

Dos and Don'ts of Supporting & Reporting

One of my members is being accused of sexual assault. What do I do next?

It's important to remember that you and your chapter brothers are not expected to be experts in managing sexual violence accusations. Likewise, you and your brothers should not take on the role of an investigator.

Here are some best practices when an accusation is made against a member:

DO

Take a beat before taking any actions. When someone discloses sexual assault, it can be overwhelming, and you might feel like you need to “fix” the problem right away. Take a deep breath and allow yourself to process the situation before taking your next steps.

If the survivor is disclosing to you their experience, thank them for being vulnerable with you.

Make a report to you chapter advisor and the Director of Risk Response & Education at the Central Office to review the appropriate next steps.

Invite the member to Honor Board to better understand the situation

Understand which members of your chapter or advisory team may be a Mandatory Reporter, and in what capacity they are required to report the allegation (if at all)

Ask if the victim has been connected to campus/community resources to feel more supported

Engage with chapter leadership to better understand what, if any, steps the chapter can take to create a safer environment for members and guests (if the alleged assault took place at a chapter event).

DON'T

Assume the victim is lying or embellishing their account of what happened

- [Link](#): The truth about false reporting

Take on the role of investigator by asking intense questions of the alleged victim in a way that could be interpreted as shaming or disbelief

Require the victim to attend an Honor Board meeting

Create a situation where the victim and the accused are in the same space

