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# Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Policy

## Camelot College

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On March 7, 2013, President Obama signed into law the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (Campus SaVE Act), a compliment to Title IX and an update to the Jeanne Clery Act, as part of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. The new law is designed to help institutions better protect their students and employees from sexual violence.

### **PURPOSE**

It is the Policy of Camelot College to maintain its property and to provide a safe environment against domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking for our employees/ students including others having business with the Company or on Company property. This policy applies to all students and staff of Camelot College and contracted or partner companies associated with the College.

The primary purpose of this Policy is to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on and around our campus by:

1. Protecting the safety of victims;
2. Building collaborations among victim service providers; and
3. Assisting Camelot College to respond appropriately to the violence while maintaining a safe environment for both students and employees.

### **DEFINITIONS**

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

## DATING VIOLENCE

Violence committed by a person –

(A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

i. the length of the relationship

ii. the type of relationship

iii. the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship

## STALKING

Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to –

(A) fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or

(B) suffer substantial emotional distress

## SEXUAL ASSAULT

The Campus SaVE Act defines sexual assault as an offense classified as forcible or non-forcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

## **VICTIM REPORTING**

It is the option of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking to notify Administration, Baton Rouge Police, and/or Louisiana State Police of any crime committed against them.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking at Camelot College, your first priority should be to get to a place of safety. You should then obtain the necessary medical treatment as advised by a medical professional. Administration strongly advocates that a victim of a violence report the incident in a timely manner. You can

call 911 (on campus) or (225) 907-3310 or (225) 907-5597 to speak to Administration 24 hours a day. Time is a critical factor for evidence collection and preservation. Notifying Administration will not obligate the victim to prosecute, nor will it subject the victim to scrutiny or judgmental opinions from officers.

Allegations of sexual assault or rape occurring off campus should be reported to a police department having jurisdiction where the offense occurred. Administration can assist in determining the police agency that would have jurisdiction and facilitate contact with that agency. Efforts will be made to ensure the confidentiality of all reports, except as necessary and required to investigate the alleged offenses. College authorities may issue a safety alert to those areas of the college community affected by the crime. The issuance of this alert will depend on the particular circumstances of the crime. Victims can provide information to the Administration and choose criminal prosecution and/or a referral to the on-campus discipline system or to report the incident without seeking prosecution.

The College will change a victim's academic and living arrangements after an alleged violation if those changes are requested by the victim and are reasonably available. The accuser and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during a disciplinary proceeding. Both the accuser and the accused will be informed of the outcome of any disciplinary proceeding that is brought alleging an offense. The range of College disciplinary sanctions for violations include Disciplinary Probation, Disciplinary Suspension or Disciplinary Expulsion/Termination.

## **STATEMENT OF VICTIMS' RIGHTS**

It is the goal of Camelot College to ensure that students alleging sexual misconduct have access to needed resources, services, and information including:

- The right of the victim to be treated with respect by College officials;
- The right not to be discouraged by the College officials from reporting a sexual misconduct offense;
- The right to a College "No Contact" condition (for student victims) against another student who has engaged in or threatens to engage in stalking, threatening, harassing or other improper behavior that presents a danger to the welfare of the complaining student or others;
- The right to have complaints of sexual assault responded to quickly and with sensitivity by Administration.
- The right to be informed of their options to notify proper law enforcement authorities, including on-campus and local police if the student so chooses. This also includes their right not to report, if this is the victim's desire;
- The right to be notified of available medical services, counseling, mental health or student services for victims of sexual assault, both at the College and in the community;

- The right to notification of and options for, and available assistance in, changing academic and living (campus residential) situations after an alleged sexual assault incident, if so requested by the victim and if such changes are reasonably available (no disciplinary charges or investigation, College or criminal, need occur before this option is available);
- The right to be accompanied by another member of the College community (defined as a faculty or staff member of the College community) to serve as "adviser." The adviser is permitted to advise the student charged in the organization of their thoughts and presentation of materials and can advise the student directly in the hearing. (Advisers may not address the hearing board or any other individuals providing testimony and may not respond to any questions for the respondent. Advisers may be present at hearings only. Members of the press and attorneys are prohibited from serving as advisers during a sexual misconduct disciplinary hearing);
- The right not to have irrelevant prior sexual history admitted in a College hearing;
- The right to review all written statements regarding any discussion that will be presented following at an initial conference (and prior to the disciplinary hearing);
- Ask questions of the hearing board and via the hearing board indirectly request responses from the complainant and any other witnesses present;
- The right to make an impact statement to the hearing panel at the conclusion of the disciplinary hearing;
- The right to submit a written victim-impact statement to the hearing panel prior to the panel rendering a final decision;
- The right to be informed of the outcome and any sanctions imposed from a disciplinary hearing involving sexual misconduct;

The victim does not have a right to appeal the final decision rendered by the disciplinary hearing panel. Both the accuser and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during a disciplinary hearing. The accuser and the accused will be informed of the outcome of any institutional disciplinary proceeding alleging a sex offense.

## RESOURCES

In addition to this policy, Camelot College is developing an campus coalition to help combat Violence Against Women. As this program develops, students and staff will be informed about this resource.

In addition, we have identified several existing support organizations for victims that may be in need of assistance:

<http://joyfulheartfoundation.org/>

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