



Policy 7.05 – Workplace Violence Frequently Asked Questions Office of Human Resources

The Ohio State University is committed to providing an environment that is safe, secure, and free from threats and violence. The university's goal is to provide a work environment in which workplace violence is not tolerated.

1. Why is this policy important?

Ensuring a safe workplace contributes to a healthy campus climate for all members of the university community.

2. What should I do if I feel in danger?

If something has occurred on campus that causes you to fear for your personal safety, report the incident to law enforcement: [University Police](#) (9-1-1 for emergencies, 614-292-2121 for non-emergencies), [Wexner Medical Center Security](#), (9-1-1 for emergencies, 614-293-8500 for non-emergencies) or local law enforcement agency at regional campuses or off-campus.

Employees can contact the [Office of Human Resources Employee & Labor Relations](#) at 614-292-2800 or the [Wexner Medical Center Employee & Labor Relations](#) 614-293-4988.

Students may contact the [Office of Student Conduct](#) 614-292-0748.

3. Does this policy apply to bullying?

No, this policy applies to threatening and/or violent behavior that causes a disruption in the work environment and leads a reasonable person to fear for their physical safety, or to physical conduct that results in harm to people or property.

Bullying, intimidation and humiliation are behaviors that are uncivil, unacceptable in the workplace, and not aligned with university values. The university expects all faculty, staff, and student employees to uphold the university values by being respectful and collegial in the workplace. oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals.

4. What can I do if I feel I am being bullied?

- Approach the other person and share your feelings about what happened. Think about this: What would you want a coworker to do if they were offended by something you said or did? Often making the other person aware of how their conduct affected you is sufficient. Few people are deliberately hurtful.
- Discuss the matter with your supervisor. Your supervisor may be able to advise you, make suggestions, or if necessary, intervene.
- If you feel you cannot discuss it with your immediate supervisor, it may be appropriate to escalate your concerns through your management chain.
- Consult with your unit Human Resources Professional (HRP), Employee & Labor Relations Consultant, or your Ombudsperson (for faculty members) for guidance.

5. What if I am being harassed?

The Workplace Violence policy does not apply to harassment. Harassment is addressed under the Affirmative Action, Equal Employment, & Non-Discrimination policy, 1.10, hr.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/policy110.pdf, which encompasses impermissible conduct that is based on an individual's identification with a protected class, and which sets forth your rights and reporting options. If you are experiencing harassing conduct unrelated to being in, or being part of, a protected class, you are encouraged to follow the steps listed in Paragraph 4 of this FAQ.



Policy 7.05 – Workplace Violence Frequently Asked Questions Office of Human Resources

6. Why do some employees have an additional duty to report all other incidents of workplace violence?

HRPs; and anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, and/or volunteers have an additional obligation to report known or suspected incidents of workplace violence. Due to their positions of authority, these individuals have always had a heightened responsibility to report incidents of workplace violence. Policy language now explicitly states what has always been their responsibility.

Anyone who experiences, observes, or believes they may be targets of workplace violence are encouraged to report.

7. What if the person engaging in workplace violence is a vendor, contractor, and/or does not work for the university?

The university will address the matter using available resources, like law enforcement, and/or the university will review their contractual terms to hold them accountable.

8. Can I file a confidential complaint?

The university recognizes the importance of confidentiality but cannot promise complete confidentiality. To the extent possible, information received in connection with the filing, investigation, and resolution of allegations will be treated as confidential, except when necessary to conduct an appropriate investigation, to provide assistance and resources to complainants, to perform other appropriate university functions, or when the university is required to provide information under the law.

When requests for confidentiality arise, they will be evaluated by Employee & Labor Relations to determine whether the university can honor the request while still providing a safe environment. In addition, the university has an anonymous reporting line for individuals whom do not want to disclose their identity secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/7689/index.html

9. What is the purpose of an investigation?

The purpose of the investigation is to evaluate the allegations of workplace violence, formulate a response to address the situation, and follow up to ensure that recommended actions have been taken. The ultimate goal is to stop the behavior and prevent its reoccurrence.

10. What if I am being retaliated against?

The university will not tolerate retaliation in any form against any individual who makes an allegation, files a report, serves as a witness, assists a complainant, or participates in an investigation. University policy and state and federal law prohibit retaliation against an individual for reporting discrimination or harassment, or for participating in an investigation.

Retaliation is a serious violation that can subject the offender to discipline, up to and including termination of employment and/or student status, independent of the merits of the underlying allegation.

11. What if I am a student and an employee?

The policy applies to you. If workplace violence arises involving individuals who are both students and employees, the situation is assessed in the context in which the violence arose.

For example, if a student employee has allegedly had an altercation with a co-worker, it will typically be investigated in the employment context, because that is where the behavior arose and had an impact on others. Depending on the finding of that investigation, there may be consequences regarding the student employee's employment. However, information about the incident will also be reviewed to determine whether the Student Conduct process should be initiated. If the Student Conduct process is initiated, and the student is found in violation as a result, separate sanctions may be issued.



Policy 7.05 – Workplace Violence Frequently Asked Questions Office of Human Resources

12. I am a volunteer for a program at the university or Wexner Medical Center, does this policy apply to me and what is my role?

Yes, this policy applies to you as a member of the university community. If you are made aware of an incident of workplace violence, you are encouraged to report to the university or the Wexner Medical Center.

13. What if I am experiencing relationship violence?

If you are experience relationship violence, you are encouraged to report it based on the Sexual Misconduct Policy, 1.15. The policies and additional reporting resources may be found at: hr.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/policy115.pdf.

14. What should I do if I have a protective order against someone?

If the person is affiliated with the university or Wexner Medical Center, inform your manager, unit HRP or Employee & Labor Relations. If the person is not affiliated with the university or Wexner Medical Center, you are encouraged to inform your manager, unit HRP or Employee & Labor Relations.

Workplace safety plans are developed collaboratively by the employing unit, OHR/WMC Employee Relations and/or OSUPD/WMCS in response to workplace violence or in instances when an employee feels targeted by violence. Plans may include, but are not limited to, changing work stations and telephone numbers, and providing escorts for entry to and exit from the work location.

Additionally, you may have additional rights and resources if the protective order is due to relationship violence. Refer to the Sexual Misconduct policy, 1.15 for rights, options and resources hr.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/policy115.pdf.

15. What training is available on the policy and these topics?

Online trainings through Buckeye Learn have been developed for staff and faculty as well as a separate training for managers. buckeyelink.osu.edu/task/all/buckeyelearn.

16. What are my resources?

Community Served	Scope/Purpose	Office/Agency	Contact	Confidentiality
Employees-Staff & Faculty	Provides life assistance for an array of personal, work-related, and daily living challenges for benefits-eligible employees and their family members.	Employee Assistance Program	614-292-4472 800-678-6265 (24/7 hotline) osuhealthplan.com/members/ohio-state-employee-assistance-program-eap	Confidential
Students	Offers individual and group counseling and therapy to help students address personal, academic and career concerns.	Counseling and Consultation Service	614-292-5766 ccs.ohio-state.edu	Confidential
Students	Provides legal services (e.g., civil protection orders, crime victim compensation, and criminal proceedings guidance) to eligible students.	Student Legal Services	614-247-5853 studentlegal.osu.edu	Confidential



Policy 7.05 – Workplace Violence Frequently Asked Questions Office of Human Resources

Anyone	Provides survivor advocacy and assistance to LGBTQI survivors regarding hate and bias violence, discrimination, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking.	Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO)	614-294-7867 866-862-7286 (toll free) bravo-ohio.org	Confidential
Anyone	Provides 24 hour domestic violence and crises information line, temporary shelter, counseling & support groups, legal & community advocacy.	Ohio Domestic Violence Network (CHOICES)	614-224-HOME (4663) or 800-934-9840 800-799-SAFE National Domestic Violence Hotline Odnv.org	

Medical Resources:

Community Served	Scope/Purpose	Office/Agency	Contact	Confidentiality
Students	Outpatient facility; provides a variety of health care services.	Wilce Student Health Center	614-292-4321 shs.osu.edu	Confidential
Anyone	24/7 medical services.	OSU Wexner Medical Center	614-293-8333 wexnermedical.osu.edu	Confidential
Anyone	24/7 medical services.	Ohio State University Hospital East	614-257-3000 wexnermedical.osu.edu/patient-care/locations-and-parking/university-hospital-east	Confidential
Anyone	24/7 medical emergencies.	Nearest Emergency Room	9-1-1 (emergencies)	Confidential

Support Resources:

Community Served	Scope/Purpose	Office/Agency	Contact	Confidentiality
Anyone	Responds to criminal conduct on campus.	University Police	614-292-2121 or 9-1-1 dps.osu.edu	Non-confidential
Anyone	Responds to criminal conduct on the main or East Wexner	Wexner Medical Center Security	614-293-8500	Non-confidential



Policy 7.05 – Workplace Violence Frequently Asked Questions Office of Human Resources

	Medical Center locations.			
Anyone	Responds to criminal conduct off-campus.	Columbus Police	614-645-4545 or 9-1-1 columbus.gov/police	Non-confidential
Anyone	Responds to criminal conduct off-campus, at regional campuses including Wexner Medical Center other locations; provides emergency assistance.	Local law enforcement agency	9-1-1 (emergencies)	Non-confidential