What do I do if another MSU employee tells me about relationship violence, sexual assault, stalking, or sexual harassment?

You can show you care about your colleague by respecting their choices and connecting them to supportive resources.

Express Support

The most important thing you can do is listen and help them feel safe and supported. Here are some ideas of what you can say:

“I believe you.”

“I care about you and am here to listen or help in any way I can.”

“I know this is hard to talk about.”

“I’m here to listen and support you.”

“X “What were you doing before that happened?”

or

“Why haven’t you told anyone yet?”

This may make your colleague feel judged or blamed.

Offer to Help Connect With Resources

Knowing what resources are available can help someone along their path to healing. Gently ask your colleague if they are interested in learning about supportive resources. Offer to connect them with trained professionals who can help or offer to visit supportmore.msu.edu with them to learn about what services are available.

Center for Survivors*
Provides crisis support, advocacy, and counseling for survivors of sexual assault and harassment.
24-Hour Crisis Hotline: (517) 372-6666  |  Crisis Chat: centerforsurvivors.msu.edu

Sexual Assault Healthcare Program*
Provides free 24/7 exams and medical care to anyone 18+ who has been sexually assaulted in the last five days.
(517) 353-2700  |  centerforsurvivors.msu.edu/sexual-assault-healthcare-program

MSU Safe Place*
Provides emergency shelter, advocacy, and counseling for survivors of relationship violence and stalking.
(517) 355-1100  |  safeplace.msu.edu

Employee Assistance Program*
Provides short-term counseling for MSU faculty, staff, grad students, retirees, and insurance-eligible dependents.
(517) 355-4506  |  eap.msu.edu

The Gender and Sexuality Campus Center*
Provides support to the LGBTQIA2S+ campus community.
(517) 353-9520  |  gsc.msu.edu

Community Support Bureau at MSU Police & Public Safety
Provides immediate help to anyone who has been assaulted.
(517) 355-2221  |  police.msu.edu/community-support-bureau

Title IX Coordinator & Office of Institutional Equity (OIE)
Responds to reports by offering supportive measures and provides options for investigation and resolution.
(517) 353-3922  |  civilrights.msu.edu

*Programs exempt from MSU RVSM mandatory reporting policies.

Remember:

It’s not your job to find out details about what occurred. Avoid asking questions such as:

“X “What were you doing before that happened?”

or

“Why haven’t you told anyone yet?”

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