

HOUGHTON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Houghton University is committed to providing options, support and assistance to victims/survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking to ensure that they can continue to participate in campus programs, activities, and employment. All victims/survivors of these crimes and violations have the following rights, regardless of whether the crime or violation occurs on campus, off campus, or while studying abroad.

Pursuant to NY State legislation Article 129-B § 6443, all students 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 from 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."

Options in Brief:

Victims/survivors have many options that can be pursued simultaneously, including the following:

- Receive confidential support from professionals in the Houghton University Offices of Counseling Services, Student Health and/or Dean of the Chapel;
- Receive confidential support off-campus through a local hospital, or through the Cattaraugus Community Action's Office of Victims Services hotline at 1-888-945-3970
- Make a report to:
 - A Houghton University employee with the authority to address complaints, including the Title IX Coordinator, the Dean for Student Life, or the Associate Director of Human Resources
 - The Houghton University Office of Safety and Security at 1-585-567-9333
 - The New York State Police at 1-844-845-7269
 - Family Court at 1-585-268-5843 and/or Civil Court