

# RVSP Confidentiality Guidelines

The Relationship Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention (RVSP) program at The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and confidential space for students impacted by sexual or relationship violence. Confidentiality is central to building trust and ensuring students feel safe accessing services. This document outlines how RVSP advocates handle sensitive information and the limits of that confidentiality.

## Who This Applies To

These guidelines apply to all RVSP advocates, including full-time staff and any interns designated as confidential resources. It does not apply to peer educators (PEERs) or interns who are not in a confidential role.

## What Information Is Considered Confidential

All information shared with RVSP advocates is considered confidential. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Personal identifying details
- Disclosures of harm or violence
- Appointment conversations and case notes
- Communication via phone, email, or digital platforms

**Please note:** RVSP's social media accounts are often managed by peer educators (PEERs) who are not confidential resources. We cannot guarantee confidentiality on these platforms. For guaranteed confidential support, please contact an RVSP advocate directly or submit a referral here: [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofTexasArlington&layout\\_id=26](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofTexasArlington&layout_id=26)

## Limits to Confidentiality

RVSP advocates are required to break confidentiality only in specific situations, including:

- When a student is at risk of harming themselves or others. For example, if a student expresses suicidal thoughts or plans, the advocate may need to contact emergency services to ensure their safety.
- When a student is in danger from someone else. For instance, if there is an immediate threat or risk of harm from another person, advocates may need to involve law enforcement or other protective services to ensure the student's safety.
- When a protected party such as a minor, elderly individual, or dependent adult is in danger. For instance, if there is suspicion of abuse or neglect involving a minor, advocates must report this to the appropriate authorities.
- When a court order or subpoena legally compels disclosure. In these cases, RVSP advocates will notify the student and attempt to limit the information shared.

- In compliance with state or federal laws, including Senate Bill 212, which requires submitting non-identifiable reports about certain disclosures without revealing student identities.
- When students are referred to RVSP by supportive campus partners such as the CARE Team, Compassionate Withdrawal process, or Crime Victim Services (CVS), limited information may be shared with those referring offices to support coordination of care. This information is limited to whether outreach to the student occurred and the last date of contact.

No other information, case details, or disclosures will be shared without the student's written consent through a Release of Information.

### [Release of Information \(ROI\)](#)

Students may choose to sign a Release of Information form to permit RVSP to share specific details with a designated person or office. Advocates will explain what information will be shared and help students make informed decisions regarding the scope and limits of the release. In some cases, advocates may also seek verbal confirmation directly from the student before sharing information, depending on the situation and at the advocate's discretion.

Students should keep in mind that the individuals or offices named in the ROI might not have the same confidentiality protections as RVSP advocates and could be required to share certain information under university policies or laws. We encourage students to consider carefully who they authorize to receive their information.

Even when consent is provided, RVSP cannot guarantee how a third party will handle the shared information or maintain confidentiality.

Students may revoke their Release of Information at any time by contacting their advocate directly or by emailing RVSP at [rvsp@uta.edu](mailto:rvsp@uta.edu). Upon revocation, RVSP will cease any further disclosure of information to the designated parties; however, information already shared prior to revocation cannot be retracted.

RVSP encourages students to discuss any questions or concerns about the ROI process with their advocate to fully understand their rights and options.

### [Explanation of Privacy vs. Confidentiality Agreements](#)

All peer educators (PEERs) and interns sign a Privacy vs. Confidentiality agreement to clarify their role in supporting students.

- **Confidentiality** means the advocate cannot share information without the student's permission except in very limited legal or safety situations. RVSP advocates who are confidential resources operate under these rules.

- **Privacy** means that while the person respects your personal information, they may be required to report certain disclosures to university officials. Peer educators (PEERs) and some interns are not confidential and are considered mandated reporters.

This agreement ensures students understand who they are speaking with and the limits of what can be kept confidential.

#### Information Sharing Within RVSP

Confidential information may be shared among RVSP advocates to provide coordinated, trauma-informed care. This sharing is limited to RVSP advocates designated as confidential resources.

#### Data Storage and Security

All confidential case documentation is securely stored in RVSP's case management system, Maxient. **Access is restricted solely to confidential RVSP advocates.**

The case management system is maintained by the Dean of Students Office to ensure secure access and proper administration. RVSP advocates are responsible for safeguarding student information within the system. Students with questions or concerns about data storage or access are welcome to contact the Dean of Students Office directly at [dos@uta.edu](mailto:dos@uta.edu).

#### Mandated Reporting Responsibilities

Peer educators (PEERs) and certain interns are required to report instances of sexualized violence, including sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, and harassment, to university officials. This mandated reporting requirement means these individuals cannot guarantee confidentiality regarding these types of disclosures.

RVSP advocates who are confidential resources do not have this mandated reporting obligation and maintain confidentiality within the limits outlined in this document.

#### Referrals from Campus Partners

Students may be referred to RVSP by supportive campus offices including the CARE Team, Compassionate Withdrawal process, and Crime Victim Services (CVS).

In these cases, RVSP may confirm whether outreach to the student occurred and provide the date of that outreach as well as the date of last contact. This limited information may be shared with the referring office such as CARE, CVS, or Compassionate Withdrawals to support coordination of care and ensure follow-up.

No additional information, case details, or student disclosures will be shared with any referring office unless the student provides written consent through a Release of Information.