

Lewis & Clark College
Confidential Advocates
Information About Services 2020-2021

The following paragraphs answer some important questions concerning our services. If you have questions concerns not addressed here, please direct your questions or concerns to the CA coordinator, Associate Director for Health Promotion, Melissa Osmond.

Information about working with Confidential Advocates (CAs)

Confidential Advocates support students who have had experiences that include, but are not limited to, unwanted sexual contact, sexual harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking and other forms of gender-based violence. We seek to help students understand the support and reporting options available to them both on and off campus. CAs are also available to consult with friends, family members, and college employees about supporting students who have experienced sexual violence. In general, no personal information or details about a student's particular situation will be shared without the express, informed, and written consent of the student in question (for exceptions to this general rule, see the section on confidentiality below).

CAs are not mental or physical health care providers. We do not diagnose or treat problems. If a student is seeking therapy or medical care, we will refer them to the appropriate resources. CAs are not obligated reporters for Title IX, therefore a disclosure to a CA does not constitute a report or formal complaint to the college. A CA can support a student in filing a report or formal complaint, if the student wishes to do so. CAs do not work with students who are accused of sexual violence behaviors and will refer these students to other confidential resources on campus.

CA services are provided free of charge to all students.

Confidentiality

All CA services are confidential. In general, no information is released to individuals outside the CA program without your express, informed and written consent. There are certain exceptions to this rule, as permitted by law. *Our experience is that these exceptions arise infrequently.* They include:

- We may disclose confidential information when we judge that there is a strong possibility of serious harm being inflicted by you, on another person, or on yourself.
- Should you disclose information relating to probable child abuse, elder abuse, or abuse of a vulnerable adult (for example, someone who is developmentally disabled or mentally ill, or who has a disabling illness), we may be required to notify state authorities. Also, should you be over the age of 18 and engaging in sexual activities with someone under the age of 18, we may be required to report this matter to state authorities.
- Should you be involved in legal proceedings that are related to the services you seek with a CA, the court might subpoena records and/or our testimony could be required. In such cases, we will work to ensure your rights are protected.
- Should you die, the personal representative of your estate (whom you have appointed) will have a legal right to access your records. If you have not appointed a personal representative, your relatives or others may gain access to your records.
- Additional limitations on confidentiality apply to students under the age of 18. If you are under 18, a CA will discuss with you these limitations.

The coordinator of the CA program maintains records of your contacts with the CA program. These records are secure and confidential, and will be released only with your prior consent (with the same exceptions as above). Written consent for release of information will specify what information will be released, the purpose of such release, and the duration of the release. You generally have the right to a copy of the records in your file. Requests to access your file should be directed to Melissa Osmond.

Consultation and supervision within our program

CAs may consult with one another, or receive supervision on specific cases from the CA coordinator, or from appropriate confidential staff (e.g., Health and Counseling Services). All such consultations are conducted in an effort to improve the quality of services offered to you. Any mental health or health professional who provides us with consultation or supervision is obligated to hold information in confidence (with the same exceptions as above). Your consent is not required for consultation between CAs and the coordinator to occur.

Service availability

Confidential Advocates are available Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. Please be aware that even during business hours, some CAs may not be available, as they have other duties on campus. You are welcome to leave a voice message on the coordinator's phone (503-768-7112), though it may be several hours before someone will retrieve the message and return your call. Students who are engaged with a CA may work with their individual CA to determine hours of support outside of normal business hours. Please note that we have limited staffing over the summer and winter break. If you need support after hours or on weekends, or if you need immediate support and cannot reach a CA, the following resources are available:

Call to Safety	503-235-5333
National Hopeline	800-273-TALK
Crisis Counseling Service	503-265-7804
Nurse Consultation Service	844-915-2069

Call Campus Safety at 503-768-7777 if you have an emergency on campus. If you are off campus, call 911.

Our commitment to culturally sensitive care

We are committed to providing effective services to all students, with sensitivity to each person's culture, sex, gender identity, gender expression, age, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, learning style, ability or disability, socioeconomic status and other individual identities. If any of our CAs ever act in ways that you feel are insensitive to your identities, we want to know so that we can better serve you and other students. Each of us welcomes and encourages your feedback about such issues. If you do not feel comfortable providing a CA with this feedback directly, or if your feedback has to do with procedures in general, please contact Associate Director Melissa Osmond. Alternatively, you may also contact Dr. John Hancock, Associate Dean of Students for Health and Wellness & Chief Psychologist (hancock@lclark.edu).

I have read, understand, and agree to the above conditions for service. I have received a copy of this information.

Signature

Date