic or sexual violence program;
  12. Allowing the employee to work from an alternate work station until further action is taken, if the employee works directly with the perpetrator; or
  13. If an Order of Protection is in place and has been violated (i.e. by perpetrator showing up at workplace of victim), requiring security to report the violation to law enforcement.
- D. If the circumstances indicate a need for the College to take steps to increase safety for the victim, other employees, and the workplace, SUNY System and the campuses should follow their Workplace Violence Policy.

## **VI. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EMPLOYEES WHO PERPETRATE ACTS OF DOMESTIC OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

The College will hold accountable any employee who is found to have engaged in behaviors including but not limited to:

- A. Used state resources, including time, to commit an act of domestic or gender-based violence;
- B. Committed an act of domestic or gender-based violence from or at the workplace, or from any location conducting state business, except for locations where employees are telecommuting; or
- C. Used their job-related authority and/or state resources in order to negatively affect victims of domestic or gender-based violence and/or assisted perpetrators in locating a victim and/or in perpetrating an act of domestic or gender-based violence;
- D. Acts of domestic or gender-based violence that occur outside of the workplace can subject a person to administrative and/or disciplinary action.
- E. If the College has found that an employee has committed any act of gender-based violence, including making threats or harassment at or from the workplace using any state resources such as work time, state owned telephones or cell phones, e-mail, or by any other means, the Supervisor, in conjunction with Human

Resources and Labor Relations, shall take any and all steps necessary to hold the employee accountable through administrative and/or disciplinary action in accordance with existing collective bargaining agreements, applicable statutes and/or regulations. This should include referrals to Accountability Programs for Person who Cause Harm.

- F. Actions may include, but are not limited to:
1. Administrative leave;
  2. Cease and desist memo;
  3. Removing/modifying chain of supervision pending an official report;
  4. Relocation of employee alleged to abuse to another work site;
  5. Surrender of work cell phone, laptop, etc.;
  6. Revocation of permanent employment status (reverting to contingent or probationary status);
  7. Mandated participation in an Accountability Programs for Person who Cause Harm; and/or
  8. Termination.
- G. The College shall determine if corrective action or disciplinary action is warranted, in accordance with existing collective bargaining agreements, relevant statutes, and regulation if the College has received verification that an employee is responsible for any gender-based violence related offense, or is the respondent on any order of protection, including temporary, final, and/or out of state orders because of a gender-based violence related offense, and said employee has any job functions that include:
1. the authority to take actions that directly impact victims of gender-based violence domestic violence; and/or
  2. actions which may protect perpetrators from appropriate consequences for their behavior;
  3. Any employee who intentionally uses the authority of their employment and/or misuses any state resources in order to:
    - a. negatively impact any victim of gender-based violence;
    - b. assist a perpetrator in locating a victim;
    - c. assist a perpetrator in perpetrating any act of gender-based violence; or
    - d. protect a perpetrator from receiving appropriate consequences

shall be subject to corrective or disciplinary action, in accordance with existing collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutes, and regulations.

- H. Any employee who would like to report information about an alleged act of gender-based violence committed by an employee may do so by contacting the Director of Human Resources, the Anti-Discrimination Investigations Division at the NYS Office for Employee Relations (<https://antidiscrimination.oer.ny.gov/>), or the NYS Inspector General's Office by calling the toll-free hotline at 1-800-367-4448, where trained staff will discuss the specifics of your complaint.

## VII. FIREARMS

Pursuant to New York State and Federal law, any person convicted of a domestic violence-related crime, or who is subject to any order of protection, forfeits the right to legally possess a firearm or long gun under certain circumstances. Additionally, federal law contains prohibitions relating to shipping, transportation, or receiving firearms or ammunition.

In addition to complying with State and Federal law, employees who are authorized to carry a firearm as part of their job-related duties are required to notify the College if they are arrested for a domestic violence-related offense and/or are served with an order of protection. Under certain circumstances, such employees are responsible for surrendering their firearms to the issuing agency or to the appropriate police agency.

Should an employee fail to comply with the above listed requirements of this Policy, they would be subject to corrective or disciplinary action, in accordance with existing collective bargaining unit agreements, statute, or regulations. In addition, law enforcement may be notified for possible criminal action.

## VIII. VIOLATIONS OF POLICY

Any employee who would like to report any alleged violations of this Policy may do so by contacting the Director of Human Resources (SUNY System Administration and/or Campus level offices), OPDV, or the NYS Inspector General's Office by calling the toll-free hotline at 1-800-367-4448 where trained staff will discuss the specifics of your complaint.

For complaints of workplace discrimination, an employee may contact the Anti-Discrimination Investigations Division at the NYS Office for Employee Relations (<https://antidiscrimination.oer.ny.gov/>). This includes complaints related to denials of reasonable accommodations.

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### Definitions

**Domestic Violence** - A pattern of coercive behavior, including acts or threatened acts, that is used by a perpetrator to gain power and control over a victim, as defined in New York State Social Service Law § 459-a, including, but not limited to physical, sexual, psychological, economic, and/or emotional abuse; or the threat of any/all of the aforementioned acts.

**Domestic Violence Agency Liaison (DVAL)** - A designated employee(s) of THE COLLEGE who has been trained by the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) to assist victimized employees; who ensure THE COLLEGE compliance with the Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace Policy; and who serves as the primary contact for OPDV.

**Gender-Based Violence** - Violence or threats that happen because of someone's sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or other related characteristics. Gender-based violence is an umbrella term that includes domestic violence, sex-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual violence, and can also include stalking or human trafficking.

**Order of Protection (OP) (Commonly referred to as "Restraining Order" or "Stay-Away Order")** - An order issued by any court to limit the behavior of someone who harms or threatens to harm another person. Orders of protection may direct the offending party not to injure, threaten, or harass the victim, their family, or any other person(s) listed in the order and may include, but are not limited to ordering him/her/them to stay away from the home, school, business, or place of employment of the victim; vacate a shared residence; abide by any active orders of custody and visitation; and surrender any firearms.

**Perpetrator or abusive partner or person who causes harm** - A person who commits or threatens to commit coercive or violence acts, which may include, but is not limited to, physical, psychological, sexual, economic, and/or emotional abuse against a victim.

**Sexual Harassment** - Consistent with the New York State Human Rights Law, unwelcome conduct which is either of a sexual nature, or which is directed at an individual because of that individual's sex when:

1. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment, even if the reporting individual is not the intended target of the sexual harassment;
2. Such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment; or
3. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting an individual's employment.

**Victim of domestic violence (New York State Social Services Law § 459-a)** - Any person over the age of sixteen, any married person, or any parent accompanied by his or her minor child or children in situations in which such person or such person's child is a victim of an act which would constitute a violation of the penal law, including, but not limited to, acts constituting disorderly conduct, harassment, aggravated harassment, sexual misconduct, forcible touching, sexual abuse, stalking, criminal mischief, menacing, reckless endangerment, kidnapping, assault, attempted assault, attempted murder, criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, or strangulation, identity theft, grand larceny, or coercion; and

- a. Such act or acts have resulted in actual physical or emotional



injury or have created a substantial risk of physical or emotional harm to such person or such person's child; and

- b. Such act or acts are or are alleged to have been committed by a family or household member.

“Family or household members” mean the following individuals:

- c. persons related by consanguinity or affinity (blood or a person's relation to blood relatives of their spouse);
- d. persons legally married to one another;
- e. persons formerly married to one another regardless of whether they still reside in the same household;
- f. persons who have a child in common regardless of whether such persons are married or have married or have lived together at any time;
- g. unrelated persons who are continually or at regular intervals living in the same household or who in the past continually or at regular intervals lived in the same household;
- h. persons who are not related by consanguinity or affinity and who are or have been in an intimate relationship regardless of whether such persons have lived together at any time. Factors that may be considered in determining whether a relationship is an “intimate relationship” include but are not limited to: the nature or type of relationship, regardless of whether the relationship is sexual in nature; the frequency of interaction between the persons; and the duration of the relationship. Neither a casual acquaintance nor ordinary fraternization between two individuals in business or social contexts shall be deemed to constitute an “intimate relationship”; or
- i. any other category of individuals deemed to be a victim of domestic violence as defined in regulation by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

“Parent” means a natural or adoptive parent or any individual lawfully charged with a minor child's care or custody.

**Workplace** - For the purposes of this Policy, any permanent or temporary location away from an employee's domicile where an employee performs any work-related duties in the course of employment.

**Other Related Information**

[SUNY Policy Doc. No. 6507 - Sexual Harassment Response and Prevention Statement](#)

[SUNY Policy No. 6502 - Equal Opportunity: Access, Employment and Fair Treatment in the State University of New York](#)

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**Contact Information**

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