

THE STUDENT WHO HAS BEEN SEXUALLY HARASSED

Sexual harassment can be defined as unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Often, sexual harassment is not an isolated one-time-only occurrence but a repeated pattern of inappropriate behavior. When a student confides in you about sexual harassment:

DO:

- Listen and help clarify what happened concerning the sexual harassment.
- Validate the student's perceptions and encourage the student not to engage in self-blame.
- Make the student aware of the complaint procedures contained in the Arkansas State University Student Handbook.
- Refer the student to the Counseling Center when appropriate.

DON'T

- Take an inactive stance. No action can have negative consequences for the student.
- Invalidate the student's report of incident.

* Adapted from: Helping the Emotionally Distressed Student. Organization of Counseling Center Directors in Higher Education; 1999