

Information for Crime Victims About Disciplinary Hearings

From The Environment on Sexual Harassment p87:

Students who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination for any reason may seek recourse through the Director of Student Life. (The Austin College Policy on Sexual Harassment can be found in its entirety in the Outback Guide.) Complainants seeking to be informed or advised regarding their options to seek an informal resolution or to file formal charges should seek the assistance of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Athletics.

If a student wishes to file formal charges, or an attempt to reach an informal resolution is not successful, charges will be processed through the appropriate disciplinary or grievance process for student, faculty, support staff, or administrative staff.

Sexual Assault from The Environment p86:

Austin College will not tolerate sexual assault or sexual violence in any form, including acquaintance or date rape. When sexual assault or sexual violence occurs at Austin College, the standards of the community, as well as the criminal laws of the State of Texas, are violated. The goal of the policy is to create a community free of sexual assault. (For the remainder of this statement, the term “sexual assault” will refer to both sexual assault and sexual violence.) Austin College urges persons who believe they have been victims/survivors of sexual assault to pursue criminal charges against the person or persons they believe to have committed the sexual assault. Victims/survivors are also urged to make a complaint to the College, regardless of their choice in regard to criminal or civil law. (The Austin College Policy on Sexual Harassment can be found in its entirety in the Outback Guide.) Retaliation against an individual who brings a complaint, participates in an investigation, or pursues a criminal charge is prohibited and will lead to additional discipline.

Individuals who have been sexually assaulted should seek immediate medical, emotional, or other assistance. Assistance is available by calling 911, Campus Police (x2555), or any local hospital. The Student Life Office or Campus Police can provide assistance with concerns about physical safety or the need for alternative housing. Victims/Survivors of sexual assault are also urged to seek confidential counseling or support. Students may seek such support from the Chaplain or the Dean of Student Services and Counseling. Students who feel they may have committed sexual assault may seek confidential assistance from personnel at the Counseling Service in Adams Center ext. 2247, or the Chaplain, ext. 2210, as well.

Sexual Assault from The Outback Guide p86

Charges of sexual assault must be filed within 365 days of the incident. Sexual assault is a criminal offense as well as a violation of College policy. Individuals who are sexually assaulted are urged to contact Campus Police and to preserve any evidence that may be necessary to prove criminal sexual assault.

If a student, faculty member or staff member is criminally charged with sexual assault, whether or not the sexual assault is committed against another student, faculty member, staff member or on property owned or rented by Austin College, the President or his/her designee will take action to address and/or investigate the situation. In addition, when it appears that the safety or security of any student, staff member or faculty member may be jeopardized, the President or his/her designee will take such action as is necessary.

College authorities responding to complaints of sexual assault will inform victims, at a minimum, of the options of criminal prosecution, medical assistance, the internal complaint process, confidential counseling, alternative housing assignments and academic alternatives. The College will provide assistance in changing housing and academic situation if requested by the victim and if such changes are reasonably available.

College authorities will also inform victims of their rights under the crime victim's bill of rights (Chapter 56 of the Code of Criminal Procedure). In addition, College authorities will provide assistance in notifying proper law enforcement authorities and in preserving materials that are relevant to the internal complaint process. College authorities will also, at the direction of the local police, provide assistance in obtaining, securing, and maintaining evidence for criminal prosecution.

A summary of the charges and related information will be made available to students, staff members, and faculty members who are complainants or the accused in sexual assault complaints. This summary will be prepared by the appropriate College authority, subject to the President. If a student is accused of sexual assault, procedures outlined in the Environment regarding notification, hearing, sanctions, and appeals will be followed.

If a complaint of sexual assault is made against a staff member, the matter will be referred to the Vice President for of Business Affairs, or his/her designee, for

appropriate action. Complaints against faculty members will be referred to the Vice President for of Academic Affairs, or his/her designee, for action. The outcome of any disciplinary action will be communicated to the accused in writing.

In all cases where the investigation or hearing indicates that a violation of the policy has occurred, the College will take prompt and appropriate disciplinary action. "Appropriate disciplinary action" may include, but is not limited to, in the case of a staff member or a faculty member: counseling, chemical dependency evaluation, a warning, suspension, or termination of employment. In the case of a student, appropriate action may include, but is not limited to: counseling, chemical dependency evaluation, a warning, censure, probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Statement on Alcohol and discipline from The Environment p72:

In the enforcement of the laws of the State of Texas and the City of Sherman concerning the consumption, possession and serving of alcoholic beverages, violations of the AC Alcohol Policy will be considered an NACSC violation.

Those violations that occur in the residence halls, Johnson Suites or Bryan Apartments will be in the jurisdiction of the residence hall's staff and the appropriate hearing board. Students living off campus and Student Organizations that violate the policy and are reported are accountable to the Director of Student Life or his/her designee and may be referred to the appropriate judicial body for adjudication as determined by the NACSC. Students are warned that they are subject to prosecution by the local police if any violation of state or local laws is involved, and if the police choose to be involved.

Statement on Alcohol from The Environment p69:

Members of the Austin College community need to be aware that the legal drinking age in Texas is 21 years. A person must be 21 years of age, or older, to purchase, possess or transport alcohol. Austin College functions in direct compliance with the laws of the State of Texas, Grayson County, and the City of Sherman. Members of the College community are required to uphold the local city ordinance prohibiting open containers of alcohol in public areas. Further specific regulations that govern the use, possession and sale of alcoholic beverages at Austin College can be found in this policy.

Students or groups who choose to utilize alcoholic beverages are expected to handle alcohol responsibly and conform to the laws of this State and the policies of Austin College. Failure to comply with this policy will result in disciplinary action. Austin College neither forbids nor encourages members of its community to use alcoholic beverages.

Each member of the Austin College community is responsible for supporting this policy under the Community Principle. Enforcement of this policy is the responsibility of all members of the Austin College community; though, it is the responsibility of the Student Affairs staff to adjudicate student violations of this policy.

See the complete [Environment](#).

See the complete [Outback Guide](#).