

# OIEC, OVA & RSS

Learn about three unique resources at CU Boulder	OIEC – Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance	OVA – Office of Victim Assistance	RSS – Respondent Support Services
<p><b>What is the purpose of the office?</b></p>	<p>OIEC is responsible for addressing conduct prohibited by CU’s non-discrimination, sexual misconduct, intimate partner abuse and stalking policies. OIEC also provides education and assessment to improve campus culture and determines workplace accommodations regarding disability and pregnancy.</p>	<p>OVA is a confidential trauma response, counseling, advocacy and support resource at CU. OVA’s advocate counselors are licensed mental health clinicians. OVA is separate and independent from OIEC and police.</p>	<p>Respondent Support Services (RSS) is a confidential resource that provides information, advocacy and/or short-term counseling/support for students who have been accused of prohibited conduct (respondent). RSS staff are Licensed Professional Counselors or social workers. RSS is separate and independent from OIEC and police.</p>
<p><b>What issues are addressed?</b></p>	<p>Prohibited conduct under university policy includes sexual harassment, assault and exploitation, intimate partner abuse (including dating and domestic violence), stalking, protected-class* discrimination and harassment or related retaliation.</p>	<p>A dedicated department to support people impacted by any traumatic, disturbing or disruptive life event. This includes sexual, family or relationship violence or abuse, sexual assault, stalking, discrimination, disasters, mass violence, physical assault, hazing, harassment, crime and other traumatic experiences.</p>	<p>Being named as a respondent can be challenging. It’s not uncommon to feel a variety of emotions including anxiety, confusion, frustration or fear. Support is centered around helping individuals navigate the process. Individuals may choose to share as little or as much as they want around circumstances of their case.</p>
<p><b>What services are offered?</b></p>	<p>Individuals adversely impacted by prohibited conduct can report to OIEC. OIEC investigators act as neutral fact finders to ensure due process in a formal adjudication that can result in disciplinary action of the accused. They also offer informal, remedies-based resolution options separate from the formal process. OIEC also provides safety and support measures to address negative impacts on academic, workplace or living environments.</p>	<p>OVA advocate counselors provide therapy, safety planning and self-care support. They also help people explore medical and academic options as well as options for pursuing criminal, civil, university administrative or other legal remedies and offer advocacy throughout any of these processes. OVA is separate and independent from law enforcement and OIEC. Reporting is not necessary in order to utilize OVA services.</p>	<p>Respondent Support Services (RSS) provides short-term counseling, safety planning and self-care support. They also provide a confidential space for individuals to explore any challenges that emerge as a result of being named a Respondent. RSS is separate and independent from OIEC and police, and reporting is not necessary in order to utilize services.</p>

\* The CU Boulder Discrimination and Harassment Policy protects individuals from discrimination and harassment based on race, color, national origin, pregnancy, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and its expression, veteran status and political affiliation/philosophy.

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<b>Are services confidential?</b>	No. Information is private and can only be shared with people who have a legitimate need to know. Nothing is shared publicly except as authorized by an applicable party or as required by law.	Yes. Information shared is confidential and cannot be released without consent. OVA will not share information with OIEC or police unless expressly asked by the person seeking OVA services. Some limits to confidentiality exist, primarily related to plans to harm self or others and child abuse.	Yes. Information shared is confidential and cannot be released without consent. RSS will not share information with OIEC or police unless expressly asked by the person seeking RSS services. Some limits to confidentiality exist, primarily related to plans to harm self or others and child abuse.
<b>Is staff available 24/7?</b>	No. OIEC staff are not emergency responders, but will typically respond within one business day to reported incidents. People should call 911 if there is an immediate threat or safety concern.	No, however, when the office is closed (nights/weekends/holidays) after-hours phone support is available at 303-492-8855. OVA staff are not emergency responders, and people should call 911 if there is an immediate threat or safety concern.	No. RSS staff are not emergency responders, individuals should phone CU Counseling and Psychiatric Services: 303-492-2277 (24-hour phone service) or 911 if there is an immediate threat or safety concern.
<b>Do they provide services to anyone at CU?</b>	Yes. This includes all students, staff, faculty and affiliates.	Yes. This includes all students, staff, faculty and affiliates.	No. RSS (information, advocacy, short term counseling/support) is only available for students who have been accused of prohibited conduct (respondents). Faculty and Staff Assistance Program (FSAP) is the confidential support resource for employees.
<b>Does an incident have to occur on campus?</b>	No. OIEC handles complaints regardless of when or where an incident occurred. OIEC can only discipline people affiliated with the university if they are found responsible for violating policy.	No. OVA offers support for past or current traumatic experiences regardless of where and when it occurred or who caused the impact.	No. RSS offers support to students who have been accused of prohibited conduct (respondents) that has occurred on or off campus.
<b>Is there any cost associated with services?</b>	No. OIEC is a free service designed to ensure a safe and non-discriminatory educational, working, and living experience at the university.	No. OVA is a free service for all members of the campus community. Advocacy services are unlimited. Counseling services are short-term.	No. RSS is a free service for all students in the campus community who have been accused of prohibited conduct (respondents). Counseling services are short-term.
<b>Where can I learn more?</b>	Visit <a href="https://colorado.edu/oiec">colorado.edu/oiec</a> to learn more about university policies, adjudication procedures, support resources, education and assessment.	Visit <a href="https://colorado.edu/ova">colorado.edu/ova</a> to learn more about trauma support services and how to help someone who has experienced a traumatic event.	Call CU Counseling and Psychiatric Services: 303-492-2277 to schedule an appointment or to speak with the Respondent Care Provider.