

Ready Made Responses

How to Respond when Someone Shares a Difficult Experience

If the conversation is heading toward a disclosure:

“I want to pause you for a minute. Before you share, I want to let you know I’m a mandatory reporter. That means...”

If a disclosure has already occurred:

“Thank you for sharing. That sounds very difficult. Before we continue, I want to let you know I’m a mandatory reporter. That means...”

Think About Helpful Options

Safety

“Are you safe right now?” “Would you like me to call *resource* with you?”

Resources: *Local Police, Housing*

Evidence Preservation

“Would it help to keep evidence in case you want to act later?”

Resources: *Hospital, SAFE Exam*

Campus & Community Resources

Think about what could help fulfill basic needs (food, water, safety) & what else a person might need (academic assistance, etc.)?

Resources: *Food*

Pantries, Emergency

Aid Networks, Psychological Services

“I know this might be difficult, & you deserve all the support & options available.”

Be Trauma Informed

- Speak calmly & gently.
- Ask if they'd prefer to move to a different space.
- Allow for emotions to be present.
- Acknowledge the challenging nature of the conversation.
- Remind the person that while you have to submit a report to the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX (OCRTIX), the impacted individual can choose if they engage with our office.

Things to Remember

- Being comfortable & knowledgeable throughout the conversation helps the person feel informed and supported. Your relationship is unlikely to be negatively impacted.
- You're not getting anyone "in trouble." You're providing someone access to support & resources they deserve.
- You can always reach out to OCRTIX for support & to ask questions.
- Support measures are not guaranteed, but we can explore options.
- Anyone is welcome to bring an advisor to assist them through the process.

Report Here



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