

# **Gender-Based Misconduct Policy and Complaint Procedures for Students**

**(Including Sexual Harassment, Sexual Abuse/Assault, Stalking, Domestic Violence &  
Dating Violence)**

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## **I. Purpose**

This Policy outlines standards of behavior and requirements for non-discrimination and gender-based misconduct at Montefiore School of Nursing (also referred to as “MSON”). Other forms of discrimination or harassment are addressed in the MSON Student Handbook.

## **II. Scope**

### **To Whom Applicable**

This Policy applies to all MSON students, as well as faculty, administration (whether supervisors, administrators, and managers), and other staff, whether full-time or part-time (hereinafter collectively, “employees”), employees of contracted service providers, interns, volunteers, visitors, and other third-parties conducting business with the College, and covers their treatment of each other as well as others with whom they come into contact at or near MSON and/or at MSON-sponsored and affiliated activities and events.

### **Where Applicable**

This Policy is intended to protect all afore-mentioned individuals and applies to conduct that occurs on MSON premises, in buildings owned or controlled by a student organization officially recognized by MSON at MSON-sponsored and affiliated activities and events, and/or other circumstances where MSON exercises substantial control over the accused and the context, including, but not limited to, overnight trips, service learning programs and internships, practicums, preceptorships, study or research abroad, work-related travel, off-site conferences, and to all forms/uses of technology by all individuals covered by this policy. MSON may also address off-campus behavior that occurs other than at MSON-sponsored or affiliated events if it determines that the behavior, or the continued presence of the accused perpetrator creates or contributes to a hostile environment, or impairs, obstructs, substantially interferes with or adversely affects the mission, processes or functions of MSON.

Gender-based discrimination, harassment or sexual misconduct in any form (including Sexual Harassment, Sexual Abuse/Assault, Stalking, Domestic Violence and Dating Violence) is a violation of this policy and will be dealt with seriously, promptly and thoroughly. If any of the principles and procedures in this policy are inconsistent with those contained in another MSON policy, the principles and procedures in this policy will control, except that this policy does not override any applicable rights or provisions contained in any collective bargaining agreement or faculty policy.

### **Which Procedures Applicable**

The specific set of investigative and disciplinary procedures that apply will depend on the parties involved as follows:

- If a student is involved as either an alleged victim (the “Complainant”) or an accused (the “Respondent”), the procedures set forth herein will apply.
- Where both the Complainant and Respondent are employees, faculty, or volunteers, the procedures set forth in the Title IX Policy and Complaint Procedures for Employees or the Gender-Based Misconduct Policy and Complaint Procedures for Employees will apply.
- Where a Respondent is both a student and an employee, faculty, or volunteer, the Title IX Coordinator will determine which of these procedures applies based on the circumstances (such as whether the student or employee role predominates, particularly in reference to the relevant incident).

MSON disciplinary authority may not extend to the third parties mentioned above (employees of contracted service providers, interns, volunteers, visitors, and other third-parties conducting business with the College) who are not students, employees, or faculty of MSON. However, a Report or Complaint that such a person engaged in Prohibited Conduct against a student will be investigated in accordance with this policy as will a Complaint of Prohibited Conduct by such a third party about a student. A Report or Complaint that such a third party engaged in Prohibited Conduct against an employee will be investigated in accordance with the Gender-Based Misconduct Policy and Complaint Procedures for Employees, as will a Report or Complaint of Prohibited Conduct by such a third party about an employee.

### **III. Policy**

#### **III.A. Executive Summary**

The following is a brief summary of the policy. Please read the full policy for more details, including definitions and examples of discrimination and harassment; Complaint Reporting Procedures and Guidelines; and the Investigation & Resolution processes.

MSON prohibits discriminatory practices, harassment and sexual misconduct of any kind and in any form. Detailed definitions of Prohibited Conduct under this policy are set forth in Section III.C and Appendix E.

Complaints and Reports (each defined in Section III.F) may be made to MSON’s Title IX Coordinator, Security Manager, Dean, Assistant Dean, or Deputy General Counsel, as set forth in Section III.F.1. Complaints and Reports also may be made to any other MSON personnel including Student Services.

There is no time limit on when a Report or Complaint can be made.

No MSON employee may discourage an individual from making a Report or Complaint.

Any MSON employee (other than an employee serving in a privileged professional capacity or designated as a confidential resource as set forth in Appendix G) with any knowledge of Prohibited Conduct by employees, students, or third parties, must report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator, Security Manager, Dean, or Assistant Dean, even if the individual complaining of such discrimination, harassment or sexual misconduct is not interested in filing a formal Complaint. If anyone other than the Title IX Coordinator receives the Report or Complaint, they must immediately report it to the Title IX Coordinator. See Section III.D.1.

MSON will respond to all Reports and Complaints promptly, thoroughly, fairly and impartially, pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section III. Reports and Complaints will be overseen by the Title IX Coordinator.

MSON expects all members of the MSON community to cooperate with investigations.

Retaliation is prohibited against anyone who filed and/or participated in the investigation of a Report or Complaint, even if the Report or Complaint is unsubstantiated.

Those who knowingly make a false report will be subject to serious disciplinary action.

Individuals not wishing to make a Report or Complaint have the option of instead anonymously calling the Montefiore Health System Confidential Compliance Hotline, as set forth in Section III.F.1. Alternatively, an individual may confidentially contact the Office of Academic Support and Counseling, which will not trigger any investigation (see Appendix G, Section I.A).

***Individuals who allege they are victims of Sexual Abuse/Assault, Stalking, Domestic Violence, or Dating Violence (defined in Section III.C.) have the right (i) to make a report to the Security Department, local law enforcement and/or State Police or choose not to report; (ii) to report the incident to MSON; (iii) to request MSON's assistance in notifying law enforcement authorities; (iv) to be protected by MSON from retaliation for reporting an incident; and (v) to receive assistance and resources from MSON.***

Any questions regarding this policy may be directed to MSON Title IX Coordinator:

Frank Di Giovanni, MPH  
Director of Compliance  
Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital  
16 Guion Place, New Rochelle, NY 10801  
(914) 365-4808  
(914) 365-3976  
fdigiova@montefiore.org

### III.B. Statement of Non-Discrimination

MSON is committed to the principles of non-discrimination. MSON prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, age, national origin or ancestry, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical or mental disability, pregnancy-related condition, veteran or disabled veteran status, military status, pregnancy status, genetic predisposition/carrier status, citizenship status, familial status, domestic violence victim status, prior arrest or conviction record, or any other personal characteristic protected under applicable federal, state or local law.

While this policy prohibits and addresses gender-based misconduct, MSON's non-discrimination prohibits and addresses other types of discriminatory and related conduct.

### III.C. Prohibited Conduct and Definitions

MSON is committed to maintaining an academic, work and living environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Each individual at MSON has the right to learn in a safe environment that promotes equal opportunities for all. This policy prohibits gender-based discriminatory practices or harassment and sexual misconduct of any kind ("Prohibited Conduct," as set forth below). Where Prohibited Conduct has occurred, MSON will act promptly to stop it, prevent its recurrence, and discipline and/or take other appropriate action against those responsible.

This policy is not intended to regulate protected speech. However, freedom of speech and academic freedom are not limitless and do not protect speech or expressive conduct that violates this policy or otherwise violates federal, state or local anti-discrimination laws.

#### III.C.1. Prohibited Conduct

Prohibited Conduct for purposes of this policy includes discrimination or harassment based on, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy-related condition, or pregnancy status, .<sup>1</sup>

Applicable laws that prohibit such discrimination and harassment include, but are not limited to, the following: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII"), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, pregnancy status, and other characteristics; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; Violence Against Women Act of 1994 ("VAWA"); Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act"); N.Y. Executive Law, art. 15, §290 et seq. (Human

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<sup>1</sup> MSON also prohibits discrimination or harassment based on all other characteristics protected by applicable laws, ordinances and regulations (see Section III.B). Discrimination based on a characteristic not listed here is covered by MSON's general non-discrimination policy.

Rights Law); and Title 8 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York (Human Rights Law).

This policy prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any individual's characteristic or perceived characteristic based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy status, pregnancy-related condition, or sexual and reproductive health decisions, whether or not it rises to the level of unlawful discrimination or harassment.

Examples of conduct that may violate this policy include the use of slurs, jokes, stereotyping, or intimidating, hostile, or violent acts directed at any individual because of his/her protected class status as described above, as well as the failure to provide equal consideration, acknowledgment or access to educational opportunities to equally qualified individuals. Harassment does not have to include intent to harm or be directed at a specific target. Prohibited harassment may involve a single episode or ongoing behavior depending on the severity of the issue. In addition, this policy forbids not only verbal and physical harassment but also harassment in any medium, including email and electronic social media.

Discrimination and harassment can take many forms, including, but not limited to, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Abuse/Assault, Stalking, Domestic Violence and Dating Violence. These and related terms are defined below and in Appendix E. Such behaviors are prohibited by this policy as well as federal, state and local laws. Anyone found responsible by MSON for such conduct will face serious disciplinary sanctions, including suspension or expulsion from MSON for students, and disciplinary sanctions for employees as set forth in MSON's Non-Discrimination and Gender-Based Misconduct Policy and Complaint Procedures for Employees.

### III.C.2. Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is offensive and includes harassment on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy status, pregnancy-related condition, or sexual and reproductive health decisions. Sexual Harassment in any form is prohibited and constitutes a violation of this policy, regardless of whether it rises to the level of being unlawful. MSON may be liable for harm to victims of Sexual Harassment by MSON employees, students and others, and harassers may also be individually subject to liability.

For purposes of this policy, Sexual Harassment refers to any *unwelcome* or *unwanted* sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, physical, demonstrative, or electronic conduct or communication of a sexual nature, or which is directed at an individual because of the individual's sex, when:

- *Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or educational experience; or*



- *Submission or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for a decision regarding an employment, academic, or other College-related activity affecting such individual; or*
- *Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or participation in a College program, department or extra-curricular activity; or*
- *Such conduct has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, learning, studying, or school environment.*

Examples of conduct which may constitute Sexual Harassment include, but are not limited to: verbal comments of an overtly sexual nature, whether in the form of jokes, innuendoes, slurs, or other statements; the use of sexual teaching materials or comments of a sexual nature not relevant to the material being taught or any other academic purpose; remarks of a sexual nature about an individual's clothing or body; remarks speculating about an individual's sexual orientation, activity or previous sexual experiences; verbal harassment or abuse of a sexual nature; making offensive gender-based remarks; the display or transmission of sexually offensive objects, photographs, drawings, graffiti, email, electronic social media communications, computer graphics or programs when sexual content is not relevant to any academic purpose; non-verbal behaviors of a sexually degrading or offensive nature, such as gesturing, or leering; unwanted touching, hugging, or brushing against an individual's body; requests, demands or persistent pressure for sexual favors, particularly when accompanied by an offer of rewards or threats of retaliation concerning work, grades, promotions, tenure or any other academic or related decision; and Sexual Abuse/Assault ("sexual violence"). In certain circumstances, such conduct may constitute a Title IX Violation (see Section III.C.3. below).

### III.C.3. Title IX Violation

A Title IX Violation refers to one or more of the following:

- A MSON employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; or
- Sexual Harassment (as defined in Section III.C.2) that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to MSON's education program or activity.
- Sexual Assault (as defined in Section III.C.4.)
- Dating Violence (as defined in Section III.C.8.)
- Domestic Violence (as defined in Section III.C.9.)
- Stalking (as defined in Section III.C.7.)

### III.C.4. Sexual Assault

Sexual Assault is any nonconsensual sexual act prohibited by law,<sup>2</sup> including when the victim is incapable of giving Consent. New York State does not specifically define Sexual Assault. However, for the purposes of this policy, Sexual Assault is a Title IX Violation (see Section III.C.3.) and includes offenses that meet the definitions herein and in Appendix D of Rape, Fondling, Incest, or Sexual Abuse. Sexual Assault includes:

*Non-Consensual Sexual Contact:* Any intentional sexual touching, however slight and with any object or body part, that is without Affirmative Consent (as defined below) and/or by threat, Intimidation, coercion, duress, violence, or by causing a reasonable fear of harm. This includes intentional contact with breasts, buttocks, groin, mouth, or genitals, as well as any other intentional bodily contact that occurs in a sexual manner.

*Rape:* The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, forcibly or without affirmative consent or where the victim is incapable of affirmative consent due to mental or physical incapacity.

*Statutory rape* is non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent. In New York, the statutory age of consent is 17 years old.

New York State law specifically defines rape as sexual intercourse with another person by forcible compulsion, or where the person is not incapable of Consent, including in most circumstances where such person is a minor. It similarly defines a criminal sexual act as oral sexual conduct or anal sexual conduct with another person by forcible compulsion, or where the person is not incapable of consent, including in most circumstances where such person is a minor (statutory rape).

### III.C.5. Affirmative Consent (“Consent”)

Affirmative Consent is defined as a knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity. Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create clear permission regarding willingness to engage in the sexual activity. Silence or lack of resistance, in and of itself, does not demonstrate Consent. This definition does not vary based upon a participant’s sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

- Consent to any sexual act or prior consensual sexual activity between or with any party does not necessarily constitute Consent to any other sexual act;
- Consent is required regardless of whether the person initiating the act is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol;
- Consent may be initially given but withdrawn at any time;

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<sup>2</sup> See below and Appendix D for a discussion and definition of specific crimes and related terms.

- Consent cannot be given when a person is incapacitated (as hereafter described);
- Consent cannot be given when it is the result of any coercion, Intimidation, force, or threat of harm; and
- When Consent is withdrawn or can no longer be given, sexual activity must stop.

Children under 17 years of age cannot legally consent under New York State Law to having sex or sexual contact with an adult (i.e., someone who is 17 years of age or older). **Any sexual contact in New York between a child under 17 and an adult is a crime, and any such illegal behavior between a member of the MSON community who is under 17 and a member who is an adult will be reported to an appropriate law enforcement agency. Other jurisdictions may have different standards, and any illegal behavior in such jurisdiction also will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.**

Additionally, state law identifies certain other individuals who are incapable of Consent, including, the mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, physically helpless, and certain persons who are committed to the care and custody of a client or patient of a health care provider or certain governmental departments, offices or agencies (including the state department of correctional services, a hospital, the office of children and family services, the office of mental health, the office for people with development disabilities, or the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services), where the actor is an employee or volunteer of such department or health care provider.

### III.C.6. Incapacitation

Occurs when an individual lacks the ability to knowingly choose to participate in sexual activity. Incapacitation may be caused by the lack of consciousness or being asleep, being involuntarily restrained, or if an individual otherwise cannot Consent. Depending on the degree of intoxication, someone who is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicants may be incapacitated and therefore unable to Consent.

Evaluating incapacitation requires an assessment of an individual's:

- Decision-making ability;
- Awareness of consequences;
- Ability to make informed judgments;
- Capacity to appreciate the nature and the quality of the act; and
- Level of consciousness.

An individual who engages in sexual activity with someone the individual knows or reasonably should know is incapable of making a knowing, reasonable decision about whether to engage in sexual activity is in violation of this policy.

**Alcohol and Other Drugs:** In general, sex while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs poses a risk to all parties. Alcohol and drugs impair a person's ability to provide Affirmative Consent, awareness of the consequences, and ability to make informed judgments. It is especially important, therefore, that anyone engaging in sexual activity be aware of the other person's level of intoxication. If there is any doubt as to the level or extent of the other individual's intoxication or impairment, the prudent course of action is to forgo or cease any sexual contact or activity.

*Being intoxicated or impaired by drugs or alcohol is never an excuse for sexual misconduct and does not diminish one's responsibility to obtain affirmative consent.*

**See Appendix C for the Student Alcohol and Drug Use Amnesty Policy.**

### III.C.7. Stalking

Stalking is a Title IX Violation (see Section III.C.3.), and refers to engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his/her own safety or the safety of others, or to suffer substantial emotional distress (i.e., significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling). Such a course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property. Stalking may include contact through a third party.

Examples of conduct that may constitute prohibited Stalking include, but are not limited to: unwelcome/unwanted communications of any type, including face-to-face, telephone calls, voice messages, e-mail, text messages, postings, written letters or notes and unwanted gifts; use of threatening words or conduct; pursuing or following; observing and/or surveillance; trespassing or vandalism; entering or remaining on or near a person's property, residence, classroom, place of employment or any other location where the person is present; interfering with or damaging a person's property, including pets; and engaging in other unwelcome contact.

Additionally, New York State law specifically defines Stalking as when a person intentionally, and for no legitimate purpose, engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person, and knows or reasonably should know that such conduct (1) is likely to cause reasonable fear of material harm to the physical health, safety or property of such person, a member of such person's immediate family or a third party with whom such person is acquainted; or (2) causes material harm to the mental or emotional health of such person, where such conduct consists of following, telephoning or initiating communication or contact with such person, a member of

such person's immediate family or a third party with whom such person is acquainted, and the actor was previously clearly informed to cease that conduct; or (3) is likely to cause such person to reasonably fear that his or her employment, business or career is threatened, where such conduct consists of appearing, telephoning or initiating communication or contact at such person's place of employment or business, and the actor was previously clearly informed to cease that conduct.

### III.C.8. Dating Violence

Dating violence, for purposes of this policy, is a Title IX Violation (see Section III.C.3.) and refers to violence committed by a person who is or has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. Dating Violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse. Dating Violence does not include acts covered under the definition of Domestic Violence.

***Regarding the appropriateness of romantic or sexual relationships between MSON employees and students, see MSON's Workplace Romance & Fraternalization Policy.***

### III.C.9. Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is a Title IX Violation (see Section III.C.3.), and includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabiting with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner under applicable law, by a family or household member as defined by New York State law, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under applicable law.

Examples of conduct that may constitute, whether alone or in combination, Domestic Violence include, but are not limited to: a pattern of name-calling, insults, put-downs; keeping or limiting a person from contacting family or friends; withholding money, food or other necessities; stopping a person from getting or keeping a job, getting to class, or staying in school; actual or threatened physical harm; Sexual Abuse/Assault ("*sexual violence*"); Stalking; possessiveness or extreme jealousy; Intimidation; physical assault or threats thereof; and emotional isolation/manipulation.

### III.D. Bystander Intervention & Employees' Duty to Report

MSON expects all members of the MSON community to take reasonable and prudent actions to prevent or stop an act of discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct, and provide assistance if an act has occurred. As discussed below, taking action or providing assistance

may include direct intervention, calling law enforcement, or seeking assistance from a person in authority. Employees who are not confidential resources or serving in a privileged professional capacity (as set forth in Appendix G, Section I.A) also have a duty to report.

### Bystander Intervention

If someone suspects a friend, acquaintance, or stranger may be in a high-risk situation for becoming a victim, is being victimized, or has been victimized, it is important to decide as a bystander whether there is a safe and reasonable way to intervene effectively.

#### 1) **Do's:**

Remind friends that Affirmative Consent is required, and it is the difference between sex and Sexual Assault and that someone can be too intoxicated to Consent.

Take the initiative to help friends who aren't thinking clearly from becoming targets of violence (or) take steps to stop a friend who chooses to use violence.

When possible, prevent an intoxicated friend/person from going to a private location with an acquaintance or friend.

Contact the Security Department, the Title IX Coordinator or another person of authority who can assist.

#### 2) **Don'ts:**

Let friends engage in activities, such as excessive alcohol/drug consumption, that impedes judgment and that therefore could lead to actions, including sexual advances that are unwelcome and/or endanger the rights, safety, and well-being of others.

Let friends walk/run alone in secluded areas or at night.

Leave a friend or acquaintance alone at a party.

Place yourself in a vulnerable situation where you are unable to voice Consent.

### III.D.1. Employees' Duty to Report

Any employee (other than an employee serving in a privileged professional capacity or as a confidential resource as set forth in Appendix G, Section I.A) with any knowledge, whether from firsthand observation, having been confided in or having heard about it in some other fashion, of a known or suspected instance of Prohibited Conduct *must* immediately report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator, Deputy General Counsel, Security Manager, Dean or Assistant Dean, even if the alleged victim of such discrimination or harassment is not interested in filing a Complaint.

Employees who knowingly allow Prohibited Conduct to continue without reporting it will be disciplined.

***Additionally, all employees have a duty to report immediately to the NYS Maltreatment Hotline (800-342-3720) if they have reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment of minors (individuals under the age of 18).***

However, no employee is authorized to investigate or resolve a suspected violation of this policy without the involvement of the Title IX Coordinator.

If you are not sure what your duty or role is in a given situation, please contact the Title IX Coordinator.

### III.E. Title IX Coordinator

Any questions, concerns, Reports or Complaints about this policy, Prohibited Conduct, and/or Title IX should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator:

Frank Di Giovanni, MPH  
Director of Compliance  
Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital  
16 Guion Place, New Rochelle, NY 10801  
(914) 365-4808  
(914) 365-3976  
fdigiova@montefiore.org

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities, including admissions and employment. Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault are forms of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. MSON has designated an individual to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for ensuring Title IX compliance at MSON, as well as compliance with this policy. The Title IX Coordinator for MSON is currently Frank Di Giovanni. The Title IX Coordinator is available to respond to inquiries about the application of Title IX and its regulations at MSON. The Title IX Coordinator is also responsible for overseeing all Title IX Reports and Complaints and other complaints under this policy, identifying and addressing any patterns of systemic problems that are found based on review of such Reports or Complaints or otherwise, and providing education and training about this policy to the MSON community. Mr. Frank Di Giovanni's contact information is above.

In the event of Mr. Di Giovanni's absence (or in the event of a conflict of interest), his duties will be carried out by:

Emy Velez  
Human Resources  
Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital  
16 Guion Place

New Rochelle, New York 10801  
evele@montefiore.org  
914-365-4806

In addition to the Title IX Coordinator or Dean, inquiries regarding Title IX may be directed to the United States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights ("OCR"). This agency may be contacted as follows:

**United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights**  
Region 2 – New York  
Jacob Javits Federal Building 26 Federal Plaza - Suite 3312  
New York, NY 10278  
Voice Phone: (800) 368-1019  
Fax: (212) 264-3039  
TDD: (800) 537-7697

### III.F. Complaint & Reporting Procedures

For purposes of this policy, a "Complaint" is defined as a written document (in hard copy or electronic format) that is filed by anyone who believes they have been subjected to Prohibited Conduct (the Complainant or their legal guardian). The document must contain the Complainant's physical or digital signature or otherwise indicate that the Complainant is the person filing the Complaint. The Title IX Coordinator also has the authority to initiate a Complaint. Other reports or complaints, such as verbal complaints or any complaints by individuals who have knowledge of Prohibited Conduct but are not the alleged victim (Reporters), will be deemed to be "Reports".

The procedures for investigating and resolving Complaints and Reports depend on who is involved.

- If a student is a Complainant, or Respondent, the procedures set forth herein (in Sections III.F. through III.J.) will apply.
- If only employees, faculty, and/or volunteers are involved, the procedures set forth in the Non-Discrimination and Gender-Based Misconduct Policy and Procedures for Employees will apply.
- Where a Respondent is both a student and an employee, faculty, or volunteer, the Title IX Coordinator will determine which of these procedures applies based on the circumstances (such as whether the student or employee role predominates, particularly in reference to the relevant incident).

For more information on which procedures apply, see Section II. If you have any questions, such as which set of procedures apply, please contact the Title IX Coordinator.



There is no time limit on when a Complaint or Report pursuant to this policy can be made to MSON, however, evidence may be lost and MSON's ability to investigate and respond may be affected by any time delay in reporting.

MSON strongly encourages alleged victims to promptly file a Complaint or for other persons with knowledge to promptly make a Report in order to ensure campus safety and to preserve important evidence that may be essential for a thorough and fair resolution, including future legal and proceedings. Evidence preservation is particularly important because as time goes by, an investigation becomes more difficult. Memories may become unreliable, and information and witnesses may become unavailable.

MSON employees may not discourage an individual from reporting Prohibited Conduct covered by this policy. Furthermore, any attempt to retaliate against or penalize an alleged victim or any other person who reports or participates in the resolution of an incident is strictly prohibited, and any party found to have engaged in retaliation will be subjected to discipline (see Section III.N).

#### III.F.1. How to File a Complaint or Make a Report to College Officials

Anyone who wishes to file a Complaint or make a Report regarding a violation of this policy may do so at any time by contacting any of the following:

##### **Title IX Coordinator**

Frank Di Giovanni, MPH  
Director of Compliance  
Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital  
16 Guion Place, New Rochelle, NY 10801  
(914) 365-4808  
(914) 365-3976  
fdigiova@montefiore.org

Assistant Director of Human Resources  
Emy Velez  
Human Resources  
Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital  
New Rochelle, New York 10801  
evele@montefiore.org  
914-365-4806

Dean  
Dr. Rebecca Greer  
Montefiore School of Nursing  
53 Valentine Street  
Mount Vernon, New York 10550  
rgreer@montefiore.org  
914-361-6220

Assistant Dean  
Dr. Susan Joseph  
Montefiore School of Nursing  
53 Valentine Street  
Mount Vernon, New York 10550  
[soojoseph@montefiore.org](mailto:soojoseph@montefiore.org)  
914-361-6315

Deputy General Counsel  
Loren Ratner, Esq.  
Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital  
16 Guion Place  
New Rochelle, New York 10801  
[lratner@montefiore.org](mailto:lratner@montefiore.org)  
914-365-4319

Individuals not wishing to make a Report or Complaint may instead anonymously call the Confidential Compliance Hotline. MSON will investigate anonymous calls to the extent possible, and also keep records of and report certain anonymous calls pursuant to the requirements of the federal Clery Act. However, all anonymous callers should be aware that reporting anonymously may affect the College's ability to investigate and respond effectively. To the extent there is a concern regarding retaliation for making a call or filing a Complaint or Report, any such retaliation is prohibited and MSON will take steps to prevent such retaliation as well as strong responsive actions should it occur (see Section III.N). Anonymous calls may be made as follows:

### **Montefiore Health System Confidential Compliance Hotline**

1-800-662-8595

See Appendix G for information regarding confidential support services. See Appendix D for the Student Alcohol and Drug Use Amnesty Policy.

In addition to the options listed above, Sexual Abuse/Assault, Stalking, Domestic Violence, and Dating Violence may also or instead be reported to other personnel identified by MSON as "campus security authorities" in the Annual Security Reports it publishes in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (the "*Clery Act*"), including:

### **Security Department**

Don Mosher, Security Manager  
Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital  
16 Guion Place  
New Rochelle, New York 10801  
914-365-3562  
[dmosher@montefiore.org](mailto:dmosher@montefiore.org)

Michael Tozzi, Security Manager  
Montefiore Mount Vernon Hospital  
53 Valentine Street  
Mount Vernon, New York 10550  
914-361-6007  
mtozzi@montefiore.org

**MSON Office of Student Services**  
914-361-6537

**Students who allege they are victims of Sexual Abuse/Assault, Stalking, Domestic Violence, or Dating Violence (defined in Section III.C.) have the right (i) to make a report to the Security Department, local law enforcement and/or State Police or choose not to report; (ii) to report the incident to MSON; (iii) to request MSON's assistance in notifying law enforcement authorities; (iv) to be protected by MSON from retaliation for reporting an incident; and (v) to receive assistance and resources from MSON. Complaints or Reports under this policy and complaints with law enforcement may be filed simultaneously.**

MSON will cooperate with police investigations, but will not delay its investigation of a Complaint in the absence of extenuating circumstances and will conduct its investigation simultaneously with any police/legal system investigation. The College system and police/legal system work independently from one another. Because the standards for finding a violation of criminal law are different from the standards in this policy, criminal investigations or reports are not solely determinative of whether or not misconduct under this policy has occurred.<sup>3</sup>

**When any of these afore-mentioned individuals or any other MSON employee (other than someone serving in a privileged professional capacity or as a confidential resource as set forth in Appendix G, Section I.A) is first notified of a Report or Complaint, that person must promptly inform the Title IX Coordinator of the complaint.** If the Complaint involves an allegation of Prohibited Conduct, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly inform Deputy General Counsel of such Complaint. No MSON employee is authorized to investigate or resolve a suspected violation of this policy without the involvement of the Title IX Coordinator

### III.F.2. Other Resources and Reporting Options

Regardless of whether a victim of sexual violence wants to file a Complaint or make a Report to either MSON or the local police, he/she should promptly seek medical attention both to address his/her own health and to preserve potential evidence should he/she later decide to file charges or obtain a protective order.

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<sup>3</sup> For an explanation of the differences between MSON's and law enforcement's complaint and investigation procedures, see Appendix E.

For information on resources including emergency assistance, hospitals, law enforcement, security, medical care, mental health treatment, counseling, and other support services, see Appendix G. If desired, MSON can assist with accessing these resources.

### III.F.3. Confidentiality in Complaints & Reporting

MSON will maintain as confidential the identity of anyone who makes a Report or Complaint, Respondent(s), and witnesses, except as required by FERPA, as defined below, or a government investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding, or as otherwise required by law, and except that where a Complaint is filed, MSON must give notice to Complainant and Respondent of the identities of any individuals involved as well as certain information regarding the incident (see Section III.F.5). In all instances, MSON will endeavor to maintain the Complainant's and Respondent's privacy and reveal the parties' identities only to those individuals who need to know it in order for an investigation to commence or continue (as applicable) and the matter to be resolved.

MSON is not able to guarantee confidentiality because doing so may limit MSON's ability to provide parties with notice of allegations in a Complaint, to investigate the allegations and respond effectively, to ensure a safe, non-discriminatory and harassment-free environment and/or to comply with crime reporting or other legal requirements. In addition, consistent with law, information regarding violations of this policy may be shared among MSON personnel as appropriate and necessary.

To the extent there is a concern regarding retaliation for making a Report or Complaint, any such retaliation is prohibited and MSON will take steps to prevent such retaliation as well as strong responsive actions should it occur (see Section II.N.). However, even MSON officers and employees who cannot guarantee confidentiality will maintain the privacy of the parties' involved to the greatest extent possible. The information provided by the parties involved to a non-confidential resource will be relayed only as necessary for the Title IX Coordinator to investigate and/or seek a resolution.

**Clery Act:** MSON has an obligation to report certain crimes in its annual security report pursuant to the Clery Act. However, it will do so in an anonymized manner that identifies neither the specifics of the crime nor the identity of the alleged victim or the reporting individual. The Clery Act also requires the College to issue timely warnings of certain crimes that represent a serious or continuing threat to students and employees, except in those circumstances where issuing such a warning may compromise current law enforcement efforts or when the warning itself could potentially identify the reporting individual; that a reporting individual shall not be identified in a timely warning.

**FERPA:** The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act allows institutions to share information with Parents when: (i) there is a health or safety emergency, or (ii) when the student is a dependent on either parent's prior year federal income tax return. However, MSON will

generally not share information about a report of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault with Parents without the permission of the reporting individual.

#### III.F.4. When a Report is Made

Following a Report of an incident to the Title IX Coordinator, the Complainant will be immediately advised in writing of MSON's policies and procedures, as described herein, including the availability of interim protective measures and accommodations (see Section III.E), and next steps and procedures, including any option for filing a Complaint, if the reporting individual is the alleged victim of the Prohibited Conduct.

Reports will be overseen by the Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with the Deputy General Counsel as appropriate. Every effort will be made, consistent with the need to discharge MSON's responsibilities and protect the safety of the MSON community, to respect the wishes of the alleged victim regarding further investigation. A Complaint will not be pursued without the alleged victim's consent, unless MSON is obligated to do so or, in its judgment, the allegations are serious enough to warrant further action. MSON at all times reserves the right to proceed as necessary to protect the safety of the campus community and workplace and to maintain compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. The Title IX Coordinator therefore reserves the right to file a Complaint even if the alleged victim chooses not to do so. In such instance, the Title IX Coordinator would not be considered a party, but rather the alleged victim would be referred to as the "Complainant," regardless of whether the alleged victim actually filed the Complaint.

#### III.F.5. When a Complaint is Filed

When a Complaint alleging Prohibited Conduct is filed by a Complainant or the Title IX Coordinator, the Complainant (alleged victim) will be immediately advised in writing of MSON's policies and procedures, as described herein, including their rights and options, the availability of interim protective measures and accommodations (see Section III.G.), and next steps in terms of investigation and procedures. The Title IX Coordinator will discuss the Complainant's rights and options, as well as any confidentiality concerns.

When a Complaint alleging a Title IX Violation under this policy is filed by a Complainant or initiated by the Title IX Coordinator, MSON will provide written notice to the parties who are known as follows:

- a) Notice of MSON's Complaint, Investigation, Resolution, & Grievance Procedures
- b) Notice of the allegations, including:
  - sufficient details and time to allow for preparation of a response before any initial interview, including:

- i. the identities of the parties involved,
  - ii. the alleged conduct constituting Prohibited Conduct with reference to applicable provisions in this policy,
  - iii. the date, time, location and factual allegations concerning the incident,
  - iv. a reference to the specific prohibited conduct the Respondent is alleged to have engaged in, and
  - v. possible sanctions;
- a statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
  - a statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney;
  - an explanation that the parties may inspect and review evidence; and
  - a reference to the prohibition on knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

Complaints will be overseen by the Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with the Senior Counsel as appropriate. Where multiple Complaints arise out of the same factors or circumstances, MSON reserves the right to consolidate the Complaints for purposes of Investigation, Informal Resolution, Title IX Grievance Procedures, and/or General Grievance Procedures, as appropriate.

Every effort will be made, consistent with the need to discharge MSON's responsibilities and protect the safety of the MSON community, to respect the wishes of the Complainant regarding further investigation. A Complaint will not be pursued if the Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that he or she wishes to withdraw the Complaint, unless MSON is obligated to do so or, in its judgment, the allegations are serious enough to warrant further action. MSON at all times reserves the right to proceed as necessary to protect the safety of the campus community and workplace and to maintain compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

#### III.F.6.            Withdrawing or Dismissing a Complaint

A Complaint may be dismissed or withdrawn in several circumstances:

- If the Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that he or she would like to withdraw the Complaint;

- If MSON determines that conduct in a Complaint alleging a Title IX Violation does not meet the definition of that term, it will dismiss the Complaint as to such conduct (although a Complaint may be pursued for other Prohibited Conduct);
- If the Respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by MSON; or
- If specific circumstances prevent MSON from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination on the Complaint or the allegations therein.

If a Complaint is dismissed or withdrawn, any investigation or resolution or grievance procedures will be suspended, and MSON will promptly send written notice of the dismissal or withdrawal and the reason(s) for such dismissal or withdrawal. The dismissal of a Complaint of Title IX Violations may be appealed according to the process set forth in Appendix A.

### III.G. Interim Protective Measures and Accommodations

MSON may take reasonable and prudent interim measures to protect and ensure safety, prevent retaliation, avoid an ongoing hostile environment, and/or restore or preserve equal access to MSON's nursing program. Interim measures may be available to the Complainant, the Reporter (if different than the Complainant), the Respondent, and all third-party witnesses pending resolution of the Complaint or the Report, regardless of whether the Complainant or Reporter chooses to report the conduct to campus security or local law enforcement. Interim measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, restrictions on contact (MSON-issued "no contact" orders),<sup>4</sup> leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, bans from areas of campus, and changes to academic, transportation, employment, or working situations (including transferring to a different class, and changing work or clinical assignment schedules). Non-student employees may also be placed on administrative leave. Otherwise, a Respondent will be subject to emergency removal from MSON's nursing program or activity only if MSON determines that doing so is necessary to prevent an immediate threat to physical health or safety, and MSON also provides the Respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.

Individuals may discuss their options for any such interim measures or accommodations, as applicable, with the Title IX Coordinator, who may assist with identifying and obtaining reasonably available accommodations. Upon request by the Complainant or Respondent, an

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<sup>4</sup> No contact orders prohibit continued intentional contact with the Complainant. If the accused/Respondent and Complainant/reporting individual observe each other in a public place, it shall be the responsibility of the accused/Respondent to leave the area immediately and without directly contacting the reporting individual. MSON may establish an appropriate schedule for the accused/Respondent to access applicable institution buildings and property at a time when such buildings and property are not being accessed by the Complainant/reporting individual. Intentional and/or continued violations of a MSON-issued "no contact" order is a violation of this policy and may result in additional misconduct charges and additional disciplinary sanctions including suspension and expulsion for students, or up to and including termination of employment for employees.

individual's request for an interim measure or accommodation will be afforded a prompt review, reasonable under the circumstances, of the need for and terms of any such interim measure and accommodation that directly affects him or her, including potential modification, and shall be allowed to submit evidence in support of his or her request.

MSON may also assist an individual with obtaining an Order of Protection or other protective measures via reports to law enforcement or otherwise. If an Order of Protection or the equivalent is received by MSON, individuals have a right to receive a copy of it, and have an opportunity to meet or speak with an MSON representative, or other appropriate individual, who can explain the order and answer questions about it, including information about the accused's responsibility to stay away from protected persons. An explanation of the consequences for violating such an order will also be explained, and may include, but not be limited to, arrest, as well as suspension or expulsion for students, and termination for employees. If an Order of Protection or the equivalent is violated, campus security may provide assistance by calling on and assisting local law enforcement in effecting an arrest for such violation.

Interim measures may be modified as necessary throughout while the complaint is pending.

MSON also will consider the safety of the MSON community when making decisions regarding appropriate interim measures. MSON will endeavor to maintain as confidential any accommodations or protective measures to the extent that maintaining them would not impair the ability of MSON to provide such measures.

### III.H. Investigation of Reports & Complaints

MSON will respond to all Reports and Complaints in a prompt, thorough, fair, and impartial manner. All Reports or Complaints of Prohibited Conduct under this policy will be overseen by the Title IX Coordinator.

#### III.H.1. Investigation of Reports and Complaints

Upon receipt of a Report or Complaint of Prohibited Conduct, or upon receiving information which MSON determines on its own warrants further investigation (even if no Complaint is filed or even if a Complaint is filed and later withdrawn), a fair, prompt, and impartial investigation will commence in accordance with the procedures set forth below, assuming one or more of the parties (Respondent and/or Complainant) are students. (As discussed above in Section II above, if only employees are involved, the procedures set forth in the Non-Discrimination and Gender-Based Misconduct Policy and Procedures for Employees will apply). The investigation will be conducted by officials who are impartial, with no conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally, or an individual Complainant or Respondent. Training for such officials will be conducted pursuant to Section III.M.

Generally, the investigation will be conducted by the Title IX Coordinator, the Security Department or another appropriate entity as determined by MSON (it being understood that



MSON reserves the right to use an outside individual or organization to conduct or assist with the investigation). Depending on the nature of the allegations, the investigation may include interviews with the Complainant and Respondent, interviews of witnesses, collection of documentation (including email and other communications relevant to the complaint), a review of documents or any other steps deemed important by the investigator in order to thoroughly and fairly conduct the investigation. The investigator will consult with the Deputy General Counsel, as appropriate, throughout this process. MSON will not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.

The Title IX Coordinator (or other designated investigator) will seek to conclude the investigation as promptly as practicable, and in any event generally within 30 business days after receipt of the Respondent's statement regarding the allegations, and generally within 40 business days after receipt of the formal Complaint. The facts and circumstances of each case may make it necessary to extend the resolution timeline (see Section III.K.).

Where a Report has been made, but no Complaint filed, the alleged victim may nevertheless decide at any point during the investigation to file a Complaint, or the Title IX Coordinator may initiate the Complaint process should it determine the allegations are serious enough to initiate the Complaint process, such action would trigger all procedures applicable to Complaints, including the provisions in Section III.F.5. Otherwise, investigation of a Report may be discontinued for failure to file a Complaint.

If, in the course of an investigation of a Complaint, MSON decides to investigate allegations of Title IX Violations that were not included in the notice regarding the original Complaint allegations (as discussed in Section III.F.5.), MSON will provide notice of the additional allegations to all parties whose identities are known, pursuant to the process set forth in Section III.F.5.

All members of the MSON community are encouraged to cooperate with investigations. However, in no event will a Complainant or Respondent be compelled to participate in the investigation. Further, MSON's ability to compel a third party to participate in the investigation process may be limited.

### ***Investigation of Reports or Complaints of Title IX Violations***

Any party who is invited or expected to participate in any investigative interview or other meeting will be provided with written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the interview or meeting, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate. Parties will have the same opportunities to have others present during any interview or other meeting, including the opportunity to be accompanied by an advisor of their choice (who may, but need not be, an attorney), and any restrictions on advisors' participation will apply equally to both parties. The burden of proof gathering evidence rests with MSON and not on the parties, except that MSON

cannot access a party's records maintained by a medical or other professional without the voluntary, written consent of that party.

Parties will have equal opportunities to present witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Neither party is restricted from discussing the allegations under investigation or from gathering and presenting relevant evidence.

Parties will have an equal and timely opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the Complaint, including information that may exonerate or show responsibility—subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions as well as heightened restrictions on sensitive information that is not directly relevant. Such evidence will be provided regardless of whether MSON intends on relying on such evidence. Each party will have the opportunity to meaningfully respond to such evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation. Prior to completion of the investigation, MSON must send to each party and the party's advisor (if any), the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or hard copy, and give the parties at least 10 business days to submit written response. The investigator will consider such written responses prior to completion of the Investigative Report.

### III.H.2. Confidentiality During Investigations & Grievance Procedures

Information gathered during the Investigation, Informal Resolution, Title IX Grievance Procedures, and Grievance Procedure processes will be handled by MSON with due diligence and care. Discreet inquiry, corrective counseling, and trust will be stressed by MSON in dealing with all Complaints and Reports. MSON will maintain as confidential records and information concerning investigations, except as required by FERPA or a government investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding, or as otherwise required by law, and except that where a Complaint is filed, MSON must give notice to Complainant and Respondent of the identities of any individuals involved as well as certain information regarding the incident (see Section III.F.5). In all instances, MSON will endeavor to maintain the Complainant's and Respondent's privacy and reveal the parties' identities only to those individuals who need to know it in order for an investigation to commence or continue (as applicable) and the matter to be resolved.

MSON is not able to guarantee complete confidentiality because doing so may limit MSON's ability to provide parties with notice of allegations in a Complaint, to investigate the allegations and respond effectively, to ensure a safe, non-discriminatory and harassment-free environment and/or to comply with crime reporting or other legal requirements. In addition, consistent with law, information regarding violations of this policy may be shared among MSON personnel as appropriate and necessary. Even MSON officers and employees who cannot guarantee confidentiality will maintain the privacy of the parties' involved to the greatest extent possible. The information provided by the parties involved to a non-confidential resource will be relayed only as necessary for the Title IX Coordinator to investigate and/or seek a resolution.

### III.J. Resolution & Grievance Procedures

In any investigation of a Complaint involving a student as either a Complainant or Respondent, there are two sets of procedures that might apply, depending on the type of Prohibited Conduct described in the Complaint:

- For Complaints regarding Title IX Violations (as defined in Section III.C.3), the Title IX Grievance Procedures will generally apply, as set forth in Section III.J.2 below. If the Respondent is a student, the parties (Complainant and Respondent) may instead choose to participate in the Informal Procedures set forth in Section III.J.1. Informal resolution is not available if the Respondent is an employee.
- For Complaints regarding other Sexual Harassment or discrimination that do not qualify as Title IX Violations, the General Grievance Procedures will apply (see Section III.J.3.), unless the parties instead choose to participate in the Informal Procedures set forth in Section III.J.1.

As discussed above in Section II, if only employees and/or third-parties are involved, the procedures set forth in the Non-Discrimination and Gender-Based Misconduct Policy and Procedures for Employees will apply. If you have any questions, such as to which set of procedures apply, please contact the Title IX Coordinator.

Regardless of which process is used, it will be conducted by officials who are impartial, with no conflict of interest or bias for or against either the Complainant or Respondent. Training for officials involved in the resolution and/or grievance processes will be conducted pursuant to Section III.L.

#### III.J.1. Informal Resolution Process

The Informal Resolution Process may apply only where:

- a Complaint has been filed;
- all parties receive a written notice disclosing: the allegations in the Complaint, their options to pursue Title IX or General Grievance Procedures, the requirements of the informal resolution process (including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming Title IX Grievance Procedures or General Grievance Procedures arising from the same allegations), and the consequences resulting from participating in the Informal Resolution Process;
- all parties voluntarily agree to pursue the Informal Resolution Process, and sign written consent to do so; and
- the Respondent is not an employee.

The Informal Resolution process will be overseen by officials who are impartial, with no conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally, or an individual Complainant or Respondent. Training for such officials will be conducted pursuant with Section III.L.

Informal means of addressing the issues raised in a Complaint may include, but are not limited to:

- An informal direct discussion between the Complainant and the Respondent in the presence of the Title IX Coordinator
- Requesting additional education for the area or department where the Complaint originated; or
- Commencing mediation of the Complaint. The Complainant and the Respondent must agree to mediation if mediation is to go forward. **Mediation is optional.** The mediator will be designated by the Title IX Coordinator within 10 business days after the parties' agreement to participate in mediation. The mediator will contact the parties to set the date, time, and location of the mediation session(s). Only the mediator and the parties will be participants in the mediation session(s), except as provided below. During the mediation process, the mediator normally will: (i) ask the parties to give their versions of the incident, including both factual information and their feelings; (ii) identify key issues; (iii) seek the agreement of both parties on the issues; (iv) facilitate discussion; and (v) work with both parties to develop a written document that will include a statement of agreement. If either party is dissatisfied with the mediation process at any time prior to the signing of a mediation agreement, that party may request that the mediation process cease.

The Complainant or Respondent may at any time prior to resolution decide to withdraw from the Informal Resolution Process and instead proceed with the Title IX or General Grievance Procedures process (see Sections III.J.2. and III.J.3.) by notifying the Title IX Coordinator of his or her desire to do so. No negative inference may be drawn from such a request.

### III.J.2. Title IX Grievance Procedures

The Title IX Grievance Procedures apply to Complaints of Title IX Violations that a Complainant has filed with the Title IX Coordinator (see Section III.F.1).

For more information about the Title IX Grievance Procedures, please refer to **Appendix A**. In certain circumstances, parties may voluntarily agree to pursue an Informal Resolution Process in lieu of Title IX Grievance Procedures (see Section III.J.1.).

### III.J.3. General Grievance Procedures

The General Grievance Procedures apply to Complaints of Prohibited Conduct other than Title IX Violations that are covered by the Title IX Grievance Procedures (see Section III.J.2). For more information about the General Grievance Procedures, please refer to **Appendix B**. Parties may voluntarily agree to pursue an Informal Resolution Process in lieu of General Grievance Procedures (see Section III.J.1.).

### III.J.4. Remedies and Sanctions

MSON has the discretion to issue any disciplinary action it deems appropriate up to, and including expulsion and/or termination.

If MSON determines that an individual is responsible for a Title IX Violation, sanctions which may be imposed by MSON include suspension or expulsion for students and up to and including termination of employment for employees. Other sanctions that may be imposed include a warning, disciplinary probation, restriction from employment by MSON, removal from courses or activities, loss of privileges, no contact, exclusion from areas of the campus and facilities, removal or non-renewal of scholarships, a notation on the Respondent's official MSON transcript, community service, restitution, and a fine. In addition, the Respondent may also be required to undergo an assessment and treatment by a therapist or counselor, attend an intervention treatment program and/or issue a letter of apology.

Students suspended or expelled for committing an act of Sexual Abuse/Assault, Stalking, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or a "violent crime," as defined by the Clery Act,<sup>5</sup> will have a notation placed on their transcript as follows: "suspended after a finding of responsibility for a code of conduct violation" or "expelled after a finding of responsibility for a code of conduct violation." MSON will consider requests to remove transcript notations. Requests for removal of a transcript notation should be sent to the Title IX Coordinator. A transcript notation will not be removed prior to one year after conclusion of the suspension. If a finding of responsibility is vacated for any reason, a corresponding transcript notation will be removed. Expulsion notations will not be removed in any case. If an accused student withdraws from MSON while charges are pending and declines to complete the disciplinary process the following notation will be placed on his/her transcript: "withdrew with conduct charges pending."

In addition to any disciplinary action, MSON may take action to eliminate a hostile environment created by discrimination, harassment or sexual misconduct, to prevent the recurrence of the discrimination, harassment or sexual misconduct, and to address the effects of the discrimination, harassment or sexual misconduct on the parties involved, the witnesses and the

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<sup>5</sup> "Violent crimes" defined by the Clery Act are murder, sexual offenses (forcible and non-forcible), robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, manslaughter, and arson.

MSON community, as appropriate. Such efforts may include additional training and awareness programs for the MSON community.

More information about possible sanctions can be found in **Appendices A and B**.

### III.K. Time Limits

MSON will exercise due diligence in complying with the stated time limits set forth in this policy. However, stated time limits may be extended for good cause depending on the nature of the allegations, the time of year, and any other unforeseen or extenuating circumstance. Good cause may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities. All parties will be notified in writing of any delay or extensions and the reason therefore. Any party may request an extension of any deadline by submitting a written request to the Title IX Coordinator detailing the reason for such request and the amount of additional time requested. The Title IX Coordinator has the discretion to grant or deny any such request.

### III.L. Education/Training

As part of MSON's commitment to providing a safe, non-discriminatory and harassment-free environment, this policy shall be disseminated widely to the MSON community through publications, websites, student orientations, new employee orientations, current employee training and other appropriate channels of communication. MSON also provides training programs for MSON employees and students to promote awareness and a safe and respectful MSON environment.

Additionally, officials and/or Decisionmakers involved in responding to Reports and Complaints (as further set forth in Appendix A), conducting investigations and/or overseeing resolution and grievance procedures will receive appropriate training consistent with applicable law, including, as applicable, training on:

- the scope of the recipient's education program or activity,
- Prohibited Conduct and Title IX Violations
- how to conduct an investigation and grievance process that protects the safety of victims and the rights of Respondent and promotes accountability (including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes),
- the effects of trauma,
- how to serve impartially (including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias),

- issues of relevance of questions and evidence (including on when the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant),
- issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence, and
- technology to be used at a live hearing.

### III.M. Documentation of Investigations and Resolution & Grievance Procedures

The Title IX Coordinator will maintain records of all Complaints (both formal and informal), investigations, findings (including the basis for those findings) and appeals. These records will be kept on file in accordance with MSON's records and retention policy.

Parties have the right to access a full and fair record of any disciplinary hearing involving allegations of a Title IX Violation. Such records shall be preserved and maintained for at least five years from the hearing and may include a transcript, recording or other appropriate record.

The Title IX Coordinator also will inform the applicable Registrar if any transcript notations are required (see Section III.J.4).

### III.N. Retaliation

This policy prohibits retaliation against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any Title IX right or privilege, or because the individual has made a report or Complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy, even if the Complaint is unsubstantiated. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, coercion, discrimination, reprisals, harassment, and/or any other adverse action threatened (expressed or implied) or taken, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or a Title IX Violation, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a Report or Complaint of sex discrimination, or a Report or Complaint of a Title IX Violation, for the purpose of interfering with Title IX rights or privileges. Retaliation may take place in person, over the telephone or through electronic or social media means. Regardless of how it manifests itself, retaliation is prohibited. MSON will maintain as confidential the identity of anyone who makes a Report or Complaint, Respondents, and witnesses, except as required by FERPA or a government investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding, or as otherwise required by law, and except that where a Complaint is filed, MSON must give notice to Complainant and Respondent of the identities of any individuals involved.

Retaliation is a serious violation of this policy, as well as federal, state and local law. Anyone who either observes or becomes aware of such retaliatory behavior is strongly encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, and all MSON employees are under a business duty to do so. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the procedures in Section III.F, or (for violations that do not involve students) the procedures in the Non-Discrimination and

Gender-Based Misconduct Policy and Complaint Procedures for Employees. Violations of this prohibition will be addressed through the procedures outlined in this policy.

**III.O. Knowing False Claims or Information**

MSON considers any allegation of discrimination, harassment or sexual misconduct a serious matter and encourages individuals to report all incidents to MSON. All good faith reports will be treated seriously. Any individual who knowingly files a false claim, or who *knowingly* provides false information during an investigation or proceeding may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and expulsion for students and termination of employment for employees.

**III.P. Re-Evaluation**

MSON reserves the right to modify and/or amend any or all of the terms and/or procedures outlined herein at any time, in its sole discretion. In the event MSON determines that circumstances warrant modification or amendment of this policy, timely notice of the same will be communicated to all affected parties. This policy is made available to the entire faculty, staff, and student body of MSON, as well as all interested others, and can be accessed via the MSON website or can be obtained from the Title IX Coordinator, Deputy General Counsel, Dean, Assistant Dean or the MSON Office of Student Services.

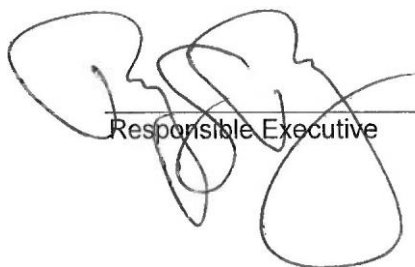
**IV. Effective Date**

Effective as of: August 14, 2020

**V. Policy Management and Responsibilities**

Montefiore New Rochelle's compliance department is the Responsible Office under this Policy. The Vice President Executive Director of Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital Anthony, J. Alfano is the Responsible Executive, and the Dean of MSON Rebecca Greer is the Responsible Officer for the management of this Policy.

**VI. Approved August 14, 2020 Revised August 16, 2021**

  
Responsible Executive

Dated: 08/17/2021



## **Appendix A: Title IX Grievance Procedures**

These Procedures will apply to Complaints of Title IX Violations, following an Investigation and Investigative Report, unless the parties voluntarily agree to instead participate in the Informal Resolution Process where permitted. These Procedures are intended to implement 34 C.F.R. 106.45, and as such, should be interpreted consistently with its requirements.

### **The Hearing**

The Title IX Coordinator (or his/her designee) will provide all parties involved with a copy of these Procedures:

- 1) Following the Investigation and issuance of the Investigative Report, the Complaint will proceed to a live Hearing, which will be conducted by a neutral Decisionmaker appointed by MSON (MSON reserves the right to appoint more than one neutral Decisionmaker to a given case). The Decisionmaker(s) will not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally, or an individual Complainant or Respondent. Training for the Decisionmaker will comport Section III.M. The Title IX Coordinator will coordinate details of the Hearing and parties' submissions, but will not serve as a Decisionmaker.
- 2) At least 10 business days before the Hearing date, parties will receive notice of the Hearing date, the Complaint which will be heard at the Hearing, and a copy of the Investigative Report.
- 3) The Respondent will be presumed to be not responsible for the alleged conduct unless and until proven otherwise under a clear and convincing standard of evidence.
- 4) Parties will have an equal opportunity to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. However, at least 5 business days before the Hearing date, parties must:
  - a. Submit the name of their Advisor who will assist them at the hearing. The Advisor may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. If a party does not submit the name of an Advisor, MSON will select and provide an Advisor without charge.
  - b. Submit any request that the Hearing be conducted virtually via live video, with the parties located in separate rooms. The parties must be able to simultaneously see and hear the party or witness that is answering questions.
  - c. Submit a written response, if any, to the Investigative Report
  - d. Submit a list of any evidence or witnesses the party wishes to present at the Hearing, including names of possible witnesses, the nature and description of

possible evidence, and any relevant supplemental information that becomes available after the Investigation.

- 5) Prior to the hearing, the Decisionmaker(s) will review the Investigative Report, as well as any submissions from the Complainant or Respondent. The Decisionmaker(s) may ask that witnesses attend the Hearing, so that they may be asked questions in person.
- 6) The burden of proof is on MSON to gather sufficient evidence to reach a determination regarding responsibility. MSON will not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege. MSON cannot access, consider, disclose, or use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party, unless MSON obtains that party's voluntary, written consent to do.
- 7) The Decisionmaker will preside over the Hearing, and may question the parties in order to assist him/her in deciding whether or not the charges are supported by clear and convincing evidence.
- 8) The Hearing will be recorded via audio recording, audiovisual recording, or transcript, and will be made available to the parties for inspection and review in sufficient time to allow them to meaningfully prepare for an appeal.
- 9) The parties are encouraged to attend the Hearing, so that they are given a full opportunity to explain their positions. However, the Decisionmaker(s) cannot draw an inference about the determination regarding responsibility based solely on a party's or witness's absence from the Hearing.
- 10) At the Hearing, MSON will make available for parties' inspection, review, and use, all evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations in the Complaint.
- 11) At the Hearing, each party's Advisor will be given an opportunity to ask the other party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions in real time, including questions challenging credibility. The party may not personally ask such questions.
- 12) Before a Complainant, Respondent or witness answers a question from an Advisor, the Decisionmaker(s) must first determine whether the question is relevant and explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant. Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered

to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent. However, past findings of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault may be admissible solely for purposes of determining appropriate sanctions. Additionally, parties have the right to exclude questions and evidence about their mental health diagnosis and/or treatment.

- 13) The Advisor must abide by the Decisionmaker(s)' determination as to whether a question is relevant. The Advisor may be asked to leave the meeting/proceeding if he/she deviates from his/her role. In such case, the party would have an opportunity to appoint a different Advisor, or MSON would appoint an Advisor for the party. The Advisor will be subject to the same confidentiality expectations applicable to others in attendance at the meeting/proceeding.
- 14) If a party or witness refuses to submit to cross-examination at the Hearing, the Decisionmaker must not rely on any statement of that party or witness in reaching a determination regarding responsibility. The Decisionmaker(s) cannot draw an inference about the determination regarding responsibility based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to answer cross-examination or other questions.
- 15) The Decisionmaker(s) will objectively evaluate all relevant evidence—including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.
- 16) Credibility determination will not be based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness.
- 17) Parties have the right make an impact statement related to appropriate sanctions.
- 18) Within 10 business days of the Hearing, the Decisionmaker(s) will issue a written decision on whether the Respondent is responsible for the alleged violation(s). The written determination will be provided to both parties simultaneously, and will include:
  - a. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting a Title IX Violation;
  - b. A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the Complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and Hearings held;
  - c. Findings of fact supporting the determination;

- d. Conclusions regarding the application of MSON's Non-Discrimination and Gender-Based Misconduct Policy and Complaint Procedures for Students to the facts;
- e. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions MSON imposes on the Respondent, the rationale for each sanction, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to MSON's education program or activity will be provided by MSON to the Complainant; and
- f. MSON's procedures and permissible bases for the Complainant and Respondent to Appeal.

### **Appeal Process**

Both parties have the right to appeal from a determination regarding responsibility and from a dismissal of a Complaint or any allegations therein. The appeal must be submitted to the Title IX Coordinator within 5 business days of the date of the determination or dismissal of the Complaint. A request for an appeal must consist of a plain, concise, and complete written statement outlining the grounds for the appeal. In all cases, there are four possible grounds for appeal:

- Existence of a procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; or
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or Decisionmaker(s) had a conflict of interest for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the individual Complainant or Respondent that affected the outcome of the matter. or
- The sanction is excessive, inconsistent or insufficient with the nature of the offense.

Upon receipt of an appeal, the the Title IX Coordinator will promptly notify the other party in writing that an appeal was filed, and provide a copy of the appeal. The appeal will be referred to an **Appeal Panel**, which will include the Dean (or his/her designee) and at least one other individual to be selected by the Dean and the Title IX Coordinator. The Appeal Panel will not include any of the following: the Title IX Coordinator, anyone who investigated the Complaint, or any Decisionmakers involved in the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal of the Complaint. Both parties will receive notice of the appointment of the Appeal Panel.

Within 10 business days after receiving notice of the appointment of the Appeal Panel, parties may submit a written statement supporting or challenging the outcome.

The appeal will be conducted in a fair and impartial manner. The appeal is not a re-hearing of the underlying matter. The Appeal Panel will review the written investigation report, decisions and all supporting documents, and also may consult with both parties. The Appeal Panel (by majority vote of panelists, or by unanimous decision if less than 3 panelists) can affirm the original determination of responsibility, alter the determination of responsibility either in whole or in part, and/or alter the sanctions, depending on the circumstances. The matter can also be referred back for further investigation or consideration if appropriate. The Appeal Panel will issue its written decision within 10 business days from the date of the submission of all appeal documents by both parties. The decision will describe the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result. The Title IX Coordinator will simultaneously notify the parties as soon as practicable of the decision.

Appeal decisions are final.

If there is no appeal, the Title IX Coordinator will simultaneously notify the parties that the initial decision is final because the time for an appeal has expired.

### **Timing**

MSON will endeavor to fully resolve all Complaints of Title IX Violations generally within 60 business days after receipt of the formal Complaint. The 60-day time period may be extended depending on the nature of the allegations, the time of year, and any other unforeseen or extenuating circumstance.

### **Confidentiality**

Parties have the right to choose whether to disclose or discuss the outcome of this process. However, subject to the exceptions discussed in Section III.H.2 and unless otherwise required by law, MSON will to the extent possible maintain as confidential all information obtained during the course of this process and will refrain from public release of such information until the appeals panel makes a final determination.

## **Appendix B: General Grievance Procedures For Complaints of Prohibited Conduct Not Covered by Appendix A**

These Procedures will apply to Complaints of Prohibited Conduct not involving Title IX Violations, following an Investigation and Investigative Report, unless the parties voluntarily agree to instead participate in the Informal Resolution Process where permitted. The Title IX Coordinator (or his/her designee) will provide all parties involved with a copy of these procedures.

- 1) The Title IX Coordinator (or his/her designee) will request the Complainant to provide to the Title IX Coordinator, within 5 business days after the Title IX Coordinator's request and preferably in writing, a description of all facts that bear on the allegations; specifically, the details surrounding the accusation, names of possible witnesses, and the nature and description of possible evidence. The Complainant is expected to share with the Title IX Coordinator, or other appropriate investigative entity as designated by MSON, any relevant supplemental information that subsequently becomes available.
- 2) The Title IX Coordinator (or his/her designee) will promptly inform the Respondent in writing (and send a copy to the Complainant) of the allegations (including the date, time, location, nature of the alleged misconduct, and factual allegations) and ask the Respondent to respond to them within 5 business days after such notice. Such response should include all facts that bear on the allegations, including the names of possible witnesses and the nature and description of possible evidence, and may also include defenses the Respondent will claim. The Respondent is expected to share with the Title IX Coordinator, or other appropriate investigative entity as designated by MSON, any relevant supplemental information that subsequently becomes available. The Title IX Coordinators (or his/her designee) may ask to meet with the parties separately to discuss the allegations.
- 3) Where appropriate, in the judgment of the Title IX Coordinator both the Complainant and the Respondent may be invited to engage in mediation or conciliation.
- 4) The Title IX Coordinator may also work with Senior Counsel, as appropriate, in responding to the receipt of a Complaint.
- 5) The Title IX Coordinator (or other designated investigator) will fully, fairly and impartially investigate the complaint, and each party equally will have the opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence to the investigator. Each party and appropriate officials will also be afforded equal and timely access to information that will be used to adjudicate the Complaint.
- 6) Both parties will be advised by the Title IX Coordinator (or his/her designee) that reasonable efforts will be made by MSON to protect the privacy of the parties, and to

maintain confidentiality to the extent possible and as is consistent with investigative needs and applicable laws (see Sections III.F.3 and III.H.2.).

- 7) The Title IX Coordinator will explore possible interim protective measures and accommodations with both parties.
- 8) The Title IX Coordinator (or other designated investigator) will endeavor, as promptly as feasible, to interview all relevant parties and review all evidence, including witnesses and evidence identified by the parties.
- 9) The Title IX Coordinator (or his/her designee) will provide the Complainant and the Respondent with periodic status updates.
- 10) Each party will be provided written notice in advance of any interview or hearing, with sufficient time to prepare for meaningful participation. The Title IX Coordinator (or other designated investigator) will seek to conclude the investigation as promptly as practicable, and in any event generally within 30 business days after receipt of the Respondent's statement regarding the allegations, and generally within 40 business days after receipt of the formal complaint. The facts and circumstances of each case may make it necessary to extend the resolution timeline (see Section III.K.).
- 11) The Title IX Coordinator (or other designated investigator) will compile a written neutral investigation Report, summarizing the evidence and making findings of fact and conclusions, and will then determine the credible evidence and make a finding as to whether this policy has been violated. A finding of a violation of this policy will be based on a preponderance of evidence (i.e., that it is more likely than not that the discrimination or harassment occurred).
- 12) The Title IX Coordinator will simultaneously inform the parties of the conclusion of the investigation and the finding. The Complainant and Respondent may respond to such findings, either verbally or in writing, and such response will be furnished to the appropriate disciplinary authority along with the investigation's findings. Neither the Complainant nor the Respondent is entitled to receive a copy of the internal investigative report or any other related documents. If MSON determines to furnish a document to one party, it will also simultaneously furnish a copy to the other party.
- 13) Findings and recommendations concerning a Respondent will be promptly referred to the Dean for consideration of appropriate disciplinary action. The Dean will consult with the Title IX Coordinator and the designated investigator (as applicable) to review the findings and recommendations, as well as any responses to such findings received from the Complainant or Respondent.
- 14) The Title IX Coordinator will simultaneously notify the parties as soon as practicable of the sanctions to be imposed, except that the Complainant will only be notified of

sanctions that directly relate to said Complainant. Such notice may also include any other remedial or preventative action being taken or provided by the school. A Respondent may appeal the sanctions to be imposed on him/her, but no other party has a right of appeal. Within 5 business days of notice of the sanctions to be imposed on the Respondent, the Respondent may appeal the sanctions by submitting a written request to the Title IX Coordinator. The only grounds for an appeal are that the sanctions are excessive or inconsistent with the nature of the offense. The appeal is not a re-hearing of the underlying matter. Upon receipt of the appeal, the Title IX Coordinator will provide the other party with notice of the appeal and the opportunity to respond in writing. The other party's response to the appeal must be submitted within 5 business days from receipt of notice of the appeal. The appeal will be reviewed by the Dean (or his/her designee), and he/she will issue a determination generally within 5 business days from the date of the submission of all appeal documents by both parties. The Title IX Coordinator/ will simultaneously notify the parties as soon as practicable of the decision. Appeal decisions are final. If there is no appeal, the Title IX Coordinator also will simultaneously notify the parties that the initial decision is final because the time for an appeal has expired.

- 15) MSON will endeavor to fully resolve all formal complaints generally within 60 business days after receipt of the formal complaint. The 60-day time period may be extended depending on the nature of the allegations, the time of year, and any other unforeseen or extenuating circumstance.



## **Appendix C: Community Members' Bill of Rights**

MSON is committed to providing options, support and assistance to victims/survivors of Sexual Abuse/Assault, Stalking, Domestic Violence and/or Dating Violence to ensure that they can continue to participate in College-wide and campus programs, activities, and employment. All MSON community members have the following rights, regardless of whether the crime or violation occurs on campus, off campus, or while studying abroad:

All MSON community members have the right to:

1. Make a report to local law enforcement and/or state police;
2. Have disclosures of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, and Sexual Assault treated seriously;
3. Make a decision about whether or not to disclose a crime or violation and participate in the judicial or conduct process and/or criminal justice process free from pressure by the institution;
4. Participate in a process that is fair, impartial, and provides adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard;
5. Be treated with dignity and to receive from the institution courteous, fair, and respectful health care and counseling services, where available;
6. Be free from any suggestion that the reporting individual is at fault when these crimes and violations are committed, or should have acted in a different manner to avoid such crimes or violations;
7. Describe the incident to as few institution representatives as practicable and not be required to unnecessarily repeat a description of the incident;
8. Be protected from retaliation by the institution, any student, the accused and/or the Respondent, and/or their friends, family and acquaintances within the jurisdiction of the institution;
9. Access to at least one level of appeal of a determination;
10. Be accompanied by an advisor of choice who may assist and advise a reporting individual, accused, or Respondent throughout the judicial or conduct process including during all meetings and hearings related to such process; and
11. Exercise civil rights and practice of religion without interference by the investigative, criminal justice, or judicial or conduct process of the institution.

See Section III.F.1 for information about filing a Report or Complaint, Sections III.F.3. and III.H.2. for information about confidentiality during the Report/Complaint process and an investigation and Appendix F for confidential support options.

## **Appendix D: Student Alcohol and Drug Use Amnesty Policy**

The health and safety of every student at MSON is of utmost importance. MSON recognizes that students who have been drinking and/or using drugs (whether such use is voluntary or involuntary) at the time that violence, including but not limited to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking or Sexual Assault, occurs may be hesitant to report such incidents due to fear of potential consequences for their own conduct. MSON strongly encourages students to report Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault to MSON officials. A bystander acting in good faith or a reporting individual acting in good faith that discloses any incident of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault to MSON's officials or law enforcement will not be subject to a code of conduct action for violations of alcohol and/or drug use policies occurring at or near the time of the commission of the Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault.

MSON will provide students with the assistance needed to respond to high risk drinking and/or other drug abuse. In a crisis, students are encouraged to seek such assistance by contacting the MMV or MNR Security Department or 911.

[Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital Security Department](#)  
[16 Guion Place](#)  
[New Rochelle, New York 10801](#)  
[914-365-3562](#)  
[dmosher@montefiore.org](mailto:dmosher@montefiore.org)

[Montefiore Mount Vernon Hospital Security Department](#)  
[53 Valentine Street](#)  
[Mount Vernon, New York 10550](#)  
[914-361-6007](#)  
[mtozzi@montefiore.org](mailto:mtozzi@montefiore.org)

Additional resources and information can be found in MSON's Drug and Alcohol Policy.

## **Appendix E: Additional Crime and Related Definitions**

The following definitions are drawn from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and its regulations, as well as various New York State laws.

### **Family or Household Member**

The following individuals: (a) persons related by consanguinity or affinity; (b) persons legally married to one another; (c) person formerly married to one another regardless of whether they still reside in the same household; (d) persons who have a child in common regardless of whether such persons are married or have lived together at any time; (e) unrelated persons who are continually or at regular intervals living in the same household or who have in the past continually or at regular intervals lived in the same household; (f) 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 (g) any other category of individuals deemed to be a victim of domestic violence as defined by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services in regulation. 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. Intimate relationship status shall be applied to teens, lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender, and elderly individuals, current and formerly married and/or dating heterosexual individuals who were, or are in an intimate relationship.

### **Incest**

Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

### **Intimidation**

To unlawfully place another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words and/or other conduct, but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to actual physical attack.

**Parent**

Natural or adoptive parent or any individual lawfully charged with a minor child's care or custody.

**Sexual Misconduct**

When a person (1) engages in sexual intercourse with another person without such person's consent; or (2) engages in oral sexual conduct or anal sexual conduct without such person's consent; or (3) engages in sexual conduct with an animal or a dead human body.

**Rape in the Third Degree**

When a person (1) engages in sexual intercourse with another person who is incapable of consent by reason of some factor other than being less than 17 years old; (2) Being 21 years old or more, engages in sexual intercourse with another person less than 17 years old; or (3) engages in sexual intercourse with another person without such person's consent where such lack of consent is by reason of some factor other than incapacity to consent.

**Fondling**

The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

New York State law specifically prohibits forcible touching, defined as when a person intentionally, and for no legitimate purpose: (1) forcibly touches the sexual or other intimate parts of another person, or for the purpose of gratifying the actor's sexual desire; or (2) subjects another person to sexual contact for the purpose of degrading or abusing such person; or for the purpose of gratifying the actor's sexual desire and with intent to degrade or abuse such other person while such other person is a passenger on a bus, train, or subway car operated by any transit agency, authority or company, public or private, whose operation is authorized by New York state or any of its political subdivisions. Forcing touching includes squeezing, grabbing, or pinching.

**Sexual Abuse**

When a person subjects another person to sexual contact without the person's consent or where the person is incapable of consent, including in most instances where such person is a minor.

## Appendix F: A Plain Language Explanation of Distinctions between the New York State Penal Law and the MSON Disciplinary Processes

New York State Education Law Article 129-B requires that MSON officials explain differences between MSON processes and the criminal justice process in addressing sexual and interpersonal violence.

There are significant differences between the two systems because they have different, important goals. In the criminal justice system, prosecutors pursue cases when they believe there is sufficient evidence to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that an individual has committed a criminal act. A person who is convicted of a crime will face criminal penalties, such as incarceration, probation, or the imposition of a fine. MSON’s disciplinary process seeks to determine whether an individual has violated MSON policy. In this process, a clear and convincing standard of proof is used to determine responsibility for alleged Title IX Violations, whereas a preponderance of the evidence standard will apply to allegations of other violations. A person who is found to have violated MSON policy may be suspended, expelled or otherwise restricted from full participation in the MSON community. This document is intended to help explain the differences between the criminal justice system and MSON disciplinary processes.

	<b>Criminal Justice System</b>	<b>College Disciplinary System</b>
<b>Goals.</b>	Public safety, deterrence, and punishment.	Education; safety; safe and supportive campus environment.
<b>Governing Law.</b>	NYS Penal Code; NYS Rules of Criminal Procedure (or another state’s rules if the crime took place there), Federal Criminal Law, and Rules of Evidence.	Title IX; The Clery Act, as amended by the Violence Against Women Act; NYS Education Law Articles 129-A and 129-B; College’s Non-Discrimination and Gender-Based Misconduct Policies for Students and Employees; Student Bill of Rights; Faculty Policies; Code of Conduct.
<b>How to report and whether there must be action once a report is made.</b>	Crimes involving sexual violence may be reported to the local police agency or to the New York State Police. Certain crimes may also be reported to federal law enforcement agents. Once a report is made, the decision whether to investigate is made by the police/law	Victims may disclose sexual violence to various MSON employees who are designated confidential resources or to others who will try to ensure privacy to the extent consistent with MSON’s obligation to provide a safe educational environment. Disclosures

	enforcement agency, often in consultation with a District Attorney or other prosecuting agency. An investigation may be conducted without the consent or participation of a reporting individual. The ultimate decision of whether to initiate a criminal prosecution is initially made by a prosecutor. In cases involving felony charges, the final charging decision is made by a Grand Jury.	made to a confidential resource will not trigger an investigation. When a Report or Complaint is made to the Title IX Coordinator/Vice President for Human Resources(TIXC) or another Non-Confidential resource, the TIXC will generally commence an investigation of the incident.
<b>Who investigates?</b>	Police or other law enforcement officials.	Investigators employed or retained by MSON; these individuals may work for different departments within MSON, including, but not limited to, Human Resources, the Security Department, Student Services and Academic Affairs, and the Office of Legal Affairs.
<b>Procedures.</b>	See Governing Law. Procedures established by police departments, prosecutors' offices, etc.	MSON policies, which generally incorporate requirements of Governing Law. Collective bargaining agreements and faculty policies may impact some procedures.
<b>Standard of Evidence.</b>	Crimes must be proven "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt."	A violation of disciplinary rules must be found by a "Clear and Convincing" evidence, whereas any other violation must be found by a "Preponderance of the Evidence" standard.
<b>Confidentiality.</b>	Law enforcement agencies offer some confidential assistance, but a criminal charge and trial must be public.	MSON offers confidential resources, but filing a Complaint requires that relevant information be shared with those involved.
<b>Privacy.</b>	Criminal trials must be public.	Disciplinary proceedings are kept as private as possible, but information must be

		shared with certain individuals within MSON, the parties to the proceedings, and pursuant to law.
<b>Who are the parties?</b>	The prosecution/State and defendant. The victim/survivor is not a party, but often the critical witness for the prosecution.	Complainant and accused/Respondent.
<b>Participation in the process.</b>	In limited circumstances, a criminal prosecution can proceed without the participation or cooperation of the reporting individual, but without a reporting individual's participation, it is generally more difficult to prove a crime beyond a reasonable doubt.	Complainants and Respondents cannot be required to participate in MSON's process. However, MSON will be limited in its ability to respond if a Complainant or Respondent does not participate.
<b>Who initiates the proceedings?</b>	A prosecutor, acting on behalf of the State (or the United States in federal cases).	MSON initiates proceedings, with the Complainant generally having an active role.
<b>Testimony.</b>	In a court, testimony is generally public. Other parties are, through counsel, entitled to cross-examine witnesses.	Upon conclusion of a formal investigation, a Hearing may be scheduled where the Decisionmaker(s) and/or the parties' Advisors may question the parties and witnesses. MSON permits both parties to participate in any Hearing.
<b>Role of attorneys.</b>	Both the State and the defendant are represented by counsel; counsel may question witnesses.	The parties may have a personal Advisor of their choice and at their expense (who may or may not be an attorney) present with them during any MSON meeting, interview or Hearing. If a party does not bring an Advisor to a Hearing, MSON will provide an Advisor without charge. The Advisor may ask relevant questions



		of parties and witnesses at the Hearing.
<b>Mental Health and Sexual History.</b>	In New York, a reporting individual’s prior sexual and mental health history is generally, but not always, inadmissible in a criminal case. There are limited circumstances under which directly relevant evidence of that kind may be admitted.	Evidence regarding sexual history is generally not admissible, but subject to quite limited exceptions, , such as if evidence about prior sexual behavior is offered to prove that someone other than Respondent committed the conduct alleged, or if the evidence concerns specific incidents of the Complainant’s prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and is offered to prove consent. NYS Education Law Article 129-B also permits parties to exclude information about their own mental health history in the fact-finding phase of the disciplinary process.
<b>Possible Results.</b>	If a prosecution takes place, the defendant may <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plead guilty or “no contest”</li> <li>• have the case dismissed by the judge (on legal grounds)</li> <li>• be found “guilty” or “not guilty” by a judge or jury</li> </ul>	Parties may engage in a formal proceeding, , and the Respondent may be found “responsible” or “not responsible” for violations of MSON’s rules.  Alternatively, parties may choose a method of Informal Resolution, such as mediation.
<b>Sanctions.</b>	An individual found guilty may be fined, imprisoned, or both. In some courts, alternative sanctions are sometimes used.	An individual found responsible for violating MSON policy may be given a range of sanctions (depending on the severity of the conduct and other factors, such as prior judicial history), ranging from a warning to suspension or expulsion from MSON (for

		students), and up to and including termination (for employees).
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\* From <http://system.suny.edu/sexual-violence-prevention-workgroup/College-and-Criminal-Resource/>

## **Appendix G: Resources and Reporting Options**

### **On-Campus Resources**

#### Confidential MSON Resources

A report made to the following MSON resources will not trigger an investigation by MSON:

Carebridge Employee Assistance Program  
844-300-6072  
clientservice@carebridge.com

Additionally, if an individual discloses information through a public awareness event, such as candlelight vigils, protests, or other public event, the institution is not obligated to begin an investigation based on such information, though it may use the information to inform its efforts for additional education and prevention.

### **Non-Confidential MSON Resources**

A report also may be made to MSON's Title IX Coordinator, Security Department, Dean, Assistant Dean, or other "campus security authorities" (See Section III.F.1.), however it will trigger an investigation by MSON.

### **Off-Campus Resources<sup>6</sup>**

#### Law Enforcement

MSON's first and foremost concern for anyone who has been the victim of an incident of Sexual Abuse/Assault, Stalking, Domestic violence, Dating violence, or any other crime is their physical safety. Thus, if anyone who has been a victim of such unlawful behavior is feeling physically unsafe, he/she should immediately call the Security Department, the local police precinct, 911, or the state police for assistance.

**New York City Police Department & State Police**  
911 (Emergency)

**Local Police Precincts**  
Mount Vernon Police Department  
1 Roosevelt Square  
Mount Vernon, NY 10550  
914-665-2300

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<sup>6</sup> Fees may apply to off-campus resources. Complainants should check with each resource to determine whether reporting is confidential.

## **Medical Care & Evidence Preservation**

If anyone has been the victim of an incident of Sexual Abuse/Assault, Stalking, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or any other crime is in need of immediate medical treatment, he/she should go to the nearest hospital emergency room or call 911.

Additionally, victims of Sexual Assault should consider the following:

### **Sexual Assault Forensic Examination**

Within 96 hours of an assault, you can get a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (commonly referred to as a rape kit) at a hospital. While there should be no charge for a rape kit, there may be a charge for medical or counseling services off campus and, in some cases, insurance may be billed for services. You are encouraged to let hospital personnel know if you do not want your insurance policyholder to be notified about your access to these services.

To best preserve evidence, victims/survivors should avoid showering, washing, changing clothes, combing hair, drinking, eating, or doing anything to alter physical appearance until after a physical exam has been completed.

To obtain a **Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE)**, a sexual assault victim may contact Jacobi Medical Center, Social Work Department, 1400 Pelham Parkway, room 1E4, Bronx, NY 10467, tel. 718-918-5800, or the North Central Bronx Hospital, Sexual Assault Treatment Program, 3424 Kossuth Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467, tel. 718-519-5722. Both Jacobi Medical Center and North Central Bronx Hospital are SAFE-designated hospitals. Emergency care and support is available 24 hours/7 days a week, and a Victim Service Program social worker or volunteer advocate is on call at all times.

### **Financial Assistance for Healthcare**

The New York State Office of Victim Services may be able to assist in compensating victims/survivors for health care and counseling services, including emergency funds. More information may be found here: [http://www.ovs.ny.gov/files/ovs\\_rights\\_of\\_cv\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.ovs.ny.gov/files/ovs_rights_of_cv_booklet.pdf), or by calling 1-800-247-8035. Options are explained here: <http://www.ovs.ny.gov/helpforcrimevictims.html>.

### **Sexually Transmitted Infections**

Sexual contact can transmit Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and may result in pregnancy. Testing for STIs and emergency contraception is available from Planned Parenthood in New Rochelle, New York.

Victims of Sexual Assault, Stalking, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence or other crime should also consider seeking mental health services.

MSON is well aware of the emotional trauma often suffered by a victim of sexual violence, and therefore it has designated trained counselors in its Counseling Center to serve as sexual assault coordinators for the College. They can be reached by calling (929) 246-6791 or emailing oasc@MSON.med.edu and asking for a sexual assault coordinator. Advice and support will be offered on a confidential basis as the victim begins to make choices regarding how to proceed post-assault.

### **Other Resources Not Affiliated with MSON**

**The NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault** on-line at [www.svfreenyc.org](http://www.svfreenyc.org) or (212) 229-0345 has compiled numerous resources available to victims.

SOVRI (Support for Orthodox Victims of Rape and Incest) Hotline at Beth Israel Medical Center, (888) 613-1613 is a confidential hotline (no caller- ID is used) that may be called anonymously for information and support.

**Manhattan Family Justice Center can provide a wide range of services and support.** The Manhattan location is at 80 Centre Street, New York, NY, 10013; **Phone:** (212) 602-2800; <http://www.nyc.gov/html/ocdv/html/help/fjc.shtml>

**Family Court Volunteer Lawyer Program** (part of the New York State Access to Justice Program)

900 Sheridan Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10451  
Phone: (718) 618-2150  
Hotline: (718) 618-2150

### **Safe Horizon (NYC)**

2 Lafayette Street, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10007  
Phone: (212) 227-3000  
<http://www.safehorizon.org/help@safehorizon.org>  
Hotline: (866) 689-4357

Family Services of Westchester  
6 Gramatan Ave.  
Mount Vernon, NY 10550  
Phone: (914) 668-9124

Planned Parenthood  
New Rochelle Health Center  
247-249 North Ave.  
New Rochelle, NY 10801  
Phone: (914) 632-4442

**Lifenet Helpline** 1-800-543-3638 is a general crisis hotline

**Immigration & Visa Assistance Services for Victims of Sexual & Interpersonal Violence:**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

<http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/find-help-your-community>

USCIS Find Legal Services Webpage

<http://www.uscis.gov/avoid-scams/find-legal-services>

Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) (Listing of attorneys by state who provide immigration services either for free or for little cost)

<http://www.justice.gov/eoir/probono/states.htm>

American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Immigration Lawyer Referral Service

<http://www.ailalawyer.org/>

American Bar Association (ABA) (Information on finding legal services by state)

<http://apps.americanbar.org/legalservices/findlegalhelp/home.cfm>