



OFFICE OF EQUITY & TITLE IX

Information Regarding No Contact Orders Issued by the Office of Equity and Title IX

A **No Contact Order** is a supportive measure utilized by the Office of Equity and Title IX to end contact between individuals with the goal of preventing future contact between the individuals that might result in conduct that violates AU's [Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy](#) or [Discrimination and Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct Policy](#). The no contact order is intended to provide "mutual restrictions on contact between parties" under the Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and is similarly utilized pursuant to AU's Discrimination and Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct Policy. At AU, Leslie Annexstein, AVP for Equity and Title IX Coordinator, oversees the effective implementation of supportive measures, including No Contact Orders, under the two policies.

For a No Contact Order to be issued as a supportive measure, the individual requesting it must allege a potential violation of the Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy or Discrimination and Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct Policy. The matter presented will be assessed by the Office of Equity and Title IX to make a determination about whether there is a potential violation of either policy.

If a No Contact Order is issued, it will be a "bilateral" or "mutual" No Contact Order, meaning that it will direct both parties not to communicate with one another either directly or indirectly. The specific language under the Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy, is that the No Contact Order provides "mutual restrictions on contact between parties." This language is consistent with the regulatory requirements of the Title IX law.

A no contact order is not noted on an individual's record and is not a form of disciplinary action. It does not indicate an investigation has been conducted nor does it signal that an individual has been found responsible for any misconduct. However, a no contact order is a directive from a University administrator and must be adhered to; failure to abide by the directive could result in discipline. A violation of the No Contact Order that is reported to the Office of Equity and Title IX will be assessed and typically referred to the appropriate office if the facts presented indicate a potential violation. For students, this is handled under the Student Code of Conduct, for faculty by the Provost's Office and for staff by Human Resources.

Individuals seeking a No Contact Order or other supportive measures because of an alleged violation of the Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy or the Discrimination and Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct Policy are encouraged to contact the Office of Equity & Title IX directly and file a report using the [online reporting form here](#).

General inquiries can be made at equityoffice@american.edu or by calling 202-885-8080.

Individuals contemplating supportive measures, but who are unsure about whether they wish to contact the Office of Equity and Title IX are encouraged to seek confidential support. [Confidential resources can be found here](#).