Protocol for Receiving a Report of Sexual Misconduct

The response of the first person whom a student informs about an incident of sexual misconduct may set the tone for how they will feel about themselves and the event in the future. Such conversations should be approached in a sensitive, non-judgmental way.

Any time you are informed by a student of an incident of sexual abuse, please do the following:

1. Ascertain if the student has immediate medical and/or psychological needs:
   - Ask if the student is injured or in physical pain.
   - Ask if the student feels there is an imminent threat from either the other person/people and/or themselves.

2. Make sure the student has as much privacy as desired when speaking with you.

3. If the student expresses fears that family, friends, professors, etc. will learn what happened or asks you to keep the information confidential please remember:
   - In your role, it is very unlikely that you will be able to assure confidentiality.
   - You can assure privacy, meaning that the information will only be shared with those who need to know.
   - The confidential resources on campus are: Ali Tartaglia (802-440-4673) and the clinic staff of Psychological Services and Health Services (connect through campus safety x767 (SOS) on campus or 802-447-4250)
   - Students consulting you should be informed that College, medical, and legal protocols require that certain individuals be notified of certain reports of sexual abuse.
   - The sharing of information is for purposes of providing adequate support of the reporting student and appropriate protection for the community.

4. Help connect the student with support resources:
   - Offer to walk the student to Ali Tartaglia, Psychological Services, or Health Services
   - Offer to contact Ali Tartaglia 802-440-4673 (HOPE)
   - Offer to contact Campus Safety x767 (SOS) on campus or 802-447-4250
   - The Bennington College Policy and Procedures Governing Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, and Consent is available on the College website.

5. You are required to inform the Title IX Coordinator that you have received a report of sexual abuse, because statistics regarding incidents included in the Clery Report, which is mandated by law.
   - Oceana Wilson, Title IX Coordinator, Dean of the Library, 802-440-4606, office location: Crossett Library