

Sexual Misconduct Prevention & Bystander Response Tools

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Agenda

1. Title IX Intro
2. Primary Prevention
3. Bias & Problematic Behavior
4. Boundaries
5. Response & Intervention Tools
6. Additional Remedies & Support

Introduction

TITLE IX

Key Concepts & Framework



**Title IX (Educational
Amendments of 1972)**
prohibits discrimination **on
the basis of sex** in
educational programs or
activities receiving federal
financial assistance

Anyone participating in or
attempting to participate in
educational programs or activities

Title IX

Sex Discrimination
Sexual Harassment
Retaliation



Institutions must reasonably respond in light of known circumstances...

1. Stop & prevent behavior from continuing or escalating

2. Remedies:
Supportive measures & resources

3. Formal grievance process

An Upstream Approach



Primary
Prevention Tools



1. **Focuses on the “root causes”** of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct and **changing the conditions and norms** that typically enable sexual harassment and sexual misconduct to occur.
2. **Focuses on cultivating a culture and environment** where everyone **feels safe**, and **shares community values**.

Upstream Approach

1. Describe what a positive, productive [educational or work] **environment** means to you.



Examples of a positive, productive environment



- ✓ Being seen & heard
- ✓ Having agency of your work
- ✓ Bringing your “whole self” to work
- ✓ Feeling valued & respected
- ✓ Treating others with respect
- ✓ Being collaborative
- ✓ Listening to others

2. Name **community values** that can cultivate a positive environment where people can feel safe & thrive.



Examples of community values



- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Trust
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Feeling Included
- ✓ Teamwork
- ✓ Healthy Boundaries
- ✓ Support
- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Learning/Growth Mindset

3. Describe ways to foster **supportive relationships** with colleagues or staff.



Examples of supportive relationships



- ✓ Help others feel safe, a sense of belonging, and that they matter.
- ✓ Show genuine interest in others
- ✓ Acknowledge people's strengths & contributions
- ✓ Address peoples' needs
- ✓ Use active listening
- ✓ Follow-through on your words & actions
- ✓ Be open-minded
- ✓ Assume good will
- ✓ Engagement & participation
- ✓ Ask for input from others
- ✓ Reassess & keep it up!

A photograph of an iceberg floating in the ocean under a cloudy sky. The visible tip of the iceberg is on the left, while the much larger, submerged portion extends across the bottom half of the frame. A white text box with an orange border is centered over the submerged part of the iceberg.

Bias & Problematic Behavior?

What is Bias?

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Assumptions

Thoughts,
Generalizations

Limited or inaccurate
perception of others

Stereotypes

Overly simplified
Ideas

Limited or inaccurate
perception of others

Prejudices

Beliefs, feelings,
attitudes of liking or
disliking someone or
something

Limited or inaccurate
perception of others

Beware of “Trusting your Gut”

- Subjective (personal point of view)
- Emotional response
- Based on limited information
- Inherent “blind spots”
- Influenced by our filters or past experiences (limited, anecdotal lens)
- Can be influenced by our biases

Instead: “Check your Gut”

for assumptions, stereotypes, and prejudices before acting on them.

Source: Thinking, Fast and Slow (Daniel Kahneman, 2011)

Bias Examples

- Hostile or favorable attitudes toward a person on the basis of sex/gender
- Accepting attitudes of interpersonal violence
- Assumptions that a person is superior/inferior on the basis of sex/gender

Other Implications of Bias

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Assumptions

Thoughts,
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Limited or
inaccurate
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Stereotypes

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Prejudices

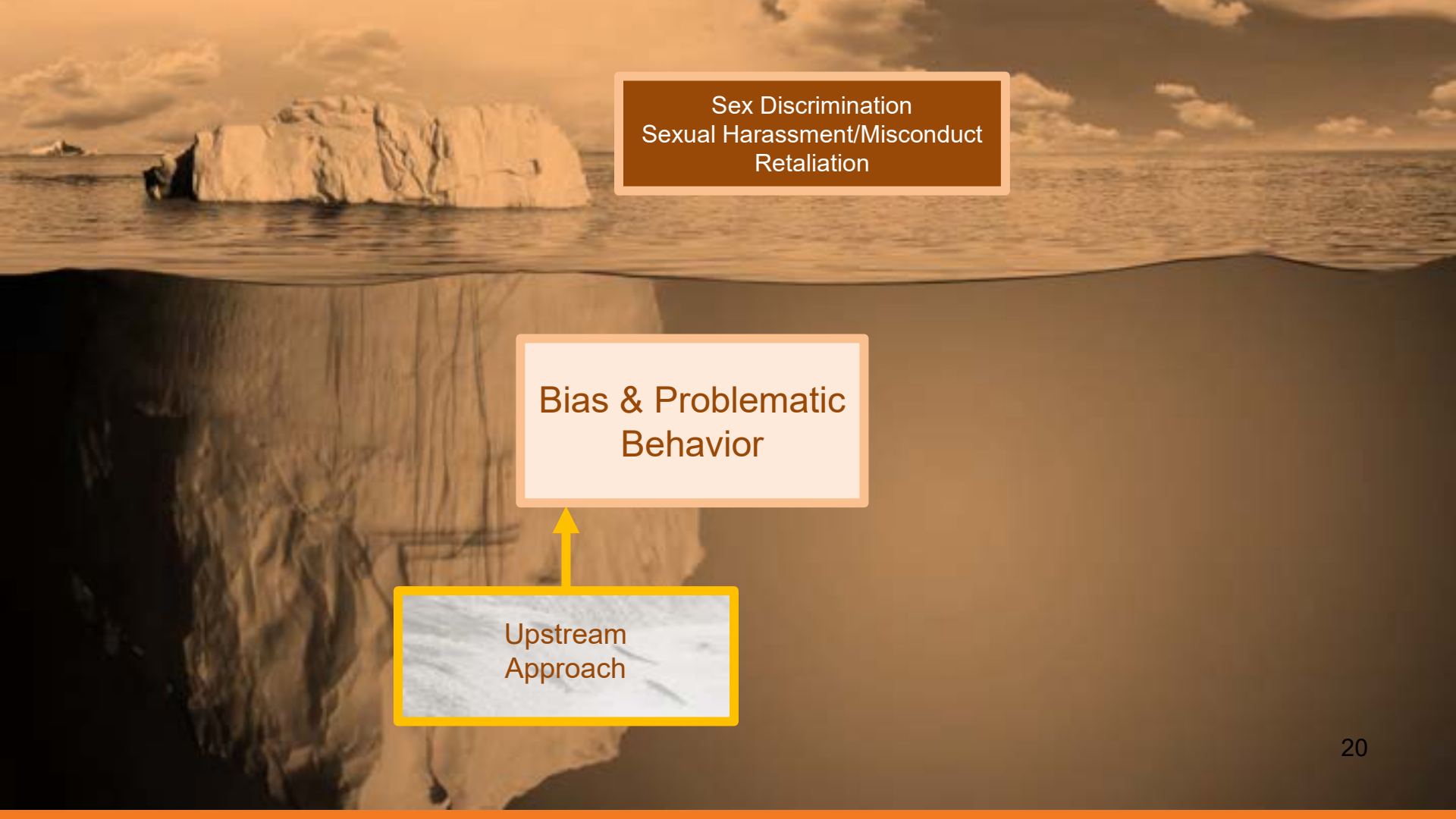
Beliefs, feelings,
attitudes of liking
or disliking
someone or
something

Limited or
inaccurate
perception of
others

Discrimination Harassment Retaliation

Actions

Can be influenced
by Assumptions,
Stereotypes,
and/or Prejudices
of others

An iceberg floating in the ocean under a sunset sky. The tip of the iceberg is above the water, and the much larger base is submerged. Three text boxes are overlaid on the image: one on the tip, one on the submerged part, and one at the bottom with an arrow pointing up.

Sex Discrimination
Sexual Harassment/Misconduct
Retaliation

Bias & Problematic
Behavior

Upstream
Approach

The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of three-dimensional orange cubes. The cubes are arranged in a staggered, isometric grid, creating a sense of depth and geometric structure. The lighting is soft, casting subtle shadows between the cubes.

Boundaries

What are Boundaries?

- ✓ Limits
- ✓ Comfort levels
- ✓ Expectations
- ✓ Laws
- ✓ Prevention tool
- ✓ “Keep us safe”
- ✓ “Protect us”
- ✓ “A line”
- ✓ “Your bubble”

- ✓ Physical
- ✓ Emotional
- ✓ Psychological
- ✓ Sexual
- ✓ Relational
- ✓ Spiritual
- ✓ Ethical
- ✓ Legal

*Adapted from
UT Austin’s “Are We Okay?” Boundaries Workshop*



Stop-Light Activity

For each prompt:

(Green): Within your boundary

(Yellow): Unsure of your boundary

(Red): Outside your boundary

*Adapted from
UT Austin's "Are We Okay?" Boundaries Workshop*

Hypothetical 1



Your supervisor asks you about your career interests and ambitions.

Hypothetical 2



Your coworkers respond to emails most nights and weekends.

Hypothetical 3



A student tells you that they got really drunk, passed out, and have a handover from last night.

Hypothetical 4



A coworker comments to you that a student just came into the office wearing a “crop top” and “extremely short shorts.”

Hypothetical 5



During a staff meeting, in front of your coworkers, your supervisor says to you, “You should improve on X, Y, and Z when you work on your next project.”

Hypothetical 6



A coworker asks you about your romantic/personal status.

Hypothetical 7



Your supervisor makes a joke in front of you about another employee in a different department.



Debrief

1. How did you know your boundaries when you were presented a hypothetical? How did you figure out where the “line” was for you?
2. How did it feel to name a color level to a hypothetical?...Green, yellow, or red...
3. How did you feel when you saw that others identify different levels of comfort than you? Either more comfortable or less comfortable than you in a scenario?

Boundary Takeaways

- **Communication:** Continue to check-in and revisit boundaries, expectations, accountability, and responsibilities. Boundaries can change.
- **Taking stock:** Attempt to understand others' needs, barriers, challenges, and support.
- **Generous assumptions:** Assume good will and/or good intentions, when possible.
- **Curiosity:** Ask questions to learn, clarify, and understand an unknown. Emphasize and model a growth mindset.

Recognizing Power Dynamics

Explicit/Formal Examples	Implicit/Informal Examples
Supervisory roles	Education/Degrees
Hierarchical positions	Titles
Leadership positions	Age and/or Years of experience
Decision-making responsibilities	Seniority statuses
Hiring responsibilities	Positional statuses
Budget and Funding responsibilities	Relational/Social statuses

Valued Leadership Qualities

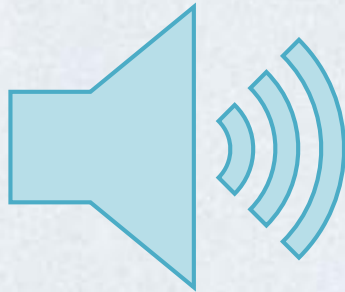
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Leadership Qualities	Examples
Openness to learning	• Demonstrates a growth mindset. • Values learning from mistakes or errors. • Doesn't emphasize "perfectionist thinking."
Empathy for others	• Demonstrates active listening with others. • Values others' feelings and needs.
Productive feedback to others	• Focuses on the "what" and "how." • Illustrates the desired solution or outcome. • Considers when/how others desire feedback. • <u>Example</u>: "You did X, that negatively impacted Y, and in the future, I'd like you to instead do Z."
Input & pushback from others	• Solicits differing views and ideas. • Values others' expertise and perspectives. • Doesn't respond "defensively."

Power Dynamics Reflection

1. Who is occupying the room (including yourself)?
2. How do the people (including yourself) impact the power dynamics of the group?
3. How will you accept and validate other people's boundaries?
4. Who is in a "better" position to talk about boundaries?
5. When should boundary conversations be happening?
6. Leaders: How are you integrating & sharing power to encourage collaboration?
7. How will you open the conversation about boundary setting?

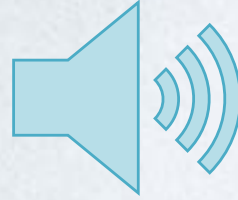
How do we **communicate** boundaries?



Examples of Communicating Boundaries

Approaches	Example Prompts or Strategies
Clarifying Check	• “Help me understand what [blank..] means... “ • “Help me understand what you meant by [blank.. repeat/paraphrase]... “
Direct Verbal Cues (“I” Statements)	• “I feel ____ when you say/do _____. [or] I am ____ when I hear you say _____.” • “I am not able to ____ when you say/do _____.” • “When you say/do _____, it affects me by _____.”
Redirect or Distract	• Change the subject • Refocus to the main topic at hand
Delegate	• Ask someone else to help you or to get assistance
Remove oneself from the situation	• Adjourn the meeting • Take a time out or excuse yourself from the space
Non-verbal Cues	• Shake head, discontinue eye contact, or cross your arms • Show “puzzling” or “turned-off” facial expression

Giving Feedback (Examples)



Use “I” statements...

Acknowledge your feelings.

Focus on the impact the conduct had on you.

Focus on your needs & what your boundary does for you.

Concentrate on the issue/problem, not the person or personality.

Focus on a strengths-based mindset & solutions...

Positive outcomes & benefits of acknowledging boundaries

(And don't forget about) Positive recognition...

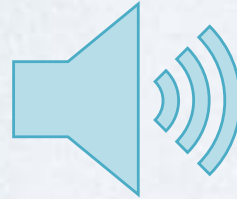
Acknowledge the person's positive actions, sincerely and specifically.

Adapted from

UT Austin's "Are We Okay?" Boundaries Workshop

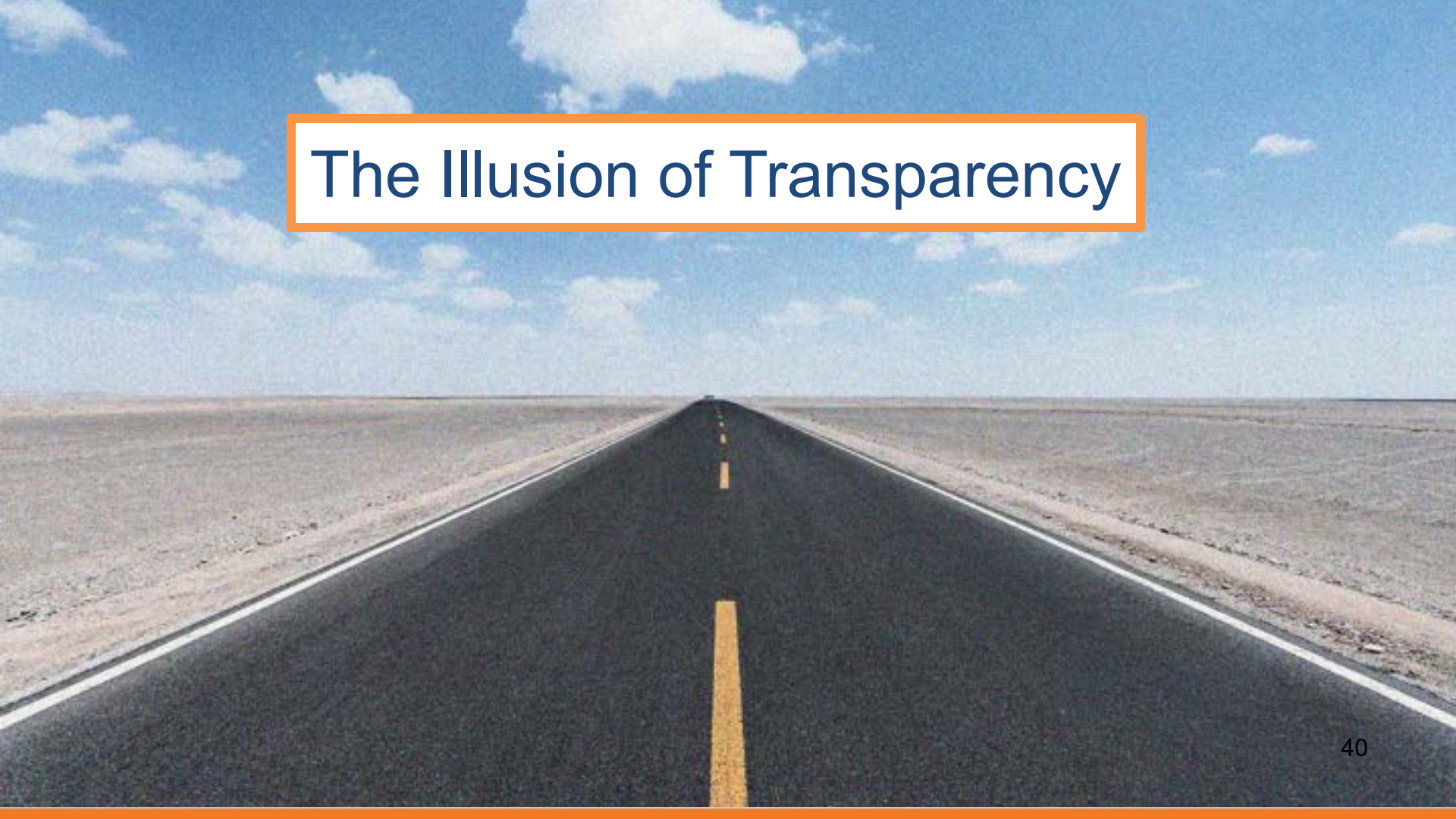
Giving Feedback

(Example “I” Statements)



Name your...	Example “I” Statements
Feeling(s)	• “I feel ____ when you say/do ____.” • “I am ____ when I hear you say ____.”
Impact(s)	• “I am not able to ____ when you say/do ____.” • “When you say/do ____, it affects me by ____.”
Need(s)	• “I need ____ from you.” • “When I ____, I need you to ____.” • What I need is ____.

The Illusion of Transparency



Receiving Feedback (Examples)



Take a pause.

Show gratitude: “*Thank you for the feedback.*”

To be accountable...

1. Acknowledge your behavior & its impact on other(s).
2. Reflect/restate the feedback you just heard.
3. Make a plan to change or adapt.
4. Change or adapt accordingly.

*Adapted from
UT Austin’s “Are We Okay?” Boundaries Workshop*

Framing Effect



- Relying on the way information is presented when making judgments or decisions
- Equivalent information can be more or less attractive depending on ***how*** the information is delivered



Recap: Upstream Approach to Primary Prevention

1. Develop a **positive culture** and **environment**.
2. Share and reinforce **community values**.
3. Establish and maintain clear **boundaries**, **conduct expectations**, and accountable **consequences**.
4. Support **anti-discrimination initiatives**.
5. Cultivate **open communication** and **collaboration**.
6. Foster **supportive relationships** within teams.

Bystander Response & Intervention Tools



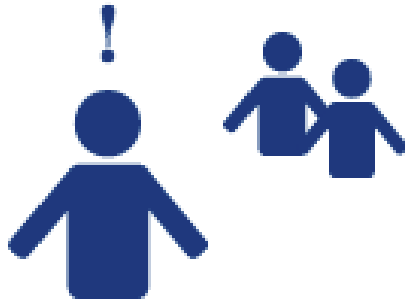


Identify

Bias &
Problematic Behavior

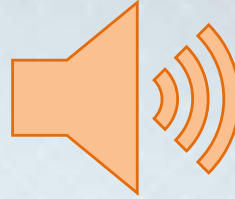


Identify



Notice the
behavior

Identify

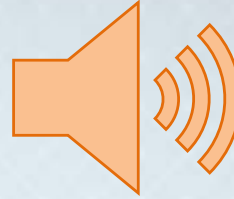


Address the
behavior

Examples of Addressing Behavior

Approaches	Example Prompts or Strategies
Clarifying Check	• “Help me understand what [blank..] means... “ • “Help me understand what you meant by [blank.. repeat/paraphrase]... “
Direct Verbal Cues (“I” Statements)	• “I feel ____ when you say/do _____. [or] I am ____ when I hear you say _____.” • “I am not able to ____ when you say/do _____.” • “When you say/do _____, it affects me by _____.”
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Identify



Follow-up

- *“How did that affect you?”*
- *“Do you need support?”*
- *“What do I need?” (Self-care)*

What are **barriers**
to addressing
behavior?

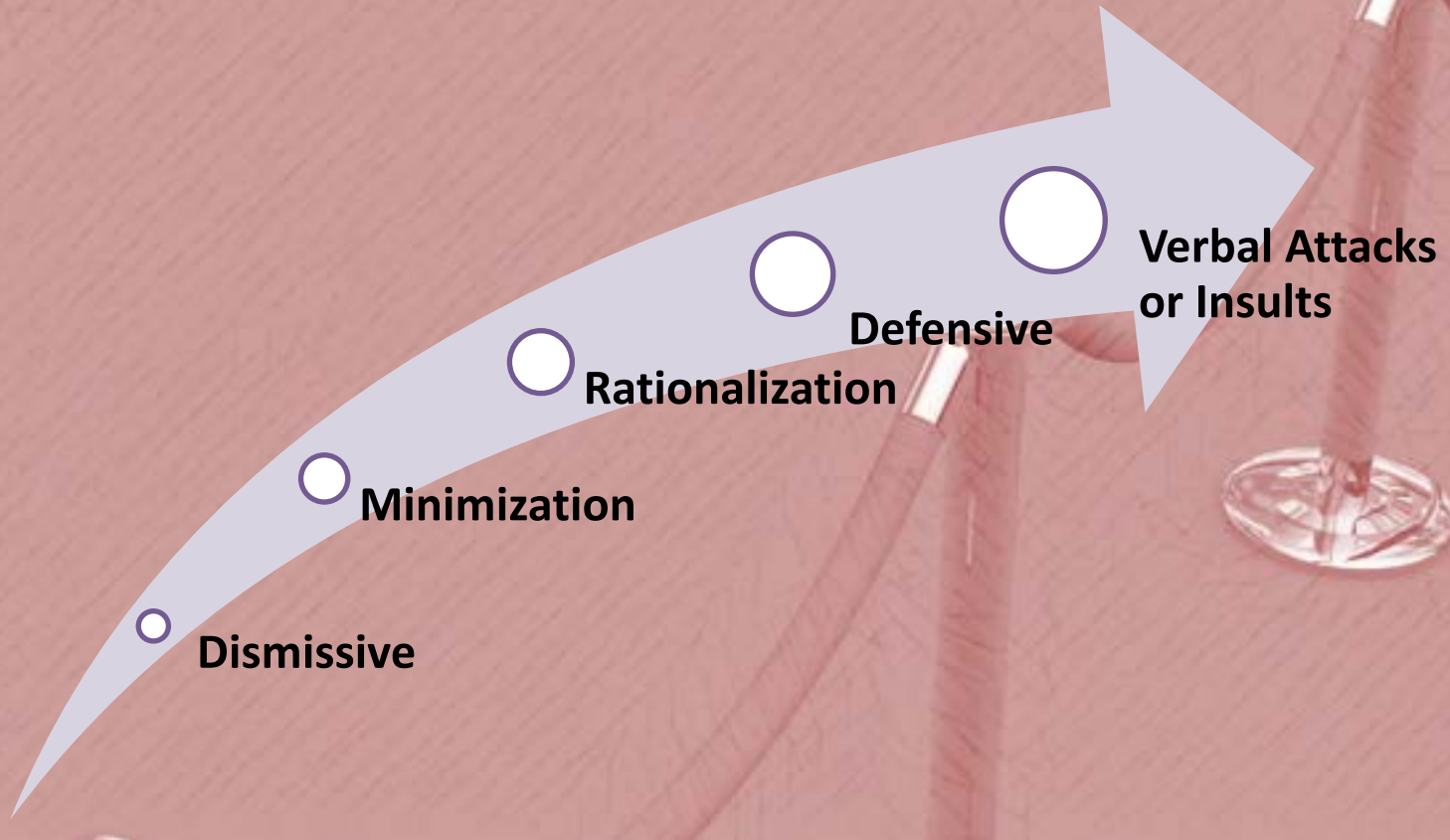
Examples of External Barriers or Roadblocks (Verbal Responses from Others)

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Type of Response	Example Statements	
Dismissive	• <i>I <u>never</u> said/did that.</i> • <i><u>Your</u> memory is bad.</i> • <i>I don't remember it that way.</i>	• <i>That didn't happen. [or] That's not what happened.</i> • <i>I have no idea what you are talking about.</i>
Minimizing	• <i>It's <u>only</u> a joke. [or] It's not that bad.</i> • <i>We're <u>just</u> having fun.</i>	• <i><u>Nobody</u> got hurt.</i> • <i>What's the <u>big</u> deal?</i>
Rationalizing or Making Excuses	• <i>This wasn't ever an issue before now.</i> • <i>I said/did ____ because ____.</i> • <i>I didn't even know I did anything.</i> • <i>I didn't mean it like that.</i>	• <i>That's not how things used to be.</i> • <i><u>No one else</u> is saying anything.</i> • <i><u>Others</u>, even <u>you</u>, do the same thing too.</i>
Attacking or Defensive	• <i><u>You're</u> too sensitive. [or] <u>You're</u> overreacting.</i> • <i><u>You're</u> petty. [or] <u>You're</u> jealous.</i> • <i><u>You</u> are taking it the wrong way.</i> • <i><u>You</u> think you are better than everyone else.</i> • <i><u>You</u> can't take a joke.</i> • <i>This is why nobody likes <u>you</u>.</i>	• <i>It's <u>your fault</u> because ____.</i> • <i>What about when <u>you</u> said/did ____?</i> • <i>Why are <u>you</u> so emotional?</i> • <i><u>You're</u> letting your emotions get the better of you.</i> • <i><u>Who</u> told you that? What did <u>they</u> say?</i> • <i>What do <u>you</u> have to back that up?</i>

Escalation of Verbal Responses

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Examples of Internal Barriers or Roadblocks (Cont.) (Coping Mechanisms)

Type of Response	Example Description
Bystander Effect	Says <u>nothing</u> because the presence of others might discourage a person from intervening. The greater the # of bystanders, the less likely it is for someone to provide help to a person in need.
Afraid for your own safety	Says <u>nothing</u> because he/she/they are fearful of jeopardizing their own safety
Uncertain what to do	Says <u>nothing</u> because he/she/they are unsure how to intervene

Examples of Internal Barriers or Roadblocks (Cont.) (Coping Mechanisms)



Fight

Verbally...
Aggressive
Attacking
Defensive
Insults



Flight

Physically or emotionally...
Withdrawing
Avoiding
Feeling unsafe



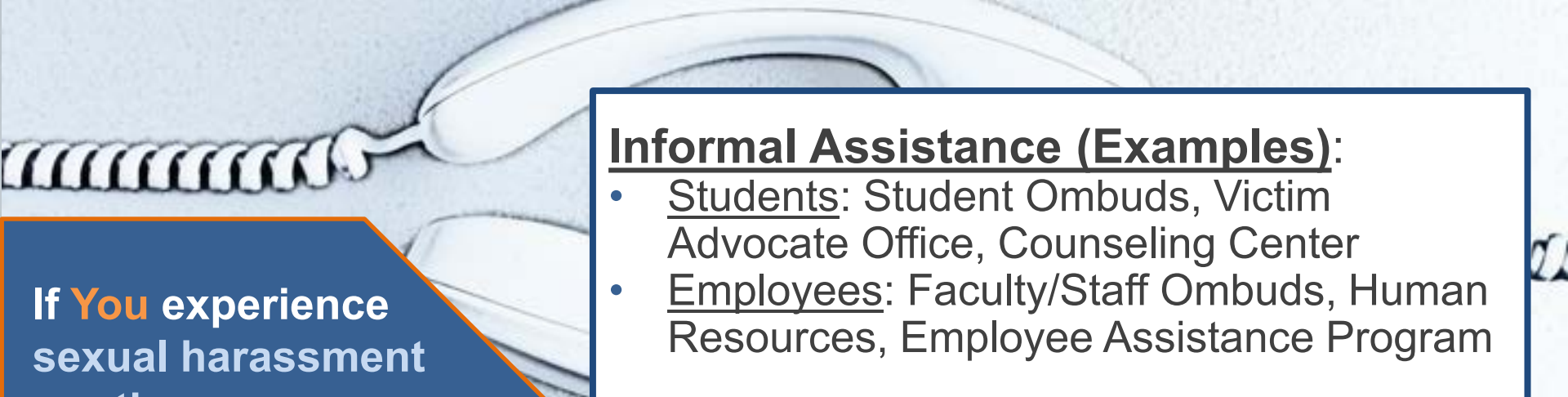
Freeze

Cognitively...
“Analysis paralysis”
Uncertain what to do
Bystander Effect

Report



Institution's Title IX Coordinator



If **You** experience
sexual harassment
or other
inappropriate
sexual conduct...

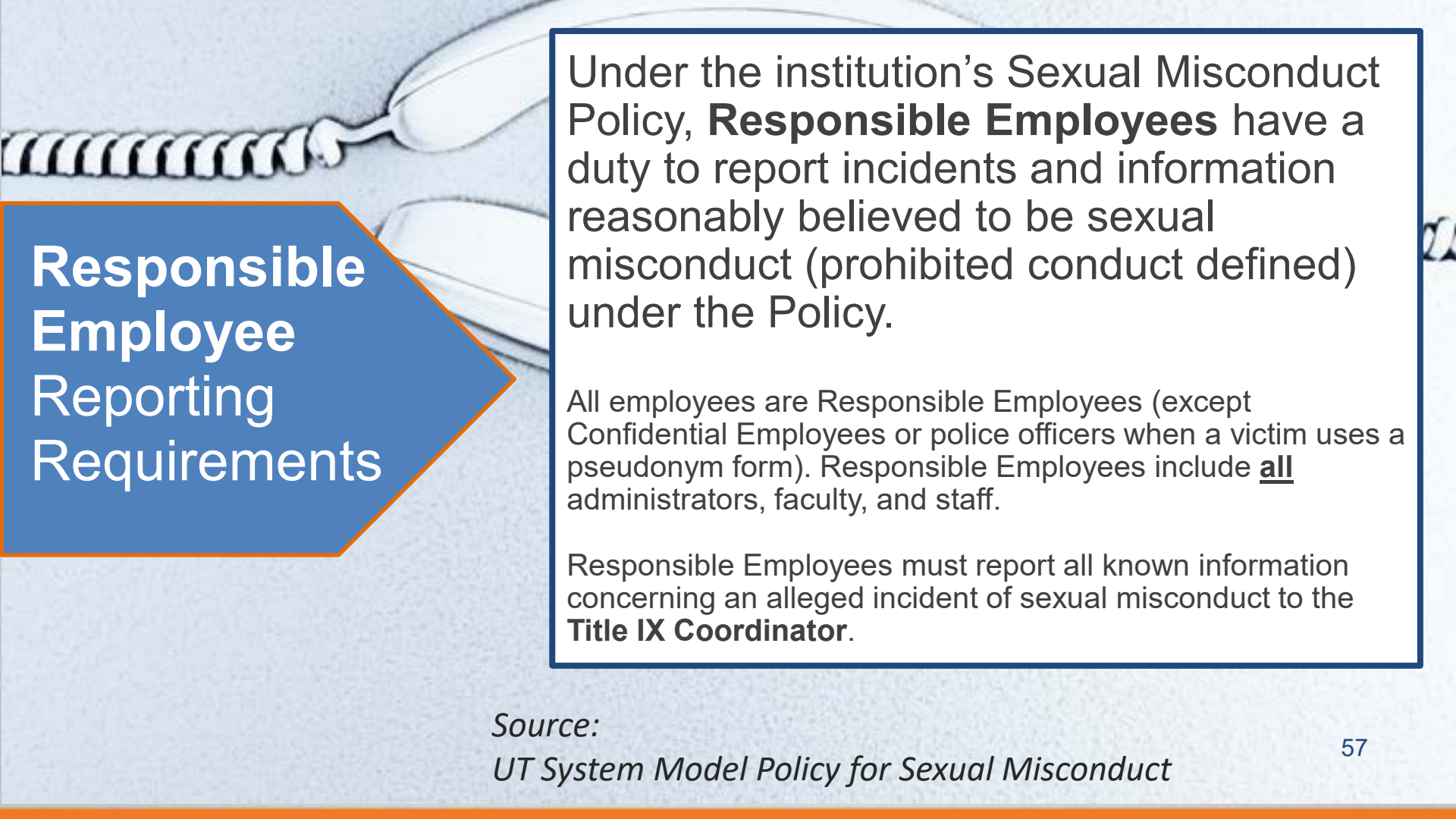
Informal Assistance (Examples):

- Students: Student Ombuds, Victim Advocate Office, Counseling Center
- Employees: Faculty/Staff Ombuds, Human Resources, Employee Assistance Program

Formal Assistance:

Option to Report or file a Formal Complaint, in accordance with policy, to the [Institution's Title IX Coordinator](#).

- Who, what, where, when, & how often?
- Identity witnesses, if any.
- What remedy, if any, are **you** seeking?



Responsible Employee Reporting Requirements

Under the institution's Sexual Misconduct Policy, **Responsible Employees** have a duty to report incidents and information reasonably believed to be sexual misconduct (prohibited conduct defined) under the Policy.

All employees are Responsible Employees (except Confidential Employees or police officers when a victim uses a pseudonym form). Responsible Employees include **all** administrators, faculty, and staff.

Responsible Employees must report all known information concerning an alleged incident of sexual misconduct to the **Title IX Coordinator**.

Source:

UT System Model Policy for Sexual Misconduct

Definition of “Failure to Report” for Responsible Employees

If a Responsible Employee knowingly fails to report all information concerning an incident the employee reasonably believes constitutes Sexual Misconduct (including stalking, dating violence, sexual assault, or sexual harassment) committed by or against a student or employee at the time of the incident, the employee is subject to disciplinary action, including termination.

Source:

*UT System Model Policy for Sexual Misconduct;
Tex. Edu. Code Section 51.252-51.259*



Report



UT Institution's Title IX Coordinators:
<https://www.utsystem.edu/offices/systemwide-compliance/title-ix/ut-title-ix-coordinators>

Support



Active listening
Express compassion
Referrals & Resources

Support



Be transparent about your role
Be flexible
Take care of yourself

A close-up photograph of a pair of hands, palms up, holding a small, light-colored wooden heart. The hands are positioned on the left side of the frame, with the fingers slightly curled. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown or beige color.

Supportive Questions to Ask (Examples)

- *“How are you feeling?”*
- *“What can I do to help?”*
- *“What kind of support, if any, do you need?”*
- *“How are you doing in [classes or at work]?”*
- *“Do you have a supportive network?” [or]
“What’s your support network look like?”*

A close-up photograph of a pair of hands, palms up, holding a small, light-colored wooden heart. The hands are positioned on the left side of the frame, with the fingers slightly curled around the heart. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown or beige color.

Supportive Statements (Examples)

- ***“Thank you for sharing this with me.”***
- ***“This sounds upsetting/difficult/hard.”***
- ***“I hear you.”***
- ***“I see that you’re feeling X, Y, Z”***
- ***“I care about you and your experience.”***

A red flag on a pole is positioned on the left side of the slide, set against a background of a beach and ocean. The flag is partially unfurled, and the pole is visible. The background shows a sandy beach, waves, and a cloudy sky.

What **NOT** to Say or Do (Examples)

- Don't ask questions about the incident itself.
- Don't attempt to investigate on your own.
- Don't question the validity of the person's experience.
- Don't ask *"Why/how did this happen?"*
- Don't place blame.
- Don't promise outcomes.
- Don't promise accommodations that are out of your control.
- Don't share information or names related to the incident with anyone other than to report to the Title IX Coordinator.

Examples of Supportive Measures – Title IX Office

Non-Disciplinary & Non-Punitive Measures...

that do not
unreasonably
burden the other
party

Housing
Reassignment

Counseling
Services

Class Extensions
or Adjustments

Work or Class
Modifications

Class Withdrawal
or Retake
(w/o penalty)

Leave of Absence

Mutual
No-Contact
Btwn Parties

Campus Escort
Services

Increased
Campus Security



Campus Support Services & Resources (Examples)

Equal access & availability to all parties

Examples:

- Academic advising & accommodations
- Counseling services
- Emergency housing
- Financial aid
- Medical/Health services
- Disability accommodations & services
- Employment-related support
- Safety, law enforcement, & escort services
- Victim advocacy services
- Ombuds services
- Respondent services
- Advisors for hearings



Campus Support Services, Resources, & Policies

UT Institution's Title IX Coordinators:

<https://www.utsystem.edu/offices/systemwide-compliance/title-ix/ut-title-ix-coordinators>

Support & Resources for YOU

Your Supervisor
and/or Human
Resources (HR)

Employee
Assistance
Program (EAP)

Behavior
Intervention Team
(BIT)

Dean of Students
Office

Campus Police &
Victim Services

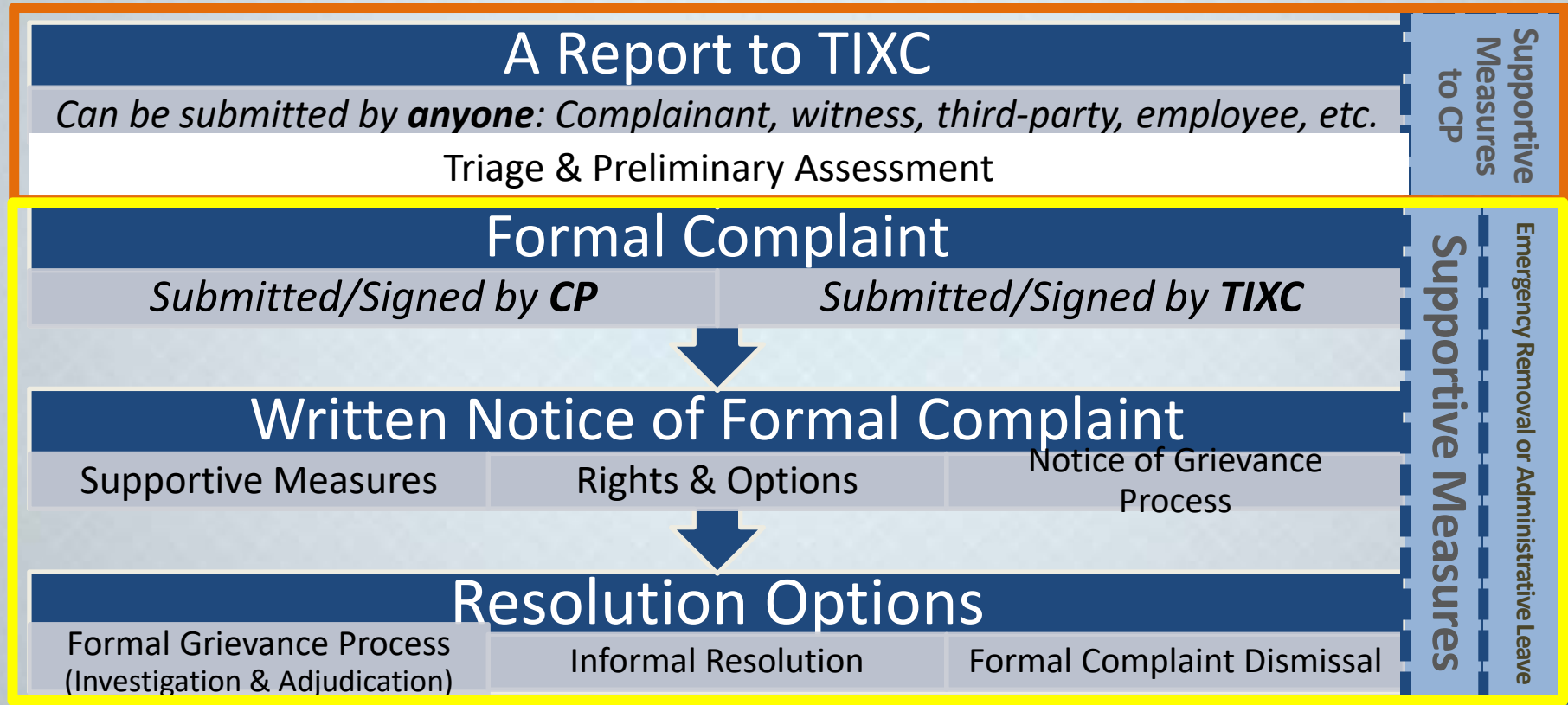
Ombuds Office

Legal Affairs

Off Campus
Medical and/or
Mental Health
Providers

Resolution Flowchart: Sexual Misconduct Cases (Example)

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Q & A



Contact Information

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