I have heard about a No Contact Order. What does that mean?

There are times when it is appropriate and/or necessary for victims and respondents to have restrictions in place regarding contact with others. Individuals who wish to pursue a Domestic Violence Order of Protection, Restraining Order, or No Contact Order through the criminal justice system should seek advice from the WCU Police Department.

However, a student may also pursue a No Contact Order that is specific to the University through the Associate Vice Chancellor/Dean of Students. This No Contact Order prevents individuals from communicating with designated people via in-person conversations, phone, social media, text, and/or third party messages. If deemed necessary, a WCU No Contact Order may also restrict a student’s access to classes or residence halls.

If I elect to participate in the conduct process, what does that entail?

When an allegation is brought to the attention of DSCE and/or Student Affairs, an investigation begins. The process includes providing victims, respondents, and witnesses with opportunities to meet with University officials to share information. That data is used to determine if formal charges will be filed against a student.

If formal charges are levied, a hearing occurs. The hearing considers all available information and is resolved via a hearing board or mutual resolution with a hearing officer.

If a person is found responsible for a violation of the Code, sanctions are imposed and monitored by appropriate University officials.

More detailed information is available in the online version of the Code at wcucode.wcu.edu.
As a University community, we strive to create an appropriate balance between holding students accountable for their behavior and providing them with support. In many instances, we serve in both roles at the same time.

This brochure is intended to provide victims, respondents, reporting parties, and others with basic information and resources that can assist them as they navigate through challenging (at times traumatic) experiences.

Although questions will vary based upon specific circumstances the following are common for victims and respondents:

**I am the victim of sexual misconduct or violence. What should I do?**

Contact the WCU Police Department. Early communication allows access to critical resources, and is essential for the investigation process. Talking to the WCU Police does not mean criminal charges will be pursued.

Contact the Associate Vice Chancellor/Dean of Students. Enforcement of the Code of Student Conduct (Code) is different than pursuing criminal charges.

In addition to procedural matters, the Police and Student Affairs staff can provide information about resources to assist victims. This includes, but is not limited to, how to request interim protective measures (i.e. housing changes, class schedule alterations, leave of absence, etc.).

**I am the victim and/or reporter of sexual misconduct or violence. Can I be guaranteed anonymity?**

Individuals may request for information to remain confidential when reporting an alleged crime or concern. However, anonymity cannot be guaranteed where there is criminal action being pursued and/or there is an issue of community safety involved in the report.

**If I file a report with WCU PD and/or the Associate Vice Chancellor/Dean of Students, what will happen?**

A report filed with WCU PD is the start of an investigation to determine if a violation of the state criminal code has occurred. The investigation will attempt to identify those involved, interview witnesses, collect evidence and refer the matter to the criminal justice system (‘courts’). As crimes violate the Student Code of Conduct these cases are referred to the Department of Student Community Ethics. Instances where only a violation of University policy and Student Code of Conduct have occurred are referred to the Department of Student Community Ethics.

A report filed with the Associate Vice Chancellor/Dean of Students will initiate an investigation. The initial investigation is intended to gather information to determine an appropriate course of action. Examples include, but are not limited to, implementing interim action(s), referring the matter to the Department of Student Community Ethics (DSCE), holding a hearing, or determining no action is required based upon available information. More information about the conduct process can be found in the online version of the Code at [wcucode.wcu.edu](http://wcucode.wcu.edu).

**I have been accused of a violation. What should I do?**

Individuals accused of committing crimes and/or violations of the Code have the right to due process. Know the information contained in the Code, and seek assistance from an advisor. Respond to messages which provide you the opportunity to participate in the investigation. Even if you do not wish to speak, participation will provide you with important information and opportunities to make decisions that are in your best interest.

**Someone I want to speak with said s/he is a “CSA”. What does that mean?**

CSA stands for Campus Security Authority. These individuals are required by law to report crimes (including sexual assault) that are brought to their attention.

**If a report is made, what are the options for addressing the allegations?**

The nature of the alleged crime/violation has a significant impact on the options available to a victim. Individuals may pursue matters through civil court, the criminal justice system, and/or the Code. Each of these options have different policies, procedures, and standards. The WCU Police Department can assist with navigating the civil and criminal avenues. The Department of Student Community Ethics and/or the Division of Student Affairs can assist with the conduct process.

**Can I talk to someone other than the WCU Police or the Department of Student Community Ethics?**

Yes. Students may speak with faculty or staff members. A few specific examples outside of WCU PD or DSCE include the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health and Wellness, Counseling & Psychological Services, and Health Services. Please remember a person with whom you speak may be a CSA and be required to report any crimes brought to his/her attention.