



## **Sex Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct and Interpersonal Violence Policy Advisors or Support Persons 08.2019**

The reporting party and the responding party both have the right to have an advisor/support person of their choice accompany them at all stages of the resolution process of a Title IX matter, including both informal and formal procedures relating to an alleged or suspected violation of this Policy. Although parties are free to be accompanied by a support person of their choosing, the parties should consider that selecting a potential witness in the investigation to serve as the support person has the potential to impact the credibility of the witness.

- An advisor/support person is not allowed to advocate for a party like an attorney would advocate in court. In other words, the advisor/support person does not serve as an advocate or representative of a party and may not be actively involved in any of the corresponding meetings and/or interviews. The advisor/support person should not directly address the investigator(s) about the matter during the meeting or interview.
- A reporting party and responding party may use a different advisor/support person at various stages in the process.
- An advisor/support person must respect the privacy of all parties throughout the investigation and resolution process.
- An advisor/support person may not provide support for more than one reporting party or responding party during a case that involves multiple parties. Any requests for an exception to this should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator.
- Any party deciding to use as an advisor/support person an individual who works as an attorney or has a J.D. degree must inform the Title IX Coordinator a minimum of 24 hours prior to the meeting or other proceedings in question.
- As needed to protect the integrity of the investigation and resolution process, Aurora University reserves the right to excuse from any meeting or other proceedings an advisor/support person who is a witness with information about facts material to the investigation.
- Aurora University also reserves the right to excuse from any meeting or other proceedings any advisor/support person who is disruptive or who does not adhere to the limitations outlined in this form.
- Aurora University prohibits retaliation against any individuals filing a report of sexual misconduct or participating in the investigation of the report. An advisor/support person is protected by and subject to this retaliation prohibition. An advisor/support person may not retaliate against any person participating in this process. If an advisor/support person experiences retaliation as a result of participation in an investigative, disciplinary, or appeal process under the University's Title IX or discrimination/harassment procedures, the advisor/support person should contact the Title IX Coordinator, Mary Weis ([mweis@aurora.edu](mailto:mweis@aurora.edu), 630-844-3866, Eckhart Hall 104).