



ASK AN ADVOCATE

How do I handle a disclosure?

The Office of Advocacy and Support provides confidential assistance for GW community members who have experienced any form of trauma or violence. You can read below to learn more about connecting someone to our services.

What does OAS do?

OAS is a confidential office that addresses trauma and violence in the GW community. Advocates within OAS support those who have experienced trauma and violence in accessing resources and support. OAS also provides prevention education and training to the community.

What should I do if someone discloses to me?

Start by believing them and offer to connect them to support resources. You do not need to investigate or ask them for more information than they are willing to share. If you are unsure about where to connect them, OAS is a great place to start. Make sure you take care of yourself too. Handling disclosures can sometimes be very difficult and emotional.

What if I am a Designated Reporter?

If you are a Designated Reporter, sharing information with OAS does not mean you have fulfilled your duties. OAS is a non-reporting and confidential office. You will need to report to the Title IX Office. Try your best to share your designation openly and immediately, so that students understand what will happen if they disclose to you and can make informed decisions regarding what they want to share.

How can I be an ally to survivors?

There are many ways to be an ally; such as using trauma sensitive language (ex. not labeling someone's experience), knowing about different support options, and becoming involved in awareness events. If you would like to talk to an OAS staff member about this, you can contact us using the information below. We would be happy to connect!

Contact Us

You can contact us via email or phone.

We are open Monday - Friday from 8:00am - 5:00pm (excluding school holidays)

520 22nd St. NW

oas@gwu.edu

202-994-0443

If you are referring a community member to us, please provide the following:

- Name of the person you are referring
- Contact information of the person you are referring
- Brief description of the situation the person disclosed
- Best way to contact you if needed