Assisting Students in Distress

Identifying Behaviors

**Distressed/Disruptive Students**

- Are irritable, sad, unduly anxious, withdrawn, confused, lacking motivation or concentration, seeking constant attention, showing lack of hygiene, or demonstrating bizarre, erratic, or concerning behaviors including references to self-harm.
- Interfere in Idaho State University’s learning environment with behavior that is reckless, disorderly, aggressive, defiant, destructive, threatening, and dangerous to self or dangerous to others.

**Students Concerned for Personal Safety**

Typical stalking behaviors include:

- Repeated phone calls to home or work, including hang-ups
- Unsolicited letters, email messages, or text messages
- Unsolicited contact through any social media
- Unsolicited sending or leaving of gifts
- Notes on car or at personal residence
- Surveillance behaviors, both on foot and by car
- Unexpected appearances at frequented places (e.g. classrooms, stores)
- Contacting friends, family or co-workers without consent or knowledge
- Searching public and private records to get personal information
- Vandalism (residence, car, personal possessions)
- Entering residence to move things or steal personal items

Responding to Students

**Response**

- **Safety first.** The welfare of the student and the campus community is our top priority when a student displays threatening or potentially violent behavior.
- **Trust your instincts.** Seek consultation from your department chair, supervisor, the CAT Team, or ISU Counseling and Testing Services.
- **Ask** students if they feel their functioning is impaired, or have thoughts of harming themselves or others.
- **Avoid** threatening, humiliating, or intimidating statements.

**Documentation**

- Maintain a record of all incidents/events
- Keep all correspondence (e.g. notes, letters, emails, voicemails, Facebook messages, text messages, etc.)

**Making Reports**

- Always report serious or persistent inappropriate behavior to the Office of the Dean of Students.
- Share information and consult with appropriate University personnel to coordinate care for the student.
- Safeguard the student’s privacy rights
- Keep CAT Team and the Dean of Students informed of new concerns.
Assisting Victims of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, or Stalking

Receive Information

- LISTEN ACTIVELY. Don’t interrupt, or inject your feelings. Your caring but silent attention will be invaluable.
- NEVER BLAME them for being assaulted. Even if the student reports feeling responsible, say clearly and caringly that it wasn’t their fault.
- ASK before you touch. Don’t assume that physical contact, even a gentle touch or hug, will be comforting to a survivor. Be patient, give them the space they need.

Respond

- INFORM the student that certified victim advocacy services are available.
  - Family Service Alliance (208) 232-0742
- INFORM the student that you are glad that they chose to tell you, and that you must now inform certain individuals within the University, including those that can offer them the best support and resources, such as the Title IX Office.

Refer

TAKE ACTION. Per Idaho State University policy (ISUPP 3100),
Inform the complainant that certified victim advocacy services are available from Family Service Alliance (208) 232-0742.
Refer complainant to the Title IX Office and notify the Title IX Office.

Laws and Codes

Receiving Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) permits communication about a student of concern under the following circumstances:

- ISU may disclose personally identifiable information from an “educational record” to appropriate individuals in connection with a health or safety emergency. Information may be released to parents, police, or others, if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.
- Information can be shared with University personnel when there is a specific need to know and should be limited to the essentials of University business.
- Observations of a student’s conduct or statements made by a student are not “educational records” and are therefore not protected by FERPA. Such information should be shared with appropriate consideration for student privacy.

Student Code of Conduct

The Student Code of Conduct sets forth standards of student behavior and conduct necessary for the maintenance of a campus where ideas are freely exchanged, University property and processes are safeguarded, and conflicts are peacefully resolved. Each Idaho State University student shall be expected to have knowledge of the contents of the Student Code of Conduct from the date of the student’s application to the University. Examples of behavior prohibited by the Code include:

- Physical assault, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, or domestic violence
- Threats causing a person reasonably to be in sustained fear of one’s own safety or the safety of their immediate family
- Intoxication or impairment through the use of alcohol or controlled substances to the point where one is unable to exercise care for one’s safety
- Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures, or other University activities
- Sexual harassment
- Racial, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity/expression, and other forms of harassment
- Stalking, hazing, and disorderly behavior

Complete details can be found at: https://www.isu.edu/media/libraries/isu-policies-and-procedures/student-affairs/SA-Student-Conduct-Code-5000.pdf