



CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

What Everyone on Campus Needs to Know



Scan the code to
get the Safety App

Valencia College works hard to keep our campuses safe. As a member of the campus community, you have a role in campus safety as well. The information provided here will assist you in making the right decisions concerning your own safety and security. With your assistance, we can provide a safer campus environment.

VALENCIA COLLEGE

THE JEANNE CLERY DISCLOSURE OF CAMPUS SECURITY POLICY AND CAMPUS CRIME STATISTICS ACT

Valencia College prepares this annual report in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy And Campus Crime Statistics Act, commonly known as the Clery Act. The 2023 Annual Security Report is prepared by the College's Safety and Security department with the cooperation of law enforcement. Crime, arrest and referral statistics are collected from jurisdictional law enforcement agencies, including the college's Safety and Security department. These statistics are published annually and available on the college's Annual Security Report website: valenciacollege.edu/security. The College publishes its report by Oct. 1 of each calendar year. This report contains three years of crime statistics. The College is required to disclose crime statistics for campus and public areas immediately adjacent to the campus. The College is responsible for the gathering of crime data, which is compiled and submitted to the Department of Education.

History

Jeanne Clery, a 19-year-old Lehigh University freshman, was assaulted and murdered in her dorm room in April 1986. The Jeanne Clery Act was enacted in the belief that crime awareness can prevent campus victimization.

The Clery Act requires all colleges and universities that participate in federal financial aid programs to keep and disclose information about crime on and near their respective campuses. Compliance is monitored by the Department of Education, which can impose financial penalties in excess of **\$69,733** per violation.

Valencia College is committed to adhering to the requirements of the law by producing this annual security report.

LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATIONSHIP AND JURISDICTION

Campus security officers are not sworn law enforcement personnel and are not empowered as such. They do not have the authority to make arrests. Campus security has jurisdiction limited to buildings, facilities and/or property owned or under the control of Valencia College.

Security operations are supplemented with local law enforcement officers who are contracted during college hours of operation. When local law enforcement are not readily available on campus, security is directed to reach out to law enforcement in their vicinity.

The College does maintain a cooperative working relationship with the Orlando Police Department, Kissimmee Police Department, Winter Park Police Department, Orange County Sheriff's Office, Osceola County Sheriff's Office and University of Central Florida Police Department. These agencies will promptly respond to our campuses within their jurisdiction for emergencies, to complete police reports and to conduct criminal investigations. Although Valencia College does not have a formal memorandum of understanding with any law enforcement agency, the college encourages accurate and prompt reporting of all crimes and other emergencies which occur on or near our campuses, whether the victim elects to, or is unable to, make such a report.

Mission

Valencia College provides opportunities for academic, technical and life-long learning in a collaborative culture dedicated to inquiry, results and excellence.

Values

Learning by committing to Valencia College's core competencies—Think, Value, Communicate, and Act—and the potential of each person to learn at the highest levels of achievement for personal and professional success.

People by creating a caring, inclusive and safe environment that inspires all people to achieve their goals, share their success and encourage others.

Diversity by fostering the understanding it builds in learning relations and appreciating the dimensions it adds to our quality of life.

Access by reaching out to our communities, inviting and supporting all learners and partners to achieve their goals.

Integrity by respecting the ideas of freedom, civic responsibility, academic honesty, personal ethics, and the courage to act.

valenciacollege.edu/about/vision.php

REPORTING EMERGENCIES AND CRIME ON CAMPUS

An emergency or a fire shall be immediately reported to security or to appropriate emergency agencies (dial 911 for the latter). Individuals may also report crimes/incidents that are no longer in progress by contacting any security office or through the use of the online Incident Reporting Form:

valenciacollege.edu/students/security/reporting.php

Since Valencia College does not have any off-campus student organizations or off-campus housing, there is no monitoring and recording of criminal activity through local police agencies.

Valencia College also offers a safety app for employees and students. This app can be downloaded through the Google Play Store or Apple Store onto your cellphone. The Valencia College Safety app has a quick link to the FDLE Sexual Offenders/Predators Search. For questions about Valencia College Alert and how it is used, contact your campus Safety and Security department

valenciacollege.edu/students/security/safety-app.php

CONFIDENTIAL CRIME REPORTING PROCEDURES

If you are the victim of a crime and do not want to pursue action within the college system or the criminal justice system, you may still want to consider making a report. When an incident is reported to any representative of the college, such report is not generally confidential due to the duties required of the College to respond. A victim's request for confidentiality will be considered by the College in determining an appropriate response. However, such requests will be considered in association with the College's legal obligation to report. With such information, the College can keep an accurate record of the number of incidents involving students, determine where there is a pattern of crime with regard to a particular location, method or assailant, and alert the campus community to potential danger. Reports filed in this manner are counted and disclosed in the annual crime statistics and daily crime log for the institution. If you see a crime/disruptive behavior occurring on campus and would like to report it anonymously, you can use the online Anonymous Reporting Form:

valenciacollege.edu/students/security/reporting.php

PASTORAL AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

Valencia College does not employ pastoral or professional level counselors. The college does not identify any employees to serve as confidential resources. Individuals seeking confidential resources should refer to valenicacollege.edu/security for a list of available resources, as well as the BayCare Student Assistance Program. Staff shall refer to Atlas/Employee tab/Benefits and Wellness drop-down portal.

POLICIES ON ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUG USE ON CAMPUS

Students are prohibited from the unlawful possession, sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus. The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages at off-campus college functions shall be governed by the laws of the community. The college also prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs by students and employees on college property or as part of any college activities.

Educational information on alcohol and other drugs is available to our students through Student Development opportunities, sponsored by the Campus Activities Board and the Student Government Association.

Additionally, Student Development offers information and programming opportunities during Alcohol Awareness Month, Domestic Violence Month and our Safe Spring Break campaigns across all campuses of the college. Valencia College maintains a service contract with an outsourced mental health provider for counseling and treatment services; and anyone in need of treatment for other alcohol and/or drug-related problems can also be assisted by referrals from offices of Student Affairs to a variety of community programs and partnerships. See the Drug-Free Campus Policy: [6Hx28:10.08](#)

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES

What is Valencia College Alert?

Valencia College initiates emergency notifications primarily through Blackboard Alerts and the Valencia College Safety app. All college personnel (staff and students) are automatically enrolled into Blackboard Alerts, but must download the Valencia College Safety app. These notification methods are tested throughout the year. It provides timely and accurate information about emergency situations which could impact personal safety or college operations. The goal is to help keep the individuals safe and be informed during incidents.

Generally, emails and text messages will be used only for events that present an imminent danger to the campus community or that will significantly impact college operations. Examples of situations in which text messages and emails might be sent include, but are not limited to: bomb threats, chemical spills and facility failures, threats of violence, a dangerous suspect at-large and extreme weather alerts.

The [Valencia College Safety app](#) allows students and staff to simultaneously call and send their location to the security department in an emergency. It also offers a variety of other features, such as:

- Emergency Contacts
- Virtual Walk Home
- Campus Maps
- Notification History
- Friend Walk

- Report a Tip
- Safety Toolbox
- Emergency Plans
- Security Website
- Emergency Guidelines for Study Abroad
- Mobile Blue Light
- Chat with Security
- FDLE Sexual Offenders/Predators Search

Supplemental messages will be issued through Valencia College Alert and the above site will be updated during an emergency as information becomes available. For questions about Valencia College Alert and how it is used, contact your campus Safety and Security department.

Emergency Notification

Valencia College will make reasonable efforts to provide notification about emergencies and natural or man-made disasters affecting the college. Each Valencia College employee who is authorized and trained to activate the Valencia College Alert system has the responsibility of ensuring that it is activated primarily for life safety situations.

The Valencia College Safety and Security department will, upon confirmation of a significant or dangerous situation occurring on or near campus, promptly and without delay, taking into account the safety of the community, determine the content of the notification and initiate the notification system, unless issuing a notification will, in the professional judgment of responsible authorities, compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to or otherwise mitigate the emergency. The Valencia College Safety and Security Department will be primarily responsible for confirming a significant or dangerous public safety situation on campus, via an independent source, victim, and witness or officer observation on campus based on available information at the time.

The entire campus community will be notified when there is the potential any member could be affected by an incident, or when a situation threatens the operation of the campus as a whole. Notification outside of the campus community could be disseminated through the college's Public Affairs and Marketing department. Security will continuously assess the incident and provide additional information as necessary.

Valencia College alert is a multimedia communications system that provides timely and accurate information about emergency situations that could impact the college. The goal is to help keep the campus safe and informed during an emergency. Valencia College alert features several communication tools, including emails, text messages, web updates, social media, PA speakers, digital flat screens and more.

Evacuations

Buildings on all campuses have a notification system for evacuations. In most buildings, this is the fire alarm system. Some of those systems only sound an alarm, while others give voice evacuation directions. Upon the sounding of the alarm, if time permits, the Campus Emergency Response Team (CERT) members will go to predetermined areas to direct individuals to walk quickly out of the building by way of the closest available exit in a calm, orderly manner to the evacuation area. CERT members and Security will provide assistance to physically challenged individuals as needed or requested. Evacuation plans are under the control of the college's compliance team.

For questions about Valencia College alert and how it is used, contact your campus Safety and Security department.

TIMELY WARNING NOTIFICATIONS

In compliance with the Clery Act, Valencia College provides Timely Warnings, called campus safety alerts to students, faculty and staff as soon as pertinent information is available. These timely warnings are issued for any Clery Act crime and may include non-Clery Act crimes that are considered by the institution to represent a serious or continuing threat to students and employees. These warnings are issued in an effort to communicate prevention strategies or basic safety information about reported crimes or activities that are considered a threat or are in the public's interest.

Timely warnings will be issued by authorized and designated members of the Valencia College Safety and Security department through Valencia College alert to all students, faculty and staff. Current campus safety alerts will be posted on: valenciacollege.edu/students/security/timely-warnings.php

SECURITY AWARENESS PROGRAMS AND CRIME PREVENTION

Staying Safe on Campus

Both students and the general public are welcome at any of Valencia College campuses during normal hours of operation: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (hours may vary slightly during the weekends, holidays and during the summer). Although college campuses are among the safest places in our society, like any other public place, there is a need to remain aware and alert. Suggestions for staying safe while on campus include the following:

- Walk in groups.
- Call security for an escort anytime you feel uncomfortable walking on campus.
- Stay in areas that are well lit.
- Remain alert and report suspicious activity to campus security, Campus Security Authority and staff, and/or law enforcement.
- If you suspect an imminent threat from someone you see on campus, notify security immediately and do not approach the person who concerns you.
- Call 911.

Lighting, Locks, Patrols and Other Safety Measures

Valencia College continually looks at ways to improve safety. We have allocated substantial resources to improve lighting, alarms, communications, staffing and other important safety measures. When warranted, we have the capacity to remotely lock down most of the exterior doors to every building on every campus within moments of a notification of an event, reducing the possibility of a "moving threat." To meet safety and security regulations, the college also performs the following:

- Campus maintenance teams regularly inspect the campuses and facilities for safety and security issues.
- All reported safety and security related issues are acknowledged immediately.
- The college operations teams and security work closely together to ensure a safe and secure campus environment.

The Valencia College Safety and Security department employs 83 employees under the auspices of the office of the Chief of Safety and Security. All officers are trained and licensed under the State of Florida Statutes Chapter 493 or equivalent. Officers also receive training in the following areas:

- CPR
- AED
- Stop the Bleed
- Emergency evacuation procedures

- C.E.R.T training
- Run, Hide, Fight
- Tabletop Exercises: Severe Weather (supervisor and above)

OBTAINING INFORMATION REGARDING SECURITY PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES

Valencia College offers information regarding security practices and procedures through the following avenues:

- New employee and student orientation program
- Valencia College [Safety, Security and Risk Management](#) website
- Multiple Valencia College publications: The Grove, Campus Concentrate, The Juice, Supervisor Segment and Student Handbook
- Campus Safety tabling events and presentationsFB
- Campus training sessions

Any changes to security procedures are distributed through our publications and the [Safety, Security and Risk Management](#) website.

Response to Active Threat

RUN, HIDE, FIGHT Surviving an Active Shooter Event

Active threats are situations in which an individual, or many individuals, are actively looking for ways to kill or harm people. Most of these attempts occur in well-populated areas. The majority of the weapons used are firearms and explosives. Active threats can start off by targeted individuals, but expand to randomly selected victims. The events are usually unpredictable and require law enforcement to respond.

Valencia College has adopted the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and City of Houston's instructional video Run, Hide, Fight to educate the campus community on how to increase their chances of survival during an active shooter event. Should you ever find yourself caught up in an active shooter event, your survival may depend on whether you have a plan or not. There are three things you could do to make a difference: RUN, HIDE or FIGHT. Run if you can, hide if you cannot run and fight if all else fails. Training is offered numerous times throughout the year.

CPTED Surveys

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminals and designing our crime behavior through effective environmental design. CPTED's goal is to prevent crime by designing a physical environment that positively influences human behavior. The theory is based on four principles: natural access control, natural surveillance, territoriality and maintenance. CPTED strategies rely upon the ability to influence potential offender decisions that precede criminal acts. The primary goal of CPTED is to deter criminal activity by specifically altering the physical design of the communities in which humans reside and congregate. CPTED principles of design affect elements of the built environment ranging from the small-scale to the overarching, including building form of an entire urban neighborhood and the amount of opportunity for "eyes on the street." CPTED practitioners with the college are certified through the State of Florida and conduct assessments of the college's campuses to identify areas where opportunities exist to increase the level of safety and security that the campus provides. Practitioners work with multiple departments within the college.

Security Escorts

Escort services are provided to students and staff upon request. This service is offered through the college's Safety and Security department. Upon request, a security officer will provide a walking escort to and from your vehicle. Requests can also be made through the [Valencia College Safety app](#).

Campus Security Advisory Committees

Meetings are held with various members representing different areas across the campus. The purpose behind these meetings is to provide an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to participate in an open forum to provide feedback concerning the level of service being delivered and types of programs being offered by the Safety and Security department. The goals of the committee are to identify and resolve safety or security issues, as well as promote security awareness within the college community. Safety and Security Directors chair these meetings to share information concerning any changes in security procedures, policy, leadership and special events occurring during the past quarter. With representation from the various departments across the campus, the goal is to disseminate information to everyone, as well as let everyone have a voice.

Tabling Events

Each campus Safety and Security department maintains an active relationship with Student Development. Through this relationship, we are able to offer security information by way of tabling events during their Welcome Back activities. Student Development also offers Safe Spring Break and Domestic Violence Awareness programs to promote awareness of safety issues.

Behavioral Assessment Team (BAT)

The Valencia College Behavioral Assessment Team (BAT) was formed in 2011-12. The team follows protocols to review "threatening behavior," assess potential issues and take action to reduce risk for Valencia College community members. This team is lead by a dean of students and co-chaired by the chief of safety and security. Membership includes representatives of the dean of students and student conduct, counselor representatives and human resources representatives.

Members of the BAT meet regularly to discuss reported behaviors, share information and receive training on what to look for and how to appropriately respond to threatening behavior. The BAT has created two online reporting forms, both available on the Valencia College Safety, Security and Risk Management website by clicking on [Report Incident](#).

The [Anonymous Reporting Form](#), is for incidents that have occurred and have been observed by a person who would like to remain anonymous and provide the level of detail that is available at the time. Reports from both forms are reviewed and acted upon as appropriate.

We ask for everyone to be aware of their surroundings and report any threatening behavior in order to keep us all safe.

AND REMEMBER, IF YOU "SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!"

POLICY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

Valencia College values the health and safety of every member of our community and expects its students and employees to treat others with respect. Behaviors such as sexual assault, interpersonal violence and stalking are violations of the Discrimination, Harassment and Related Misconduct Policy [6Hx28:2-01](#) and may result in disciplinary action against the Responding Party and sanctions including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion of students and separation of employment for employees. Disciplinary action on the part of the college does not preclude the possibility of criminal charges against the individual(s).

Sexual assault may take many forms including, but not limited to, rape, acquaintance rape, date rape and stranger rape. This may occur both on and off college campuses. Sexual assault can occur at any time of the day or night, at home, in the workplace, in social settings and in public places. Both men and women have been assaulted by strangers, people whom they have known and trusted, as well as people whom they have dated.

Valencia College clearly outlines the procedures for reviewing allegations of sexual assault under College policy [6Hx28:2-01](#) Discrimination, Harassment, and Related Misconduct.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

- Get to a location where you will be safe from further attack.
- For your own protection, call the police immediately, especially if the assailant is nearby. The police will help you whether or not you choose to prosecute the assailant. To contact police 24 hours a day, dial 911.
- Contact Campus Security. Our officers have also been trained to assist rape victims and can help with reporting an assault to the proper authorities.
- Get medical attention immediately. The primary purpose of a medical examination following a rape is to check for physical injury, the presence of sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy as a result of the rape.
- The secondary purpose of a medical examination is to aid police investigation and legal proceedings.
- Do not bathe or douche. You might be literally washing away valuable evidence and hindering the investigation. It is imperative that you have an examination and/or talk with medical personnel.
- It is alright to change your clothes, but save your clothing and do not throw away anything that you were wearing. Your clothing could be used as evidence for prosecution. Place each item of clothing in a separate paper bag for the police. Extremely valuable physical evidence can be obtained from the Reporting Party, the Reporting Party's clothing and objects from the scene of the crime.

If an individual thinks they may want to press charges, they are encouraged to immediately be examined through the Victim Service Center of Central Florida at victimservicecenter.org or call (407) 254-9415.

Their services include immediate support and advocacy to both reporting and non-reporting survivors of sexual assault, including forensic evidence collection.

They will also provide confidential victim advocates to accompany parties during the exam.

These services are offered even if an individual chooses not to report the crime to law enforcement. Evidence can be collected hours after an assault, but the sooner it is done, the more likely useful evidence can be recovered. Victims of sexual assault should be aware their personal information will be exempt from public disclosure to the greatest extent permitted by law.

Individuals reporting dating or domestic violence should take steps to preserve evidence that may aid in any administrative action and/or criminal prosecution. Examples of items with evidential value include; any recorded media such as voicemails, emails, text messages, social media messages, and any other notes, writings, correspondence, etc. that may be relevant to the case.

Depending on the situation, clothing worn by the victim and/or the accused may be needed as evidence and, therefore, should be preserved in its original state. Do not disturb the scene of any dating or domestic violence incident as law enforcement personnel may want to photograph the scene upon their arrival. They will also want to photograph any injuries which are immediately apparent or appear days later. If any weapon was used or any object was used as a weapon, leave it in its original state and do not disturb.

It is very important to seek medical attention as soon as possible so a victim can receive treatment for any physical injuries, be screened for sexually transmitted diseases/pregnancy/date rape drugs and/or obtain emergency contraception. Victims are encouraged to seek medical care even if they do not think they want to report the incidents to law enforcement.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

Many sexual assault cases go unreported because the victim fears retaliation or possible humiliation if word gets around they have been the victim of a sexual offense. Victims tend to feel guilty, as though they did something to bring it on themselves, and often keep the incident to themselves or share some of the incident with a close friend. While this may be helpful in the immediate sense, we urge you to talk to a knowledgeable counselor about your reactions to being victimized. It is often times when victims talk about what happened with a trained professional they are able to overcome the trauma of the attack, and live a productive life.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE AGENCIES

If you or someone you know is the victim of a crime, it is important you contact the Valencia College Safety and Security Department to help you address the matter.

We recommend you add security numbers to your cell phone for each campus you attend. Listed below are some additional agencies that may be able to assist you:

CAMPUS SECURITY	PHONE NUMBER
AMTC	407-582-4000
Downtown Campus	407-582-1000
East Campus	407-582-2000
Fire Academy	407-582-1000
Heart of Florida NWCAT	407-582-3600
Lake Nona Campus	407-582-7000
Osceola Campus	407-582-4000
Poinciana Campus	407-582-6500
School of Public Safety	407-582-8000
West Campus	407-582-1000
Winter Park Campus	407-582-6000

SEXUAL ASSAULT/RAPE CRISIS

Victim Service Center of Central Florida 24-Hour Hotline	407-497-6701
Harbor House of Central Florida 24-Hour Hotline	407-886-2856

VALENCIA COLLEGE OPTIONS TO REPORT DATING VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING

In addition to or in lieu of reporting to law enforcement, you may report an alleged offense to the Equal Opportunity Office, via telephone, email, in person, or via an online report submitted at: valenciacollege.edu/EO.

In accordance with US Department of Education regulations surrounding Title IX, in order for the College to begin a formal review of Title IX Sexual Misconduct, a reporting party must submit a formal complaint of Title IX Sexual Misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator.

To file a report or formal complaint:

Ryan Kane
Assistant Vice President, Human Resources, Title IX Coordinator
407-582-3421
equalopportunity@valenciacollege.edu

Trisha Charles
Director, Equal Opportunity, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
407-582-3867

Coretta Cotton
Assistant Director, Equal Opportunity, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
407-582-3454

The College also has designated "Responsible Employees." Responsible Employees are defined as: "Employees designated by the College to be required to report any allegation of discrimination, harassment, or related misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator or a Title IX Deputy Coordinator. This includes employees who have been designated as Campus Security Authorities. These individuals do not have the authority in their role as a Responsible Employee to institute corrective measures for allegations of discrimination or harassment based on a protected status."

The College's Responsible Employees include, but are not limited to, the following employees or categories of employees who serve in a managerial, leadership or supervisory position who have significant responsibility for the welfare of Valencia College students, faculty and staff:

Senior leadership (e.g., College President, Campus Provosts, Vice Presidents, Special Assistants to the President, Executive Deans, including Associates and Assistants)

- Other Administrators/Professional Staff (e.g., deans, directors, program directors, chairpersons/discipline coordinators, and supervisors – in all administrative and academic areas)
- Other Designated Staff (e.g., Title IX Coordinator; Director and Assistant Director, Equal Opportunity, Director, Student Services; Assistant Director, Student Conduct; Senior Director and Assistant Director, Organizational Development and Human Resources)
- Director, Study Abroad and Global Exchange
- All faculty and staff members who accompany students on College-related trips, both within the U.S. and abroad
- All faculty or staff advisors to students and/or organizations or activities
- Counselors
- Ombudspersons
- Staff who serve in tutoring roles
- Campus Safety and Security Staff

WHAT VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT CAN EXPECT FROM THE CAMPUS SECURITY DEPARTMENT

Considerations will be given by the campus Safety and Security department to ensure sexual assault victims are:

- Treated by Officers with courtesy, sensitivity, dignity and understanding.
- Approached by Officers in a thoughtful manner, without prejudging or blaming a victim.
- Accommodated, when requests are made to speak to an officer of the same gender.
- Met by Officers in a private location of the victim's choice.

- Informed of the services and resources available, both on- and off-campus.
- Assisted by Officers, at the victim's request, in initiating an investigation by facilitating contact with law enforcement officials.

INTERIM PROTECTIVE MEASURES

When a report of sexual misconduct is received, the Assistant Vice President, Human Resources (or designee), in consultation with the Equal Opportunity Office and other administrators as needed, will provide reasonable and appropriate Interim Protective Measures when necessary to protect the safety of the parties or witnesses involved. Interim Protective Measures are temporary actions taken by the College to ensure equal access to its education programs and activities and foster a stable and safe environment during the process of reporting, investigation, and/or resolution. These measures are designed, as appropriate, to restore or preserve access to education without unreasonably burdening any party and are intended to be non-disciplinary and non-punitive. As determined to be appropriate in the sole discretion of the College, Interim Protective Measures may be applied or modified at any time—for the complainant, the respondent, and other involved individuals as appropriate to ensure their safety and well-being. Interim Protective Measures may be requested by the parties or imposed by the College at any time, regardless of whether any particular course of action is sought by the complainant. [6Hx28:2-01](#)

CONFIDENTIALITY FOR VICTIMS AND OTHER RELEVANT PARTIES

Privacy generally means that information related to a report under the Discrimination, Harassment & Related Misconduct Policy will be shared only with those College employees who need to know in order to assist in the active review, investigation, or resolution of the report. While not bound by confidentiality, these individuals will be discreet and respect the privacy of all individuals involved in the process. If the decision is made to pursue disciplinary action against a respondent, information related to the report will be shared with the respondent. In certain circumstances, the final outcome of a formal process as described below may be shared with the complainant. Information regarding a report may be shared with either party's parents or guardians as may be authorized under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Note that a Complainant's request for privacy may impact the College's ability to proceed with the Title IX Sexual Misconduct procedures as described in the Discrimination, Harassment & Related Misconduct Policy.

Confidentiality means that information shared with designated community professionals, referred to in the Discrimination, Harassment & Related Misconduct Policy as External Confidential Resources, will be disclosed only with the individual's express written permission. External Confidential Resources will not share information about an individual (including whether that individual has received services) with anyone, including the College, without the individual's express written permission, unless there is a continuing threat of serious violence to the patient/client or to others, or there is a legal obligation to reveal such information (e.g., suspected abuse or neglect of a minor). There are no College employees with legally-protected confidentiality. However, the College provides students and employees with access to External Confidential Resources.

VALENCIA COLLEGE PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING CASES OF ALLEGED DATING VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING

Specific procedures outlining the College's response to allegations of sexual misconduct and Title IX Sexual Misconduct are listed in College Policy 6Hx28:2-01, Discrimination, Harassment & Related Misconduct.

Upon receipt of a report of prohibited conduct under the above referenced policy, the College will contact the complainant or reporting party to assess what action, if any, the complainant is seeking, and to discuss interim protective measures as appropriate.

Based on the type of information shared and the specific details regarding the alleged conduct, staff from the Equal Opportunity Office will discuss the applicable procedures and steps available to the complainant.

For allegations that do not fall under the scope of Title IX, the College procedures outline two possible resolutions to address the alleged misconduct, a remedies-based resolution or an investigation.

The remedies-based resolution is a voluntary approach designed to address possible discrimination or harassment without taking disciplinary action against a respondent.

In an investigation, the investigator(s) will prepare a written investigation report that summarizes the information gathered and synthesizes the contested and uncontested issues of fact and any supporting information or accounts. In preparing the investigation report, the investigator(s) will review all facts gathered to determine whether the information is relevant and material to the determination of responsibility given the nature of the allegation.

When the respondent is an employee:

Possible sanctions for college employees may include: any form of responsive action or progressive discipline as set forth in college policies and procedures, including training and/or disciplinary action, such as reprimand, return to annual contract, suspension, and/or dismissal.

When the respondent is a student, disciplinary action may include:

- Removal from specific courses or activities
- Suspension from the college
- Expulsion from the college
- Other actions listed in College Policy 6Hx28:8-03 Student Code of Conduct

DEFINITIONS OF DATING VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, STALKING AND CONSENT

The State of Florida defines "dating violence" in criminal law as: Fla. Stat. § [784.046](#) (1) (d) "Dating violence" means violence between individuals who have or have had a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the consideration of the following factors:

1. A dating relationship must have existed within the past 6 months;
2. The nature of the relationship must have been characterized by the expectation of affection or sexual involvement between the parties; and
3. The frequency and type of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship must have included that the persons have been involved over time and on a continuous

basis during the course of the relationship.

Florida criminal law defines “domestic violence” as: Fla. Stat. §741.28 Domestic violence; definitions. — As used in § 741.28-741.31:

- (1) “Department” means the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.
- (2) “Domestic violence” means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.
- (3) “Family or household member” means spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, and persons who are parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have been married. With the exception of persons who have a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.
- (4) “Law enforcement officer” means any person who is elected, appointed, or employed by any municipality or the state or any political subdivision thereof who meets the minimum qualifications established in § 943.13 and is certified as a law enforcement officer under § 943.1395.

Under Florida criminal law “Sexual Assault” is called “Sexual Battery” defined as: Fla. Stat. § 794.0115 Sexual battery.

(1) As used in this chapter:

- (a) “Consent” means intelligent, knowing, and voluntary consent and does not include coerced submission. “Consent” shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the alleged victim to offer physical resistance to the offender.
- (b) “Mentally defective” means a mental disease or defect which renders a person temporarily or permanently incapable of appraising the nature of his or her conduct.
- (c) “Mentally incapacitated” means temporarily incapable of appraising or controlling a person’s own conduct due to the influence of a narcotic, anesthetic, or intoxicating substance administered without his or her consent or due to any other act committed upon that person without his or her consent.
- (d) “Offender” means a person accused of a sexual offense in violation of a provision of this chapter.
- (e) “Physically helpless” means unconscious, asleep, or for any other reason physically unable to communicate unwillingness to an act.
- (f) “Retaliation” includes, but is not limited to, threats of future physical punishment, kidnapping, false imprisonment or forcible confinement, or extortion.
- (g) “Serious personal injury” means great bodily harm or pain, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement.
- (h) “Sexual battery” means oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by, or union with, the sexual organ of another or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any other object; however, sexual battery does not include an act done for a bona fide medical purpose.
- (i) “Victim” means a person who has been the object of a sexual offense.

(j) “Physically incapacitated” means bodily impaired or handicapped and substantially limited in ability to resist or flee.

(2) (a) A person 18 years of age or older who commits sexual battery upon, or in an attempt to commit sexual battery injures the sexual organs of, a person less than 12 years of age commits a capital felony, punishable as provided in § 775.082 and § 921.141.

(b) A person less than 18 yoa who commits sexual battery upon, or in an attempt to commit sexual battery injures the sexual organs of, a person less than 12 yoa commits a life felony, punishable as provided in § 775.082, § 775.083, § 775.084, or § 794.0115.

(3) A person who commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older, without that person’s consent, and in the process thereof uses or threatens to use a deadly weapon or uses actual physical force likely to cause serious personal injury commits a life felony, punishable as provided in § 775.082, § 775.083, § 775.084, or § 794.0115.

(4) (a) A person 18 years of age or older who commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older but younger than 18 years of age without that person’s consent, under any of the circumstances listed in paragraph (e), commits a felony of the first degree, punishable by a term of years not exceeding life or as provided in § 775.082, § 775.083, § 775.084, or § 794.0115.

(b) A person 18 years of age or older who commits sexual battery upon a person 18 years of age or older without that person’s consent, under any of the circumstances listed in paragraph (e), commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in § 775.082, § 775.083, § 775.084, or § 794.0115.

(c) A person younger than 18 years of age who commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older without that person’s consent, under any of the circumstances listed in paragraph (e), commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in § 775.082, § 775.083, § 775.084, or § 794.0115.

(d) A person commits a felony of the first degree, punishable by a term of years not exceeding life or as provided in § 775.082, § 775.083, § 775.084, or § 794.0115 if the person commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older without that person’s consent, under any of the circumstances listed in paragraph (e), and such person was previously convicted of a violation of:

1. Section 787.01(2) or § 787.02(2) when the violation involved a victim who was a minor and, in the course of committing that violation, the defendant committed against the minor a sexual battery under this chapter or a lewd act under § 800.04 or § 847.0135(5);

2. Section 787.01(3) (a) 2. Or 3.

3. Section 787.02(3) (a) 2. Or 3.

4. Section 800.04;

5. Section 825.1025;

6. Section 847.0135(5); or

7. This chapter, excluding subsection (10) of this section. (e) The following circumstances apply to paragraphs (a)-(d):

1. The victim is physically helpless to resist.

2. The offender coerces the victim to submit by threatening to use force or violence likely to cause serious personal injury on the victim, and the victim reasonably believes that the offender has the present ability to execute the threat.

3. The offender coerces the victim to submit by threatening to retaliate against the victim, or any other person, and the victim reasonably believes that the offender has the ability to execute the threat in the future.

4. The offender, without the prior knowledge or consent of the victim, administers or has knowledge of someone else administering to the victim any narcotic, anesthetic, or other intoxicating substance that mentally or physically incapacitates the victim.

5. The victim is mentally defective, and the offender has reason to believe this or has actual knowledge of this fact.

6. The victim is physically incapacitated.

7. The offender is a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional probation officer as defined in § 943.10(1), (2), (3), (6), (7), (8), or (9), who is certified under § 943.1395 or is an elected official exempt from such certification by virtue of § 943.253, or any other person in a position of control or authority in a probation, community control, controlled release, detention, custodial, or similar setting, and such officer, official, or person is acting in such a manner as to lead the victim to reasonably believe that the offender is in a position of control or authority as an agent or employee of government.

(5)(a) A person 18 years of age or older who commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older but younger than 18 years of age, without that person's consent, and in the process does not use physical force and violence likely to cause serious personal injury commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in [§ 775.082](#), [§ 775.083](#), [§ 775.084](#), or [§ 794.0115](#).

(b) A person 18 years of age or older who commits sexual battery upon a person 18 years of age or older, without that person's consent, and in the process does not use physical force and violence likely to cause serious personal injury commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in [§ 775.082](#), [§ 775.083](#), [§ 775.084](#), or [§ 794.0115](#).

(c) A person younger than 18 years of age who commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older, without that person's consent, and in the process does not use physical force and violence likely to cause serious personal injury commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in [§ 775.082](#), [§ 775.083](#), [§ 775.084](#), or [§ 794.0115](#).

(d) A person commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in [§ 775.082](#), [§ 775.083](#), [§ 775.084](#), or [§ 794.0115](#) if the person commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older, without that person's consent, and in the process does not use physical force and violence likely to cause serious personal injury and the person was previously convicted of a violation of:

1. Section [787.01](#)(2) or [787.02](#) (2) when the violation involves a victim who was a minor and, in the course of committing that violation, the defendant committed against the minor a sexual battery under this chapter or a lewd act under [§ 800.04](#) or [§ 847.0135](#)(5);
2. Section [787.01](#)(3) (a) 2. Or 3.
3. Section [787.02](#)(3) (a) 2. Or 3.
4. Section [800.04](#);
5. Section [825.1025](#);
6. Section [847.0135](#)(5); or
7. This chapter, excluding subsection (10) of this section.

(6)(a) The offenses described in paragraphs (5) (a)-(c) are included in any sexual battery offense charged under subsection (3).

(b) The offense described in paragraph (5) (a) is included in an offense charged under paragraph (4) (a).

(c) The offense described in paragraph (5) (b) is included in an offense charged under paragraph (4) (b).

(d) The offense described in paragraph (5) (c) is included in an offense charged under paragraph (4) (c).

(e) The offense described in paragraph (5) (d) is included in an offense charged under paragraph (4) (d).

(7) A person who is convicted of committing a sexual battery on or after October 1, 1992, is not eligible for basic gain-time under [§ 944.275](#). For sentences imposed for offenses committed on or after July 1, 2023, a person who is convicted of committing or attempting, soliciting, or conspiring to commit a sexual battery in violation of this section is not eligible for basic gain-time under [§ 944.275](#). This subsection may be cited as the "Junny Rios-Martinez, Jr. Act of 1992."

(8) Without regard to the willingness or consent of the victim, which is not a defense to prosecution under this subsection, a person who is in a position of familial or custodial authority to a person less than 18 years of age and who:

(a) Solicits that person to engage in any act which would constitute sexual battery under paragraph (1) (h) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in [§ 775.082](#), [§ 775.083](#), or [§ 775.084](#).

(b) Engages in any act with that person while the person is 12 years of age or older but younger than 18 years of age which constitutes sexual battery under paragraph (1)(h) commits a felony of the first degree, punishable by a term of years not exceeding life or as provided in [§ 775.082](#), [§ 775.083](#), or [§ 775.084](#).

(c) Engages in any act with that person while the person is less than 12 years of age which constitutes sexual battery under paragraph (1) (h), or in an attempt to commit sexual battery injures the sexual organs of such person commits a capital or life felony, punishable pursuant to subsection (2).

(9) For prosecution under paragraph (4) (a), paragraph (4)(b), paragraph (4) (c), or paragraph (4) (d) which involves an offense committed under any of the circumstances listed in subparagraph (4) (e) 7. acquiescence to a person reasonably believed by the victim to be in a position of authority or control does not constitute consent, and it is not a defense that the perpetrator was not actually in a position of control or authority if the circumstances were such as to lead the victim to reasonably believe that the person was in such a position.

(10) A person who falsely accuses a person listed in subparagraph (4) (e) 7. or other person in a position of control or authority as an agent or employee of government of violating paragraph (4) (a), paragraph (4)(b), paragraph (4) (c), or paragraph (4) (d) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in [§ 775.082](#), [§ 775.083](#), or [§ 775.084](#).

The State of Florida defines "stalking" in criminal law as: **Fla. Stat. [§ 784.048](#) Stalking; definitions; penalties.**

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Harass" means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person which causes substantial emotional distress to that person and serves no legitimate purpose.

(b) "Course of conduct" means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, which evidences a continuity of purpose. The term does not include constitutionally protected activity such as picketing or other organized protests.

(c) "Credible threat" means a verbal or nonverbal threat, or a combination of the two, including threats delivered by electronic communication or implied by a pattern of conduct, which places the person who is the target of the threat in reasonable fear for his or her safety or the safety of his or her family members or individuals closely associated with the person, and which is made with the apparent ability to carry out the threat to cause such harm. It is not necessary to prove that the person making the threat had the intent to actually carry out the threat. The present incarceration of the person making the threat is not a bar to prosecution under this section.

(d) "Cyberstalk" means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.

(2) A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person commits the offense of stalking, a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in [§ 775.082](#) or [§ 775.083](#).

(3) A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person and makes a credible threat to that person commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in [§ 775.082](#), [§ 775.083](#), or [§ 775.084](#).

(4) A person who, after an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence pursuant to [§ 784.046](#), or an injunction for protection against domestic violence pursuant to [§ 741.30](#), or after any other court-imposed prohibition of conduct toward the subject person or that person's property, knowingly, willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in [§ 775.082](#), [§ 775.083](#), or [§ 775.084](#).

(5) A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows,

harasses, or cyberstalks a child under 16 years of age commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in § 775.082, § 775.083, or § 775.084.

(6) A law enforcement officer may arrest, without a warrant, any person that he or she has probable cause to believe has violated this section.

(7) A person who, after having been sentenced for a violation of § 794.011, § 800.04, or § 847.0135(5) and prohibited from contacting the victim of the offense under § 921.244, willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks the victim commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in § 775.082, § 775.083, or § 775.084.

(8) The punishment imposed under this section shall run consecutive to any former sentence imposed for a conviction for any offense under § 794.011, § 800.04, or § 847.0135(5).

(9) The sentencing court shall consider, as a part of any sentence, issuing an order restraining the defendant from any contact with the victim, which may be valid for up to 10 years, as determined by the court. It is the intent of the legislature that the length of any such order be based upon the seriousness of the facts before the court, the probability of future violations by the perpetrator and the safety of the victim and his or her family members or individuals closely associated with the victim.

(10) The order may be issued by the court even if the defendant is sentenced to a state prison or a county jail or even if the imposition of the sentence is suspended and the defendant is placed on probation.

Consent is defined in Florida within the criminal statute related to sexual battery: Fla. Stat. § 794.011 Sexual battery.

(a) "Consent" means intelligent, knowing and voluntary consent and does not include coerced submission. "Consent" shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the alleged victim to offer physical resistance to the offender.

BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

Bystanders are typically individuals who are members of a community and are aware of some issue such as violence, or other high risk concern taking place. As a member of the Valencia College community, you may be faced with situations that cause you to ask yourself, "Should I do something to help?" You may also be asking yourself, "What can I do to make Valencia College a safer place to work and/or go to school?"

You have the power to make a decision to help keep our community safe. In addition to our campus security staff, each member of the Valencia College community has a responsibility to take action when they see something or hear of something happening.

What does action look like? It could be as simple as asking a friend if they are all right, or calling security to report an issue, or it could be a more direct approach like getting involved in separating two individuals who are fighting. You are not asked to put yourself in harm's way, however you are encouraged to help ensure the safety and well-being of all members of our community by being the one who decides to take action.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION POLICY

In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Act, the College is responsible for advising the campus community where to obtain information on registered sex offenders. Use the following website that is maintained by the state of Florida to access the registry: <https://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/sops/search.jsf>

CAMPUS SECURITY AUTHORITIES

Campus Security authorities are identified, based on the role or positions throughout the college and receive annual training for this function.

In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Act, Valencia College performs annual training based on federal mandates required for all colleges and universities.

DAILY CRIME LOG

Reported activity on or near campus locations is maintained within the security offices of Valencia College for sixty days.

CAMPUS SECURITY CRIME AND EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Advanced Manufacturing Training Center

Campus Security 407-582-4000
(After business hours) 407-582-1000

Police Jurisdiction: Osceola County Sheriff's Office
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 407-348-2222
Crime Prevention 407-348-1190

Downtown Campus

UCF Police in charge of security 407-823-5555 or
407-582-1000

Police Jurisdiction: Orlando Police
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 321-235-5300
Crime Prevention 407-246-2461

East Campus

Campus Security (24/7) 407-582-2000
(After business hours) 407-582-1000

Police Jurisdiction: Orange County Sheriff's Office
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 407-836-4357
Crime Prevention 407-249-4508

Heart of Florida NWCAT

Campus Security 407-582-3602

Police Jurisdiction: Orlando Police
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 321-235-5300
Crime Prevention 407-246-2461

Lake Nona Campus

Campus Security 407-582-7000 or
(After business hours) 407-582-4000
407-582-1000

Police Jurisdiction: Orlando Police
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 321-235-5300
Crime Prevention 407-246-2461

Osceola Campus

Campus Security (24/7) 407-582-4000
(After business hours) 407-582-1000

Police Jurisdiction: Kissimmee Police Department
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 407-846-3333
Crime Prevention 407-847-0176 Ext. 3123

Poinciana Campus

Campus Security 407-582-6500 or
407-582-4000
(After business hours) 407-582-1000

Police Jurisdiction: Osceola County Sheriff's Office
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 407-348-2222
Crime Prevention 407-348-1190

School of Public Safety

Campus Security 407-582-8000 or 2000
(After business hours) 407-582-1000

Police Jurisdiction: Orange County Sheriff's Office
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 407-836-4357
Crime Prevention 407-249-4508

West Campus

Campus Security (24/7) 407-582-1000

Police Jurisdiction: Orlando Police
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 321-235-5300
Crime Prevention 407-246-2461

Winter Park Campus

Campus Security 407-582-6000 or 2000
(After business hours) 407-582-1000

Police Jurisdiction: Winter Park Police Department
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 407-644-1313
Crime Prevention 407-599-3311

Resources

Orange County Fire and Rescue
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 407-644-1313
Crime Prevention 407-599-3311

Osceola County Fire and Rescue
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 407-396-6076
Crime Prevention 407-348-1190

Victim Service Center of Central Florida
407-497-6701 (Confidential 24-hour Sexual Assault Hotline)
victimservicecenter.org

Help Now of Osceola Inc.
407-847-8562 (24-hour crisis hotline for domestic abuse)
helpnowshelter.org

Florida Council Against Sexual Violence
888-956-7273
fcasv.org

BayCare Student Assistance Program
800-878-5470 (currently enrolled credit class students)
baycare.org

Harbor House of Central Florida
407-886-2856
harborhousefl.com
(24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline)

National Domestic Violence Hotline
800-799-7233
thehotline.org

RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network)
800-656-4673
rainn.org

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
988
988lifeline.org

VALENCIA COLLEGE CRIME STATISTICS

YEAR	2020		2021		2022	
CRIMINAL OFFENSES	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	3	0	2	0	2	0
Fondling	1	0	3	0	3	0
Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	1	0	1	0
Burglary-Building	5	0	1	0	1	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	1	0	1	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hate Crimes	0	0	0	0	0	0
VAWA Offenses	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP
Domestic Violence	0	0	1	0	1	0
Dating Violence	3	0	1	0	1	0
Stalking	4	0	2	0	4	0
VIOLATIONS	ARR	REF	ARR	REF	ARR	REF
Liquor Law	0	2	1	2	1	2
Drug Abuse	1	18	1	13	1	17
Weapons: Carrying, Possessing, Etc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	37		29		37	
Unfounded Crimes	2		0		0	

In 2020, there was a report of an on-campus sexual battery and a report of an on-campus aggravated assault. Both reports were investigated by law enforcement, and later determined that it was unfounded. Note: Unfounded crimes can only be unfounded through law enforcement; however, unfounded crimes must still be reported.

STATISTICS BY CAMPUS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023 - ONLY

CAMPUS	DTC		DO		WEST		EAST		WPK		OSC		LNC		PNC		AMTC		SPS		NCAT		TOTALS
CRIMINAL OFFENSES	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	
Murder/Non-Negligent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fondling	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Aggravated Assault	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Burglary-Building	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hate Crimes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VAWA OFFENSES	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	OC	PP	
Domestic Violence	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dating Violence	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Stalking	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
VIOLATIONS	ARR	REF	ARR	REF	ARR	REF	ARR	REF	ARR	REF	ARR	REF	ARR	REF	ARR	REF	ARR	REF	ARR	REF	ARR	REF	
Liquor Law	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Abuse	4	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Weapons: Carrying, Possessing,	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
TOTALS	22	13	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
Unfounded Crimes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes: OC - On-Campus
PP - Public Property
ARR - Arrest
REF - Referrals

Valencia College does not have any on-campus student housing.
Valencia College does not have any non-campus buildings or property.



POLICY: 6Hx28:2-01

Responsible Executive:

Vice President, Organizational Development & Human Resources

Policy Contact: AVP, Human Resources, Title IX Coordinator

Specific Authority: 1001.64, F.S.

Law Implemented: 1001.64, F.S.

Effective Date: 12-07-2023

Date of Last Policy Review: 12-07-2023

DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RELATED MISCONDUCT

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DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND RELATED MISCONDUCT

Policy Statement

I. NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION BASED ON PROTECTED STATUS

- A. It is the policy of the District Board of Trustees to provide equal opportunity for employment and educational opportunities to all applicants for employment, employees, applicants for admission, students, and others affiliated with the College, without regard to race, ethnicity, color, national origin, age, religion, disability, marital status, sex/gender, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and any other factor protected under applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws, rules and regulations (collectively referred to as "Protected Status").
- B. In addition, Valencia College ("Valencia" or "College") strives to be a community in which all members can learn and work in an atmosphere free from all forms of Harassment, including Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, Intimidation and/or Retaliation. This Policy prohibits all forms of Discrimination and Harassment based on Protected Status. It expressly, therefore, also prohibits Sexual Assault and Sexual Exploitation, which by definition involve conduct of a sexual nature and are prohibited forms of Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment. This Policy further prohibits Stalking and Interpersonal Violence, which need not be based on an individual's Protected Status. Finally, this Policy prohibits Complicity for knowingly assisting in an act that violates this Policy and Retaliation against an individual because of their good faith participation in the reporting, investigation, and/or adjudication of violations of this Policy. These behaviors are collectively referred to in this Policy as Prohibited Conduct.
- C. All members of the College community are responsible for conducting themselves in accordance with this Policy and other College policies and procedures. Valencia students and employees who violate this Policy may face discipline up to and including expulsion or termination.
- D. The College's protection of these statuses is grounded in federal, state, and local laws. The College encourages all community members to take reasonable and prudent actions to prevent or stop Prohibited Conduct. Taking action may include direct intervention when safe to do so, seeking assistance from a person in authority at the College, enlisting the assistance of friends, contacting law enforcement, or contacting Campus Safety and Security. Members of the College community who exercise this positive responsibility will be supported by the College and protected from Retaliation.
- E. The College has an obligation to make reasonable efforts to investigate and address known or suspected instances of Prohibited Conduct. To foster a climate that encourages prevention and reporting of Prohibited Conduct, the College will actively promote prevention efforts, educate the College community, respond to all reports promptly, provide Interim Protective Measures to address safety and emotional well-being, and act in a manner that recognizes the inherent dignity of the individuals involved.

II. SEXUAL OR GENDER BASED HARASSMENT, SEXUAL ASSAULT, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE, AND STALKING

- A. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states that:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to Discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.
- B. Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, and Retaliation, as defined in this Policy, are prohibited forms of Discrimination under Title IX, which covers all of the College's programs and activities. Like racial, religious, and national origin Harassment, Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence are also prohibited under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 760 et al, F.S., and other applicable laws.
- C. The College's prohibition against Interpersonal Violence (including domestic and dating violence) and Stalking is also governed by federal law because these forms of behavior are prohibited by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f) (the Clery Act) and Section 304 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. Such acts violate the essential dignity of our community member(s) and are contrary to our institutional values.

- D. The College, as an educational community, will promptly and appropriately respond to reports of Sexual Assault, Interpersonal Violence, and Stalking in order to eliminate the Harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects on any individual or the community. The College recognizes that Sexual Assault, Interpersonal Violence, and Stalking encompass a broad spectrum of conduct and will respond according to both the severity of the offense and the threat it poses to the campus community.

III. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

This Policy prohibits all forms of Discrimination and Harassment based on:

1. an individual's Protected Status, including (as defined in Appendix A and hyperlinked throughout), race, color, national origin, ethnicity, age, religion, disability, marital status, sex/gender, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy;
2. conduct motivated by anti-Semitic intent; and
3. any other factor protected under applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws, rules and regulations. In addition, this Policy prohibits related misconduct, including Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Interpersonal Violence, Stalking, Complicity, and Retaliation.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ABOUT DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

Consistent with the definitions provided in Appendix A, conduct that constitutes Discrimination and Harassment based on Protected Status:

1. May be blatant and involve an overt action, threat, or reprisal; or may be subtle and indirect, with a coercive aspect that is unstated but implied.
2. May or may not include intent to harm.
3. May not always be directed at a specific individual.
4. May be committed by anyone, regardless of Protected Status, position, or authority.
5. May be committed by a stranger, an acquaintance, or someone with whom the Reporting Party or Complainant has a current or previous relationship, including a romantic or sexual relationship.
6. May be committed by or against an individual or by or against an organization or group.
7. May occur in the classroom, in the workplace, or in any other setting.
8. May be a pattern of behavior or, if sufficiently severe, a one-time event.
9. May be committed in the presence of others, when the Complainant and Respondent are alone, or through remote communications, including email, text messages, or social media.
10. May take the form of threats, assault, property damage, economic abuse, and violence or threats of violence.
11. May include harassing or retaliatory behavior directed to a sexual or romantic partner, family member, or friend of the Complainant.

IV. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY OF THE POLICY

A. Individuals covered by this Policy

1. This Policy and associated procedures apply to the conduct of and protect College students, employees, interns, volunteers, and visitors. The non-Discrimination provisions also apply to contractors and other third parties under circumstances within the College's control.
2. When used in this Policy, Complainant refers to any individual who may have been the subject of any Prohibited Conduct by an individual or organization covered under the Policy, regardless of whether the Complainant makes a report or seeks action under the Policy. Respondent refers to any individual who

has been alleged to have violated the Policy.

B. Locations covered by this Policy

- A. This Policy applies to all Prohibited Conduct that occurs on campus (including centers and other property owned or leased by the College). It also applies to Prohibited Conduct that occurs off campus, including online or electronic conduct, if the conduct occurs in the context of an employment or education program or activity of the College, has continuing adverse effects on campus, or has continuing adverse effects in an off-campus employment or education program or activity. Examples of covered off-campus conduct include conduct that occurs at College-sponsored events and activities, during study abroad, or in internship programs. In determining whether the College has jurisdiction over off-campus conduct that is not part of an educational program or activity of the College, and in evaluating "continuing adverse effects," the AVP Human Resources /Title IX Coordinator will consider the seriousness of the alleged conduct, the risk of harm involved, whether both parties are members of the campus community, whether the off-campus conduct is part of a series of actions that occurred both on and off campus, the nature/scope of the continuing effect on campus, and whether the alleged conduct has created a hostile environment.
- B. Regardless of when, where, and with whom the conduct occurred, the College will offer reasonably available resources and assistance to individuals covered by this Policy who report or experience Prohibited Conduct. In cases of Sexual Assault, Interpersonal Violence, and Stalking, if the Respondent is not a member of the College community, the College will also assist the Complainant in identifying and contacting external law enforcement agencies and community resources.

V. DEFINITIONS

A complete glossary of terms may be found in Appendix A.

VI. ANNUAL REVIEW

This Policy is maintained by the Assistant Vice President, Human Resources /Title IX Coordinator. The Assistant Vice President, Human Resources /Title IX Coordinator and the Equal Opportunity Coordination Committee will review this Policy on at least an annual basis. The review will capture evolving legal requirements, evaluate the support and resources available to the parties, and assess the effectiveness of the resolution process (including the fairness of the process, the time needed to complete the process, and the sanctions and remedies imposed). The review will include the opportunity for individuals affected by the Policy to provide feedback and will incorporate an aggregate view of reports, resolution, and climate.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

The President or designee(s) shall adopt procedures to implement this Policy.

VIII. RELATED POLICIES

(There may be relevant information in other College policies. When that information conflicts with information in this Policy, this Policy will control.)

College Policy 6Hx28: 3E-05.2 Ethical Conduct and Performance

College Policy 6Hx28: 3E-08 Disciplinary Action

College Policy 6Hx28: 3E-09 Employee Dispute Resolution

College Policy 6Hx28: 3F-03 Suspension, Dismissal, Return to Annual Contract, or Non-Renewal of Contracts

College Policy 6Hx28: 7B-02 Student Records

College Policy 6Hx28: 8-03 Student Code of Conduct

College Policy 6Hx28: 10-09 Child Abuse Reporting

College Policy 6Hx28: 10-08 Drug-Free Campuses and Workplaces

Policy History

This Policy shall apply to all Reports alleging violation made on or after February 25, 2015, regardless of when the conduct is alleged to have occurred. This Policy supersedes any policies and procedures to the contrary.

Adopted 12-10-02; Amended 12-21-04; Amended 12-18-12; Amended 2-25-2015; Amended 12-07-2023; Formerly 1-12, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 10-6

Procedures (Adopted 2-25-15; Amended 8-26-21; Amended 1-14-22; Amended 8-30-2022; Amended 11-09-2022;
Amended 12-07-2023, Date of Last Procedure Review 12-07-2023)

These internal procedures provide mechanisms for students, faculty, and staff to receive a fair assessment, investigation and hearing on issues covered by Policy 6Hx28:02-01. Students/employees are not required to exhaust these procedures regarding any report alleging a violation before pursuing remedies outside the College with any applicable external enforcement agencies, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Florida Commission on Human Relations, the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Labor.

I. REPORTING PROHIBITED CONDUCT

- A. The College encourages all individuals to report Prohibited Conduct to the College and, if appropriate, to local law enforcement. Both College and criminal reports may be pursued simultaneously. College officials can assist a Reporting Party/Complainant in contacting local law enforcement, at the request of the Complainant. The Assistant Vice President, Human Resources (AVP, HR)/Title IX Coordinator, Equal Opportunity Office, and Deputy Title IX Coordinators are the officials at the College designated to institute corrective measures for allegations of Discrimination/Harassment based on a Protected Status.

Title IX Coordinator

Mr. Ryan Kane
1800 S. Kirkman Road
Orlando, FL 32811
Email: rkane8@valenciacollege.edu
Telephone: 407-582-3421

Office for Civil Rights
61 Forsyth Street S.W., Suite 19T10
Atlanta, GA 30303-8297
Email: OCR.Atlanta@ed.gov
Telephone: 404-974-9406 or (800) 421-3481
Facsimile: 404-974-9471

Discrimination and Harassment Based on Disability

The AVP, HR, serves as the employee responsible for coordinating the College's efforts with regard to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1970 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and their implementing regulations. Those wishing to report Discrimination or Harassment based on disability should contact the AVP, HR.

Section 504 Coordinator

Mr. Ryan Kane
1800 S. Kirkman Road
Orlando, FL 32811
Email: rkane8@valenciacollege.edu
Telephone: 407-582-3421

- B. The College provides reporting options through multiple contact points across campuses that are broadly accessible to all College community members. Although a report may come in through many sources, the College is committed to ensuring that all reports are referred to the Equal Opportunity Office. The Equal Opportunity Office, with consultation from the AVP, HR/Title IX Coordinator, will ensure consistent application of the Policy to all individuals and allow the College to respond promptly and appropriately to eliminate the Harassment, prevent its recurrence, and eliminate its effects. The College's AVP, HR oversees the investigation and resolution of all Prohibited Conduct covered by the Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Related Misconduct (the "Policy"). To report an incident involving Prohibited Conduct or discuss any aspect of the Policy, individuals are encouraged to contact the AVP, HR or, the College's Equal Opportunity Office. Contact and reporting information can be found at valenciacollege.edu/EO.
- C. The College recognizes that deciding whether to make a report and choosing how to proceed are personal decisions. At the time a report is made, a Complainant does not have to decide whether to request any course of action or know how they wish to proceed, if at all. Choosing to make a report and deciding how to proceed after making the report can be a process that unfolds over time. The College will make every effort to respect an individual's autonomy in making the determination as to how to proceed, and as described below, will balance agency and autonomy with the College's obligation to provide a safe and non-discriminatory learning and working environment. Resources are available to support a Complainant regardless of the course of action chosen. All individuals are encouraged to make a report, regardless of when, where, or with whom the incident occurred, and to seek any necessary assistance from campus or community resources.
- D. Upon receipt of a report of Prohibited Conduct, the College will contact the Reporting Party or Complainant to assess what action, if any, the Complainant is seeking, and to discuss available Interim Protective Measures as appropriate. Additional details may be required by the Complainant to permit the College to initiate formal processes as described in Procedures Sections II and III below.
- E. **Emergency and External Reporting Options for Reports of Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Interpersonal Violence, and Stalking**
- The College encourages all individuals to seek assistance from law enforcement and/or a medical provider (see list in Appendix D) as soon as possible after an incident of Title IX Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Interpersonal Violence, or Stalking. This is the best option to ensure preservation of evidence and to begin a timely investigation and remedial response. Contacting law enforcement does not automatically lead to the filing of criminal charges; however, at their discretion, law enforcement may take action without the continued participation of a Complainant. A Complainant may discuss available options with local authorities. The College will assist any Valencia community member in utilizing community resources to obtain a safe place and will provide transportation to the hospital or law enforcement agency, coordination with a law enforcement investigation, and information about on- and off-campus resources and options for resolution.
- F. **Reports Involving Minors**
- As may be required by law, any report involving abuse, abandonment, or neglect of a minor will be shared with the Department of Children and Family Services and law enforcement agencies.
- Florida law requires any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child (under 18 years of age) is abused, abandoned, or neglected, immediately to report such knowledge or suspicion to the Florida Department of Children and Family Services (DCF). In addition, Florida law prohibits any person from knowingly and willfully preventing another person from meeting their reporting obligation to DCF. Any person may contact local law enforcement authorities to make report of suspected child abuse at any time; however, this does not negate the statutory obligation to also report to DCF.

Any individual may make a direct report as follows:

1. If a child is in immediate danger, call 911, then contact DCF.
2. If there is no immediate danger, contact DCF's statewide hotline, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at 1-800-962-2873; or via facsimile (fax) at 1-800-914-0004; or via the web at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/abuse-hotline/>.

For additional information regarding reporting suspected child abuse or neglect, see College Policy 6Hx28: 10-09 Child Abuse Reporting.

G. Anonymity, Privacy, Confidentiality, and College Obligations

1. Anonymity

- a. The College will take all reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the report alleging a violation consistent with a request for anonymity or request not to pursue an investigation, but its ability to do so may be limited based on the nature of the request by the Complainant and the circumstances of the allegation(s). The College will assess any barriers to proceeding, including Retaliation, and will inform the Complainant that Title IX and this Policy prohibit Retaliation and the College will take strong responsive action to protect the Reporting Party and/or Complainant. In situations where the College is unable to take action consistent with the request of the complainant, the AVP, HR (or designee) will communicate with the Complainant about the College's chosen course of action, which may include the College choosing to pursue action against a Respondent on its own behalf. Alternatively, the College may take non-disciplinary measures to remedy and limit the effects of the misconduct and prevent any recurrence while protecting the identity of the Complainant.
- b. For any report under this Policy, every effort will be made to respect and safeguard the privacy interests of all individuals involved in a manner coinciding with the need for a careful assessment of the report and any necessary steps to eliminate the conduct, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects. Privacy and confidentiality have distinct meanings under this Policy.

2. Privacy

- a. The College will seek action consistent with the Complainant's request when possible. When a Complainant makes a report but requests that a name or other identifiable information not be shared with the Respondent or that no formal action be taken, the College will balance this request with its dual obligation to provide a safe and non-discriminatory environment for all Valencia community members and to remain true to principles of fundamental fairness that require notice and an opportunity to respond before action is taken against a Respondent. Note that a Complainant's request for privacy may impact the College's ability to proceed with the Title IX Sexual Misconduct procedures as described in detail below.
- b. Privacy generally means that information related to a report under this Policy will be shared only with those College employees who need to know in order to assist in the active review, investigation, or resolution of the report. While not bound by confidentiality, these individuals will be discreet and respect the privacy of all individuals involved in the process. If the decision is made to pursue disciplinary action against a Respondent, information related to the report will be shared with the Respondent. In certain circumstances, the final outcome of a formal process as described below may be shared with the Complainant. Information regarding a report may be shared with either party's parents or guardians as may be authorized under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

3. Confidentiality

- a. Confidentiality means that information shared with designated community professionals, referred to in this Policy as External Confidential Resources, will be disclosed only with the individual's express written permission. External Confidential Resources will not share information about an individual (including whether that individual has received services) with anyone, including the College, without the individual's express written permission, unless there is a continuing threat of serious violence to the patient/client or to others, or there is a legal obligation to reveal such information (e.g., suspected abuse or neglect of a minor).
- b. There are no College employees with legally-protected confidentiality. However, the College provides students and employees with access to External Confidential Resources (see Appendix E).

4. Reporting Obligations of Employees and Students

A report of Prohibited Conduct should be made to the AVP, HR/Title IX Coordinator or to the Equal Opportunity Office. The College recognizes, however, that an individual may choose to share information with other College employees, including those College employees designated as Responsible Employees. Information shared with a Responsible Employee must immediately be shared with the AVP, HR/Title IX Coordinator or a member of the Equal Opportunity Office.

a. Responsible Employees

- 01. Employees, including but not limited to, those with administrative or supervisory responsibilities on campus or who have been designated as Campus Security Authorities are considered Responsible Employees. Because the College has an obligation to make reasonable efforts to investigate and address instances of known or suspected Prohibited Conduct, Responsible Employees and Campus Security Authorities who have information or receive a report of Prohibited Conduct must immediately share with the AVP, HR/Title IX Coordinator or a member of the Equal Opportunity Office all known details of an incident. Information provided to Campus Security Authorities with respect to a Complainant will not result in identifying information being entered in the College's daily crime log or annual security report, or released in a timely warning or community notification. The list of Responsible Employees includes, for example, the President, Vice Presidents, Provosts, Deans, Directors, supervisors, Campus Security officers, Counselors, Discipline Coordinators, Department Chairpersons, faculty and staff who serve as advisors to student groups. A full list of Responsible Employees can be found in Appendix C.
- 02. Responsible Employees will safeguard an individual's privacy, but are required by the College to immediately share all details about a report of Prohibited Conduct (including the known details of the incident [e.g., date, time, location], the names of the parties involved, a brief description of the incident, and whether the incident has been previously reported) with the AVP, HR /Title IX Coordinator or a member of the Equal Opportunity Office in person, by telephone, electronically, or by email. Such reporting ensures timely support for all parties and enables an effective and consistent institutional response.
- 03. Responsible Employees do not have the authority in their role as a Responsible Employee to institute corrective measures for allegations of Discrimination or Harassment based on a Protected Status.

b. All Other Employees

All other employees are strongly encouraged to share any information about such conduct with the AVP, HR /Title IX Coordinator or a member of the Equal Opportunity

Office, in recognition of the understanding that centralized reporting is an important tool to address, end, and prevent Prohibited Conduct. All College employees are required to safeguard an individual's privacy.

c. Students

All students (who are not otherwise required to report as a Responsible Employee) are strongly encouraged to report any information, including reports or partial reports, to the AVP, HR/Title IX Coordinator or a member of the Equal Opportunity Office.

5. Timeliness of Report, Location of Incident

Reporting Parties and third-party witnesses are encouraged to report Title IX Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Stalking, Interpersonal Violence, Complicity, and Retaliation as soon as possible in order to maximize the College's ability to respond promptly and effectively. There is no time limit on reporting violations of this Policy. As described in Procedures Section II below, the College enrollment/affiliation status of a Complainant may impact the College's ability to proceed with a formal response to allegations of Title IX Sexual Misconduct.

If the Complainant is no longer an employee or student at the time of the report, the College may not be able to take disciplinary action against the Respondent, but it may still seek to provide support for a Complainant and taking steps to end the Prohibited Conduct, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects. If the Respondent is no longer an employee or student of Valencia College at the time of the report, the College's ability to take disciplinary action against the Respondent would be significantly limited. An incident does not have to occur on campus to be reported to the College. See "Locations Covered by This Policy."

II. PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT, TITLE IX SEXUAL ASSAULT, TITLE IX INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE, AND TITLE IX STAKING (TITLE IX SEXUAL MISCONDUCT)

The following procedures apply to reports received that allege Title IX Sexual Misconduct in accordance with the United States Department of Education's Regulations effective August 14, 2020, as clarified by OCR's Questions and Answers on the Title IX Regulations on Sexual Harassment issued July 2021. Any other allegations of Discrimination, Harassment or related misconduct based on a Protected Status are addressed through Procedures Section III below.

A. Scope of Title IX Misconduct

In order for alleged behavior to be addressed under these procedures, one or more of the following must be present, on the basis of sex that occurs in the College's educational program or activity within the United States and jeopardizes an individual's equal access to education:

1. Allegations of quid pro quo Harassment demonstrated by an employee;
2. Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it denies a person equal educational access;
3. Any instance of Title IX Misconduct (Title IX Sexual Harassment, including any instance of Title IX Sexual Assault, Title IX Interpersonal Violence or Title IX Stalking) as defined in this Policy.

Allegations of Title IX Misconduct that took place before August 14, 2020, will be reviewed under Procedures Section III below. Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Prohibited Conduct (Excluding Title IX Sexual Misconduct) as outlined in this Policy.

B. Reports of Title IX Misconduct

1. Any person may make a report of sex Discrimination, including Title IX Misconduct, whether or not the person reporting is the Complainant. However, a report is not a Formal Complaint unless the report is made by the Complainant and includes the required information as outlined in

Procedures Section E. Formal Complaints of Title IX Sexual Misconduct.

2. Reports of Title IX Misconduct must be made to the College's Title IX Coordinator or to a Deputy Title IX Coordinator. The College's Title IX Coordinator is the AVP, HR, who is located at the West Campus, Mail Code: DO-21, and can be reached via telephone at 407-582-3421 or via email at equalopportunity@valenciacollege.edu. Reports of Title IX Sexual Misconduct can be made in person, via mail, email, telephone, or via the online reporting tool found at valenciacollege.edu/EO or www.valenciacollege.edu/students/disputes

Formal Complaints must be made in writing as outlined in Procedures Section II. E. Formal Complaints of Title IX Sexual Misconduct.

C. Receipt of Reports of Title IX Misconduct

Upon receipt of a report, the College will respond promptly to Title IX Sexual Misconduct in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.

The Title IX Coordinator, or designee, will confidentially contact the Complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures (without the need to file a formal complaint), and provide information regarding how to file a formal complaint. In this outreach, the Title IX Coordinator, or designee, will offer to the Complainant an opportunity to speak in order to provide further information regarding the College's process and to discuss available supportive measures.

D. Supportive Measures

1. Supportive measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services, offered as appropriate, and reasonably available, free of charge, and offered to a Complainant or Respondent before or after a formal complaint of Title IX Sexual Misconduct has been filed. These supportive measures offered to a Complainant or Respondent will remain confidential to the extent that maintaining confidentiality would not impair the College's ability to provide these measures.
2. Upon receipt of a complaint of alleged Title IX Sexual Misconduct, the Title IX Coordinator, or designee, will review the information and determine what immediate supportive measures may be appropriate, based on the reported information.
3. Supportive measures may include, and are not limited to: Interim Protective Measures as described in Procedures Section III. B. below, referrals to on-campus resources to the extent available, and/or off-campus confidential resources, academic or other modifications to allow a Complainant to continue with their educational or work experience while addressing the immediate effects of the reported alleged misconduct.
4. When the report of Title IX Sexual Misconduct poses a substantial and immediate threat of harm to the safety or well-being of an individual, members of the campus community, or the performance of normal College functions, the Title IX Coordinator (or designee) may place a student or a registered student organization on interim suspension or impose leave, or place an employee on administrative leave in accordance with College Policy 6Hx28: 3D-02 Leaves of Absence. Pending resolution of the report, the individual or organization may be denied access to campus, campus facilities, and/or all other College activities or privileges for which they might otherwise be eligible, as the College determines appropriate action. When interim suspension or leave is imposed, the College will make reasonable efforts to complete the investigation and resolution within an expedited time frame, in accordance with the timeframes established by the United States Department of Education regulations.
5. In circumstances where the College issues an interim suspension to a student Respondent based on the alleged behavior, this interim suspension must occur after an individualized risk and safety analysis performed by the College which resulted in a determination of an actual or perceived immediate threat to the physical health or safety to a member or members of the College community.

- a. The student Respondent will be notified of this action in writing and given an opportunity to immediately challenge the College's decision within five (5) College Business Days of notice of interim suspension. The interim suspension will remain in effect pending the challenge, which may be submitted in writing to the Vice President, Student Affairs.
- b. Upon receipt of a written challenge of the interim suspension, the Vice President, Student Affairs (or designee) will review the individualized risk and safety analysis along with all other relevant information regarding the issuance of the interim suspension and will communicate their decision to the Respondent within five (5) College Business Days of receipt of the written challenge. The decision of the Vice President, Student Affairs (or designee) is final.

E. Formal Complaints of Title IX Sexual Misconduct

1. In circumstances when a Complainant desires the College to take action under this Policy, they must submit a formal, written complaint. Reporting an allegation to a member of the College is not sufficient to be considered a formal complaint. The formal complaint is a document submitted by the Complainant alleging Title IX Sexual Misconduct under this Policy and indicates a request by the Complainant that the College investigate the allegations under this Policy.
2. The only individual able to submit a Formal Complaint is a Complainant. In certain circumstances, the Title IX Coordinator may submit and sign a formal complaint in the absence of a Complainant. Upon doing so, the Title IX Coordinator does not become a Complainant under this Policy.
3. In order to file a formal complaint, the Complainant must:
 - a. Submit a Formal Complaint Form, found at valenciacollege.edu/EO or by mail or via email to equalopportunity@valenciacollege.edu, or in person to the Title IX Coordinator; and
 - b. Include as part of their formal complaint, a signature or digital signature indicating the Complainant as the individual submitting the complaint; and
 - c. Be participating in or attempt to participate in an Educational Program or Activity at Valencia College.

F. Dismissal of Formal Complaints

1. If the allegations in a formal complaint do not meet the definition under Title IX Sexual Misconduct under this Policy, or did not occur within the College's Educational Program or Activity as defined in this Policy, the College must dismiss the allegations under these procedures. Depending on the reported allegations, the College may review the allegations under Procedures Section III below or other relevant College policies.
2. The College may dismiss a formal complaint of Title IX Sexual Misconduct if the Complainant informs the Title IX Coordinator in writing of their request to withdraw their formal complaint or the allegations against the Respondent.
3. The College may dismiss a formal complaint if the Respondent is no longer enrolled or employed at the College or if specific circumstances exist preventing the College from gathering sufficient information to make a determination (including a lack of information regarding the identity(ies) of the Complainant and/or Respondent). The College may pursue action under other policies arising out of the facts or circumstances in a Formal Complaint subsequent to this dismissal, provided the action is not pursued for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege under Title IX.
4. The College will inform both the Complainant and Respondent notice of the dismissal and reason for the dismissal in writing.

5. A Complainant may appeal the decision to dismiss review of the allegations under these procedures through the process outlined in Procedures Section II. K. Appeal Process, below.

G. Investigating Formal Complaints

1. All parties who are part of the review or decision making under these procedures will be free from any conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents.
2. After receipt of a formal complaint and determination to proceed under the Title IX procedures based on the information provided in the formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator (or designee) will provide written notice to the Complainant and Respondent. This notice will be provided before any initial interview is conducted with the Respondent to include, and not limited to, the following:
 - a. Indication that the College's process does not discriminate against a Complainant or Respondent on the basis of sex;
 - b. A link to this Policy which outlines the grievance process; and the policies that outline the sanctioning process for students and employees: College Policy 6Hx28: 8-03 Student Code of Conduct and College Policy 6Hx28: 3E-08 Disciplinary Action, respectively;
 - c. Information regarding the opportunity for informal resolution;
 - d. Key details of allegations;
 - e. A statement that the Respondent is not presumed responsible until a final determination is made under the College's process;
 - f. Information regarding the role of a Title IX Advisor in the process, and the College's ability to provide a Title IX Advisor to a Complainant or Respondent at their request;
 - g. An opportunity to review evidence as part of the investigation and hearing process; and
 - h. Information prohibiting false information as part of the College's review.
3. Should the College decide to investigate any additional complaints not referenced in the notification described in Procedures Section II. G. 2. above, the College will notify the Complainant and Respondent in writing of additional allegations under investigation.
4. The College will provide advance written notice to Complainants and Respondents in advance of any subsequent interviews, meetings, or requests for meetings.
5. Information considered as part of this investigation will not include information protected under a legally recognized privilege unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.
6. Both the Complainant and Respondent will have an equal opportunity to provide information for review by the investigator which may include inculpatory and exculpatory evidence as well as information from witnesses (including expert witnesses).
7. Both the Complainant and Respondent may select a Title IX Advisor to participate as outlined in Title IX Misconduct Procedures Section II, investigation and hearing:
 - a. The Title IX Advisor may be an attorney;
 - b. The College will provide a Title IX Advisor upon request to a Complainant or Respondent, at no cost. The Title IX Advisor provided to the requesting individual may, but is not required to be an attorney;
 - c. Upon selecting a Title IX Advisor, the Complainant or Respondent must notify the Title IX Coordinator of the Title IX Advisor's name, telephone number, and email address.;

- d. Title IX Advisors provided by the College will receive appropriate, required training as outlined by the Department of Education. Title IX Advisors selected by Complainants or Respondents independent of those provided by the College will not be provided training by the College on matters related to Title IX as outlined by the Department of education but are nonetheless expected to participate in the College's process as outlined in these procedures.;
- e. The Title IX Advisor will not participate or represent the Complainant or Respondent with the exception of cross examination of the opposing party during the Title IX Hearing. In order to adequately provide cross examination support, the Title IX Advisor must be selected and their name provided to the Title IX Coordinator no less than ten (10) College Business Days prior to a Title IX Hearing. Should either party not have identified a Title IX Advisor by ten (10) College Business Days prior to the scheduled Title IX Hearing, the College will appoint a Title IX Advisor to be assigned.;
- f. Should either party select a different Title IX Advisor at any time during these procedures, the party must notify the Title IX Coordinator in writing and provide the new Title IX Advisor's name, telephone number, and email address.
8. The College will keep private the identity of the Complainant, Respondent, and witnesses, except as may be permitted under FERPA, as required by law, or as necessary to carry out a review of this process.
9. Formal complaints by multiple Complainants and/or against multiple Respondents arising from the same set of facts or circumstances may be consolidated into one formal investigation process, whereas the College will identify individual Complainants and/or Respondents as appropriate.
10. The College will make attempts to gather all evidence directly related to the allegations as part of a formal complaint within twenty (20) College Business Days.

H. Review of Information

1. Upon review of all information gathered, and prior to the finalization of an investigation report, the Title IX Coordinator (or designee) will provide via electronic or hard copy format, to the Complainant and Respondent and their respective Title IX Advisors, all evidence directly related to the allegations with at least ten (10) College Business Days to inspect, review, and respond.
2. After the ten (10) College business day review period has passed, and upon review of any written response from the Complainant and/or Respondent, the investigator will provide a final investigation report to the Complainant and Respondent and their respective Title IX Advisors summarizing all relevant evidence. This investigation report will be provided to both the Complainant and Respondent and each will be given ten (10) College Business Days to provide a written response to the investigator.
3. After the ten (10) College Business Days have passed for both the Complainant and Respondent to have reviewed the final investigation report, the investigator will forward the final investigation report to the Title IX Coordinator.

I. Title IX Hearing Process

1. Upon receipt of the final investigation report, the Title IX Coordinator will notify both the Complainant and Respondent in writing, of the date, time, and location (including a virtual location) of a hearing. Both parties will have no less than ten (10) College Business Days to prepare for the Title IX Hearing.
2. Either the Complainant or Respondent can request in writing that they participate virtually in the Title IX Hearing. Requests must be submitted to the Title IX Coordinator no less than five (5) College Business Days prior to the scheduled date of the Title IX Hearing. If requested, the

College will make arrangements for either or both parties to participate in a virtual setting, while still allowing for all parties to hear and physically view all participants, including the Title IX Hearing Officer.

3. The purpose of the hearing is for both the Complainant and Respondent to provide evidence to the Title IX Hearing Officer who will determine, based on a preponderance of evidence standard, if the Respondent has violated Title IX Sexual Misconduct as defined in this Policy.
4. The Title IX Hearing Officer will maintain control of the Title IX Hearing and all parties involved are expected to adhere to instructions given by the Title IX Hearing Officer as well as engage in civil behavior throughout the hearing process, in accordance with College policies. Any party who disrupts the hearing may be subject to dismissal from the hearing by the Title IX Hearing Officer, and the Title IX Hearing may continue without the participation of the dismissed party. To the extent permitted by Florida law, the Title IX Hearing will be audio recorded and those conducted via virtual participation by any party are also subject to video recording.
5. Both parties will be afforded an opportunity to present evidence to the Title IX Hearing Officer in verbal statements as well as to address any relevant documentary evidence already provided.
6. The Title IX Hearing Officer may ask relevant questions of the Complainant, Respondent, or witness(es) in an effort to gather relevant evidence to make a determination of responsibility.
7. Relevant cross-examination by Title IX Advisors, and other questions of a Complainant, Respondent, and/or any witness by the Title IX Hearing Officer may be asked orally and in real-time. Before a cross-examination question is answered, the Title IX Hearing Officer will first determine whether the question is relevant and will explain to the Title IX Advisor any decision to exclude a question as not relevant. Questions referencing a Complainant's previous sexual behavior will be prohibited, unless deemed by the Title IX Hearing Officer to be relevant in determining that someone other than the Respondent committed the alleged misconduct or is relevant to indicate consent.
8. No inferences may be made by a Title IX Hearing Officer regarding responsibility based on an individual's absence or lack of participation in the Title IX Hearing.

J. Determination of Responsibility

1. At the conclusion of the Title IX Hearing, the Title IX Hearing Officer will make a determination of responsibility and will notify in writing to the Complainant and Respondent simultaneously as well as the Title IX Coordinator within ten (10) College Business Days.
2. The Title IX Hearing Officer may seek and consider impact statements from the parties during the hearing or at another point prior to providing the written determination of responsibility. The Title IX Hearing Officer will communicate an appropriate sanction, when applicable.
3. The written Determination of Responsibility will include the following:
 - a. Determination of responsibility under this Policy
 - b. Rationale for decision
 - c. Facts and relevant evidence and information used to make this determination of responsibility
 - d. Disciplinary action/sanction taken as a result of a finding of responsibility
 - i. Disciplinary action taken against a student Respondent may include, and is not limited to, expulsion, suspension, probation, and/or any other disciplinary action listed in College Policy 6Hx28: 8-03 Student Code of Conduct. The decision of discipline imposed on a student Respondent will be up to the discretion of the Dean of Counseling, Advising, and Holistic Student Support,

who will, with consultation from the Title IX Hearing Officer and Title IX Coordinator, and review of all of relevant information, communicate the disciplinary action to the Title IX Hearing Officer for dissemination to all appropriate parties. The procedures listed in Procedures Section II.K, below are the sole process for appeal of responsibility and sanctions for Title IX Sexual Misconduct.

- ii. Disciplinary action taken against an employee Respondent may include, and is not limited to, dismissal, written reprimand, and/or any other disciplinary action listed in College Policy 6Hx28: 3E-08 Disciplinary Action. The decision of discipline imposed on an employee Respondent will be up to the discretion of the Respondent's supervisor, or next level supervisor, who will, with consultation from the Title IX Hearing Officer and Title IX Coordinator, and review of all relevant evidence, communicate the disciplinary action to the Title IX Hearing Officer for dissemination to all appropriate parties. The procedures listed in Procedures Section II. K below are the sole process for appeal of responsibility and sanctions for Title IX Sexual Misconduct, except to the extent otherwise required by law.

K. Appeal Process

1. Following the determination of responsibility, the Complainant and/or Respondent may submit an appeal of the determination to the Title IX Coordinator. The appeal shall consist of a plain, concise, and complete written statement outlining the grounds for the appeal.

The limited grounds for appeal are as follows:

- a. New information that could affect the finding of the Title IX Hearing Officer and that was not reasonably available through the exercise of due diligence at the time of the investigation or hearing; and/or
 - b. Material deviation(s) from written procedures that significantly affected the outcome; and/or
 - c. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or Title IX Hearing Officer had a conflict of interest or bias for or against one of the parties that affected the outcome of the proceeding; or
 - d. The disciplinary action/sanction(s) imposed was disproportionate to the conduct.
2. Mere dissatisfaction or disagreement with the finding of cause or disciplinary action is not a valid basis for appeal.
 3. The issues raised on appeal shall be limited to those issues raised during the investigation and/or Title IX Hearing. Any issues not raised during the investigation and/or Title IX Hearing or new issues that could have been raised, but were not, shall be precluded on appeal. To secure an appeal, the Complainant or Respondent must file a written request to the Title IX Coordinator no later than ten (10) College Business Days from the date from the receipt of the written notice of determination of responsibility.
 4. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Title IX Coordinator, or designee, will notify the parties involved, including the Complaint and Respondent and will provide a copy of the appeal along with all information used to make the decision of responsibility to the designated Appeal Officer, who is typically the Vice President for Organizational Development and , when the Respondent is an employee, or the Vice President for Student Affairs, when the Respondent is a student.
 5. Upon receipt of the appeal and corresponding information, the Appeal Officer will review the information and provide an opportunity in writing for the party (either the Complainant or Respondent) who has not submitted an appeal, to provide any additional information regarding

the finding of responsibility.

6. The Appeal Officer shall have access to the entire record of the investigation, hearing, and impact statements submitted by the parties. The Appeal Officer will not make new findings of fact, revisit any credibility determinations, or determine whether a policy violation has occurred. If the Appeal Officer receives new evidence (not reasonably available through the exercise of due diligence at the time of the investigation or hearing) pursuant to their efforts to clarify facts, that they believe may change the outcome, the Appeal Officer shall ask the Title IX Hearing Officer to reconsider the findings in light of the new evidence. In these circumstances, The Title IX Coordinator will initiate further investigation as needed, and shall inform the Appeal Officer of any adjustments made to the final decision by the Title IX Hearing Officer. The Appeal Officer shall apprise the Complainant and Respondent of the new information and a reconsidered finding so that each has an opportunity to review and refute any such additional evidence before the Appeal Officer renders a final decision.
7. The Appeal Officer shall, in most cases, communicate the results of the appeal to the Complainant and Respondent within twenty (20) College Business Days from the date of submission of all appeal documents by both parties. The Appeal Officer's written decision shall be provided to the Complainant and Respondent, the Title IX Coordinator, and those individuals who received a copy of the written Determination of Responsibility. The Appeal Officer may accept or reject, whole or in part the finding of responsibility and any sanction issued. The decision made by the Hearing Officer made by the Appeal Officer shall be final. If a sanction has been challenged as disproportionate, the Appeal Officer may affirm the finding of responsibility while recommending that the sanction be reconsidered based on the circumstances of the particular case. The Appeal Officer may ask the Title IX Hearing Officer to reconsider the sanction, and the Title IX Hearing Officer may modify the sanction without disturbing the finding of responsibility or leave the sanction in place. The determination of the Title IX Hearing Officer in this instance shall be final.

L. Informal Resolution Option

1. At any time prior to reaching a determination of responsibility against a Respondent, the Complainant or Respondent may request that the College proceed with an informal resolution option as an alternative to a Title IX Hearing. Note that this option will not be available for allegations involving Title IX Sexual Misconduct where a student is the Complainant and the Respondent is an employee.
2. Either the Complainant or Respondent may notify the Title IX Coordinator in writing of their request and their desired outcome. Upon receipt of this request, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the other party (Complainant or Respondent) of the request in writing, and provide them with the opportunity to respond. Should both parties be in agreement, the Title IX Coordinator, may, at their discretion, initiate an Informal Resolution Option. It is the sole responsibility of the Title IX Coordinator to make the determination to proceed with an Informal Resolution Option or proceed with any investigation and/or Title IX Hearing.
3. In circumstances where an Informal Resolution Option is pursued, both parties will receive a written notice listing the allegations against the Respondent, the requirements of the Informal Resolution Option including the circumstances under which the parties may, at either of their request, resume a formal complaint arising from the same set of allegations and that either party may, at any time, notify the Title IX Coordinator in writing of their withdrawal from the Informal Resolution Option, which would therefore initiate the formal process as described in these procedures. Both parties will also be notified of the potential outcomes of this process and information regarding record retention and disclosure of records.

M. Completion of the Title IX Misconduct Process

1. An investigation shall be considered complete and the investigation shall be closed after the period has passed within which the Complainant and Respondent may submit an appeal, if none has been submitted, or following a final decision by the Appeal Officer, if an appeal has been

submitted.

2. Circumstances may arise that require the extension of time frames for good cause. Such circumstances may include the complexity of the allegations, the number of witnesses involved, the availability of the parties or witnesses, the effect of a concurrent criminal investigation, any intervening College break or planned leave (vacation/sick/personal) of involved parties, or other unforeseen circumstances.

N. Obligation to Provide Truthful Information

1. The College takes the validity of information seriously because a report of Title IX Sexual Misconduct may have severe consequences. Any individual who makes a report or provides information as part of an investigation or hearing process that is later found to have been intentionally false or made maliciously without regard for truth may be subject to disciplinary action and may also violate state criminal statutes and civil defamation laws. These provisions do not apply to reports or responses made in good faith, even if the facts alleged in the report or the response are not substantiated by an investigation. Nothing in this section prohibits the College from pursuing remedies under other policies arising out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex Discrimination provided the remedies are not pursued for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege under Title IX.

III. PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF PROHIBITED CONDUCT (EXCLUDING TITLE IX SEXUAL MISCONDUCT)

A. Initial Assessment

In order to proceed with an initial assessment, a report of Prohibited Conduct (excluding Title IX Sexual Misconduct) under this Policy must be submitted in writing to the AVP, HR, or to a member of the Equal Opportunity Office.

- a. A report may be submitted by any Reporting Party, but must identify a Complainant and Respondent, as well as a request for action to be taken by the College. Reports may be submitted via in writing or via email to the AVP, HR, or a member of the Equal Opportunity team, or through an online submission found at www.valenciacollege.edu/EO.
- b. Reports made to Responsible Employees are not necessarily sufficient to initiate an Initial Assessment.
- c. Absent the necessary information or without a report being submitted as outlined above, the College may offer interim protective measures; however, the College may not be able to address the allegations through these established procedures.

Upon receipt of a report of Prohibited Conduct (excluding Title IX Sexual Misconduct), the College will review the allegations and information provided to make an initial assessment to determine if the alleged conduct could form a basis of a violation of this Policy, would be subject to another College Policy, or would not be applicable under College policies. Reasons that an Initial Assessment may lead to a determination that the conduct could not form the basis of a violation of this Policy include, and are not limited to:

1. A determination that the alleged conduct could not have occurred;
2. A lack of continued participation, information, or communication from the Complainant limiting the College's ability to effectively assess the allegations.
3. A determination that the impact on the Complainant could not have substantially interfered with their educational or work environment;
4. A determination that the Complainant is not a member of a protected class covered by this Policy or that the Complainant has not identified an applicable Protected Status;
5. A determination that the College lacks jurisdiction over the Complainant, the Respondent, and/or

the alleged conduct;

6. An admission by the Complainant that the alleged conduct did not occur;
7. A determination that, even if the alleged conduct occurred, it could not form the basis for a finding of Discrimination or Harassment under this Policy; or
8. A determination by and in the discretion of the AVP, HR, that a full investigation would have a negative impact on the health, safety, welfare, or well-being of the Complainant, Respondent, any witness, or the College community as a whole.

In no event will an investigation be avoided solely due to the personal or professional interests of the parties, for purposes of delay, or to prejudice the rights of any individual.

The AVP, HR, will provide written approval of the determination made for each Initial Assessment. If the allegations would more appropriately be addressed through another policy, the College will notify the Complainant in writing of the result of the Initial Assessment and provide information as to alternative College resources to appropriately address the allegation. The AVP, HR, retains the discretion to open separate investigations into potential patterns of behavior that may, taken together, constitute violations of this Policy.

B. Interim Protective Measures

1. When a report is received, the AVP, HR (or designee) , in consultation with the Equal Opportunity Office and other administrators as needed, will provide reasonable and appropriate Interim Protective Measures when necessary to protect the safety of the parties or witnesses involved. Interim Protective Measures are temporary actions taken by the College to ensure equal access to its education programs and activities and foster a stable and safe environment during the process of reporting, investigation, and/or resolution. These measures are designed, as appropriate, to restore or preserve access to education without unreasonably burdening any party and are intended to be non-disciplinary and non-punitive. As determined to be appropriate in the sole discretion of the College, Interim Protective Measures may be applied or modified at any time—for the Complainant, the Respondent, and other involved individuals as appropriate to ensure their safety and well-being. Interim Protective Measures may be requested by the parties or imposed by the College at any time, regardless of whether any particular course of action is sought by the Complainant. Interim measures will be kept private to the extent practical.
2. Interim Protective Measures are initiated based on information gathered during a report and generally are not intended to be permanent resolutions; hence, they may be amended, withdrawn, or made permanent resulting from a remedies-based resolution or investigation. The AVP, HR (or designee) will maintain consistent contact with the parties so that safety, emotional, and physical well-being concerns can be reasonably addressed.
3. In the event that a Complainant does not wish to proceed with an investigation or remedies based resolution under these procedures, the AVP, HR, will determine, based on the available information, including information learned in the Initial Assessment or as part of the investigation, whether the investigation should nonetheless be initiated or if already begun, continue. In making this determination, the College will consider, in light of the facts and circumstances of the reported matter and among other factors,
 - a. The seriousness and impact of the conduct;
 - b. The respective ages and roles of the Complainant and Respondent;
 - c. Whether the Complainant is a minor under the age of 18;
 - d. Whether the Respondent has admitted to the conduct;
 - e. Whether the Respondent has a pattern of similar conduct, including whether there have been other reports of Harassment or misconduct against the Respondent;

- f. The extent of prior remedial methods taken with the Respondent;
 - g. The rights of the Respondent to receive notice and relevant information before disciplinary action is sought;
 - h. If circumstances suggest there is an increased risk of the Respondent committing additional acts of Prohibited Conduct;
 - i. Whether the Respondent has a history of arrests or records indicating a history of Prohibited Conduct;
 - j. Whether the Respondent threatened further Prohibited Conduct against the Complainant or others;
 - k. Whether the Prohibited Conduct was committed by multiple individuals;
 - l. If the circumstances suggest there is an increased risk of future Prohibited Conduct under similar circumstances;
 - m. Whether the Prohibited Conduct was perpetrated with a weapon;
 - n. The existence of independent evidence;
 - o. Whether the College possesses other means to obtain relevant evidence (e.g., security cameras or personnel, physical evidence);
 - p. Whether the Complainant wants to participate in an investigation or disciplinary hearing; and
 - q. Whether the Complainant has requested anonymity.
4. All individuals are encouraged to report concerns about the adequacy of the Interim Protective Measures or failure of another individual to abide by any Interim Protective Measure to the AVP, HR. Violations of Interim Protective Measures will be addressed under this Policy, or through other applicable College policies. The AVP, HR, will take appropriate, responsive, and prompt action to enforce Interim Protective Measures and/or to respond to Retaliation by another party or witness. The range of Interim Protective Measures includes and is not limited to:
- a. Assistance in setting up initial appointments off campus.
 - b. Imposition of a trespass warning issued by local law enforcement, in partnership with Safety & Security and/or a college-issued "No-Contact Order."
 - c. Rescheduling of exams and assignments.
 - d. Providing alternative course completion options.
 - e. Change in class schedule, including the ability to drop a course without penalty or to transfer sections.
 - f. Change in work schedule, work location, or job assignment.
 - g. Limiting or prohibiting access to College facilities or activities pending resolution of the matter.
 - h. Leave of absence (voluntary or involuntary).
 - i. Providing an escort to ensure safe movement between classes and activities.
 - j. Providing academic support services, such as tutoring.
 - k. College-imposed leave, suspension, or separation for the Respondent.
 - l. Any other appropriate measure which can be tailored to the involved individuals to achieve the goals of this Policy.

5. When the report of Prohibited Conduct poses a substantial and immediate threat of harm to the safety or well-being of an individual, members of the campus community, or the performance of normal College functions, the AVP, HR, may place a student or student organization on interim suspension or impose leave or place an employee on administrative leave. Pending resolution of the report, the individual or organization may be denied access to campus, campus facilities, and/or all other College activities or privileges for which they might otherwise be eligible, as the College determines appropriate. When interim suspension or leave is imposed, the College will make reasonable efforts to complete the investigation and resolution within an expedited time frame.

C. Determination to Proceed to Remedies Based Response or Investigation

1. At the conclusion of the Initial Assessment, the AVP, HR, in coordination with the Equal Opportunity Office (as appropriate), will determine the appropriate manner of resolution, which may include remedies-based resolution, the initiation of an investigation to determine if disciplinary action is warranted, or no further action under this Policy based on the information gathered as part of the Initial Assessment. Any individual wishing to explore alternative resolution methods is encouraged to discuss these options with the AVP, HR, or a staff member in Equal Opportunity. The College will consider the interest of the Complainant and the Complainant's expressed preference for manner of resolution. When possible and as warranted by an assessment of the facts and circumstances, the College will seek action consistent with the Complainant's request. Participation in remedies-based resolution by the Complainant and Respondent is voluntary, and a Complainant or Respondent may request to end remedies-based resolution and initiate, and/or continue with, an investigation at any time. Requests must be made in writing to the AVP, HR, who has the discretion to determine which method of resolution is appropriate.
2. Following the Initial Assessment, the College may take no further action under this Policy, or may seek either a voluntary remedies-based resolution that does not involve disciplinary action against a Respondent, or a resolution by initiating an investigation, which may result in disciplinary action against a Respondent. The goal of the investigation is to gather all relevant facts and determine if there is sufficient information to suggest a violation of this Policy and therefore to refer the report for disciplinary action. Each resolution process is guided by the same principles of fairness and respect for all parties. All individuals who violate these standards will be held accountable for their behavior through a process that protects the rights of both the Complainant and the Respondent. Resources are available for both students and employees, whether as Complainants or Respondents, to provide support and guidance throughout the investigation and resolution of the report.

a. Remedies-Based Resolution

01. Remedies-based resolution is a voluntary approach designed to address possible Discrimination or Harassment without taking disciplinary action against a Respondent. When the Initial Assessment concludes that remedies-based resolution may be appropriate, the College will take immediate and corrective action through the imposition of individual and community remedies designed to maximize the Complainant's access to educational, extracurricular, and employment activities at the College and to address a possible hostile environment without requiring a finding of or admission of responsibility on the part of the Respondent. Other potential remedies include targeted or broad-based educational programming or training, supported direct confrontation of the Respondent and/or indirect action by the AVP, HR (or designee), or the College. Depending on the form of remedies-based resolution used, it may be possible for a Complainant to maintain anonymity from the Respondent.

02. The College may offer mediation for appropriate cases, but will not compel a Complainant to engage in mediation, to directly confront the Respondent, or to participate in any particular form of remedies-based resolution. The decision to pursue remedies-based resolution will be made when the College has sufficient information about the nature and scope of the conduct, which may occur at any time.
03. The AVP, HR, will maintain records of all reports and conduct referred for remedies-based resolution, which will typically be completed within twenty-five (25) College Business Days of the conclusion of the initial assessment.

b. Investigation

01. When the Initial Assessment concludes that reported conduct may have violated this Policy, that disciplinary action may be appropriate, and the conduct is not being addressed through a remedies-based resolution the College will initiate an investigation. The College will designate an investigator(s) who may be an employee of the College or an external investigator engaged to assist the College in its fact-gathering. Any investigator(s) chosen to conduct the investigation must be impartial and free of any actual conflict of interest. The College may use a team of two or more investigators, when appropriate.
02. It is the responsibility of the College, not of the parties, to gather relevant information, to the extent reasonably possible. The investigator(s) will conduct the investigation in a manner appropriate in light of the circumstances of the case. The investigator(s) will coordinate the gathering of information from the Complainant, the Respondent, and any other individuals who may have information relevant to the determination. The investigator(s) will also gather any available physical evidence, including documents, communications between the parties, and other electronic records as appropriate. The Complainant and Respondent will have an equal opportunity to be heard, to submit information, and to identify witnesses who may have relevant information. Witnesses must have observed the acts in question or have information relevant to the incident and cannot participate solely to speak about an individual's character.
03. Medical and counseling records of a Complainant or Respondent are privileged confidential records that individuals are not required to disclose. However, these records may contain information that a party may voluntarily choose to share with the investigator(s). Any records provided by a party become part of the file and are available for review by the opposing party.
04. In gathering the facts, the investigator(s) may consider other allegations of, or findings of responsibility for, similar conduct by the Respondent to the extent such information is relevant and available. Such information may prove to be relevant.
05. The investigation is designed to provide a fair and reliable gathering of the facts. The investigation will be thorough, impartial, and fair, and all individuals will be treated with appropriate sensitivity and respect. The investigation will be conducted in a manner that is respectful of individual privacy concerns. A Complainant or Respondent may have an Advisor accompany them to any meeting they attend related to the investigation of Prohibited Conduct in accordance with this Policy and procedures.

- 06. The College will seek to complete the fact-gathering in an investigation within twenty (20) College Business Days of completion of an initial assessment, but this time frame may be extended for good cause.
- 07. Information gathered during the review of investigation will be used to evaluate the responsibility of the Respondent, provide for the safety of the Complainant and the College campus community, and take appropriate measures designed to end the misconduct, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects.

- 3. How the College intends to proceed, i.e., remedies-based resolution or investigation, will be communicated to the Complainant in writing. Depending on the circumstances and requested resolution, the Respondent may or may not be notified of the report or resolution. A Respondent will be notified when the College seeks action that would impact a Respondent, such as Interim Protective Measures that restrict the Respondent's movement on campus, the initiation of an investigation, or the request to involve the Responding Party in a voluntary, remedies-based resolution.

D. Review of Investigation Report

At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator(s) will prepare a written investigation report that summarizes the information gathered and synthesizes the contested and uncontested issues of fact and any supporting information or accounts. In preparing the investigation report, the investigator(s) will review all facts gathered to determine whether the information is relevant and material to the determination of responsibility given the nature of the allegation.

1. Resolution of the Investigation Report

- a. Before the investigator's report is finalized, the Complainant and Respondent will be given the opportunity to review all information that will be used in adjudication of the matter. This includes any relevant information gathered including, but not limited to documents and written statements of the parties or witnesses. The Complainant and Respondent may submit any additional comment or information, including identifying any additional witnesses, to the investigation team within five (5) college business days of the opportunity to review the relevant portions of the report. Upon receipt of any additional information by the Complainant or Respondent or after the five (5) college business days comment period has lapsed without comment, the investigator(s) will make a finding as to whether there is sufficient information alleged to suggest that a policy violation occurred.
- b. After consultation with the AVP, HR, the investigator(s) will submit the final report to the Vice President, Organizational Development and Human Resources (or designee) if the Respondent is an employee; or to the Vice President, Student Affairs (or designee) if the Respondent is a student, who will review the investigation report and determine whether or not to accept the findings of the investigator(s).
- c. Upon receipt and review of the investigation report, the Vice President, Organizational Development and Human Resources (or designee), or Vice President, Student Affairs (or designee) may request the investigator(s) conduct additional fact-gathering and/or possible further investigation. In addition to accepting the findings of the investigator(s), the Vice President may reject the report in whole or may suspend a decision pending further review by the investigator for purposes of additional fact gathering or clarification.
- d. A letter summarizing the decision by the Vice President, Organizational Development and (or designee) or Vice President, Student Affairs (or designee) and the investigation report, will then be issued to the Complainant, the Respondent, and to the Vice President/Provost and immediate supervisor (in cases when the responding party is an employee) for further consideration of disciplinary action after any appeal process has

concluded. Should the decision be a finding of responsibility, the decision letter will identify an Appeals Officer.

- e. A finding of responsibility for a violation of this Policy may be appealed by the Respondent to the designated Appeals Officer. The Appeals Officer is typically a vice president or senior level administrator.

The appeal shall consist of a specific, concise, and complete written statement outlining the grounds for the appeal. The limited grounds for appeal are as follows:

- 01. New information that could affect the finding by the investigator(s) and that was not reasonably available through the exercise of due diligence at the time of the investigation; and/or
- 02. Material deviation(s) from written procedures that significantly affected the outcome.

Mere dissatisfaction or disagreement with the finding of responsibility is not a valid basis for appeal.

- f. The issues raised on appeal shall be limited to those issues raised during the investigation. Any issues not raised during the investigation or new issues that could have been raised, but were not, shall be precluded on appeal. To secure an appeal, the Respondent must file a written request to have the finding reviewed with the designated Appeals Officer no later than five (5) College Business Days from the date on which the party receives a copy of the final report.
- g. Upon acceptance of an appeal, the Appeals Officer shall notify the Complainant and Respondent, the Vice President for Organizational Development and Human Resources (or designee) or the Vice President for Student Affairs (or designee), the AVP, HR, and those individuals who received a copy of the final investigation report.
- h. The Appeals Officer shall consider the facts in support of the request and seek clarification of facts as deemed necessary. The Appeals Officer may request further investigation or that the investigator(s) address particular issues. If the Appeals Officer receives new information (not reasonably available through the exercise of due diligence at the time of the investigation) pursuant to the Appeals Officer's efforts to clarify facts, that the Appeals Officer believes may change the outcome, the Appeals Officer shall ask the Vice President, Organizational Development and Human Resources (or designee), or Vice President, Student Affairs (or designee), to reconsider their acceptance or rejection of the findings in light of the new information. The Vice President, Organizational Development and Human Resources (or designee), or Vice President, Student Affairs (or designee) shall inform the Appeals Officer of the reconsidered finding. The Appeals Officer shall apprise the Complainant and Respondent of the new information and the reconsidered finding so that each has an opportunity to review and refute any such additional information before the Appeals Officer renders a final decision.
- i. The Appeals Officer shall communicate the results of the appeal to the Complainant and Respondent within fifteen (15) College Business Days from the date of submission of all necessary appeal documentation. The Appeals Officer's written decision shall be provided to the Complainant and Respondent, the Vice President for Organizational Development and Human Resources or Vice President for Student Affairs, the AVP, HR, and those individuals who received a copy of the original investigation report. The Appeals Officer may accept or reject, the findings of the Vice President in whole or in part. The decision on whether or not the alleged conduct actually occurred and constituted a violation of this Policy made by the Appeals Officer shall be final.

- j. An investigation shall be considered complete and the investigation shall be closed after the period has passed within which the Respondent may submit an appeal, if none has been submitted, or following a final decision by the Appeals Officer, if the Respondent has requested an appeal. A matter also may be closed administratively when the Vice President for Organizational Development and Human Resources, Vice President for Student Affairs, and/or the AVP, HR decides that further investigation is either impossible or unnecessary.
- k. Circumstances may arise that require the extension of time frames for good cause, including extension beyond fifteen (15) College Business Days. Such circumstances may include the complexity of the allegations, the number of witnesses involved, the availability of the parties or witnesses, the effect of a concurrent criminal investigation, any intervening College break or planned leave (vacation/sick/personal) of involved parties, or other unforeseen circumstances.
- l. An employee who is found responsible for violating this Policy will then be referred to their immediate supervisor and/or their respective Vice President/Provost for possible disciplinary action under applicable College policies.
- m. A student who is found responsible for violating this Policy will then be referred to a Dean of Counseling, Advising, and Holistic Student Support for possible disciplinary action under College Policy 6Hx28: 8-03 Student Code of Conduct.

E. Timeframes for Resolution

- 1. The College will make every effort to successfully resolve all reports within sixty (60) College Business Days. All time frames expressed in this Policy are meant to be guidelines rather than rigid requirements. Circumstances may arise that require the extension of time frames for good cause, including extension beyond sixty (60) College Business Days. Such circumstances may include the complexity of the allegations, the number of witnesses involved, the availability of the parties or witnesses, the effect of a concurrent criminal investigation, any intervening College break or planned leave (vacation/sick/personal) of involved parties, or other unforeseen circumstances.
- 2. In general, a Complainant and Respondent can expect that the process will proceed according to the time frames provided in this Policy. In the event that the investigation and resolution time frames are extended for good cause, the College will notify all parties of the reason for the delay and the expected adjustment in time frames. Best efforts will be made to complete the process in a timely manner by balancing principles of thoroughness and fundamental fairness with promptness. All parties involved are entitled to periodic status updates on the process and any subsequent appeals.

F. Obligation to Present Truthful Information

The College takes the validity of information seriously because a report of Prohibited Conduct may have severe consequences. Any individual who makes a report or provides information as part of a review or an investigation that is later found to have been intentionally false or made maliciously without regard for truth may be subject to disciplinary action and may also violate state criminal statutes and civil defamation laws. These provisions do not apply to reports or responses made in good faith, even if the facts alleged in the report or the response are not substantiated by an investigation.

G. Alcohol and Drug Violation Amnesty

Valencia College believes in providing a safe, inclusive community for students, faculty, staff, and visitors at any of our campuses. We also believe that our community members have a unique role in ensuring the safety and inclusion of others by reporting incidents of Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Interpersonal Violence, and Stalking that jeopardize this community. We understand the fear associated with reporting, particularly if the incident also involved underage alcohol use/possession or the use of illicit drugs. Although the College does not condone these behaviors, we do not desire them to become obstacles in

reporting. Therefore, Reporting Parties or Complainants who make good faith reports regarding allegations of Discrimination, Harassment, or related misconduct, will not be subject to formal disciplinary action for their use or possession of alcohol or illicit drugs related to the reported incident.

H. Retaliation

1. During the investigation and resolution of violations of this Policy that are alleged in good faith, reasonable steps will be taken to protect the Complainant, the Respondent, and other participants in the reporting, investigation, and resolution process from Retaliation.
2. Retaliation is a violation of this Policy. Any individual who engages in Retaliation will be subject to prompt and appropriate disciplinary action. Individuals who have a concern about potential or actual Retaliation should contact the AVP, HR, for assistance in addressing the concern. If the concern about Retaliation involves the AVP, HR, an individual may contact the Director of Compliance and Audit at InternalAudit@valenciacollege.edu or by telephone at 407-582-3253.

I. Advisors and Attorneys

1. At any point during the processes listed above, the Complainant and Respondent have the right to be assisted by an Advisor of their choice, which may include an attorney, however, an attorney may not represent their client as part of this process. Under no circumstances may an Advisor be a witness. The Advisor may accompany the Complainant or Respondent to any meeting with an investigator or a College employee. Persons who serves as Advisors should plan to make themselves available for meetings throughout the process. The Advisor is a silent and non-participating presence who solely observes and provides support during the investigation process. During proceedings, the Advisor may speak only to the party by whom they were invited. Any exceptions to this prohibition will be at the sole discretion of the AVP, HR (or designee). The AVP, HR, has the right at all times to determine what constitutes appropriate behavior on the part of an Advisor.
2. Any party may seek the assistance of an attorney at their own expense. This process is not a legal proceeding and should not be regarded as such. Similarly, the College will not recognize or enforce agreements between the parties reached outside of these procedures.

IV. COMMUNICATION

College-issued email is the primary means of communication used by the College. The AVP, HR/Title IX Coordinator (or designee), investigator, hearing officer, and/or designee will deliver notice to students and/or employees by College-issued email, and may concurrently send a duplicate by means of mail, courier service, or in person delivery to the permanent address in the College's official records.

V. RECORDS

The AVP, HR/Title IX Coordinator will retain records of all reports, regardless of whether the matter is resolved by means of Initial Assessment, remedies-based resolution or disciplinary resolution for no less than a period of seven (7) years from the date of the receipt of the initial report.

VI. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

- A. If a report of Prohibited Conduct discloses a serious and continuing threat to the campus community, Valencia College Safety and Security will issue a timely notification to protect the health or safety of the community as required by the Clery Act. The notification will not include identifying information about a Reporting Party.
- B. Pursuant to the Clery Act and Section 304 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, information regarding criminal incidents reported to Campus Safety and Security authorities must be shared with Valencia College Safety and Security for inclusion in the Daily Crime Log. This information will also be included in the College's Annual Security Report (<http://valenciacollege.edu/security/annual-security-report.cfm>)

- C. The College may also share aggregate and not personally identifiable data about reports, outcomes, and sanctions.
- D. All College proceedings are conducted in accordance with the requirements of Title IX, the Clery Act, the Violence Against Women Act, FERPA, state and local laws, and College Policy. No information, including the identity of the parties, will be released from such proceedings except as required or permitted by law or College Policy/procedure.

Appendix A: Definitions

Term	Definition
Advisor	A silent and non-participating presence who solely observes and provides support during the investigation process. (See definition of Title IX Advisor below for Title IX Sexual Misconduct investigations.)
Age	The number of years from the date of a person's birth. With respect to employment, individuals who are forty (40) years of age or older are protected from Discrimination and Harassment. There is no age threshold for students or other participants in educational programs or activities.
Anti-Semitism	Anti-Semitism includes a certain perception of the Jewish people, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jewish people, rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism directed toward a person, their property, or toward Jewish community institutions or religious facilities. For more information and examples, see 1000.05, F.S.
Coercion or Force	Conduct, intimidation, and expressed or implied threats of physical or emotional harm that would reasonably place an individual in fear of immediate or future harm and that are employed to persuade or compel someone to engage in sexual contact.
College Business Days	Monday – Friday when the College is fully open for business in-person and/or through remote services. It shall exclude College holidays and other official College closures as applicable.
College community	Faculty, staff, administrators, students, student employees, volunteers, and visitors.
Color	An individual's skin pigmentation, complexion, shade, or tone.
Complainant	An individual who is alleged to be the victim of Prohibited Conduct outlined in this Policy, regardless of whether this individual makes a report or seeks action under the Policy.
Complicity	Any act that knowingly aids, facilitates, promotes, or encourages the commission of Prohibited Conduct by another person.
Confidentiality	Information shared with designated community professionals, referred to in this Policy as External Confidential Resources, will be disclosed only with the individual's express written permission. External Confidential Resources will not share information about an individual (including whether that individual has received services) with anyone, including the College, without the individual's express written permission, unless there is a continuing threat of serious violence to the patient/client or to others or there is a legal obligation to reveal such information (e.g., suspected abuse or neglect of a minor).
Conflict of Interest	<p>A Title IX Advisor's personal or professional interest that is directly adverse to the interests of the party being advised, and that causes a substantial risk that the Advisor's responsibilities to that party will be materially limited by the Title IX Advisor's responsibilities to another party or to their personal or professional interest. To be a Conflict of Interest, the interest must actually affect the outcome of the proceeding. A possible or potential conflict, without evidence of how that conflict would actually affect the outcome of the proceeding, is insufficient.</p> <p>A Conflict of Interest exists when a Title IX Advisor has a familial relationship with a party or participant (other than the party being advised) whether by blood, adoption, or marriage. A Title IX Advisor's personal or business interest involving any party or participant in the proceeding may also be evidence of a Conflict of Interest, including but not limited to an interest in a party or participant's private business; the receipt of gifts or financial assistance from a party; or providing financial assistance to a party. Merely</p>

	<p>being employed by or compensated by the College for service as a Title IX Advisor, having knowledge of a party or participant prior to the hearing, or being a certain sex or gender shall, by themselves, be insufficient to constitute a Conflict of Interest.</p> <p>Relatedly, “bias” means a personal and sometimes unreasoned judgment. Biases are neither uncommon nor alone a basis for any modification of the proceedings described herein without the presence of a Conflict of Interest.</p>
Consent	<p>Consent is the communication of an affirmative, conscious, and freely made decision by each participant to engage in agreed upon forms of sexual contact. Consent requires an outward demonstration, through understandable words or actions, which conveys a clear willingness to engage in sexual contact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent cannot to be inferred from silence, passivity, or a lack of resistance, and relying on non-verbal communication alone may result in a violation of this Policy. For example, a person who does not physically resist or verbally refuse sexual contact may not necessarily be giving Consent. There is no requirement that an individual verbally or physically resist unwelcome sexual contact for there to be a violation of this Policy. • Consent cannot to be inferred from an existing or previous dating or sexual relationship. Even in the context of a relationship, there must be mutual Consent to engage in sexual contact for each occasion and each form of sexual contact. • Consent to one form of sexual contact does not constitute Consent to any other form of sexual contact, nor does Consent to sexual contact with one person constitute Consent to sexual contact with any other person. Additionally, Consent to sexual contact on one occasion is not Consent to engage in sexual contact on another occasion. • Consent cannot be obtained by Coercion or Force or by taking advantage of a person’s inability to give Consent because of Incapacitation or other circumstances. • A person who has given Consent to engage in sexual contact may withdraw Consent at any time. However, withdrawal of Consent requires an outward demonstration, through understandable words or actions that clearly conveys that a party is no longer willing to engage in sexual contact. Once Consent is withdrawn, the sexual contact must cease immediately. <p>Note that generally in Florida, consent cannot legally be given by a minor under the age of 18, with certain specified statutory exceptions.</p>
Disability	<p>A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; or a record of such impairment; or regarding an individual as having such impairment. A qualified person with a disability must be able to perform the essential functions of the employment, internship, or volunteer position or the academic or extracurricular program, with or without reasonable accommodation.</p>
Discrimination	<p>Any unlawful distinction, preference, or detriment to an individual as compared to others that is based on an individual’s Protected Status and that is sufficiently serious, persistent, or pervasive so as to unreasonably interfere with or limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An employee’s or applicant’s access to employment or conditions and benefits of employment;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student's or admission applicant's ability to participate in, access, or benefit from educational programs, services, or activities; • An authorized volunteer's ability to participate in a volunteer activity; or • A guest's or visitor's ability to participate in, access, or benefit from the College's programs. <p>Discrimination also includes failing to provide identified and agreed upon reasonable accommodations consistent with state and/or federal laws, to a qualified person with a Disability.</p>
Educational Program or Activity	Locations, events, or circumstances over which the school exercises substantial control over the Respondent and the context in which the alleged Sexual Harassment has occurred. This includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the College. This includes college sponsored and/or affiliated programs or activities that occur on or off-campus.
Equal Opportunity Coordination Committee	A group of individuals led by the AVP, HR, including Title IX Deputy Coordinators, and other College officials who work together to assess and respond to reports of Prohibited Conduct under this Policy.
Evidentiary Standard	To be found responsible for a violation of this Policy, there must be a preponderance of evidence to indicate that an individual has engaged in Prohibited Conduct.
Gender-Based Harassment	Sexual Harassment also includes Harassment based on gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity, which may include acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex/gender or sex/gender-stereotyping, even if the acts do not involve conduct of a sexual nature. Also includes Harassment for exhibiting what is perceived as a stereotypical characteristic for one's Sex or for failing to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity and femininity, regardless of the actual or perceived Sex, Gender, or Sexual Orientation of the individuals involved.
Gender/ Gender Expression / Gender Identity	An individual's socially-constructed status based on the behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with societal attribution of masculinity and femininity, typically related to one's assigned sex at birth. This includes Gender Expression, which is how someone expresses their Gender through appearance, behavior, or mannerisms, and Gender Identity, which is the Gender with which an individual identifies psychologically, regardless of what Gender they were assigned at birth. A person's Gender Expression may not be the same as their Gender Identity.
Genetic Information	Information about (i) an individual's genetic tests, (ii) the genetic tests of family members of such individual, and (iii) the manifestation of a disease or disorder in family members of such individual. Genetic Information includes, with respect to any individual, any request for, or receipt of, genetic services, or participation in clinical research that includes genetic services by such individual or any family member of such individual.
Harassment	<p>A type of Discrimination that occurs when verbal, physical, electronic, or other conduct based on an individual's Protected Status interferes with that individual's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educational environment; • work environment; • participation in a College program or activity; or • receipt of legitimately-requested services (e.g., disability or religious accommodations), <p>and creates Hostile Environment Harassment or Quid Pro Quo Harassment.</p>
Hostile Environment	Unwelcome conduct based on Protected Status that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it alters the conditions of education, employment, or participation

Harassment	in a College program or activity, thereby creating an environment that a reasonable person in similar circumstances and with similar identities would find hostile, intimidating, or abusive under both a subjective and objective assessment. An isolated incident, unless sufficiently severe, does not amount to Hostile Environment Harassment.
Incapacitation	Sleep, unconsciousness, intermittent consciousness, or any other state where an individual is unaware or unable to give consent to sexual contact. Incapacitation may also exist because of alcohol or other drugs, and/or mental or developmental Disability that impairs the ability to consent to sexual contact.
Interim Protective Measures	Actions taken by the College to ensure equal access to its education programs and activities and foster a more stable and safe environment during the process of reporting, investigation, and/or resolution.
Interpersonal Violence	<p>Physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that a reasonable person in similar circumstances and with similar identities would find intimidating, frightening, terrorizing, or threatening (commonly referred to as domestic violence or dating violence). Such behaviors may include threats of violence to an individual or an individual's family member.</p> <p>Interpersonal Violence can encompass a broad range of abusive behavior committed by a person who is or has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a romantic or intimate relationship with the Complainant (of the same or different sex); • The Complainant's spouse or partner (of the same or different sex); • The Complainant's family member; or • The Complainant's cohabitant or household member.
Marital Status	An individual's legally defined marital state, including single, married, widowed, divorced, separated, or domestic partnership.
National Origin/Ethnicity	An individual's actual or perceived country or ethnicity of origin.
Privacy	Information related to a report under this Policy will be shared only with those college employees who need to know in order to assist in the active review, investigation, or resolution of the report.
Protected Status	Consistent with federal, state, and local laws, the College prohibits Discrimination and Harassment based on race, ethnicity, color, national origin, age, religion, disability, marital status, sex/gender, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and any other factor protected under applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws, rules, and regulations.
Quid Pro Quo Harassment	Unwelcome conduct based on Protected Status where submission to or rejection of such conduct is used, explicitly or implicitly, as the basis for decisions affecting an individual's education, employment, or participation in a College program or activity; or is sufficiently serious enough to deprive an individual of equal access under this Policy.
Race	An individual's actual or perceived racial or ethnic ancestry or physical characteristics associated with a person's race, such as a person's color, hair, facial features, height, and weight.
Religion	All aspects of religious observance and practice, as well as belief. A well-formed and thought-out set of beliefs held by more than one individual, which may not necessarily involve belief in a supreme being. Additionally, the College will accommodate an individual's observances and practices required by their creed, unless it is unable to provide assistance to an individual's creed-required observance or practice without undue hardship.

Remedies-Based Resolution	A voluntary approach designed to eliminate a hostile environment without taking disciplinary action against a Respondent.
Reporting Party	A Complainant or third party who makes the College aware of Prohibited Conduct under this Policy. In situations where the Reporting Party is not the Complainant, the third party will not be entitled to the procedural rights afforded to Complainant, but may be protected from retaliation for their involvement.
Respondent	An individual who is alleged to have violated this College Policy and who is named in a report alleging violation. A Respondent is not predetermined to be found responsible until a determination is made at the end of the College's process.
Responsible Employees	Employees designated by the College to be required to report any allegation of Discrimination, Harassment, or related misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator or a Title IX Deputy Coordinator. This includes employees who have been designated as Campus Security Authorities. These individuals do not have the authority in their role as a Responsible Employee to institute corrective measures for allegations of Discrimination or Harassment based on a Protected Status.
Retaliation	Acts or words taken against an individual because of the individual's participation in a protected activity that would discourage a reasonable person from engaging in protected activity. Protected activity includes an individual's good faith (i) participation in the reporting, investigation, or resolution of an alleged violation of this Policy; (ii) opposition to policies, practices, or actions that the individual reasonably believes are in violation of the Policy; or (iii) requests for accommodations on the basis of religion or disability. Retaliation may include intimidation, threats, coercion, or adverse employment or educational actions. Retaliation may be found even when an underlying report made in good faith is not substantiated. Retaliation may be committed by the Respondent, the Complainant, the Reporting Party, or any other individual or group of individuals.
Sex	An individual's biological status of male or female. Conduct of a sexual nature is by definition based on Sex as a Protected Status.
Sexual Assault / Sexual Contact	Sexual Assault involves having or attempting to have sexual contact with another individual without Consent. Sexual contact is the intentional touching or penetration of another person's clothed or unclothed body, including but not limited to the mouth, neck, buttocks, anus, genitalia, or breast, by another with any part of the body or any object in a sexual manner. Sexual contact also includes causing another person to touch their own or another's body in a sexual manner. Sexual Assault includes, without limitation, sexual battery as defined in Section 794, F.S.
Sexual Exploitation	Taking advantage of the sexuality of another person without consent or in a manner that extends the bounds of consensual sexual activity without the knowledge of the other individual for any purpose, including sexual gratification, financial gain, personal benefit, or any other non-legitimate purpose. Examples of Sexual Exploitation include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observing another individual's nudity or sexual activity or allowing another to observe consensual sexual activity without the knowledge and consent of all parties involved; • Non-consensual streaming of images, photography, video, or audio recording of sexual activity or nudity, or distribution of such without the knowledge and consent of all parties involved; • Prostituting another individual;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposing one's genitals in non-consensual circumstances; • Knowingly exposing another individual to a sexually transmitted infection or sexual virus without that individual's knowledge; and • Inducing incapacitation for the purpose of making another person vulnerable to non-consensual sexual activity.
Sexual Harassment	<p>Any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, or other unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to or rejection of such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's academic work, employment, or participation in any aspect of a College program or activity; or • Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for decisions affecting the individual; or Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance, i.e., it is sufficiently serious, pervasive, or persistent as to create an intimidating, hostile, humiliating, demeaning, or sexually offensive working, academic, or social environment under both an objective (a reasonable person's) and subjective (the Reporting Party's) view.
Sexual Orientation	The inclination or capacity to develop intimate emotional, spiritual, physical, and/or sexual relationships with those of the same or different Sex or Gender, or irrespective of Sex or Gender.
Stalking	<p>Repeated, unwanted attention; physical, verbal, or electronic contact; or any other course of conduct directed at an individual that is sufficiently serious to cause physical, emotional, or psychological fear or distress or to create a hostile, intimidating, or abusive environment for a reasonable person in similar circumstances and with similar identities.</p> <p>Stalking may involve individuals who are known to one another, who have a current or previous relationship, or who are strangers.</p> <p>Stalking includes the concept of cyber-Stalking, a particular form of Stalking which electronic media such as the internet, social networks, blogs, cell phones, texts, or other similar devices or forms of contact are used to pursue, harass, or to make unwelcome contact with another person in an unsolicited fashion.</p>
Student	All persons taking Valencia College courses, including both academic credit and continuing education, both full-time or part-time; and/or (i) all persons who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but have a continuing relationship with Valencia College or intend to enroll in the next term. This provision is intended to include within the definition of students, those persons enrolled in the spring and summer semesters who engage in misconduct during the summer and students who are first time enrollees who engage in misconduct prior to the time of enrollment; and/or (ii) all persons who are attending classes on a Valencia campus although they may be enrolled students in other higher education institutions.
Title IX Advisor	<p>An individual, who may be an attorney, who is selected by either the Complainant or Respondent and is permitted to participate as defined above in the Title IX Misconduct process, including conducting cross-examination during a live hearing. Apart from their role in cross-examination, this person will be a silent and non-participating presence who solely observes and provides support during the investigation process.</p>

	<p>If a party does not have an advisor present at the live hearing, the school must provide, without fee or charge to that party, an advisor of the school's choice who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney to conduct cross-examination on behalf of that party.</p> <p>Title IX Advisors shall exercise independent judgment in carrying out their duties.</p>
Title IX Coordinator	The designated College official with primary responsibility for coordinating the College's compliance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972.
Title IX Deputy Coordinators	Individuals responsible for supporting the Title IX Coordinator and accessible to any College community member for consultation and guidance on issues related to Title IX Sexual Misconduct.
Title IX Interpersonal Violence	<p>Includes the definitions of Domestic Violence and Dating Violence as defined in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).</p> <p>Domestic Violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in a relationship that is used by one partner to maintain power and control over another current or former intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behavior that intimidates, manipulates, humiliates, isolates, frightens, terrorizes, coerces, threatens, hurts, injures, or wounds someone.</p> <p>Dating Violence is violence and abuse committed by a person to exert power and control over a current or former dating partner. Dating violence often involves a pattern of escalating violence and abuse over a period of time. Dating violence covers a variety of actions and can include physical abuse, physiological and emotional abuse, and sexual abuse. It can also include "digital abuse," the use of technology, such as smartphones, the internet, or social media, to intimidate, harass, threaten, or isolate a victim.</p>
Title IX Sexual Assault	<p>As defined in the Clery Act, including any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.</p> <p>A. Fondling – The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.</p> <p>B. Incest – Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.</p> <p>C. Rape – The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.</p> <p>D. Statutory Rape – Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.</p>
Title IX Sexual Harassment	Misconduct based on sex that is severe and pervasive and objectively offensive conduct, effectively denying a person equal educational access, and/or an employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service to a student on the basis of participation in Title IX Sexual Misconduct.
Title IX Sexual Misconduct	Includes Title IX Sexual Harassment, including any instance of Title IX Sexual Assault, Title IX Interpersonal Violence or Title IX Stalking.

Title IX Stalking	As defined in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Stalking is a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, Harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. Stalking is dangerous and can often cause severe and long-lasting emotional and psychological harm to victims. Stalking often escalates over time and can lead to domestic violence, sexual assault, and even homicide. Stalking can include frightening communications, direct or indirect threats, and harassing a victim through the internet.
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Appendix B: Equal Opportunity Coordination Committee

Role	Name	Title	Campus	Phone	Email
Title IX Coordinator	Ryan Kane	AVP, Human Resources	West Campus	407-582-3421	rkane8@valenciacollege.edu
Deputy Title IX Coordinator	Trisha Charles	Director, Equal Opportunity	West Campus	407-582-3867	tcharles13@valenciacollege.edu
Deputy Title IX Coordinator	Coretta Cotton	Assistant Director, Equal Opportunity	West Campus	407-582-3069	ccotton10@valenciacollege.edu
	Carla McKnight	Vice President, Organizational Development & Human Resources	West Campus	407-582-1756	cmcknight5@valenciacollege.edu
	Lauren Kelly	Director, Employee Relations	West Campus	407-582-8125	lkelly22@valenciacollege.edu
	Tanner Anthony	Assistant Director, Employee Relations	West Campus	321-682-4093	tanthony11@valenciacollege.edu
	Jaclyn Taylor	Assistant Director, Employee Relations	West Campus	407-582-5567	jtaylor230@valenciacollege.edu
	Andel Fils Aime	Dean of Holistic Support	West SSB 110	407-582-1938	afilsaime4@valenciacollege.edu
	Mary Zuchovicki	Director, Student Rights and Responsibilities	West SSB 133	407-582-1929	lzuchovicki@valenciacollege.edu
	Vacant				

	Nicholle Trapp	Director, Student Services, Lake Nona Campus	Lake Nona	407-582-7780	ntrapp@valenciacollege.edu
	Julie Corderman	Director, Student Services, Winter Park Campus	Winter Park 210A	407-582-6868	jcorderman@valenciacollege.edu
	Mary McGowan	Director, Student Services, Poinciana Campus	Poinciana Campus	407-582-6069	mmcgowa1@valenciacollege.edu
	Paul Rooney	Assistant Vice President, Campus Safety & Services	West 4-21	407-582-1100	prooney@valenciacollege.edu
	Mike Favorit	Managing Director, Safety & Security	West 10-305	407-582-1336	mfavorit@valenciacollege.edu
	Euclides Lopez	Director, Security, West Region	West Campus	407-582-2365	elopez145@valenciacollege.edu
	Kevin Brunelle	Director, Security, East Region	East Campus	407-582-8234	kbrunelle@valenciacollege.edu
	Stan Knutowicz	Director, Security, South Region	Osceola 2-109B	407-582-1327	sknutowicajr@valenciacollege.edu
	Rachel Schwitters	Director, Office for Students with Disabilities	East 5-216	321-682-4520	rschwitters@valenciacollege.edu

The Equal Opportunity Coordination Committee may be expanded to include other members of the College community based on the unique circumstances of the issue under consideration.

Appendix C: Responsible Employees

Employees with administrative or supervisory responsibilities on campus or who have been designated as Campus Security Authorities are considered Responsible Employees. Note that these individuals are not designated by the College to institute corrective measures for allegations of Discrimination or Harassment based on a Protected Status. A responsible employee is a Valencia employee who has the duty to report incidents of **Discrimination**, Harassment, and related misconduct or who a member of the Valencia College community could reasonably believe has such authority or duty. Because the College has an obligation to make reasonable efforts to investigate and address instances of known or suspected Title IX Sexual Misconduct, Responsible Employees and Campus Safety and Security Authorities who have information or receive a report of Title IX sexual misconduct must immediately share with the Title IX Coordinator all known details of an incident.

The College's Responsible Employees include, but are not limited to, the following employees or categories of employees who serve in a in a managerial, leadership, or supervisory position who have significant responsibility for the welfare of Valencia Students, Faculty, or Staff:

- Senior leadership (e.g., College President, Provosts, Vice Presidents, Special Assistants to the President, Executive Deans, including Associates and Assistants)
- Other Administrators/Professional Staff (e.g., deans, directors, program directors, chairpersons/discipline coordinators, and supervisors – in all administrative and academic areas)
- Other Designated Staff (e.g., Title IX Coordinator; Director and Assistant Director, Equal Opportunity, Director, Student Services; Assistant Director, Student Conduct)
- Director, Study Abroad and Global Exchange
- All faculty and staff members who accompany students on College-related trips, both within the U.S. and abroad
- All faculty or staff advisors to students and/or organizations or activities
- Counselors
- Ombudspersons
- Staff who serve in tutoring roles
- Campus Safety and Security Staff (e.g., Security Field Officer; Security Officer)

Appendix D: Law Enforcement and Medical Providers

Law Enforcement	Medical Providers
City of Apopka Police Department For Emergencies: 911 Non-Emergency: (407) 703-1757	AdventHealth Apopka (407) 609-7000
City of Kissimmee Police Department For Emergencies: 911 Non-Emergency: (407) 846-3333	AdventHealth Celebration (407) 303-4000
City of Ocoee Police Department For Emergencies: 911 Non-Emergency: (407) 905-3100	AdventHealth Orlando (407) 303-5600
City of Orlando Police Department For Emergencies: 911	AdventHealth East Orlando (407) 303-8110

Non-Emergency: (321) 235-5300	
City of Winter Garden For Emergencies: 911 Non-Emergency: (407) 656-3636	AdventHealth Four Corners ER (863) 422-5582
City of Winter Park Police Department For Emergencies: 911 Non-Emergency: (407) 644-1313	AdventHealth Kissimmee (407) 846-4343
Orange County Sheriff's Office For Emergencies: 911 Non-Emergency: (407) 254-7000	AdventHealth Waterford Lake ER (407) 281-3600
Osceola County Sheriff's Office For Emergencies: 911 Non-Emergency: (407) 348-2222	AdventHealth Winter Garden (407) 614-0500
	AdventHealth Winter Park (407) 646-7000
	Orlando Health-Dr. P. Phillips Hospital (407) 351-8500
	Orlando Health-Health Central Hospital (407) 296-1000
	Orlando Health-Horizon West Hospital ER (407) 407-1150
	Orlando Health Emergency Room-Osceola (321) 842-1270
	Orlando Health-St. Cloud Hospital (407) 892-2135
	Orlando Regional Medical Center (321) 841-5111
	Osceola Regional Medical Center (407) 846-2266
	Poinciana Medical Center (407) 530-2000

Appendix E: External Confidential Resources

Victim Service Center of Central Florida

(407) 497-6701; 24-hour confidential hotline

<https://www.victimservicecenter.org/>

VSC's mission is to provide individualized services and resources to victims of sexual assault, violent crime and traumatic circumstances, through crisis response, advocacy, therapy, and community awareness.

Harbor House of Central Florida

(407) 886-2856; 24-hour confidential hotline

www.harborhousefl.com

Harbor House works to prevent and eliminate domestic abuse in Central Florida by providing critical life-saving services to survivors, implementing and advancing best practices, and educating and engaging the community in a united front.

Help Now of Osceola, Inc.

(407) 847-8562; 24-hour confidential hotline

helpnowshelter.org/

Help Now of Osceola's vision is to eradicate violence and abuse in the community and also provides safe shelter, empowers survivors of domestic violence through counseling and advocacy and promotes violence free living through community awareness.

BayCare

Available to students who are currently enrolled in Valencia College credit classes

(800) 878-5470; 24-hour confidential hotline

baycare.org/sap

BayCare Health System will improve the health of all we serve through community-owned health care services that set the standard for high-quality, compassionate care.

Employee Assistance Program

Available to current full-time employees of Valencia College 24 hours a day

(866) 248-4094

www.liveandworkwell.com

Heart of Florida United Way 2-1-1

Available to all students and employees

Call 211 or (407) 839-4357

Text zip code to 898-211

www.hfuw.org/gethelp

741.28 Domestic violence; definitions. As used in ss. 741.28-741.31:

(1) "Department" means the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

(2) "Domestic violence" means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.

(3) "Family or household member" means spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, and persons who are parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have been married. With the exception of persons who have a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.

(4) "Law enforcement officer" means any person who is elected, appointed, or employed by any municipality or the state or any political subdivision thereof who meets the minimum qualifications established in s. 943.13 and is certified as a law enforcement officer under s. 943.1395.

741.30 Domestic violence; injunction; powers and duties of court and clerk; petition; notice and hearing; temporary injunction; issuance of injunction; statewide verification system; enforcement; public records exemption.—

(1) There is created a cause of action for an injunction for protection against domestic violence.

(a) Any person described in paragraph (e), who is either the victim of domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28 or has reasonable cause to believe he or she is in imminent danger of becoming the victim of any act of domestic violence, has standing in the circuit court to file a sworn petition for an injunction for protection against domestic violence.

(b) This cause of action for an injunction may be sought whether or not any other cause of action is currently pending between the parties. However, the pendency of any such cause of action shall be alleged in the petition.

(c) In the event a subsequent cause of action is filed under chapter 61, any orders entered therein shall take precedence over any inconsistent provisions of an injunction issued under this section which addresses matters governed by chapter 61.

(d) A person's right to petition for an injunction shall not be affected by such person having left a residence or household to avoid domestic violence.

(e) This cause of action for an injunction may be sought by family or household members. No person shall be precluded from seeking injunctive relief pursuant to this chapter solely on the basis that such person is not a spouse.

(f) This cause of action for an injunction shall not require that either party be represented by an attorney.

(g) Notwithstanding any other law, attorney fees may not be awarded in any proceeding under this section.

(h) Any person, including an officer of the court, who offers evidence or recommendations relating to the cause of action must either present the evidence or recommendations in writing to the court with copies to each party and their attorney, or must present the evidence under oath at a hearing at which all parties are present.

(i) Nothing in this section shall affect the title to any real estate.

(j) The court is prohibited from issuing mutual orders of protection. This does not preclude the court from issuing separate injunctions for protection against domestic violence where each party has complied with the provisions of this section. Compliance with the provisions of this section cannot be waived.

(k) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 47, a petition for an injunction for protection against domestic violence may be filed in the circuit where the petitioner currently or temporarily resides, where the respondent resides, or where the domestic violence occurred. There is no minimum requirement of residency to petition for an injunction for protection.

(2)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the assessment of a filing fee for a petition for protection against domestic violence is prohibited effective October 1, 2002. However, subject to legislative appropriation, the clerk of the circuit court may, on a quarterly basis, submit to the Office of the State Courts Administrator a certified request for reimbursement for petitions for protection against domestic violence issued by the court, at the rate of \$40 per petition. The request for reimbursement shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Office of the State Courts Administrator. From this reimbursement, the clerk shall pay any law enforcement agency serving the injunction the fee requested by the law enforcement agency; however, this fee shall not exceed \$20.

(b) No bond shall be required by the court for the entry of an injunction.

(c)1. The clerk of the court shall assist petitioners in seeking both injunctions for protection against domestic violence and enforcement for a violation thereof as specified in this section.

2. All clerks' offices shall provide simplified petition forms for the injunction, any modifications, and the enforcement thereof, including instructions for completion.

3. The clerk of the court shall advise petitioners of the opportunity to apply for a certificate of indigence in lieu of prepayment for the cost of the filing fee, as provided in paragraph (a).

4. The clerk of the court shall ensure the petitioner's privacy to the extent practical while completing the forms for injunctions for protection against domestic violence.

5. The clerk of the court shall provide petitioners with a minimum of two certified copies of the order of injunction, one of which is serviceable and will inform the petitioner of the process for service and enforcement.

6. Clerks of court and appropriate staff in each county shall receive training in the effective assistance of petitioners as provided or approved by the Florida Association of Court Clerks.

7. The clerk of the court in each county shall make available informational brochures on domestic violence when such brochures are provided by local certified domestic violence centers.

8. The clerk of the court in each county shall distribute a statewide uniform informational brochure to petitioners at the time of filing

for an injunction for protection against domestic or repeat violence when such brochures become available. The brochure must include information about the effect of giving the court false information about domestic violence.

(3)(a) The sworn petition shall allege the existence of such domestic violence and shall include the specific facts and circumstances upon the basis of which relief is sought.

(b) The sworn petition shall be in substantially the following form:

PETITION FOR

INJUNCTION FOR PROTECTION

AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Petitioner (Name), who has been sworn and says that the following statements are true:

(a) Petitioner resides at: (address)

(Petitioner may furnish address to the court in a separate confidential filing if, for safety reasons, the petitioner requires the location of the current residence to be confidential.)

(b) Respondent resides at: (last known address)

(c) Respondent's last known place of employment: (name of business and address)

(d) Physical description of respondent:

Race

Sex

Date of birth

Height

Weight

Eye color

Hair color

Distinguishing marks or scars

(e) Aliases of respondent:

(f) Respondent is the spouse or former spouse of the petitioner or is any other person related by blood or marriage to the petitioner or is any other person who is or was residing within a single dwelling unit with the petitioner, as if a family, or is a person with whom the petitioner has a child in common, regardless of whether the petitioner and respondent are or were married or residing together, as if a family.

(g) The following describes any other cause of action currently pending between the petitioner and respondent:

The petitioner should also describe any previous or pending attempts by the petitioner to obtain an injunction for protection against domestic violence in this or any other circuit, and the results of that attempt

Case numbers should be included if available.

(h) Petitioner is either a victim of domestic violence or has reasonable cause to believe he or she is in imminent danger of becoming a victim of domestic violence because respondent has (mark all sections that apply and describe in the spaces below the incidents of violence or threats of violence, specifying when and where they occurred, including, but not limited to, locations such as a home, school, place of employment, or visitation exchange) :

committed or threatened to commit domestic violence defined in s. **741.28**, Florida Statutes, as any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another. With the exception of persons who are parents of a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.

previously threatened, harassed, stalked, or physically abused the petitioner.

attempted to harm the petitioner or family members or individuals closely associated with the petitioner.

threatened to conceal, kidnap, or harm the petitioner's child or children.

intentionally injured or killed a family pet.

used, or has threatened to use, against the petitioner any weapons such as guns or knives.

physically restrained the petitioner from leaving the home or calling law enforcement.

a criminal history involving violence or the threat of violence (if known).

another order of protection issued against him or her previously or from another jurisdiction (if known).

destroyed personal property, including, but not limited to, telephones or other communication equipment, clothing, or other items belonging to the petitioner.

engaged in any other behavior or conduct that leads the petitioner to have reasonable cause to believe he or she is in imminent danger of becoming a victim of domestic violence.

(i) Petitioner alleges the following additional specific facts: (mark appropriate sections)

A minor child or minor children reside with the petitioner whose names and ages are as follows:

Petitioner needs the exclusive use and possession of the dwelling that the parties share.

Petitioner is unable to obtain safe alternative housing because:

Petitioner genuinely fears that respondent imminently will abuse, remove, or hide the minor child or children from petitioner because:

(j) Petitioner genuinely fears imminent domestic violence by respondent.

(k) Petitioner seeks an injunction: (mark appropriate section or sections)

Immediately restraining the respondent from committing any acts of domestic violence.

Restraining the respondent from committing any acts of domestic violence.

Awarding to the petitioner the temporary exclusive use and possession of the dwelling that the parties share or excluding the respondent from the residence of the petitioner.

Providing a temporary parenting plan, including a temporary time-sharing schedule, with regard to the minor child or children of the parties which might involve prohibiting or limiting time-sharing or requiring that it be supervised by a third party.

Establishing temporary support for the minor child or children or the petitioner.

Directing the respondent to participate in a batterers' intervention program or other treatment pursuant to s. [39.901](#), Florida Statutes.

Providing any terms the court deems necessary for the protection of a victim of domestic violence, or any minor children of the victim, including any injunctions or directives to law enforcement agencies.

(c) Every petition for an injunction against domestic violence shall contain, directly above the signature line, a statement in all capital letters and bold type not smaller than the surrounding text, as follows:

I HAVE READ EVERY STATEMENT MADE IN THIS PETITION AND EACH STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE STATEMENTS MADE IN THIS PETITION ARE BEING MADE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, PUNISHABLE AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 837.02, FLORIDA STATUTES.

(initials)

(d) If the sworn petition seeks to determine a parenting plan and time-sharing schedule with regard to the minor child or children of the parties, the sworn petition shall be accompanied by or shall incorporate the allegations required by s. [61.522](#) of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act.

(4) Upon the filing of the petition, the court shall set a hearing to be held at the earliest possible time. The respondent shall be personally served with a copy of the petition, financial affidavit, Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act affidavit, if any, notice of hearing, and temporary injunction, if any, prior to the hearing.

(5)(a) If it appears to the court that an immediate and present danger of domestic violence exists, the court may grant a temporary injunction ex parte, pending a full hearing, and may grant such relief as the court deems proper, including an injunction:

1. Restraining the respondent from committing any acts of domestic violence.

2. Awarding to the petitioner the temporary exclusive use and possession of the dwelling that the parties share or excluding the respondent from the residence of the petitioner.

3. On the same basis as provided in s. [61.13](#), providing the petitioner a temporary parenting plan, including a time-sharing schedule, which may award the petitioner up to 100 percent of the time-sharing. The temporary parenting plan remains in effect until the order expires or an order is entered by a court of competent jurisdiction in a pending or subsequent civil action or proceeding affecting the placement of, access to, parental time with, adoption of, or parental rights and responsibilities for the minor child.

(b) Except as provided in s. [90.204](#), in a hearing ex parte for the purpose of obtaining such ex parte temporary injunction, no evidence other than verified pleadings or affidavits shall be used as evidence, unless the respondent appears at the hearing or has received reasonable notice of the hearing. A denial of a petition for an ex parte injunction shall be by written order noting the legal grounds for denial. When the only ground for denial is no appearance of an immediate and present danger of domestic violence, the court shall set a full hearing on the petition for injunction with notice at the earliest possible time. Nothing herein affects a petitioner's right to promptly amend any petition, or otherwise be heard in person on any petition consistent with the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

(c) Any such ex parte temporary injunction shall be effective for a fixed period not to exceed 15 days. A full hearing, as provided by this section, shall be set for a date no later than the date when the temporary injunction ceases to be effective. The court may grant a continuance of the hearing before or during a hearing for good cause shown by any party, which shall include a continuance to obtain service of process. Any injunction shall be extended if necessary to remain in full force and effect during any period of continuance.

(6)(a) Upon notice and hearing, when it appears to the court that the petitioner is either the victim of domestic violence as defined by s. [741.28](#) or has reasonable cause to believe he or she is in imminent danger of becoming a victim of domestic violence, the court may grant such relief as the court deems proper, including an injunction:

1. Restraining the respondent from committing any acts of domestic violence.

2. Awarding to the petitioner the exclusive use and possession of the dwelling that the parties share or excluding the respondent from the residence of the petitioner.

3. On the same basis as provided in chapter 61, providing the petitioner with 100 percent of the time-sharing in a temporary parenting plan that remains in effect until the order expires or an order is entered by a court of competent jurisdiction in a pending or subsequent civil action or proceeding affecting the placement of, access to, parental time with, adoption of, or parental rights and responsibilities for the minor child.

4. On the same basis as provided in chapter 61, establishing temporary support for a minor child or children or the petitioner. An order of temporary support remains in effect until the order expires or an order is entered by a court of competent jurisdiction in a pending or subsequent civil action or proceeding affecting child support.

5. Ordering the respondent to participate in treatment, intervention, or counseling services to be paid for by the respondent. When

the court orders the respondent to participate in a batterers' intervention program, the court, or any entity designated by the court, must provide the respondent with a list of batterers' intervention programs from which the respondent must choose a program in which to participate.

6. Referring a petitioner to a certified domestic violence center. The court must provide the petitioner with a list of certified domestic violence centers in the circuit which the petitioner may contact.

7. Ordering such other relief as the court deems necessary for the protection of a victim of domestic violence, including injunctions or directives to law enforcement agencies, as provided in this section.

(b) In determining whether a petitioner has reasonable cause to believe he or she is in imminent danger of becoming a victim of domestic violence, the court shall consider and evaluate all relevant factors alleged in the petition, including, but not limited to:

1. The history between the petitioner and the respondent, including threats, harassment, stalking, and physical abuse.

2. Whether the respondent has attempted to harm the petitioner or family members or individuals closely associated with the petitioner.

3. Whether the respondent has threatened to conceal, kidnap, or harm the petitioner's child or children.

4. Whether the respondent has intentionally injured or killed a family pet.

5. Whether the respondent has used, or has threatened to use, against the petitioner any weapons such as guns or knives.

6. Whether the respondent has physically restrained the petitioner from leaving the home or calling law enforcement.

7. Whether the respondent has a criminal history involving violence or the threat of violence.

8. The existence of a verifiable order of protection issued previously or from another jurisdiction.

9. Whether the respondent has destroyed personal property, including, but not limited to, telephones or other communications equipment, clothing, or other items belonging to the petitioner.

10. Whether the respondent engaged in any other behavior or conduct that leads the petitioner to have reasonable cause to believe that he or she is in imminent danger of becoming a victim of domestic violence.

In making its determination under this paragraph, the court is not limited to those factors enumerated in subparagraphs 1.-10.

(c) The terms of an injunction restraining the respondent under subparagraph (a)1. or ordering other relief for the protection of the victim under subparagraph (a)7. shall remain in effect until modified or dissolved. Either party may move at any time to modify or dissolve the injunction. No specific allegations are required. Such relief may be granted in addition to other civil or criminal remedies.

(d) A temporary or final judgment on injunction for protection against domestic violence entered pursuant to this section shall, on its face, indicate that:

1. The injunction is valid and enforceable in all counties of the State of Florida.

2. Law enforcement officers may use their arrest powers pursuant to s. [901.15](#)(6) to enforce the terms of the injunction.

3. The court had jurisdiction over the parties and matter under the laws of Florida and that reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard was given to the person against whom the order is sought sufficient to protect that person's right to due process.

4. The date respondent was served with the temporary or final order, if obtainable.

(e) An injunction for protection against domestic violence entered pursuant to this section, on its face, may order that the respondent attend a batterers' intervention program as a condition of the injunction. Unless the court makes written factual findings in its judgment or order which are based on substantial evidence, stating why batterers' intervention programs would be inappropriate, the court shall order the respondent to attend a batterers' intervention program if:

1. It finds that the respondent willfully violated the ex parte injunction;

2. The respondent, in this state or any other state, has been convicted of, had adjudication withheld on, or pled nolo contendere to a crime involving violence or a threat of violence; or

3. The respondent, in this state or any other state, has had at any time a prior injunction for protection entered against the respondent after a hearing with notice.

(f) The fact that a separate order of protection is granted to each opposing party shall not be legally sufficient to deny any remedy to either party or to prove that the parties are equally at fault or equally endangered.

(g) A final judgment on injunction for protection against domestic violence entered pursuant to this section must, on its face, indicate that it is a violation of s. [790.233](#), and a first degree misdemeanor, for the respondent to have in his or her care, custody, possession, or control any firearm or ammunition.

(h) All proceedings under this subsection shall be recorded. Recording may be by electronic means as provided by the Rules of Judicial Administration.

(7) The court shall allow an advocate from a state attorney's office, an advocate from a law enforcement agency, or an advocate from a certified domestic violence center who is registered under s. [39.905](#) to be present with the petitioner or respondent during any court proceedings or hearings related to the injunction for protection, provided the petitioner or respondent has made such a request and the advocate is able to be present.

(8)(a)1. The clerk of the court shall furnish a copy of the petition, financial affidavit, Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act affidavit, if any, notice of hearing, and temporary injunction, if any, to the sheriff or a law enforcement agency of the county where the respondent resides or can be found, who shall serve it upon the respondent as soon thereafter as possible on any day of the week and at any time of the day or night. When requested by the sheriff, the clerk of the court may transmit a facsimile copy of an injunction that has been certified by the clerk of the court, and this facsimile copy may be served in the same manner as a certified copy. Upon receiving a facsimile copy, the sheriff must verify receipt with the sender before attempting to serve it upon the respondent. In addition, if the sheriff is in possession of an injunction for protection that has been certified by the clerk of the court, the sheriff may transmit a facsimile copy of that injunction to a law enforcement officer who shall serve it in the same manner as a

certified copy. The clerk of the court shall be responsible for furnishing to the sheriff such information on the respondent's physical description and location as is required by the department to comply with the verification procedures set forth in this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the chief judge of each circuit, in consultation with the appropriate sheriff, may authorize a law enforcement agency within the jurisdiction to effect service. A law enforcement agency serving injunctions pursuant to this section shall use service and verification procedures consistent with those of the sheriff.

2. When an injunction is issued, if the petitioner requests the assistance of a law enforcement agency, the court may order that an officer from the appropriate law enforcement agency accompany the petitioner and assist in placing the petitioner in possession of the dwelling or residence, or otherwise assist in the execution or service of the injunction. A law enforcement officer shall accept a copy of an injunction for protection against domestic violence, certified by the clerk of the court, from the petitioner and immediately serve it upon a respondent who has been located but not yet served.

3. All orders issued, changed, continued, extended, or vacated subsequent to the original service of documents enumerated under subparagraph 1., shall be certified by the clerk of the court and delivered to the parties at the time of the entry of the order. The parties may acknowledge receipt of such order in writing on the face of the original order. In the event a party fails or refuses to acknowledge the receipt of a certified copy of an order, the clerk shall note on the original order that service was effected. If delivery at the hearing is not possible, the clerk shall mail certified copies of the order to the parties at the last known address of each party. Service by mail is complete upon mailing. When an order is served pursuant to this subsection, the clerk shall prepare a written certification to be placed in the court file specifying the time, date, and method of service and shall notify the sheriff.

If the respondent has been served previously with the temporary injunction and has failed to appear at the initial hearing on the temporary injunction, any subsequent petition for injunction seeking an extension of time may be served on the respondent by the clerk of the court by certified mail in lieu of personal service by a law enforcement officer.

(b) There shall be created a Domestic and Repeat Violence Injunction Statewide Verification System within the Department of Law Enforcement. The department shall establish, implement, and maintain a statewide communication system capable of electronically transmitting information to and between criminal justice agencies relating to domestic violence injunctions and repeat violence injunctions issued by the courts throughout the state. Such information must include, but is not limited to, information as to the existence and status of any injunction for verification purposes.

(c)1. Within 24 hours after the court issues an injunction for protection against domestic violence or changes, continues, extends, or vacates an injunction for protection against domestic violence, the clerk of the court must forward a certified copy of the injunction for service to the sheriff with jurisdiction over the residence of the petitioner. The injunction must be served in accordance with this subsection.

2. Within 24 hours after service of process of an injunction for protection against domestic violence upon a respondent, the law enforcement officer must forward the written proof of service of process to the sheriff with jurisdiction over the residence of the petitioner.

3. Within 24 hours after the sheriff receives a certified copy of the injunction for protection against domestic violence, the sheriff must make information relating to the injunction available to other law enforcement agencies by electronically transmitting such information to the department.

4. Within 24 hours after the sheriff or other law enforcement officer has made service upon the respondent and the sheriff has been so notified, the sheriff must make information relating to the service available to other law enforcement agencies by electronically transmitting such information to the department.

5.a. Subject to available funding, the Florida Association of Court Clerks and Comptrollers shall develop an automated process by which a petitioner may request notification of service of the injunction for protection against domestic violence and other court actions related to the injunction for protection. The automated notice shall be made within 12 hours after the sheriff or other law enforcement officer serves the injunction upon the respondent. The notification must include, at a minimum, the date, time, and location where the injunction for protection against domestic violence was served. When a petitioner makes a request for notification, the clerk must apprise the petitioner of her or his right to request in writing that the information specified in sub-subparagraph b. be held exempt from public records requirements for 5 years. The Florida Association of Court Clerks and Comptrollers may apply for any available grants to fund the development of the automated process.

b. Upon implementation of the automated process, information held by clerks and law enforcement agencies in conjunction with the automated process developed under sub-subparagraph a. which reveals the home or employment telephone number, cellular telephone number, home or employment address, electronic mail address, or other electronic means of identification of a petitioner requesting notification of service of an injunction for protection against domestic violence and other court actions related to the injunction for protection is exempt from s. [119.07](#)(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, upon written request by the petitioner. Such information shall cease to be exempt 5 years after the receipt of the written request. Any state or federal agency that is authorized to have access to such documents by any provision of law shall be granted such access in the furtherance of such agency's statutory duties, notwithstanding this sub-subparagraph. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. [119.15](#) and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2018, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

6. Within 24 hours after an injunction for protection against domestic violence is vacated, terminated, or otherwise rendered no longer effective by ruling of the court, the clerk of the court must notify the sheriff receiving original notification of the injunction as provided in subparagraph 2. That agency shall, within 24 hours after receiving such notification from the clerk of the court, notify the department of such action of the court.

(9)(a) The court may enforce a violation of an injunction for protection against domestic violence through a civil or criminal contempt proceeding, or the state attorney may prosecute it as a criminal violation under s. [741.31](#). The court may enforce the respondent's compliance with the injunction through any appropriate civil and criminal remedies, including, but not limited to, a monetary assessment or a fine. The clerk of the court shall collect and receive such assessments or fines. On a monthly basis, the clerk shall transfer the moneys collected pursuant to this paragraph to the State Treasury for deposit in the Domestic Violence Trust Fund established in s. [741.01](#).

(b) If the respondent is arrested by a law enforcement officer under s. [901.15](#)(6) or for a violation of s. [741.31](#), the respondent shall be held in custody until brought before the court as expeditiously as possible for the purpose of enforcing the injunction and for

admittance to bail in accordance with chapter 903 and the applicable rules of criminal procedure, pending a hearing.

(10) The petitioner or the respondent may move the court to modify or dissolve an injunction at any time.

741.31 Violation of an injunction for protection against domestic violence.—

(1) In the event of a violation of the injunction for protection against domestic violence when there has not been an arrest, the petitioner may contact the clerk of the circuit court of the county in which the violation is alleged to have occurred. The clerk shall either assist the petitioner in the preparation of an affidavit in support of the violation or direct the petitioner to the office operated by the court within the circuit that has been designated by the chief judge of that circuit as the central intake point for injunction violations and where the petitioner can receive assistance in the preparation of the affidavit in support of the violation.

(2) The affidavit shall be immediately forwarded by the office assisting the petitioner to the state attorney of that circuit and to such court or judge as the chief judge of that circuit determines to be the recipient of affidavits of violation. If the affidavit alleges a crime has been committed, the office assisting the petitioner shall also forward a copy of the petitioner's affidavit to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation. No later than 20 days after receiving the initial report, the local law enforcement agency shall complete their investigation and forward the report to the state attorney. The policy adopted by the state attorney in each circuit under s. [741.2901](#)(2), shall include a policy regarding intake of alleged violations of injunctions for protection against domestic violence under this section. The intake shall be supervised by a prosecutor who, pursuant to s. [741.2901](#)(1), has been designated and assigned to handle domestic violence cases. The state attorney shall determine within 30 working days whether its office will proceed to file criminal charges, or prepare a motion for an order to show cause as to why the respondent should not be held in criminal contempt, or prepare both as alternative findings, or file notice that the case remains under investigation or is pending subject to some other action.

(3) If the court has knowledge, based on its familiarity with the case, that the petitioner, the children of the petitioner, or another person is in immediate danger if the court fails to act prior to the decision of the state attorney to prosecute, it should immediately issue an order of appointment of the state attorney to file a motion for an order to show cause as to why the respondent should not be held in contempt. If the court does not issue an order of appointment of the state attorney, it shall immediately notify the state attorney that the court is proceeding to enforce the violation through criminal contempt.

(4)(a) A person who willfully violates an injunction for protection against domestic violence issued pursuant to s. [741.30](#), or a foreign protection order accorded full faith and credit pursuant to s. [741.315](#), by:

1. Refusing to vacate the dwelling that the parties share;
2. Going to, or being within 500 feet of, the petitioner's residence, school, place of employment, or a specified place frequented regularly by the petitioner and any named family or household member;
3. Committing an act of domestic violence against the petitioner;
4. Committing any other violation of the injunction through an intentional unlawful threat, word, or act to do violence to the petitioner;
5. Telephoning, contacting, or otherwise communicating with the petitioner directly or indirectly, unless the injunction specifically allows indirect contact through a third party;
6. Knowingly and intentionally coming within 100 feet of the petitioner's motor vehicle, whether or not that vehicle is occupied;
7. Defacing or destroying the petitioner's personal property, including the petitioner's motor vehicle; or
8. Refusing to surrender firearms or ammunition if ordered to do so by the court

commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or s. [775.083](#), except as provided in paragraph (c).

(b) 1. It is a violation of s. [790.233](#), and a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or s. [775.083](#), for a person to violate a final injunction for protection against domestic violence by having in his or her care, custody, possession, or control any firearm or ammunition.

2. It is the intent of the Legislature that the disabilities regarding possession of firearms and ammunition are consistent with federal law. Accordingly, this paragraph shall not apply to a state or local officer as defined in s. [943.10](#)(14), holding an active certification, who receives or possesses a firearm or ammunition for use in performing official duties on behalf of the officer's employing agency, unless otherwise prohibited by the employing agency.

(c) A person who has two or more prior convictions for violation of an injunction or foreign protection order, and who subsequently commits a violation of any injunction or foreign protection order against the same victim, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#) or s. [775.084](#). For purposes of this paragraph, the term "conviction" means a determination of guilt which is the result of a plea or a trial, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld or a plea of nolo contendere is entered.

(5) Whether or not there is a criminal prosecution under subsection (4), the court shall order the respondent to attend a batterers' intervention program if it finds a willful violation of a domestic violence injunction, unless the court makes written factual findings in its judgment or order which are based on substantial evidence, stating why a batterers' intervention program would be inappropriate.

(6) Any person who suffers an injury and/or loss as a result of a violation of an injunction for protection against domestic violence may be awarded economic damages for that injury and/or loss by the court issuing the injunction. Damages includes costs and attorneys' fees for enforcement of the injunction.

[775.082](#) Penalties; applicability of sentencing structures; mandatory minimum sentences for certain reoffenders previously released from prison.—

(1)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a person who has been convicted of a capital felony shall be punished by death if the proceeding held to determine sentence according to the procedure set forth in s. [921.141](#) results in a determination that such person shall be punished by death, otherwise such person shall be punished by life imprisonment and shall be ineligible for parole.

(b)1. A person who actually killed, intended to kill, or attempted to kill the victim and who is convicted under s. 782.04 of a capital felony, or an offense that was reclassified as a capital felony, which was committed before the person attained 18 years of age shall be punished by a term of imprisonment for life if, after a sentencing hearing conducted by the court in accordance with s. [921.1401](#), the

court finds that life imprisonment is an appropriate sentence. If the court finds that life imprisonment is not an appropriate sentence, such person shall be punished by a term of imprisonment of at least 40 years. A person sentenced pursuant to this subparagraph is entitled to a review of his or her sentence in accordance with s. [921.1402\(2\)\(a\)](#).

2. A person who did not actually kill, intend to kill, or attempt to kill the victim and who is convicted under s. 782.04 of a capital felony, or an offense that was reclassified as a capital felony, which was committed before the person attained 18 years of age may be punished by a term of imprisonment for life or by a term of years equal to life if, after a sentencing hearing conducted by the court in accordance with s. [921.1401](#), the court finds that life imprisonment is an appropriate sentence. A person who is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 15 years is entitled to a review of his or her sentence in accordance with s. [921.1402\(2\)\(c\)](#).

3. The court shall make a written finding as to whether a person is eligible for a sentence review hearing under s. [921.1402\(2\)\(a\)](#) or (c). Such a finding shall be based upon whether the person actually killed, intended to kill, or attempted to kill the victim. The court may find that multiple defendants killed, intended to kill, or attempted to kill the victim.

(2) In the event the death penalty in a capital felony is held to be unconstitutional by the Florida Supreme Court or the United States Supreme Court, the court having jurisdiction over a person previously sentenced to death for a capital felony shall cause such person to be brought before the court, and the court shall sentence such person to life imprisonment as provided in subsection (1). No sentence of death shall be reduced as a result of a determination that a method of execution is held to be unconstitutional under the State Constitution or the Constitution of the United States.

(3) A person who has been convicted of any other designated felony may be punished as follows:

(a)1. For a life felony committed before October 1, 1983, by a term of imprisonment for life or for a term of at least 30 years.

2. For a life felony committed on or after October 1, 1983, by a term of imprisonment for life or by a term of imprisonment not exceeding 40 years.

3. Except as provided in subparagraph 4., for a life felony committed on or after July 1, 1995, by a term of imprisonment for life or by imprisonment for a term of years not exceeding life imprisonment.

4.a. Except as provided in sub-subparagraph b., for a life felony committed on or after September 1, 2005, which is a violation of s. [800.04\(5\)\(b\)](#), by:

(I) A term of imprisonment for life; or

(II) A split sentence that is a term of at least 25 years' imprisonment and not exceeding life imprisonment, followed by probation or community control for the remainder of the person's natural life, as provided in s. [948.012\(4\)](#).

b. For a life felony committed on or after July 1, 2008, which is a person's second or subsequent violation of s. [800.04\(5\)\(b\)](#), by a term of imprisonment for life.

5. Notwithstanding subparagraphs 1.-4., a person who is convicted under s. [782.04](#) of an offense that was reclassified as a life felony which was committed before the person attained 18 years of age may be punished by a term of imprisonment for life or by a term of years equal to life imprisonment if the judge conducts a sentencing hearing in accordance with s. [921.1401](#) and finds that life imprisonment or a term of years equal to life imprisonment is an appropriate sentence.

a. A person who actually killed, intended to kill, or attempted to kill the victim and is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 25 years is entitled to a review of his or her sentence in accordance with s. [921.1402\(2\)\(b\)](#).

b. A person who did not actually kill, intend to kill, or attempt to kill the victim and is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 15 years is entitled to a review of his or her sentence in accordance with s. [921.1402\(2\)\(c\)](#).

c. The court shall make a written finding as to whether a person is eligible for a sentence review hearing under s. [921.1402\(2\)\(b\)](#) or (c). Such a finding shall be based upon whether the person actually killed, intended to kill, or attempted to kill the victim. The court may find that multiple defendants killed, intended to kill, or attempted to kill the victim.

6. For a life felony committed on or after October 1, 2014, which is a violation of s. [787.06\(3\)\(g\)](#), by a term of imprisonment for life.

(b)1. For a felony of the first degree, by a term of imprisonment not exceeding 30 years or, when specifically provided by statute, by imprisonment for a term of years not exceeding life imprisonment.

2. Notwithstanding subparagraph 1., a person convicted under s. [782.04](#) of a first degree felony punishable by a term of years not exceeding life imprisonment, or an offense that was reclassified as a first degree felony punishable by a term of years not exceeding life, which was committed before the person attained 18 years of age may be punished by a term of years equal to life imprisonment if the judge conducts a sentencing hearing in accordance with s. [921.1401](#) and finds that a term of years equal to life imprisonment is an appropriate sentence.

a. A person who actually killed, intended to kill, or attempted to kill the victim and is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 25 years is entitled to a review of his or her sentence in accordance with s. [921.1402\(2\)\(b\)](#).

b. A person who did not actually kill, intend to kill, or attempt to kill the victim and is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 15 years is entitled to a review of his or her sentence in accordance with s. [921.1402\(2\)\(c\)](#).

c. The court shall make a written finding as to whether a person is eligible for a sentence review hearing under s. [921.1402\(2\)\(b\)](#) or (c). Such a finding shall be based upon whether the person actually killed, intended to kill, or attempted to kill the victim. The court may find that multiple defendants killed, intended to kill, or attempted to kill the victim.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), a person convicted of an offense that is not included in s. [782.04](#) but that is an offense that is a life felony or is punishable by a term of imprisonment for life or by a term of years not exceeding life imprisonment, or an offense that was reclassified as a life felony or an offense punishable by a term of imprisonment for life or by a term of years not exceeding life imprisonment, which was committed before the person attained 18 years of age may be punished by a term of imprisonment for life or a term of years equal to life imprisonment if the judge conducts a sentencing hearing in accordance with s. [921.1401](#) and finds that life imprisonment or a term of years equal to life imprisonment is an appropriate sentence. A person who is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 20 years is entitled to a review of his or her sentence in accordance with s. [921.1402\(2\)\(d\)](#).

(d) For a felony of the second degree, by a term of imprisonment not exceeding 15 years.

(e) For a felony of the third degree, by a term of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years.

(4) A person who has been convicted of a designated misdemeanor may be sentenced as follows:

(a) For a misdemeanor of the first degree, by a definite term of imprisonment not exceeding 1 year;

(b) For a misdemeanor of the second degree, by a definite term of imprisonment not exceeding 60 days.

(5) Any person who has been convicted of a noncriminal violation may not be sentenced to a term of imprisonment nor to any other punishment more severe than a fine, forfeiture, or other civil penalty, except as provided in chapter 316 or by ordinance of any city or county.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the operation of any statute of this state authorizing a trial court, in its discretion, to impose a sentence of imprisonment for an indeterminate period within minimum and maximum limits as provided by law, except as provided in subsection (1).

(7) This section does not deprive the court of any authority conferred by law to decree a forfeiture of property, suspend or cancel a license, remove a person from office, or impose any other civil penalty. Such a judgment or order may be included in the sentence.

(8)(a) The sentencing guidelines that were effective October 1, 1983, and any revisions thereto, apply to all felonies, except capital felonies, committed on or after October 1, 1983, and before January 1, 1994, and to all felonies, except capital felonies and life felonies, committed before October 1, 1983, when the defendant affirmatively selects to be sentenced pursuant to such provisions.

(b) The 1994 sentencing guidelines, that were effective January 1, 1994, and any revisions thereto, apply to all felonies, except capital felonies, committed on or after January 1, 1994, and before October 1, 1995.

(c) The 1995 sentencing guidelines that were effective October 1, 1995, and any revisions thereto, apply to all felonies, except capital felonies, committed on or after October 1, 1995, and before October 1, 1998.

(d) The Criminal Punishment Code applies to all felonies, except capital felonies, committed on or after October 1, 1998. Any revision to the Criminal Punishment Code applies to sentencing for all felonies, except capital felonies, committed on or after the effective date of the revision.

(e) Felonies, except capital felonies, with continuing dates of enterprise shall be sentenced under the sentencing guidelines or the Criminal Punishment Code in effect on the beginning date of the criminal activity.

(9)(a)1. "Prison releasee reoffender" means any defendant who commits, or attempts to commit:

a. Treason;

b. Murder;

c. Manslaughter;

d. Sexual battery;

e. Carjacking;

f. Home-invasion robbery;

g. Robbery;

h. Arson;

i. Kidnapping;

j. Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon;

k. Aggravated battery;

l. Aggravated stalking;

m. Aircraft piracy;

n. Unlawful throwing, placing, or discharging of a destructive device or bomb;

o. Any felony that involves the use or threat of physical force or violence against an individual;

p. Armed burglary;

q. Burglary of a dwelling or burglary of an occupied structure; or

r. Any felony violation of s. [790.07](#), s. [800.04](#), s. [827.03](#), s. [827.071](#), or s. [847.0135](#)(5);

within 3 years after being released from a state correctional facility operated by the Department of Corrections or a private vendor or within 3 years after being released from a correctional institution of another state, the District of Columbia, the United States, any possession or territory of the United States, or any foreign jurisdiction, following incarceration for an offense for which the sentence is punishable by more than 1 year in this state.

2. "Prison releasee reoffender" also means any defendant who commits or attempts to commit any offense listed in sub-subparagraphs (a)1.a.-r. while the defendant was serving a prison sentence or on escape status from a state correctional facility operated by the Department of Corrections or a private vendor or while the defendant was on escape status from a correctional institution of another state, the District of Columbia, the United States, any possession or territory of the United States, or any foreign jurisdiction, following incarceration for an offense for which the sentence is punishable by more than 1 year in this state.

3. If the state attorney determines that a defendant is a prison releasee reoffender as defined in subparagraph 1., the state attorney may seek to have the court sentence the defendant as a prison releasee reoffender. Upon proof from the state attorney that establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that a defendant is a prison releasee reoffender as defined in this section, such defendant is not eligible for sentencing under the sentencing guidelines and must be sentenced as follows:

a. For a felony punishable by life, by a term of imprisonment for life;

b. For a felony of the first degree, by a term of imprisonment of 30 years;

c. For a felony of the second degree, by a term of imprisonment of 15 years; and

d. For a felony of the third degree, by a term of imprisonment of 5 years.

(b) A person sentenced under paragraph (a) shall be released only by expiration of sentence and shall not be eligible for parole, control release, or any form of early release. Any person sentenced under paragraph (a) must serve 100 percent of the court-imposed sentence.

(c) Nothing in this subsection shall prevent a court from imposing a greater sentence of incarceration as authorized by law, pursuant to s. [775.084](#) or any other provision of law.

(d)1. It is the intent of the Legislature that offenders previously released from prison who meet the criteria in paragraph (a) be punished to the fullest extent of the law and as provided in this subsection, unless the state attorney determines that extenuating circumstances exist which preclude the just prosecution of the offender, including whether the victim recommends that the offender not be sentenced as provided in this subsection.

2. For every case in which the offender meets the criteria in paragraph (a) and does not receive the mandatory minimum prison sentence, the state attorney must explain the sentencing deviation in writing and place such explanation in the case file maintained by the state attorney.

(10) If a defendant is sentenced for an offense committed on or after July 1, 2009, which is a third degree felony but not a forcible felony as defined in s. [776.08](#), and excluding any third degree felony violation under chapter 810, and if the total sentence points pursuant to s. [921.0024](#) are 22 points or fewer, the court must sentence the offender to a nonstate prison sanction. However, if the court makes written findings that a nonstate prison sanction could present a danger to the public, the court may sentence the offender to a state correctional facility pursuant to this section.

(11) The purpose of this section is to provide uniform punishment for those crimes made punishable under this section and, to this end, a reference to this section constitutes a general reference under the doctrine of incorporation by reference.

[775.083](#) Fines.—

(1) A person who has been convicted of an offense other than a capital felony may be sentenced to pay a fine in addition to any punishment described in s. 775.082; when specifically authorized by statute, he or she may be sentenced to pay a fine in lieu of any punishment described in s. 775.082. A person who has been convicted of a noncriminal violation may be sentenced to pay a fine. Fines for designated crimes and for noncriminal violations shall not exceed:

(a) \$15,000, when the conviction is of a life felony.

(b) \$10,000, when the conviction is of a felony of the first or second degree.

(c) \$5,000, when the conviction is of a felony of the third degree.

(d) \$1,000, when the conviction is of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(e) \$500, when the conviction is of a misdemeanor of the second degree or a noncriminal violation.

(f) Any higher amount equal to double the pecuniary gain derived from the offense by the offender or double the pecuniary loss suffered by the victim.

(g) Any higher amount specifically authorized by statute.

Fines imposed in this subsection shall be deposited by the clerk of the court in the fine and forfeiture fund established pursuant to s. 142.01. If a defendant is unable to pay a fine, the court may defer payment of the fine to a date certain. As used in this subsection, the term “convicted” or “conviction” means a determination of guilt which is the result of a trial or the entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld.

(2) In addition to the fines set forth in subsection (1), court costs shall be assessed and collected in each instance a defendant pleads nolo contendere to, or is convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for, a felony, a misdemeanor, or a criminal traffic offense under state law, or a violation of any municipal or county ordinance if the violation constitutes a misdemeanor under state law. The court costs imposed by this section shall be \$50 for a felony and \$20 for any other offense and shall be deposited by the clerk of the court into an appropriate county account for disbursement for the purposes provided in this subsection. A county shall account for the funds separately from other county funds as crime prevention funds. The county, in consultation with the sheriff, must expend such funds for crime prevention programs in the county.

(3) The clerk of the court of each county is the entity responsible for collecting payment of fines, fees, service charges, and court costs. Unless otherwise designated by the court, a person who has been ordered to pay court obligations under this section shall immediately contact the clerk to pay fines, fees, service charges, and court costs in full or to apply for enrollment in a payment plan pursuant to s. 28.246(4).

(4) The purpose of this section is to provide uniform penalty authorization for criminal offenses and, to this end, a reference to this section constitutes a general reference under the doctrine of incorporation by reference.

[775.084](#) Violent career criminals; habitual felony offenders and habitual violent felony offenders; three-time violent felony offenders; definitions; procedure; enhanced penalties or mandatory minimum prison terms.—

(1) As used in this act:

(a) “Habitual felony offender” means a defendant for whom the court may impose an extended term of imprisonment, as provided in paragraph (4)(a), if it finds that:

1. The defendant has previously been convicted of any combination of two or more felonies in this state or other qualified offenses.

2. The felony for which the defendant is to be sentenced was committed:

a. While the defendant was serving a prison sentence or other sentence, or court-ordered or lawfully imposed supervision that is imposed as a result of a prior conviction for a felony or other qualified offense; or

b. Within 5 years of the date of the conviction of the defendant’s last prior felony or other qualified offense, or within 5 years of the defendant’s release from a prison sentence, probation, community control, control release, conditional release, parole or

court-ordered or lawfully imposed supervision or other sentence that is imposed as a result of a prior conviction for a felony or other qualified offense, whichever is later.

3. The felony for which the defendant is to be sentenced, and one of the two prior felony convictions, is not a violation of s. 893.13 relating to the purchase or the possession of a controlled substance.

4. The defendant has not received a pardon for any felony or other qualified offense that is necessary for the operation of this paragraph.

5. A conviction of a felony or other qualified offense necessary to the operation of this paragraph has not been set aside in any postconviction proceeding.

(b) "Habitual violent felony offender" means a defendant for whom the court may impose an extended term of imprisonment, as provided in paragraph (4)(b), if it finds that:

1. The defendant has previously been convicted of a felony or an attempt or conspiracy to commit a felony and one or more of such convictions was for:

- a. Arson;
- b. Sexual battery;
- c. Robbery;
- d. Kidnapping;
- e. Aggravated child abuse;
- f. Aggravated abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult;
- g. Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon;
- h. Murder;
- i. Manslaughter;
- j. Aggravated manslaughter of an elderly person or disabled adult;
- k. Aggravated manslaughter of a child;
- l. Unlawful throwing, placing, or discharging of a destructive device or bomb;
- m. Armed burglary;
- n. Aggravated battery; or
- o. Aggravated stalking.

2. The felony for which the defendant is to be sentenced was committed:

a. While the defendant was serving a prison sentence or other sentence, or court-ordered or lawfully imposed supervision that is imposed as a result of a prior conviction for an enumerated felony; or

b. Within 5 years of the date of the conviction of the last prior enumerated felony, or within 5 years of the defendant's release from a prison sentence, probation, community control, control release, conditional release, parole, or court-ordered or lawfully imposed supervision or other sentence that is imposed as a result of a prior conviction for an enumerated felony, whichever is later.

3. The defendant has not received a pardon on the ground of innocence for any crime that is necessary for the operation of this paragraph.

4. A conviction of a crime necessary to the operation of this paragraph has not been set aside in any postconviction proceeding.

(c) "Three-time violent felony offender" means a defendant for whom the court must impose a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment, as provided in paragraph (4)(c), if it finds that:

1. The defendant has previously been convicted as an adult two or more times of a felony, or an attempt to commit a felony, and two or more of such convictions were for committing, or attempting to commit, any of the following offenses or combination thereof:

- a. Arson;
- b. Sexual battery;
- c. Robbery;
- d. Kidnapping;
- e. Aggravated child abuse;
- f. Aggravated abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult;
- g. Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon;
- h. Murder;
- i. Manslaughter;
- j. Aggravated manslaughter of an elderly person or disabled adult;
- k. Aggravated manslaughter of a child;
- l. Unlawful throwing, placing, or discharging of a destructive device or bomb;
- m. Armed burglary;
- n. Aggravated battery;
- o. Aggravated stalking;

p. Home invasion/robbery;

q. Carjacking; or

r. An offense which is in violation of a law of any other jurisdiction if the elements of the offense are substantially similar to the elements of any felony offense enumerated in sub-subparagraphs a.-q., or an attempt to commit any such felony offense.

2. The felony for which the defendant is to be sentenced is one of the felonies enumerated in sub-subparagraphs 1.a.-q. and was committed:

a. While the defendant was serving a prison sentence or other sentence imposed as a result of a prior conviction for any offense enumerated in sub-subparagraphs 1.a.-r.; or

b. Within 5 years after the date of the conviction of the last prior offense enumerated in sub-subparagraphs 1.a.-r., or within 5 years after the defendant's release from a prison sentence, probation, community control, or other sentence imposed as a result of a prior conviction for any offense enumerated in sub-subparagraphs 1.a.-r., whichever is later.

3. The defendant has not received a pardon on the ground of innocence for any crime that is necessary for the operation of this paragraph.

4. A conviction of a crime necessary to the operation of this paragraph has not been set aside in any postconviction proceeding.

(d) "Violent career criminal" means a defendant for whom the court must impose imprisonment pursuant to paragraph (4)(d), if it finds that:

1. The defendant has previously been convicted as an adult three or more times for an offense in this state or other qualified offense that is:

a. Any forcible felony, as described in s. 776.08;

b. Aggravated stalking, as described in s. 784.048(3) and (4);

c. Aggravated child abuse, as described in s. 827.03(2)(a);

d. Aggravated abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult, as described in s. 825.102(2);

e. Lewd or lascivious battery, lewd or lascivious molestation, lewd or lascivious conduct, or lewd or lascivious exhibition, as described in s. 800.04 or s. 847.0135(5);

f. Escape, as described in s. 944.40; or

g. A felony violation of chapter 790 involving the use or possession of a firearm.

2. The defendant has been incarcerated in a state prison or a federal prison.

3. The primary felony offense for which the defendant is to be sentenced is a felony enumerated in subparagraph 1. and was committed on or after October 1, 1995, and:

a. While the defendant was serving a prison sentence or other sentence, or court-ordered or lawfully imposed supervision that is imposed as a result of a prior conviction for an enumerated felony; or

b. Within 5 years after the conviction of the last prior enumerated felony, or within 5 years after the defendant's release from a prison sentence, probation, community control, control release, conditional release, parole, or court-ordered or lawfully imposed supervision or other sentence that is imposed as a result of a prior conviction for an enumerated felony, whichever is later.

4. The defendant has not received a pardon for any felony or other qualified offense that is necessary for the operation of this paragraph.

5. A conviction of a felony or other qualified offense necessary to the operation of this paragraph has not been set aside in any postconviction proceeding.

(e) "Qualified offense" means any offense, substantially similar in elements and penalties to an offense in this state, which is in violation of a law of any other jurisdiction, whether that of another state, the District of Columbia, the United States or any possession or territory thereof, or any foreign jurisdiction, that was punishable under the law of such jurisdiction at the time of its commission by the defendant by death or imprisonment exceeding 1 year.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the placing of a person on probation or community control without an adjudication of guilt shall be treated as a prior conviction.

(3)(a) In a separate proceeding, the court shall determine if the defendant is a habitual felony offender or a habitual violent felony offender. The procedure shall be as follows:

1. The court shall obtain and consider a presentence investigation prior to the imposition of a sentence as a habitual felony offender or a habitual violent felony offender.

2. Written notice shall be served on the defendant and the defendant's attorney a sufficient time prior to the entry of a plea or prior to the imposition of sentence in order to allow the preparation of a submission on behalf of the defendant.

3. Except as provided in subparagraph 1., all evidence presented shall be presented in open court with full rights of confrontation, cross-examination, and representation by counsel.

4. Each of the findings required as the basis for such sentence shall be found to exist by a preponderance of the evidence and shall *be appealable to the extent normally applicable to similar findings.

5. For the purpose of identification of a habitual felony offender or a habitual violent felony offender, the court shall fingerprint the defendant pursuant to s. 921.241.

6. For an offense committed on or after October 1, 1995, if the state attorney pursues a habitual felony offender sanction or a habitual violent felony offender sanction against the defendant and the court, in a separate proceeding pursuant to this paragraph, determines that the defendant meets the criteria under subsection (1) for imposing such sanction, the court must sentence the defendant as a habitual felony offender or a habitual violent felony offender, subject to imprisonment pursuant to this section unless the court finds

that such sentence is not necessary for the protection of the public. If the court finds that it is not necessary for the protection of the public to sentence the defendant as a habitual felony offender or a habitual violent felony offender, the court shall provide written reasons; a written transcript of orally stated reasons is permissible, if filed by the court within 7 days after the date of sentencing. Each month, the court shall submit to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Legislature the written reasons or transcripts in each case in which the court determines not to sentence a defendant as a habitual felony offender or a habitual violent felony offender as provided in this subparagraph.

(b) In a separate proceeding, the court shall determine if the defendant is a three-time violent felony offender. The procedure shall be as follows:

1. The court shall obtain and consider a presentence investigation prior to the imposition of a sentence as a three-time violent felony offender.
2. Written notice shall be served on the defendant and the defendant's attorney a sufficient time prior to the entry of a plea or prior to the imposition of sentence in order to allow the preparation of a submission on behalf of the defendant.
3. Except as provided in subparagraph 1., all evidence presented shall be presented in open court with full rights of confrontation, cross-examination, and representation by counsel.
4. Each of the findings required as the basis for such sentence shall be found to exist by a preponderance of the evidence and shall be appealable to the extent normally applicable to similar findings.
5. For the purpose of identification of a three-time violent felony offender, the court shall fingerprint the defendant pursuant to s. [921.241](#).

6. For an offense committed on or after the effective date of this act, if the state attorney pursues a three-time violent felony offender sanction against the defendant and the court, in a separate proceeding pursuant to this paragraph, determines that the defendant meets the criteria under subsection (1) for imposing such sanction, the court must sentence the defendant as a three-time violent felony offender, subject to imprisonment pursuant to this section as provided in paragraph (4)(c).

(c) In a separate proceeding, the court shall determine whether the defendant is a violent career criminal with respect to a primary offense committed on or after October 1, 1995. The procedure shall be as follows:

1. Written notice shall be served on the defendant and the defendant's attorney a sufficient time prior to the entry of a plea or prior to the imposition of sentence in order to allow the preparation of a submission on behalf of the defendant.
2. All evidence presented shall be presented in open court with full rights of confrontation, cross-examination, and representation by counsel.
3. Each of the findings required as the basis for such sentence shall be found to exist by a preponderance of the evidence and shall be appealable only as provided in paragraph (d).
4. For the purpose of identification, the court shall fingerprint the defendant pursuant to s. [921.241](#).

5. For an offense committed on or after October 1, 1995, if the state attorney pursues a violent career criminal sanction against the defendant and the court, in a separate proceeding pursuant to this paragraph, determines that the defendant meets the criteria under subsection (1) for imposing such sanction, the court must sentence the defendant as a violent career criminal, subject to imprisonment pursuant to this section unless the court finds that such sentence is not necessary for the protection of the public. If the court finds that it is not necessary for the protection of the public to sentence the defendant as a violent career criminal, the court shall provide written reasons; a written transcript of orally stated reasons is permissible, if filed by the court within 7 days after the date of sentencing. Each month, the court shall submit to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Legislature the written reasons or transcripts in each case in which the court determines not to sentence a defendant as a violent career criminal as provided in this subparagraph.

(d)1. A person sentenced under paragraph (4)(d) as a violent career criminal has the right of direct appeal, and either the state or the defendant may petition the trial court to vacate an illegal sentence at any time. However, the determination of the trial court to impose or not to impose a violent career criminal sentence is presumed appropriate and no petition or motion for collateral or other postconviction relief may be considered based on an allegation either by the state or the defendant that such sentence is inappropriate, inadequate, or excessive.

2. It is the intent of the Legislature that, with respect to both direct appeal and collateral review of violent career criminal sentences, all claims of error or illegality be raised at the first opportunity and that no claim should be filed more than 2 years after the judgment and sentence became final, unless it is established that the basis for the claim could not have been ascertained at the time by the exercise of due diligence. Technical violations and mistakes at trials and sentencing proceedings involving violent career criminals that do not affect due process or fundamental fairness are not appealable by either the state or the defendant.

3. It is the intent of the Legislature that no funds, resources, or employees of the state or its political subdivisions be used, directly or indirectly, in appellate or collateral proceedings based on violent career criminal sentencing, except when such use is constitutionally or statutorily mandated.

(4)(a) The court, in conformity with the procedure established in paragraph (3)(a), may sentence the habitual felony offender as follows:

1. In the case of a life felony or a felony of the first degree, for life.
2. In the case of a felony of the second degree, for a term of years not exceeding 30.
3. In the case of a felony of the third degree, for a term of years not exceeding 10.

(b) The court, in conformity with the procedure established in paragraph (3)(a), may sentence the habitual violent felony offender as follows:

1. In the case of a life felony or a felony of the first degree, for life, and such offender shall not be eligible for release for 15 years.
2. In the case of a felony of the second degree, for a term of years not exceeding 30, and such offender shall not be eligible for release for 10 years.

3. In the case of a felony of the third degree, for a term of years not exceeding 10, and such offender shall not be eligible for release for 5 years.

(c)1. The court, in conformity with the procedure established in paragraph (3)(b), must sentence the three-time violent felony offender to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment, as follows:

- a. In the case of a felony punishable by life, to a term of imprisonment for life;
- b. In the case of a felony of the first degree, to a term of imprisonment of 30 years;
- c. In the case of a felony of the second degree, to a term of imprisonment of 15 years; or
- d. In the case of a felony of the third degree, to a term of imprisonment of 5 years.

2. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent a court from imposing a greater sentence of incarceration as authorized by law.

(d) The court, in conformity with the procedure established in paragraph (3)(c), shall sentence the violent career criminal as follows:

1. In the case of a life felony or a felony of the first degree, for life.
2. In the case of a felony of the second degree, for a term of years not exceeding 40, with a mandatory minimum term of 30 years' imprisonment.
3. In the case of a felony of the third degree, for a term of years not exceeding 15, with a mandatory minimum term of 10 years' imprisonment.

(e) If the court finds, pursuant to paragraph (3)(a) or paragraph (3)(c), that it is not necessary for the protection of the public to sentence a defendant who meets the criteria for sentencing as a habitual felony offender, a habitual violent felony offender, or a violent career criminal, with respect to an offense committed on or after October 1, 1995, sentence shall be imposed without regard to this section.

(f) At any time when it appears to the court that the defendant is eligible for sentencing under this section, the court shall make that determination as provided in paragraph (3)(a), paragraph (3)(b), or paragraph (3)(c).

(g) A sentence imposed under this section shall not be increased after such imposition.

(h) A sentence imposed under this section is not subject to s. 921.002.

(i) The provisions of this section do not apply to capital felonies, and a sentence authorized under this section does not preclude the imposition of the death penalty for a capital felony.

(j) The provisions of s. 947.1405 shall apply to persons sentenced as habitual felony offenders and persons sentenced as habitual violent felony offenders.

(k)1. A defendant sentenced under this section as a habitual felony offender, a habitual violent felony offender, or a violent career criminal is eligible for gain-time granted by the Department of Corrections as provided in s. 944.275(4)(b).

2. For an offense committed on or after October 1, 1995, a defendant sentenced under this section as a violent career criminal is not eligible for any form of discretionary early release, other than pardon or executive clemency, or conditional medical release granted pursuant to s. 947.149.

3. For an offense committed on or after July 1, 1999, a defendant sentenced under this section as a three-time violent felony offender shall be released only by expiration of sentence and shall not be eligible for parole, control release, or any form of early release.

(5) In order to be counted as a prior felony for purposes of sentencing under this section, the felony must have resulted in a conviction sentenced separately prior to the current offense and sentenced separately from any other felony conviction that is to be counted as a prior felony.

(6) The purpose of this section is to provide uniform punishment for those crimes made punishable under this section, and to this end, a reference to this section constitutes a general reference under the doctrine of incorporation by reference.

784.046 Action by victim of repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence for protective injunction; dating violence investigations, notice to victims, and reporting; pretrial release violations; public records exemption.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Violence" means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, or false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death, by a person against any other person.

(b) "Repeat violence" means two incidents of violence or stalking committed by the respondent, one of which must have been within 6 months of the filing of the petition, which are directed against the petitioner or the petitioner's immediate family member.

(c) "Sexual violence" means any one incident of:

1. Sexual battery, as defined in chapter 794;
2. A lewd or lascivious act, as defined in chapter 800, committed upon or in the presence of a person younger than 16 years of age;
3. Luring or enticing a child, as described in chapter 787;
4. Sexual performance by a child, as described in chapter 827; or
5. Any other forcible felony wherein a sexual act is committed or attempted,

regardless of whether criminal charges based on the incident were filed, reduced, or dismissed by the state attorney.

(d) "Dating violence" means violence between individuals who have or have had a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the consideration of the following factors:

1. A dating relationship must have existed within the past 6 months;

2. The nature of the relationship must have been characterized by the expectation of affection or sexual involvement between the parties; and

3. The frequency and type of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship must have included that the persons have been involved over time and on a continuous basis during the course of the relationship.

The term does not include violence in a casual acquaintanceship or violence between individuals who only have engaged in ordinary fraternization in a business or social context.

(2) There is created a cause of action for an injunction for protection in cases of repeat violence, there is created a separate cause of action for an injunction for protection in cases of dating violence, and there is created a separate cause of action for an injunction for protection in cases of sexual violence.

(a) Any person who is the victim of repeat violence or the parent or legal guardian of any minor child who is living at home and who seeks an injunction for protection against repeat violence on behalf of the minor child has standing in the circuit court to file a sworn petition for an injunction for protection against repeat violence.

(b) Any person who is the victim of dating violence and has reasonable cause to believe he or she is in imminent danger of becoming the victim of another act of dating violence, or any person who has reasonable cause to believe he or she is in imminent danger of becoming the victim of an act of dating violence, or the parent or legal guardian of any minor child who is living at home and who seeks an injunction for protection against dating violence on behalf of that minor child, has standing in the circuit court to file a sworn petition for an injunction for protection against dating violence.

(c) A person who is the victim of sexual violence or the parent or legal guardian of a minor child who is living at home who is the victim of sexual violence has standing in the circuit court to file a sworn petition for an injunction for protection against sexual violence on his or her own behalf or on behalf of the minor child if:

1. The person has reported the sexual violence to a law enforcement agency and is cooperating in any criminal proceeding against the respondent, regardless of whether criminal charges based on the sexual violence have been filed, reduced, or dismissed by the state attorney; or

2. The respondent who committed the sexual violence against the victim or minor child was sentenced to a term of imprisonment in state prison for the sexual violence and the respondent's term of imprisonment has expired or is due to expire within 90 days following the date the petition is filed.

(d) A cause of action for an injunction may be sought whether or not any other petition, complaint, or cause of action is currently available or pending between the parties.

(e) A cause of action for an injunction does not require that the petitioner be represented by an attorney.

(3)(a) The clerk of the court shall provide a copy of this section, simplified forms, and clerical assistance for the preparation and filing of such a petition by any person who is not represented by counsel.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the clerk of the court may not assess a fee for filing a petition for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence. However, subject to legislative appropriation, the clerk of the court may, each quarter, submit to the Office of the State Courts Administrator a certified request for reimbursement for petitions for protection issued by the court under this section at the rate of \$40 per petition. The request for reimbursement shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Office of the State Courts Administrator. From this reimbursement, the clerk shall pay the law enforcement agency serving the injunction the fee requested by the law enforcement agency; however, this fee may not exceed \$20.

(c) No bond shall be required by the court for the entry of an injunction.

(d) The clerk of the court shall provide the petitioner with a certified copy of any injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence entered by the court.

(4)(a) The sworn petition shall allege the incidents of repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence and shall include the specific facts and circumstances that form the basis upon which relief is sought. With respect to a minor child who is living at home, the parent or legal guardian seeking the protective injunction on behalf of the minor child must:

1. Have been an eyewitness to, or have direct physical evidence or affidavits from eyewitnesses of, the specific facts and circumstances that form the basis upon which relief is sought, if the party against whom the protective injunction is sought is also a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of the minor child; or

2. Have reasonable cause to believe that the minor child is a victim of repeat sexual or dating violence to form the basis upon which relief is sought, if the party against whom the protective injunction is sought is a person other than a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of the minor child.

(b) The sworn petition must be in substantially the following form:

PETITION FOR INJUNCTION FOR PROTECTION
AGAINST REPEAT VIOLENCE, SEXUAL
VIOLENCE, OR DATING VIOLENCE

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Petitioner (Name), who has been sworn and says that the following statements are true:

1. Petitioner resides at (address) (A petitioner for an injunction for protection against sexual violence may furnish an address to the court in a separate confidential filing if, for safety reasons, the petitioner requires the location of his or her current residence to be confidential pursuant to s. 119.071(2)(j), Florida Statutes.)

2. Respondent resides at (address).

3.a. Petitioner has suffered repeat violence as demonstrated by the fact that the respondent has:

(enumerate incidents of violence)

b. Petitioner has suffered sexual violence as demonstrated by the fact that the respondent has: (enumerate incident of violence and

include incident report number from law enforcement agency or attach notice of inmate release.)

c. Petitioner is a victim of dating violence and has reasonable cause to believe that he or she is in imminent danger of becoming the victim of another act of dating violence or has reasonable cause to believe that he or she is in imminent danger of becoming a victim of dating violence, as demonstrated by the fact that the respondent has: (list the specific incident or incidents of violence and describe the length of time of the relationship, whether it has been in existence during the last 6 months, the nature of the relationship of a romantic or intimate nature, the frequency and type of interaction, and any other facts that characterize the relationship.)

4. Petitioner genuinely fears repeat violence by the respondent.

5. Petitioner seeks: an immediate injunction against the respondent, enjoining him or her from committing any further acts of violence; an injunction enjoining the respondent from committing any further acts of violence; and an injunction providing any terms the court deems necessary for the protection of the petitioner and the petitioner's immediate family, including any injunctions or directives to law enforcement agencies.

(5) Upon the filing of the petition, the court shall set a hearing to be held at the earliest possible time. The respondent shall be personally served with a copy of the petition, notice of hearing, and temporary injunction, if any, prior to the hearing.

(6)(a) When it appears to the court that an immediate and present danger of violence exists, the court may grant a temporary injunction which may be granted in an ex parte hearing, pending a full hearing, and may grant such relief as the court deems proper, including an injunction enjoining the respondent from committing any acts of violence.

(b) Except as provided in s. 90.204, in a hearing ex parte for the purpose of obtaining such temporary injunction, no evidence other than the verified pleading or affidavit shall be used as evidence, unless the respondent appears at the hearing or has received reasonable notice of the hearing.

(c) Any such ex parte temporary injunction shall be effective for a fixed period not to exceed 15 days. However, an ex parte temporary injunction granted under subparagraph (2)(c)2. is effective for 15 days following the date the respondent is released from incarceration. A full hearing, as provided by this section, shall be set for a date no later than the date when the temporary injunction ceases to be effective. The court may grant a continuance of the ex parte injunction and the full hearing before or during a hearing, for good cause shown by any party.

(7) Upon notice and hearing, the court may grant such relief as the court deems proper, including an injunction:

(a) Enjoining the respondent from committing any acts of violence.

(b) Ordering such other relief as the court deems necessary for the protection of the petitioner, including injunctions or directives to law enforcement agencies, as provided in this section.

(c) The terms of the injunction shall remain in full force and effect until modified or dissolved. Either party may move at any time to modify or dissolve the injunction. Such relief may be granted in addition to other civil or criminal remedies.

(d) A temporary or final judgment on injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence entered pursuant to this section shall, on its face, indicate that:

1. The injunction is valid and enforceable in all counties of the State of Florida.

2. Law enforcement officers may use their arrest powers pursuant to s. 901.15(6) to enforce the terms of the injunction.

3. The court had jurisdiction over the parties and matter under the laws of Florida and that reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard was given to the person against whom the order is sought sufficient to protect that person's right to due process.

4. The date that the respondent was served with the temporary or final order, if obtainable.

(8)(a)1. The clerk of the court shall furnish a copy of the petition, notice of hearing, and temporary injunction, if any, to the sheriff or a law enforcement agency of the county where the respondent resides or can be found, who shall serve it upon the respondent as soon thereafter as possible on any day of the week and at any time of the day or night. When requested by the sheriff, the clerk of the court may transmit a facsimile copy of an injunction that has been certified by the clerk of the court, and this facsimile copy may be served in the same manner as a certified copy. Upon receiving a facsimile copy, the sheriff must verify receipt with the sender before attempting to serve it upon the respondent. In addition, if the sheriff is in possession of an injunction for protection that has been certified by the clerk of the court, the sheriff may transmit a facsimile copy of that injunction to a law enforcement officer who shall serve it in the same manner as a certified copy. The clerk of the court shall be responsible for furnishing to the sheriff such information on the respondent's physical description and location as is required by the department to comply with the verification procedures set forth in this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the chief judge of each circuit, in consultation with the appropriate sheriff, may authorize a law enforcement agency within the chief judge's jurisdiction to effect this type of service and to receive a portion of the service fee. No person shall be authorized or permitted to serve or execute an injunction issued under this section unless the person is a law enforcement officer as defined in chapter 943.

2. When an injunction is issued, if the petitioner requests the assistance of a law enforcement agency, the court may order that an officer from the appropriate law enforcement agency accompany the petitioner and assist in the execution or service of the injunction. A law enforcement officer shall accept a copy of an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence, certified by the clerk of the court, from the petitioner and immediately serve it upon a respondent who has been located but not yet served.

(b) There shall be created a Domestic, Dating, Sexual, and Repeat Violence Injunction Statewide Verification System within the Department of Law Enforcement. The department shall establish, implement, and maintain a statewide communication system capable of electronically transmitting information to and between criminal justice agencies relating to domestic violence injunctions, dating violence injunctions, sexual violence injunctions, and repeat violence injunctions issued by the courts throughout the state. Such information must include, but is not limited to, information as to the existence and status of any injunction for verification purposes.

(c)1. Within 24 hours after the court issues an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence or changes or vacates an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence, the clerk of the court must forward a copy of the injunction to the sheriff with jurisdiction over the residence of the petitioner.

2. Within 24 hours after service of process of an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence upon a respondent, the law enforcement officer must forward the written proof of service of process to the sheriff with jurisdiction over the residence of the petitioner.

3. Within 24 hours after the sheriff receives a certified copy of the injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence, the sheriff must make information relating to the injunction available to other law enforcement agencies by electronically transmitting such information to the department.

4. Within 24 hours after the sheriff or other law enforcement officer has made service upon the respondent and the sheriff has been so notified, the sheriff must make information relating to the service available to other law enforcement agencies by electronically transmitting such information to the department.

5.a. Subject to available funding, the Florida Association of Court Clerks and Comptrollers shall develop an automated process by which a petitioner may request notification of service of the injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence and other court actions related to the injunction for protection. The automated notice shall be made within 12 hours after the sheriff or other law enforcement officer serves the injunction upon the respondent. The notification must include, at a minimum, the date, time, and location where the injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence was served. When a petitioner makes a request for notification, the clerk must apprise the petitioner of her or his right to request in writing that the information specified in sub-subparagraph b. be held exempt from public records requirements for 5 years. The Florida Association of Court Clerks and Comptrollers may apply for any available grants to fund the development of the automated process.

b. Upon implementation of the automated process, information held by clerks and law enforcement agencies in conjunction with the automated process developed under sub-subparagraph a. which reveals the home or employment telephone number, cellular telephone number, home or employment address, electronic mail address, or other electronic means of identification of a petitioner requesting notification of service of an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence and other court actions related to the injunction for protection is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, upon written request by the petitioner. Such information shall cease to be exempt 5 years after the receipt of the written request. Any state or federal agency that is authorized to have access to such documents by any provision of law shall be granted such access in the furtherance of such agency's statutory duties, notwithstanding this sub-subparagraph. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2018, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

6. Within 24 hours after an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence is lifted, terminated, or otherwise rendered no longer effective by ruling of the court, the clerk of the court must notify the sheriff or local law enforcement agency receiving original notification of the injunction as provided in subparagraph 2. That agency shall, within 24 hours after receiving such notification from the clerk of the court, notify the department of such action of the court.

(9)(a) The court shall enforce, through a civil or criminal contempt proceeding, a violation of an injunction for protection. The court may enforce the respondent's compliance with the injunction by imposing a monetary assessment. The clerk of the court shall collect and receive such assessments. On a monthly basis, the clerk shall transfer the moneys collected pursuant to this paragraph to the State Treasury for deposit in the Crimes Compensation Trust Fund established in s. 960.21.

(b) If the respondent is arrested by a law enforcement officer under s. 901.15(6) for committing an act of repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence in violation of an injunction for protection, the respondent shall be held in custody until brought before the court as expeditiously as possible for the purpose of enforcing the injunction and for admittance to bail in accordance with chapter 903 and the applicable rules of criminal procedure, pending a hearing.

(10) The petitioner or the respondent may move the court to modify or dissolve an injunction at any time.

(11) Any law enforcement officer who investigates an alleged incident of dating violence shall assist the victim to obtain medical treatment if such is required as a result of the alleged incident to which the officer responds. Any law enforcement officer who investigates an alleged incident of dating violence shall advise the victim of such violence that there is a domestic violence center from which the victim may receive services. The law enforcement officer shall give the victim immediate notice of the legal rights and remedies available on a standard form developed and distributed by the Department of Law Enforcement. As necessary, the Department of Law Enforcement shall revise the Legal Rights and Remedies Notice to Victims to include a general summary of this section, using simple English as well as Spanish, and shall distribute the notice as a model form to be used by all law enforcement agencies throughout the state. The notice shall include:

(a) The resource listing, including telephone number, for the area domestic violence center designated by the Department of Children and Families; and

(b) A copy of the following statement: "IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF DATING VIOLENCE, you may ask the state attorney to file a criminal complaint. You also have the right to go to court and file a petition requesting an injunction for protection from dating violence which may include, but need not be limited to, provisions that restrain the abuser from further acts of abuse; direct the abuser to leave your household; and prevent the abuser from entering your residence, school, business, or place of employment."

(12) When a law enforcement officer investigates an allegation that an incident of dating violence has occurred, the officer shall handle the incident pursuant to the arrest policy provided in s. 901.15(7), and as developed in accordance with subsections (13), (14), and (16). Whether or not an arrest is made, the officer shall make a written police report that is complete and clearly indicates that the alleged offense was an incident of dating violence. Such report shall be given to the officer's supervisor and filed with the law enforcement agency in a manner that will permit data on dating violence cases to be compiled. Such report must include:

(a) A description of physical injuries observed, if any.

(b) If a law enforcement officer decides not to make an arrest or decides to arrest two or more parties, the grounds for not arresting anyone or for arresting two or more parties.

(c) A statement which indicates that a copy of the legal rights and remedies notice was given to the victim.

Whenever possible, the law enforcement officer shall obtain a written statement from the victim and witnesses concerning the alleged dating violence. The officer shall submit the report to the supervisor or other person to whom the employer's rules or policies require reports of similar allegations of criminal activity to be made. The law enforcement agency shall, without charge, send a copy

of the initial police report, as well as any subsequent, supplemental, or related report, which excludes victim or witness statements or other materials that are part of an active criminal investigation and are exempt from disclosure under chapter 119, to the nearest locally certified domestic violence center within 24 hours after the agency's receipt of the report. The report furnished to the domestic violence center must include a narrative description of the dating violence incident.

(13) Whenever a law enforcement officer determines upon probable cause that an act of dating violence has been committed within the jurisdiction, or that a person has violated a condition of pretrial release as provided in s. 903.047 and the original arrest was for an act of dating violence, the officer may arrest the person or persons suspected of its commission and charge such person or persons with the appropriate crime. The decision to arrest and charge shall not require consent of the victim or consideration of the relationship of the parties.

(14)(a) When complaints are received from two or more parties, the officers shall evaluate each complaint separately to determine whether there is probable cause for arrest.

(b) If a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that two or more persons have committed a misdemeanor or felony, or if two or more persons make complaints to the officer, the officer shall try to determine who was the primary aggressor. Arrest is the preferred response only with respect to the primary aggressor and not the preferred response with respect to a person who acts in a reasonable manner to protect or defend himself or herself or another family or household member from dating violence.

(15) A person who willfully violates a condition of pretrial release provided in s. [903.047](#), when the original arrest was for an act of dating violence as defined in this section, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or s. [775.083](#), and shall be held in custody until his or her first appearance.

(16) A law enforcement officer acting in good faith under this section and the officer's employing agency shall be immune from all liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed by reason of the officer's or agency's actions in carrying out the provisions of this section.

[784.048](#) Stalking; definitions; penalties.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Harass" means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person which causes substantial emotional distress to that person and serves no legitimate purpose.

(b) "Course of conduct" means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, which evidences a continuity of purpose. The term does not include constitutionally protected activity such as picketing or other organized protests.

(c) "Credible threat" means a verbal or nonverbal threat, or a combination of the two, including threats delivered by electronic communication or implied by a pattern of conduct, which places the person who is the target of the threat in reasonable fear for his or her safety or the safety of his or her family members or individuals closely associated with the person, and which is made with the intent to actually carry out the threat. It is not necessary to prove that the person making the threat had the intent to actually carry out the threat. The present incarceration of the person making the threat is not a bar to prosecution under this section.

(d) "Cyberstalk" means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.

(2) A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person commits the offense of stalking, a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or s. [775.083](#).

(3) A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person and makes a credible threat to that person commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(4) A person who, after an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence pursuant to s. [784.046](#), or an injunction for protection against domestic violence pursuant to s. [741.30](#), or after any other court-imposed prohibition of conduct toward the subject person or that person's property, knowingly, willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(5) A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks a child under 16 years of age commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(6) A law enforcement officer may arrest, without a warrant, any person that he or she has probable cause to believe has violated this section.

(7) A person who, after having been sentenced for a violation of s. [794.011](#), s. [800.04](#), or s. [847.0135](#)(5) and prohibited from contacting the victim of the offense under s. [921.244](#), willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks the victim commits the offense of aggravated stalking, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(8) The punishment imposed under this section shall run consecutive to any former sentence imposed for a conviction for any offense under s. [794.011](#), s. [800.04](#), or s. [847.0135](#)(5).

(9)(a) The sentencing court shall consider, as a part of any sentence, issuing an order restraining the defendant from any contact with the victim, which may be valid for up to 10 years, as determined by the court. It is the intent of the Legislature that the length of any such order be based upon the seriousness of the facts before the court, the probability of future violations by the perpetrator, and the safety of the victim and his or her family members or individuals closely associated with the victim.

(b) The order may be issued by the court even if the defendant is sentenced to a state prison or a county jail or even if the imposition of the sentence is suspended and the defendant is placed on probation.

[787.01](#) Kidnapping; kidnapping of child under age 13, aggravating circumstances.—

(1)(a) The term “kidnapping” means forcibly, secretly, or by threat confining, abducting, or imprisoning another person against her or his will and without lawful authority, with intent to:

1. Hold for ransom or reward or as a shield or hostage.
2. Commit or facilitate commission of any felony.
3. Inflict bodily harm upon or to terrorize the victim or another person.
4. Interfere with the performance of any governmental or political function.

(b) Confinement of a child under the age of 13 is against her or his will within the meaning of this subsection if such confinement is without the consent of her or his parent or legal guardian.

(2) A person who kidnaps a person is guilty of a felony of the first degree, punishable by imprisonment for a term of years not exceeding life or as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(3)(a) A person who commits the offense of kidnapping upon a child under the age of 13 and who, in the course of committing the offense, commits one or more of the following:

1. Aggravated child abuse, as defined in s. [827.03](#);
2. Sexual battery, as defined in chapter 794, against the child;
3. Lewd or lascivious battery, lewd or lascivious molestation, lewd or lascivious conduct, or lewd or lascivious exhibition, in violation of s. [800.04](#) or s. [847.0135](#)(5);
4. A violation of former s. [796.03](#) or s. [796.04](#), relating to prostitution, upon the child;
5. Exploitation of the child or allowing the child to be exploited, in violation of s. [450.151](#); or
6. A violation of s. [787.06](#)(3)(g), relating to human trafficking, commits a life felony, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(b) Pursuant to s. [775.021](#)(4), nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit the imposition of separate judgments and sentences for the life felony described in paragraph (a) and for each separate offense enumerated in subparagraphs (a)1.-5.

787.02 False imprisonment; false imprisonment of child under age 13, aggravating circumstances.—

(1)(a) The term “false imprisonment” means forcibly, by threat, or secretly confining, abducting, imprisoning, or restraining another person without lawful authority and against her or his will.

(b) Confinement of a child under the age of 13 is against her or his will within the meaning of this section if such confinement is without the consent of her or his parent or legal guardian.

(2) A person who commits the offense of false imprisonment is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(3)(a) A person who commits the offense of false imprisonment upon a child under the age of 13 and who, in the course of committing the offense, commits any offense enumerated in 1 subparagraphs 1.-5., commits a felony of the first degree, punishable by imprisonment for a term of years not exceeding life or as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

1. Aggravated child abuse, as defined in s. [827.03](#);
2. Sexual battery, as defined in chapter 794, against the child;
3. Lewd or lascivious battery, lewd or lascivious molestation, lewd or lascivious conduct, or lewd or lascivious exhibition, in violation of s. [800.04](#) or s. [847.0135](#)(5);
4. A violation of former s. [796.03](#) or s. [796.04](#), relating to prostitution, upon the child;
5. Exploitation of the child or allowing the child to be exploited, in violation of s. [450.151](#); or
6. A violation of s. [787.06](#)(3)(g) relating to human trafficking.

(b) Pursuant to s. [775.021](#)(4), nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit the imposition of separate judgments and sentences for the first degree offense described in paragraph (a) and for each separate offense enumerated in subparagraphs (a)1.-5.

[787.025](#) Luring or enticing a child.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Structure” means a building of any kind, either temporary or permanent, which has a roof over it, together with the curtilage thereof.

(b) “Dwelling” means a building or conveyance of any kind, either temporary or permanent, mobile or immobile, which has a roof over it and is designed to be occupied by people lodging together therein at night, together with the curtilage thereof.

(c) “Conveyance” means any motor vehicle, ship, vessel, railroad car, trailer, aircraft, or sleeping car.

(d) “Convicted” means a determination of guilt which is the result of a trial or the entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld.

(2)(a) A person 18 years of age or older who intentionally lures or entices, or attempts to lure or entice, a child under the age of 12 into a structure, dwelling, or conveyance for other than a lawful purpose commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or s. [775.083](#).

(b) A person 18 years of age or older who, having been previously convicted of a violation of paragraph (a), intentionally lures or entices, or attempts to lure or entice, a child under the age of 12 into a structure, dwelling, or conveyance for other than a lawful purpose commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(c) A person 18 years of age or older who, having been previously convicted of a violation of chapter 794, s. [800.04](#) or s. [847.0135](#)(5), or a violation of a similar law of another jurisdiction, intentionally lures or entices, or attempts to lure or entice, a child under the age

of 12 into a structure, dwelling, or conveyance for other than a lawful purpose commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(3) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under this section that:

(a) The person reasonably believed that his or her action was necessary to prevent the child from being seriously injured.

(b) The person lured or enticed, or attempted to lure or entice, the child under the age of 12 into a structure, dwelling, or conveyance for a lawful purpose.

(c) The person's actions were reasonable under the circumstances and the defendant did not have any intent to harm the health, safety, or welfare of the child.

[794.011](#) Sexual battery.—

(1) As used in this chapter:

(a) "Consent" means intelligent, knowing, and voluntary consent and does not include coerced submission. "Consent" shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the alleged victim to offer physical resistance to the offender.

(b) "Mentally defective" means a mental disease or defect which renders a person temporarily or permanently incapable of appraising the nature of his or her conduct.

(c) "Mentally incapacitated" means temporarily incapable of appraising or controlling a person's own conduct due to the influence of a narcotic, anesthetic, or intoxicating substance administered without his or her consent or due to any other act committed upon that person without his or her consent.

(d) "Offender" means a person accused of a sexual offense in violation of a provision of this chapter.

(e) "Physically helpless" means unconscious, asleep, or for any other reason physically unable to communicate unwillingness to an act.

(f) "Retaliation" includes, but is not limited to, threats of future physical punishment, kidnapping, false imprisonment or forcible confinement, or extortion.

(g) "Serious personal injury" means great bodily harm or pain, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement.

(h) "Sexual battery" means oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by, or union with, the sexual organ of another or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any other object; however, sexual battery does not include an act done for a bona fide medical purpose.

(i) "Victim" means a person who has been the object of a sexual offense.

(j) "Physically incapacitated" means bodily impaired or handicapped and substantially limited in ability to resist or flee.

(2)(a) A person 18 years of age or older who commits sexual battery upon, or in an attempt to commit sexual battery injures the sexual organs of, a person less than 12 years of age commits a capital felony, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) and [921.141](#).

(b) A person less than 18 years of age who commits sexual battery upon, or in an attempt to commit sexual battery injures the sexual organs of, a person less than 12 years of age commits a life felony, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), s. [775.084](#), or s. [794.0115](#).

(3) A person who commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older, without that person's consent, and in the process thereof uses or threatens to use a deadly weapon or uses actual physical force likely to cause serious personal injury commits a life felony, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), s. [775.084](#), or s. [794.0115](#).

(4)(a) A person 18 years of age or older who commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older but younger than 18 years of age without that person's consent, under any of the circumstances listed in paragraph (e), commits a felony of the first degree, punishable by a term of years not exceeding life or as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), s. [775.084](#), or s. [794.0115](#).

(b) A person 18 years of age or older who commits sexual battery upon a person 18 years of age or older without that person's consent, under any of the circumstances listed in paragraph (e), commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), s. [775.084](#), or s. [794.0115](#).

(c) A person younger than 18 years of age who commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older without that person's consent, under any of the circumstances listed in paragraph (e), commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), s. [775.084](#), or s. [794.0115](#).

(d) A person commits a felony of the first degree, punishable by a term of years not exceeding life or as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), s. [775.084](#), or s. [794.0115](#) if the person commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older without that person's consent, under any of the circumstances listed in paragraph (e), and such person was previously convicted of a violation of:

1. Section [787.01](#)(2) or s. [787.02](#)(2) when the violation involved a victim who was a minor and, in the course of committing that violation, the defendant committed against the minor a sexual battery under this chapter or a lewd act under s. [800.04](#) or s. [847.0135](#)(5);

2. Section [787.01](#)(3)(a)2. or 3.;

3. Section [787.02](#)(3)(a)2. or 3.;

4. Section [800.04](#);

5. Section [825.1025](#);

6. Section [847.0135](#)(5); or

7. This chapter, excluding subsection (10) of this section.

(e) The following circumstances apply to paragraphs (a)-(d):

1. The victim is physically helpless to resist.

2. The offender coerces the victim to submit by threatening to use force or violence likely to cause serious personal injury on the victim, and the victim reasonably believes that the offender has the present ability to execute the threat.

3. The offender coerces the victim to submit by threatening to retaliate against the victim, or any other person, and the victim reasonably believes that the offender has the ability to execute the threat in the future.
 4. The offender, without the prior knowledge or consent of the victim, administers or has knowledge of someone else administering to the victim any narcotic, anesthetic, or other intoxicating substance that mentally or physically incapacitates the victim.
 5. The victim is mentally defective, and the offender has reason to believe this or has actual knowledge of this fact.
 6. The victim is physically incapacitated.
 7. The offender is a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional probation officer as defined in s. [943.10](#)(1), (2), (3), (6), (7), (8), or (9), who is certified under s. [943.1395](#) or is an elected official exempt from such certification by virtue of s. [943.253](#), or any other person in a position of control or authority in a probation, community control, controlled release, detention, custodial, or similar setting, and such officer, official, or person is acting in such a manner as to lead the victim to reasonably believe that the offender is in a position of control or authority as an agent or employee of government.
- (5)(a) A person 18 years of age or older who commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older but younger than 18 years of age, without that person's consent, and in the process does not use physical force and violence likely to cause serious personal injury commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), s. [775.084](#), or s. [794.0115](#).
- (b) A person 18 years of age or older who commits sexual battery upon a person 18 years of age or older, without that person's consent, and in the process does not use physical force and violence likely to cause serious personal injury commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), s. [775.084](#), or s. [794.0115](#).
- (c) A person younger than 18 years of age who commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older, without that person's consent, and in the process does not use physical force and violence likely to cause serious personal injury commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), s. [775.084](#), or s. [794.0115](#).
- (d) A person commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), s. [775.084](#), or s. [794.0115](#) if the person commits sexual battery upon a person 12 years of age or older, without that person's consent, and in the process does not use physical force and violence likely to cause serious personal injury and the person was previously convicted of a violation of:
1. Section [787.01](#)(2) or s. [787.02](#)(2) when the violation involved a victim who was a minor and, in the course of committing that violation, the defendant committed against the minor a sexual battery under this chapter or a lewd act under s. [800.04](#) or s. [847.0135](#)(5);
 2. Section [787.01](#)(3)(a)2. or 3.;
 3. Section [787.02](#)(3)(a)2. or 3.;
 4. Section [800.04](#);
 5. Section [825.1025](#);
 6. Section [847.0135](#)(5); or
 7. This chapter, excluding subsection (10) of this section.
- (6)(a) The offenses described in paragraphs (5)(a)-(c) are included in any sexual battery offense charged under subsection (3).
- (b) The offense described in paragraph (5)(a) is included in an offense charged under paragraph (4)(a).
- (c) The offense described in paragraph (5)(b) is included in an offense charged under paragraph (4)(b).
- (d) The offense described in paragraph (5)(c) is included in an offense charged under paragraph (4)(c).
- (e) The offense described in paragraph (5)(d) is included in an offense charged under paragraph (4)(d).
- (7) A person who is convicted of committing a sexual battery on or after October 1, 1992, is not eligible for basic gain-time under s. [944.275](#). This subsection may be cited as the "Junny Rios-Martinez, Jr. Act of 1992."
- (8) Without regard to the willingness or consent of the victim, which is not a defense to prosecution under this subsection, a person who is in a position of familial or custodial authority to a person less than 18 years of age and who:
- (a) Solicits that person to engage in any act which would constitute sexual battery under paragraph (1)(h) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).
 - (b) Engages in any act with that person while the person is 12 years of age or older but younger than 18 years of age which constitutes sexual battery under paragraph (1)(h) commits a felony of the first degree, punishable by a term of years not exceeding life or as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).
 - (c) Engages in any act with that person while the person is less than 12 years of age which constitutes sexual battery under paragraph (1)(h), or in an attempt to commit sexual battery injures the sexual organs of such person commits a capital or life felony, punishable pursuant to subsection (2).
- (9) For prosecution under paragraph (4)(a), paragraph (4)(b), paragraph (4)(c), or paragraph (4)(d) which involves an offense committed under any of the circumstances listed in subparagraph (4)(e)7., acquiescence to a person reasonably believed by the victim to be in a position of authority or control does not constitute consent, and it is not a defense that the perpetrator was not actually in a position of control or authority if the circumstances were such as to lead the victim to reasonably believe that the person was in such a position.
- (10) A person who falsely accuses a person listed in subparagraph (4)(e)7. or other person in a position of control or authority as an agent or employee of government of violating paragraph (4)(a), paragraph (4)(b), paragraph (4)(c), or paragraph (4)(d) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).
- [794.0115](#) Dangerous sexual felony offender; mandatory sentencing.—**
- (1) This section may be cited as the "Dangerous Sexual Felony Offender Act."

(2) Any person who is convicted of a violation of s. 787.025(2)(c); s. 794.011(2), (3), (4), (5), or (8); s. 800.04(4) or (5); s. 825.1025(2) or (3); s. 827.071(2), (3), or (4); or s. 847.0145; or of any similar offense under a former designation, which offense the person committed when he or she was 18 years of age or older, and the person:

(a) Caused serious personal injury to the victim as a result of the commission of the offense;

(b) Used or threatened to use a deadly weapon during the commission of the offense;

(c) Victimized more than one person during the course of the criminal episode applicable to the offense;

(d) Committed the offense while under the jurisdiction of a court for a felony offense under the laws of this state, for an offense that is a felony in another jurisdiction, or for an offense that would be a felony if that offense were committed in this state; or

(e) Has previously been convicted of a violation of s. 787.025(2)(c); s. 794.011(2), (3), (4), (5), or (8); s. 800.04(4) or (5); s. 825.1025(2) or (3); s. 827.071(2), (3), or (4); s. 847.0145; of any offense under a former statutory designation which is similar in elements to an offense described in this paragraph; or of any offense that is a felony in another jurisdiction, or would be a felony if that offense were committed in this state, and which is similar in elements to an offense described in this paragraph,

is a dangerous sexual felony offender, who must be sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of 25 years imprisonment up to, and including, life imprisonment. If the offense described in this subsection was committed on or after October 1, 2014, a person who qualifies as a dangerous sexual felony offender pursuant to this subsection must be sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of 50 years imprisonment up to, and including, life imprisonment.

(3) "Serious personal injury" means great bodily harm or pain, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement.

(4) The offense described in subsection (2) which is being charged must have been committed after the date of commission of the last prior conviction for an offense that is a prior conviction described in paragraph (2)(e).

(5) It is irrelevant that a factor listed in subsection (2) is an element of an offense described in that subsection. It is also irrelevant that such an offense was reclassified to a higher felony degree under s. 794.023 or any other law.

(6) Notwithstanding s. 775.082(3), chapter 958, any other law, or any interpretation or construction thereof, a person subject to sentencing under this section must be sentenced to the mandatory term of imprisonment provided under this section. If the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment imposed under this section exceeds the maximum sentence authorized under s. 775.082, s. 775.084, or chapter 921, the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment under this section must be imposed. If the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment under this section is less than the sentence that could be imposed under s. 775.082, s. 775.084, or chapter 921, the sentence imposed must include the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment under this section.

(7) A defendant sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment under this section is not eligible for statutory gain-time under s. 944.275 or any form of discretionary early release, other than pardon or executive clemency, or conditional medical release under s. 947.149, before serving the minimum sentence.

794.02 Common-law presumption relating to age abolished.—

The common-law rule "that a boy under 14 years of age is conclusively presumed to be incapable of committing the crime of rape" shall not be in force in this state.

794.021 Ignorance or belief as to victim's age no defense.—

When, in this chapter, the criminality of conduct depends upon the victim's being below a certain specified age, ignorance of the age is no defense. Neither shall misrepresentation of age by such person nor a bona fide belief that such person is over the specified age be a defense.

794.023 Sexual battery by multiple perpetrators; reclassification of offenses.—

(1) The Legislature finds that an act of sexual battery, when committed by more than one person, presents a great danger to the public and is extremely offensive to civilized society. It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to reclassify offenses for acts of sexual battery committed by more than one person.

(2) A violation of s. 794.011 shall be reclassified as provided in this subsection if it is charged and proven by the prosecution that, during the same criminal transaction or episode, more than one person committed an act of sexual battery on the same victim.

(a) A felony of the second degree is reclassified to a felony of the first degree.

(b) A felony of the first degree is reclassified to a life felony.

This subsection does not apply to life felonies or capital felonies. For purposes of sentencing under chapter 921 and determining incentive gain-time eligibility under chapter 944, a felony offense that is reclassified under this subsection is ranked one level above the ranking under s. 921.0022 or s. 921.0023 of the offense committed.

794.05 Unlawful sexual activity with certain minors.—

(1) A person 24 years of age or older who engages in sexual activity with a person 16 or 17 years of age commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. As used in this section, "sexual activity" means oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by, or union with, the sexual organ of another or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any other object; however, sexual activity does not include an act done for a bona fide medical purpose.

(2) The provisions of this section do not apply to a person 16 or 17 years of age who has had the disabilities of nonage removed under chapter 743.

(3) The victim's prior sexual conduct is not a relevant issue in a prosecution under this section.

(4) If an offense under this section directly results in the victim giving birth to a child, paternity of that child shall be established as described in chapter 742. If it is determined that the offender is the father of the child, the offender must pay child support pursuant to the child support guidelines described in chapter 61.

800.04 Lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of persons less than 16 years of age.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

(a) "Sexual activity" means the oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by, or union with, the sexual organ of another or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any other object; however, sexual activity does not include an act done for a bona fide medical purpose.

(b) "Consent" means intelligent, knowing, and voluntary consent, and does not include submission by coercion.

(c) "Coercion" means the use of exploitation, bribes, threats of force, or intimidation to gain cooperation or compliance.

(d) "Victim" means a person upon whom an offense described in this section was committed or attempted or a person who has reported a violation of this section to a law enforcement officer.

(2) PROHIBITED DEFENSES.—Neither the victim's lack of chastity nor the victim's consent is a defense to the crimes proscribed by this section.

(3) IGNORANCE OR BELIEF OF VICTIM'S AGE.—The perpetrator's ignorance of the victim's age, the victim's misrepresentation of his or her age, or the perpetrator's bona fide belief of the victim's age cannot be raised as a defense in a prosecution under this section.

(4) LEWD OR LASCIVIOUS BATTERY.—

(a) A person commits lewd or lascivious battery by:

1. Engaging in sexual activity with a person 12 years of age or older but less than 16 years of age; or

2. Encouraging, forcing, or enticing any person less than 16 years of age to engage in sadomasochistic abuse, sexual bestiality, prostitution, or any other act involving sexual activity.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c), an offender who commits lewd or lascivious battery commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(c) A person commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#) if the person is an offender 18 years of age or older who commits lewd or lascivious battery and was previously convicted of a violation of:

1. Section [787.01](#)(2) or s. [787.02](#)(2) when the violation involved a victim who was a minor and, in the course of committing that violation, the defendant committed against the minor a sexual battery under chapter 794 or a lewd act under this section or s. [847.0135](#)(5);

2. Section [787.01](#)(3)(a)2. or 3.;

3. Section [787.02](#)(3)(a)2. or 3.;

4. Chapter 794, excluding s. [794.011](#)(10);

5. Section [825.1025](#);

6. Section [847.0135](#)(5); or

7. This section.

(5) LEWD OR LASCIVIOUS MOLESTATION.—

(a) A person who intentionally touches in a lewd or lascivious manner the breasts, genitals, genital area, or buttocks, or the clothing covering them, of a person less than 16 years of age, or forces or entices a person under 16 years of age to so touch the perpetrator, commits lewd or lascivious molestation.

(b) An offender 18 years of age or older who commits lewd or lascivious molestation against a victim less than 12 years of age commits a life felony, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#)(3)(a)4.

(c)1. An offender less than 18 years of age who commits lewd or lascivious molestation against a victim less than 12 years of age; or

2. An offender 18 years of age or older who commits lewd or lascivious molestation against a victim 12 years of age or older but less than 16 years of age

commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(d) An offender less than 18 years of age who commits lewd or lascivious molestation against a victim 12 years of age or older but less than 16 years of age commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(e) A person commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#) if the person is 18 years of age or older and commits lewd or lascivious molestation against a victim 12 years of age or older but less than 16 years of age and the person was previously convicted of a violation of:

1. Section [787.01](#)(2) or s. [787.02](#)(2) when the violation involved a victim who was a minor and, in the course of committing the violation, the defendant committed against the minor a sexual battery under chapter 794 or a lewd act under this section or s. [847.0135](#)(5);

2. Section [787.01](#)(3)(a)2. or 3.;

3. Section [787.02](#)(3)(a)2. or 3.;

4. Chapter 794, excluding s. [794.011](#)(10);

5. Section [825.1025](#);

6. Section [847.0135](#)(5); or

7. This section.

(6) LEWD OR LASCIVIOUS CONDUCT.—

(a) A person who:

1. Intentionally touches a person under 16 years of age in a lewd or lascivious manner; or

2. Solicits a person under 16 years of age to commit a lewd or lascivious act commits lewd or lascivious conduct.

(b) An offender 18 years of age or older who commits lewd or lascivious conduct commits a felony of the second degree, punishable

as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(c) An offender less than 18 years of age who commits lewd or lascivious conduct commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(7) LEWD OR LASCIVIOUS EXHIBITION.—

(a) A person who:

1. Intentionally masturbates;

2. Intentionally exposes the genitals in a lewd or lascivious manner; or

3. Intentionally commits any other sexual act that does not involve actual physical or sexual contact with the victim, including, but not limited to, sadomasochistic abuse, sexual bestiality, or the simulation of any act involving sexual activity in the presence of a victim who is less than 16 years of age, commits lewd or lascivious exhibition.

(b) An offender 18 years of age or older who commits a lewd or lascivious exhibition commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(c) An offender less than 18 years of age who commits a lewd or lascivious exhibition commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(8) EXCEPTION.—A mother's breastfeeding of her baby does not under any circumstance constitute a violation of this section.

[825.1025](#) Lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of an elderly person or disabled person.—

(1) As used in this section, "sexual activity" means the oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by, or union with, the sexual organ of another or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any other object; however, sexual activity does not include an act done for a bona fide medical purpose.

(2)(a) "Lewd or lascivious battery upon an elderly person or disabled person" occurs when a person encourages, forces, or entices an elderly person or disabled person to engage in sadomasochistic abuse, sexual bestiality, prostitution, or any other act involving sexual activity, when the person knows or reasonably should know that the elderly person or disabled person either lacks the capacity to consent or fails to give consent.

(b) A person who commits lewd or lascivious battery upon an elderly person or disabled person commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(3)(a) "Lewd or lascivious molestation of an elderly person or disabled person" occurs when a person intentionally touches in a lewd or lascivious manner the breasts, genitals, genital area, or buttocks, or the clothing covering them, of an elderly person or disabled person when the person knows or reasonably should know that the elderly person or disabled person either lacks the capacity to consent or fails to give consent.

(b) A person who commits lewd or lascivious molestation of an elderly person or disabled person commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(4)(a) "Lewd or lascivious exhibition in the presence of an elderly person or disabled person" occurs when a person, in the presence of an elderly person or disabled person:

1. Intentionally masturbates;

2. Intentionally exposes his or her genitals in a lewd or lascivious manner; or

3. Intentionally commits any other lewd or lascivious act that does not involve actual physical or sexual contact with the elderly person or disabled person, including but not limited to, sadomasochistic abuse, sexual bestiality, or the simulation of any act involving sexual activity,

when the person knows or reasonably should know that the elderly person or disabled person either lacks the capacity to consent or fails to give consent to having such act committed in his or her presence.

(b) A person who commits a lewd or lascivious exhibition in the presence of an elderly person or disabled person commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

[827.071](#) Sexual performance by a child; penalties.—

(1) As used in this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Deviate sexual intercourse" means sexual conduct between persons not married to each other consisting of contact between the penis and the anus, the mouth and the penis, or the mouth and the vulva.

(b) "Intentionally view" means to deliberately, purposefully, and voluntarily view. Proof of intentional viewing requires establishing more than a single image, motion picture, exhibition, show, image, data, computer depiction, representation, or other presentation over any period of time.

(c) "Performance" means any play, motion picture, photograph, or dance or any other visual representation exhibited before an audience.

(d) "Promote" means to procure, manufacture, issue, sell, give, provide, lend, mail, deliver, transfer, transmute, publish, distribute, circulate, disseminate, present, exhibit, or advertise or to offer or agree to do the same.

(e) "Sadomasochistic abuse" means flagellation or torture by or upon a person, or the condition of being fettered, bound, or otherwise physically restrained, for the purpose of deriving sexual satisfaction from inflicting harm on another or receiving such harm oneself.

(f) "Sexual battery" means oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by, or union with, the sexual organ of another or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any other object; however, "sexual battery" does not include an act done for a bona fide medical purpose.

(g) "Sexual bestiality" means any sexual act between a person and an animal involving the sex organ of the one and the mouth, anus, or vagina of the other.

(h) "Sexual conduct" means actual or simulated sexual intercourse, deviate sexual intercourse, sexual bestiality, masturbation, or sadomasochistic abuse; actual lewd exhibition of the genitals; actual physical contact with a person's clothed or unclothed genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or, if such person is a female, breast, with the intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of either party; or any act or conduct which constitutes sexual battery or simulates that sexual battery is being or will be committed. A mother's breastfeeding of her baby does not under any circumstance constitute "sexual conduct."

(i) "Sexual performance" means any performance or part thereof which includes sexual conduct by a child of less than 18 years of age.

(j) "Simulated" means the explicit depiction of conduct set forth in paragraph (h) which creates the appearance of such conduct and which exhibits any uncovered portion of the breasts, genitals, or buttocks.

(2) A person is guilty of the use of a child in a sexual performance if, knowing the character and content thereof, he or she employs, authorizes, or induces a child less than 18 years of age to engage in a sexual performance or, being a parent, legal guardian, or custodian of such child, consents to the participation by such child in a sexual performance. Whoever violates this subsection is guilty of a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.0844](#).

(3) A person is guilty of promoting a sexual performance by a child when, knowing the character and content thereof, he or she produces, directs, or promotes any performance which includes sexual conduct by a child less than 18 years of age. Whoever violates this subsection is guilty of a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(4) It is unlawful for any person to possess with the intent to promote any photograph, motion picture, exhibition, show, representation, or other presentation which, in whole or in part, includes any sexual conduct by a child. The possession of three or more copies of such photograph, motion picture, representation, or presentation is prima facie evidence of an intent to promote. Whoever violates this subsection is guilty of a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(5)(a) It is unlawful for any person to knowingly possess, control, or intentionally view a photograph, motion picture, exhibition, show, representation, image, data, computer depiction, or other presentation which, in whole or in part, he or she knows to include any sexual conduct by a child. The possession, control, or intentional viewing of each such photograph, motion picture, exhibition, show, image, data, computer depiction, representation, or presentation is a separate offense. If such photograph, motion picture, exhibition, show, representation, image, data, computer depiction, or other presentation includes sexual conduct by more than one child, then each such child in each such photograph, motion picture, exhibition, show, representation, image, data, computer depiction, or other presentation that is knowingly possessed, controlled, or intentionally viewed is a separate offense. A person who violates this subsection commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(b) This subsection does not apply to material possessed, controlled, or intentionally viewed as part of a law enforcement investigation.

(6) Prosecution of any person for an offense under this section shall not prohibit prosecution of that person in this state for a violation of any law of this state, including a law providing for greater penalties than prescribed in this section or any other crime punishing the sexual performance or the sexual exploitation of children.

[847.0135](#) Computer pornography; prohibited computer usage; traveling to meet minor; penalties.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Computer Pornography and Child Exploitation Prevention Act."

(2) COMPUTER PORNOGRAPHY.—A person who:

(a) Knowingly compiles, enters into, or transmits by use of computer;

(b) Makes, prints, publishes, or reproduces by other computerized means;

(c) Knowingly causes or allows to be entered into or transmitted by use of computer; or

(d) Buys, sells, receives, exchanges, or disseminates, any notice, statement, or advertisement of any minor's name, telephone number, place of residence, physical characteristics, or other descriptive or identifying information for purposes of facilitating, encouraging, offering, or soliciting sexual conduct of or with any minor, or the visual depiction of such conduct, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#). The fact that an undercover operative or law enforcement officer was involved in the detection and investigation of an offense under this section shall not constitute a defense to a prosecution under this section.

(3) CERTAIN USES OF COMPUTER SERVICES OR DEVICES PROHIBITED.—Any person who knowingly uses a computer online service, Internet service, local bulletin board service, or any other device capable of electronic data storage or transmission to:

(a) Seduce, solicit, lure, or entice, or attempt to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice, a child or another person believed by the person to be a child, to commit any illegal act described in chapter 794, chapter 800, or chapter 827, or to otherwise engage in any unlawful sexual conduct with a child or with another person believed by the person to be a child; or

(b) Solicit, lure, or entice, or attempt to solicit, lure, or entice a parent, legal guardian, or custodian of a child or a person believed to be a parent, legal guardian, or custodian of a child to consent to the participation of such child in any act described in chapter 794, chapter 800, or chapter 827, or to otherwise engage in any sexual conduct, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#). Any person who, in violating this subsection, misrepresents his or her age, commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#). Each separate use of a computer online service, Internet service, local bulletin board service, or any other device capable of electronic data storage or transmission wherein an offense described in this section is committed may be charged as a separate offense.

(4) TRAVELING TO MEET A MINOR.—Any person who travels any distance either within this state, to this state, or from this state by any means, who attempts to do so, or who causes another to do so or to attempt to do so for the purpose of engaging in any illegal act described in chapter 794, chapter 800, or chapter 827, or to otherwise engage in other unlawful sexual conduct with a child or with another person believed by the person to be a child after using a computer online service, Internet service, local bulletin board service, or any other device capable of electronic data storage or transmission to:

(a) Seduce, solicit, lure, or entice or attempt to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice a child or another person believed by the person to be a child, to engage in any illegal act described in chapter 794, chapter 800, or chapter 827, or to otherwise engage in other unlawful

sexual conduct with a child; or

(b) Solicit, lure, or entice or attempt to solicit, lure, or entice a parent, legal guardian, or custodian of a child or a person believed to be a parent, legal guardian, or custodian of a child to consent to the participation of such child in any act described in chapter 794, chapter 800, or chapter 827, or to otherwise engage in any sexual conduct,

commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(5) CERTAIN COMPUTER TRANSMISSIONS PROHIBITED.—

(a) A person who:

1. Intentionally masturbates;

2. Intentionally exposes the genitals in a lewd or lascivious manner; or

3. Intentionally commits any other sexual act that does not involve actual physical or sexual contact with the victim, including, but not limited to, sadoomasochistic abuse, sexual bestiality, or the simulation of any act involving sexual activity live over a computer online service, Internet service, or local bulletin board service and who knows or should know or has reason to believe that the transmission is viewed on a computer or television monitor by a victim who is less than 16 years of age, commits lewd or lascivious exhibition in violation of this subsection. The fact that an undercover operative or law enforcement officer was involved in the detection and investigation of an offense under this subsection shall not constitute a defense to a prosecution under this subsection.

(b) An offender 18 years of age or older who commits a lewd or lascivious exhibition using a computer commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(c) An offender less than 18 years of age who commits a lewd or lascivious exhibition using a computer commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(d) A mother's breastfeeding of her baby does not under any circumstance constitute a violation of this subsection.

(6) OWNERS OR OPERATORS OF COMPUTER SERVICES LIABLE.—It is unlawful for any owner or operator of a computer online service, Internet service, or local bulletin board service knowingly to permit a subscriber to use the service to commit a violation of this section. Any person who violates this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

(7) STATE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.—A person is subject to prosecution in this state pursuant to chapter 910 for any conduct proscribed by this section which the person engages in, while either within or outside this state, if by such conduct the person commits a violation of this section involving a child, a child's guardian, or another person believed by the person to be a child or a child's guardian.

(8) EFFECT OF PROSECUTION.—Prosecution of any person for an offense under this section shall not prohibit prosecution of that person in this state or another jurisdiction for a violation of any law of this state, including a law providing for greater penalties than prescribed in this section or any other crime punishing the sexual performance or the sexual exploitation of children.

[847.0145](#) Selling or buying of minors; penalties.—

(1) Any parent, legal guardian, or other person having custody or control of a minor who sells or otherwise transfers custody or control of such minor, or offers to sell or otherwise transfer custody of such minor, either:

(a) With knowledge that, as a consequence of the sale or transfer, the minor will be portrayed in a visual depiction engaging in, or assisting another person to engage in, sexually explicit conduct; or

(b) With intent to promote either:

1. The engaging in of sexually explicit conduct by such minor for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct; or
2. The rendering of assistance by the minor to any other person to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct;

shall be guilty of a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

(2) Whoever purchases or otherwise obtains custody or control of a minor, or offers to purchase or otherwise obtain custody or control of a minor, either:

(a) With knowledge that, as a consequence of the purchase or obtaining of custody, the minor will be portrayed in a visual depiction engaging in, or assisting another person to engage in, sexually explicit conduct;

(b) With intent to promote either:

1. The engaging in of sexually explicit conduct by such minor for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct; or
2. The rendering of assistance by the minor to any other person to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct;

shall be guilty of a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

[921.0022](#) Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity ranking chart.—

(1) The offense severity ranking chart must be used with the Criminal Punishment Code worksheet to compute a sentence score for each felony offender whose offense was committed on or after October 1, 1998.

(2) The offense severity ranking chart has 10 offense levels, ranked from least severe, which are level 1 offenses, to most severe, which are level 10 offenses, and each felony offense is assigned to a level according to the severity of the offense. For purposes of determining which felony offenses are specifically listed in the offense severity ranking chart and which severity level has been assigned to each of these offenses, the numerical statutory references in the left column of the chart and the felony degree designations in the middle column of the chart are controlling; the language in the right column of the chart is provided solely for descriptive purposes. Reclassification of the degree of the felony through the application of s. [775.0845](#), s. [775.085](#), s. [775.0861](#), s.

[775.0862](#), s. [775.0863](#), s. [775.087](#), s. [775.0875](#), s. [794.023](#), or any other law that provides an enhanced penalty for a felony offense, to

any offense listed in the offense severity ranking chart in this section shall not cause the offense to become unlisted and is not subject to the provisions of s. [921.0023](#).

[921.0023](#) Criminal Punishment Code; ranking unlisted felony offenses.—

A felony offense committed on or after October 1, 1998, that is not listed in s. [921.0022](#) is ranked with respect to offense severity level by the Legislature, commensurate with the harm or potential harm that is caused by the offense to the community. Until the Legislature specifically assigns an offense to a severity level in the offense severity ranking chart, the severity level is within the following parameters:

- (1) A felony of the third degree within offense level 1.
- (2) A felony of the second degree within offense level 4.
- (3) A felony of the first degree within offense level 7.
- (4) A felony of the first degree punishable by life within offense level 9.
- (5) A life felony within offense level 10.

[921.141](#) Sentence of death or life imprisonment for capital felonies; further proceedings to determine sentence.—

(1) SEPARATE PROCEEDINGS ON ISSUE OF PENALTY.—Upon conviction or adjudication of guilt of a defendant of a capital felony, the court shall conduct a separate sentencing proceeding to determine whether the defendant should be sentenced to death or life imprisonment as authorized by s. [775.082](#). The proceeding shall be conducted by the trial judge before the trial jury as soon as practicable. If, through impossibility or inability, the trial jury is unable to reconvene for a hearing on the issue of penalty, having determined the guilt of the accused, the trial judge may summon a special juror or jurors as provided in chapter 913 to determine the issue of the imposition of the penalty. If the trial jury has been waived, or if the defendant pleaded guilty, the sentencing proceeding shall be conducted before a jury impaneled for that purpose, unless waived by the defendant. In the proceeding, evidence may be presented as to any matter that the court deems relevant to the nature of the crime and the character of the defendant and shall include matters relating to any of the aggravating factors enumerated in subsection (6) and for which notice has been provided pursuant to s. [782.04](#)(1)(b) or mitigating circumstances enumerated in subsection (7). Any such evidence that the court deems to have probative value may be received, regardless of its admissibility under the exclusionary rules of evidence, provided the defendant is accorded a fair opportunity to rebut any hearsay statements. However, this subsection shall not be construed to authorize the introduction of any evidence secured in violation of the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of the State of Florida. The state and the defendant or the defendant's counsel shall be permitted to present argument for or against sentence of death.

(2) FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED SENTENCE BY THE JURY.—This subsection applies only if the defendant has not waived his or her right to a sentencing proceeding by a jury.

(a) After hearing all of the evidence presented regarding aggravating factors and mitigating circumstances, the jury shall deliberate and determine if the state has proven, beyond a reasonable doubt, the existence of at least one aggravating factor set forth in subsection (6).

(b) The jury shall return findings identifying each aggravating factor found to exist. A finding that an aggravating factor exists must be unanimous. If the jury:

1. Does not unanimously find at least one aggravating factor, the defendant is ineligible for a sentence of death.
2. Unanimously finds at least one aggravating factor, the defendant is eligible for a sentence of death and the jury shall make a recommendation to the court as to whether the defendant shall be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole or to death. The recommendation shall be based on a weighing of all of the following:
 - a. Whether sufficient aggravating factors exist.
 - b. Whether aggravating factors exist which outweigh the mitigating circumstances found to exist.
 - c. Based on the considerations in sub-subparagraphs a. and b., whether the defendant should be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole or to death.
- (c) If a unanimous jury determines that the defendant should be sentenced to death, the jury's recommendation to the court shall be a sentence of death. If a unanimous jury does not determine that the defendant should be sentenced to death, the jury's recommendation to the court shall be a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

(3) IMPOSITION OF SENTENCE OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT OR DEATH.—

(a) If the jury has recommended a sentence of:

1. Life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, the court shall impose the recommended sentence.
2. Death, the court, after considering each aggravating factor found by the jury and all mitigating circumstances, may impose a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole or a sentence of death. The court may consider only an aggravating factor that was unanimously found to exist by the jury.

(b) If the defendant waived his or her right to a sentencing proceeding by a jury, the court, after considering all aggravating factors and mitigating circumstances, may impose a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole or a sentence of death. The court may impose a sentence of death only if the court finds that at least one aggravating factor has been proven to exist beyond a reasonable doubt.

(4) ORDER OF THE COURT IN SUPPORT OF SENTENCE OF DEATH.—In each case in which the court imposes a sentence of death, the court shall, considering the records of the trial and the sentencing proceedings, enter a written order addressing the aggravating factors set forth in subsection (6) found to exist, the mitigating circumstances in subsection (7) reasonably established by the evidence, whether there are sufficient aggravating factors to warrant the death penalty, and whether the aggravating factors outweigh the mitigating circumstances reasonably established by the evidence. If the court does not issue its order requiring the death sentence within 30 days after the rendition of the judgment and sentence, the court shall impose a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole in accordance with s. [775.082](#).

following parameters:

- (1) A felony of the third degree within offense level 1.
- (2) A felony of the second degree within offense level 4.
- (3) A felony of the first degree within offense level 7.
- (4) A felony of the first degree punishable by life within offense level 9.
- (5) A life felony within offense level 10.

921.141 Sentence of death or life imprisonment for capital felonies; further proceedings to determine sentence.—

(1) **SEPARATE PROCEEDINGS ON ISSUE OF PENALTY.**—Upon conviction or adjudication of guilt of a defendant of a capital felony, the court shall conduct a separate sentencing proceeding to determine whether the defendant should be sentenced to death or life imprisonment as authorized by s. [775.082](#). The proceeding shall be conducted by the trial judge before the trial jury as soon as practicable. If, through impossibility or inability, the trial jury is unable to reconvene for a hearing on the issue of penalty, having determined the guilt of the accused, the trial judge may summon a special juror or jurors as provided in chapter 913 to determine the issue of the imposition of the penalty. If the trial jury has been waived, or if the defendant pleaded guilty, the sentencing proceeding shall be conducted before a jury impaneled for that purpose, unless waived by the defendant. In the proceeding, evidence may be presented as to any matter that the court deems relevant to the nature of the crime and the character of the defendant and shall include matters relating to any of the aggravating factors enumerated in subsection (6) and for which notice has been provided pursuant to s. [782.04\(1\)\(b\)](#) or mitigating circumstances enumerated in subsection (7). Any such evidence that the court deems to have probative value may be received, regardless of its admissibility under the exclusionary rules of evidence, provided the defendant is accorded a fair opportunity to rebut any hearsay statements. However, this subsection shall not be construed to authorize the introduction of any evidence secured in violation of the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of the State of Florida. The state and the defendant or the defendant's counsel shall be permitted to present argument for or against sentence of death.

(2) **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED SENTENCE BY THE JURY.**—This subsection applies only if the defendant has not waived his or her right to a sentencing proceeding by a jury.

(a) After hearing all of the evidence presented regarding aggravating factors and mitigating circumstances, the jury shall deliberate and determine if the state has proven, beyond a reasonable doubt, the existence of at least one aggravating factor set forth in subsection (6).

(b) The jury shall return findings identifying each aggravating factor found to exist. A finding that an aggravating factor exists must be unanimous. If the jury:

1. Does not unanimously find at least one aggravating factor, the defendant is ineligible for a sentence of death.
2. Unanimously finds at least one aggravating factor, the defendant is eligible for a sentence of death and the jury shall make a recommendation to the court as to whether the defendant shall be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole or to death. The recommendation shall be based on a weighing of all of the following:
 - a. Whether sufficient aggravating factors exist.
 - b. Whether aggravating factors exist which outweigh the mitigating circumstances found to exist.
 - c. Based on the considerations in sub-subparagraphs a. and b., whether the defendant should be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole or to death.
- (c) If a unanimous jury determines that the defendant should be sentenced to death, the jury's recommendation to the court shall be a sentence of death. If a unanimous jury does not determine that the defendant should be sentenced to death, the jury's recommendation to the court shall be a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

(3) IMPOSITION OF SENTENCE OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT OR DEATH.—

(a) If the jury has recommended a sentence of:

1. Life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, the court shall impose the recommended sentence.
2. Death, the court, after considering each aggravating factor found by the jury and all mitigating circumstances, may impose a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole or a sentence of death. The court may consider only an aggravating factor that was unanimously found to exist by the jury.

(b) If the defendant waived his or her right to a sentencing proceeding by a jury, the court, after considering all aggravating factors and mitigating circumstances, may impose a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole or a sentence of death. The court may impose a sentence of death only if the court finds that at least one aggravating factor has been proven to exist beyond a reasonable doubt.

(4) **ORDER OF THE COURT IN SUPPORT OF SENTENCE OF DEATH.**—In each case in which the court imposes a sentence of death, the court shall, considering the records of the trial and the sentencing proceedings, enter a written order addressing the aggravating factors set forth in subsection (6) found to exist, the mitigating circumstances in subsection (7) reasonably established by the evidence, whether there are sufficient aggravating factors to warrant the death penalty, and whether the aggravating factors outweigh the mitigating circumstances reasonably established by the evidence. If the court does not issue its order requiring the death sentence within 30 days after the rendition of the judgment and sentence, the court shall impose a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole in accordance with s. [775.082](#).

(5) **REVIEW OF JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE.**—The judgment of conviction and sentence of death shall be subject to automatic review by the Supreme Court of Florida and disposition rendered within 2 years after the filing of a notice of appeal. Such review by the Supreme Court shall have priority over all other cases and shall be heard in accordance with rules adopted by the Supreme Court.

(6) **AGGRAVATING FACTORS.**—Aggravating factors shall be limited to the following:

- (a) The capital felony was committed by a person previously convicted of a felony and under sentence of imprisonment or placed on community control or on felony probation.
- (b) The defendant was previously convicted of another capital felony or of a felony involving the use or threat of violence to the person.

- (c) The defendant knowingly created a great risk of death to many persons.
 - (d) The capital felony was committed while the defendant was engaged, or was an accomplice, in the commission of, or an attempt to commit, or flight after committing or attempting to commit, any: robbery; sexual battery; aggravated child abuse; abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult resulting in great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement; arson; burglary; kidnapping; aircraft piracy; or unlawful throwing, placing, or discharging of a destructive device or bomb.
 - (e) The capital felony was committed for the purpose of avoiding or preventing a lawful arrest or effecting an escape from custody.
 - (f) The capital felony was committed for pecuniary gain.
 - (g) The capital felony was committed to disrupt or hinder the lawful exercise of any governmental function or the enforcement of laws.
 - (h) The capital felony was especially heinous, atrocious, or cruel.
 - (i) The capital felony was a homicide and was committed in a cold, calculated, and premeditated manner without any pretense of moral or legal justification.
 - (j) The victim of the capital felony was a law enforcement officer engaged in the performance of his or her official duties.
 - (k) The victim of the capital felony was an elected or appointed public official engaged in the performance of his or her official duties if the motive for the capital felony was related, in whole or in part, to the victim's official capacity.
 - (l) The victim of the capital felony was a person less than 12 years of age.
 - (m) The victim of the capital felony was particularly vulnerable due to advanced age or disability, or because the defendant stood in a position of familial or custodial authority over the victim.
 - (n) The capital felony was committed by a criminal gang member, as defined in s. [874.03](#).
 - (o) The capital felony was committed by a person designated as a sexual predator pursuant to s. [775.21](#) or a person previously designated as a sexual predator who had the sexual predator designation removed.
 - (p) The capital felony was committed by a person subject to an injunction issued pursuant to s. [741.30](#) or s. [784.046](#), or a foreign protection order accorded full faith and credit pursuant to s. [741.315](#), and was committed against the petitioner who obtained the injunction or protection order or any spouse, child, sibling, or parent of the petitioner.
- (7) MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—Mitigating circumstances shall be the following:
- (a) The defendant has no significant history of prior criminal activity.
 - (b) The capital felony was committed while the defendant was under the influence of extreme mental or emotional disturbance.
 - (c) The victim was a participant in the defendant's conduct or consented to the act.
 - (d) The defendant was an accomplice in the capital felony committed by another person and his or her participation was relatively minor.
 - (e) The defendant acted under extreme duress or under the substantial domination of another person.
 - (f) The capacity of the defendant to appreciate the criminality of his or her conduct or to conform his or her conduct to the requirements of law was substantially impaired.
 - (g) The age of the defendant at the time of the crime.
 - (h) The existence of any other factors in the defendant's background that would mitigate against imposition of the death penalty.
- (8) VICTIM IMPACT EVIDENCE.—Once the prosecution has provided evidence of the existence of one or more aggravating factors as described in subsection (6), the prosecution may introduce, and subsequently argue, victim impact evidence to the jury. Such evidence shall be designed to demonstrate the victim's uniqueness as an individual human being and the resultant loss to the community's members by the victim's death. Characterizations and opinions about the crime, the defendant, and the appropriate sentence shall not be permitted as a part of victim impact evidence.
- (9) APPLICABILITY.—This section does not apply to a person convicted or adjudicated guilty of a capital drug trafficking felony under s. [893.135](#).

921.244 Order of no contact; penalties.—

- (1) At the time of sentencing an offender convicted of a violation of s. [794.011](#), s. [800.04](#), s. [847.0135](#)(5), or any offense in s. [775.084](#)(1)(b)1.a.-o., the court shall order that the offender be prohibited from having any contact with the victim, directly or indirectly, including through a third person, for the duration of the sentence imposed. The court may reconsider the order upon the request of the victim if the request is made at any time after the victim has attained 18 years of age. In considering the request, the court shall conduct an evidentiary hearing to determine whether a change of circumstances has occurred which warrants a change in the court order prohibiting contact and whether it is in the best interest of the victim that the court order be modified or rescinded.
- (2) Any offender who violates a court order issued under this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).
- (3) The punishment imposed under this section shall run consecutive to any former sentence imposed for a conviction for any offense under s. [794.011](#), s. [800.04](#), s. [847.0135](#)(5), or any offense in s. [775.084](#)(1)(b)1.a.-o.

[943.10](#) Definitions; ss. [943.085-943.255](#).—

The following words and phrases as used in ss. [943.085-943.255](#) are defined as follows:

- (1) "Law enforcement officer" means any person who is elected, appointed, or employed full time by any municipality or the state or any political subdivision thereof; who is vested with authority to bear arms and make arrests; and whose primary responsibility is the prevention and detection of crime or the enforcement of the penal, criminal, traffic, or highway laws of the state. This definition includes all certified supervisory and command personnel whose duties include, in whole or in part, the supervision, training, guidance, and management responsibilities of full-time law enforcement officers, part-time law enforcement officers, or auxiliary law

enforcement officers but does not include support personnel employed by the employing agency.

(2) "Correctional officer" means any person who is appointed or employed full time by the state or any political subdivision thereof, or by any private entity which has contracted with the state or county, and whose primary responsibility is the supervision, protection, care, custody, and control, or investigation, of inmates within a correctional institution; however, the term "correctional officer" does not include any secretarial, clerical, or professionally trained personnel.

(3) "Correctional probation officer" means a person who is employed full time by the state whose primary responsibility is the supervised custody, surveillance, and control of assigned inmates, probationers, parolees, or community controllees within institutions of the Department of Corrections or within the community. The term includes supervisory personnel whose duties include, in whole or in part, the supervision, training, and guidance of correctional probation officers, but excludes management and administrative personnel above, but not including, the probation and parole regional administrator level.

(4) "Employing agency" means any agency or unit of government or any municipality or the state or any political subdivision thereof, or any agent thereof, which has constitutional or statutory authority to employ or appoint persons as officers. The term also includes any private entity which has contracted with the state or county for the operation and maintenance of a non-juvenile detention facility.

(5) "Commission" means the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission.

(6) "Part-time law enforcement officer" means any person employed or appointed less than full time, as defined by an employing agency, with or without compensation, who is vested with authority to bear arms and make arrests and whose primary responsibility is the prevention and detection of crime or the enforcement of the penal, criminal, traffic, or highway laws of the state.

(7) "Part-time correctional officer" means any person who is employed or appointed less than full time, as defined by the employing or appointing agency, with or without compensation, whose responsibilities include the supervision, protection, care, custody, and control of inmates within a correctional institution.

(8) "Auxiliary law enforcement officer" means any person employed or appointed, with or without compensation, who aids or assists a full-time or part-time law enforcement officer and who, while under the direct supervision of a full-time or part-time law enforcement officer, has the authority to arrest and perform law enforcement functions.

(9) "Auxiliary correctional officer" means any person employed or appointed, with or without compensation, who aids or assists a full-time or part-time correctional officer and who, while under the supervision of a full-time or part-time correctional officer, has the same authority as a full-time or part-time correctional officer for the purpose of providing supervision, protection, care, custody, and control of inmates within a correctional institution or a county or municipal detention facility.

(10) "Private criminal justice training school" means any private school, corporation, or institution, for profit or not for profit, devoted wholly or in part to instruction, by correspondence or otherwise, in criminal justice services, administration, training, and education, which awards any type of certificate, diploma, degree, or recognition for attendance, graduation, study, or participation to students, enrollees, or participants. This definition applies to all such schools operating wholly or in part within the state, including those chartered, incorporated, or formed outside the state.

(11) "Support personnel" means any person employed or appointed by an employing agency who is not an officer or, as specified by the commission, other professional employee in the criminal justice system.

(12) "Program" means the Criminal Justice Professionalism Program of the Department of Law Enforcement.

(13) "Head of the department" means the Governor and Cabinet, as provided for in ss. [20.201](#) and [20.03](#)(4).

(14) "Officer" means any person employed or appointed as a full-time, part-time, or auxiliary law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional probation officer.

(15) "Public criminal justice training school" means any academy operated by an employing agency that is certified by the commission to conduct criminal justice training courses.

(16) "Criminal justice training school" means any private or public criminal justice training school certified by the commission.

(17) "Training center director" means a full-time salaried employee of a criminal justice training school who is responsible for the scheduling and general management of criminal justice courses and supervision and evaluation of criminal justice instructors.

(18) "Auxiliary correctional probation officer" means any person employed or appointed, with or without compensation, who aids or assists a full-time or part-time correctional probation officer and who, while under the supervision of a full-time or part-time correctional probation officer, has the same authority as a full-time or part-time correctional probation officer for the purpose of providing supervision of offenders in the community.

(19) "Part-time correctional probation officer" means a person who is employed less than full time by the state whose primary responsibility is the supervised custody, surveillance, and control of assigned inmates, probationers, parolees, or community controllees within institutions of the Department of Corrections or in the community.

(20) "Diverse population" means members of a cultural group with common origins, customs, and styles of living. This definition includes both ethnic and religious minorities.

(21) "Criminal justice executive" includes executives of law enforcement, correctional, and correctional probation agencies.

(22) "Special operations forces" means those active and reserve component forces of the military services designated by the Secretary of Defense and specifically organized, trained, and equipped to conduct and support special operations. The term includes, but is not limited to, service members of the United States Army Special Forces and the United States Army 75th Ranger Regiment; the United States Navy SEALs and Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewmen; the United States Air Force Combat Control, Pararescue, and Tactical Air Control Party specialists; the United States Marine Corps Critical Skills Operators; and any other component of the United States Special Operations Command approved by the commission.

943.13 Officers' minimum qualifications for employment or appointment.—

On or after October 1, 1984, any person employed or appointed as a full-time, part-time, or auxiliary law enforcement officer or correctional officer; on or after October 1, 1986, any person employed as a full-time, part-time, or auxiliary correctional probation officer; and on or after October 1, 1986, any person employed as a full-time, part-time, or auxiliary correctional officer by a private

entity under contract to the Department of Corrections, to a county commission, or to the Department of Management Services shall:

- (1) Be at least 19 years of age.
- (2) Be a citizen of the United States, notwithstanding any law of the state to the contrary.
- (3) Be a high school graduate or its "equivalent" as the commission has defined the term by rule.
- (4) Not have been convicted of any felony or of a misdemeanor involving perjury or a false statement, or have received a dishonorable discharge from any of the Armed Forces of the United States. Any person who, after July 1, 1981, pleads guilty or nolo contendere to or is found guilty of any felony or of a misdemeanor involving perjury or a false statement is not eligible for employment or appointment as an officer, notwithstanding suspension of sentence or withholding of adjudication. Notwithstanding this subsection, any person who has pled nolo contendere to a misdemeanor involving a false statement, prior to December 1, 1985, and has had such record sealed or expunged shall not be deemed ineligible for employment or appointment as an officer.
- (5) Have documentation of his or her processed fingerprints on file with the employing agency or, if a private correctional officer, have documentation of his or her processed fingerprints on file with the Department of Corrections or the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission. The department shall retain and enter into the statewide automated biometric identification system authorized by s. [943.05](#) all fingerprints submitted to the department as required by this section. Thereafter, the fingerprints shall be available for all purposes and uses authorized for arrest fingerprints entered in the statewide automated biometric identification system pursuant to s. [943.051](#). The department shall search all arrest fingerprints received pursuant to s. [943.051](#) against the fingerprints retained in the statewide automated biometric identification system pursuant to this section and report to the employing agency any arrest records that are identified with the retained employee's fingerprints. These fingerprints must be forwarded to the department for processing and retention.
- (6) Have passed a physical examination by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse, based on specifications established by the commission. In order to be eligible for the presumption set forth in s. [112.18](#) while employed with an employing agency, a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional probation officer must have successfully passed the physical examination required by this subsection upon entering into service as a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional probation officer with the employing agency, which examination must have failed to reveal any evidence of tuberculosis, heart disease, or hypertension. A law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional probation officer may not use a physical examination from a former employing agency for purposes of claiming the presumption set forth in s. [112.18](#) against the current employing agency.
- (7) Have a good moral character as determined by a background investigation under procedures established by the commission.
- (8) Execute and submit to the employing agency or, if a private correctional officer, submit to the appropriate governmental entity an affidavit-of-applicant form, adopted by the commission, attesting to his or her compliance with subsections (1)-(7). The affidavit shall be executed under oath and constitutes an official statement within the purview of s. 837.06. The affidavit shall include conspicuous language that the intentional false execution of the affidavit constitutes a misdemeanor of the second degree. The affidavit shall be retained by the employing agency.
- (9) Complete a commission-approved basic recruit training program for the applicable criminal justice discipline, unless exempt under this subsection. An applicant who has:
 - (a) Completed a comparable basic recruit training program for the applicable criminal justice discipline in another state or for the Federal Government and served as a full-time sworn officer in another state or for the Federal Government for at least 1 year, provided there is no more than an 8-year break in employment, as measured from the separation date of the most recent qualifying employment to the time a complete application for an exemption under this subsection is submitted; or
 - (b) Served in the special operations forces for a minimum of 5 years, provided there is no more than a 4-year break from the applicant's special operations forces experience, as measured from the separation date from the special operations forces to the time a complete application for an exemption under this subsection is submitted,is exempt in accordance with s. [943.131](#)(2) from completing the commission-approved basic recruit training program.
- (10) Achieve an acceptable score on the officer certification examination for the applicable criminal justice discipline.
- (11) Comply with the continuing training or education requirements of s. [943.135](#).

[943.1395](#) Certification for employment or appointment; concurrent certification; reemployment or reappointment; inactive status; revocation; suspension; investigation.—

- (1) The commission shall certify, under procedures established by rule, any person for employment or appointment as an officer if:
 - (a) The person complies with s. [943.13](#)(1)-(10); and
 - (b) The employing agency complies with s. [943.133](#)(2) and (3).
- (2) An officer who is certified in one discipline and who complies with s. [943.13](#) in another discipline shall hold concurrent certification and may be assigned in either discipline within his or her employing agency.
- (3) Any certified officer who has separated from employment or appointment and who is not reemployed or reappointed by an employing agency within 4 years after the date of separation must meet the minimum qualifications described in s. [943.13](#), except for the requirement found in s. [943.13](#)(9). Further, such officer must complete any training required by the commission by rule in compliance with s. [943.131](#)(2). Any such officer who fails to comply with the requirements provided in s. [943.131](#)(2) must meet the minimum qualifications described in s. [943.13](#), to include the requirement of s. [943.13](#)(9).
- (4) The certification of an officer who fails to comply with s. [943.135](#)(1) shall be inactive, and the officer may not be employed or appointed as an officer until he or she complies with the provisions of s. [943.135](#)(1).
- (5) The employing agency must conduct an internal investigation if it has cause to suspect that an officer is not in compliance with, or has failed to maintain compliance with, s. [943.13](#)(4) or (7). If an officer is not in compliance with, or has failed to maintain compliance with, s. [943.13](#)(4) or (7), the employing agency must submit the investigative findings and supporting information and documentation to the commission in accordance with rules adopted by the commission. The commission may inspect and copy an employing agency's records to ensure compliance with this subsection.

(6) The commission shall revoke the certification of any officer who is not in compliance with the provisions of s. 943.13(4) or who intentionally executes a false affidavit established in s. 943.13(8), s. 943.133(2), or s. 943.139(2).

(a) The commission shall cause to be investigated any ground for revocation from the employing agency pursuant to s. 943.139 or from the Governor, and the commission may cause verifiable complaints to be investigated. Any investigation initiated by the commission pursuant to this section must be completed within 6 months after receipt of the completed report of the disciplinary or internal affairs investigation from the employing agency or Governor's office. A verifiable complaint shall be completed within 1 year after receipt of the complaint. An investigation shall be considered completed upon a finding by a probable cause panel of the commission. These time periods shall be tolled during the appeal of a termination or other disciplinary action through the administrative or judicial process or during the period of any criminal prosecution of the officer.

(b)1. The report of misconduct and all records or information provided to or developed by the commission during the course of an investigation conducted by the commission are exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution and, except as otherwise provided by law, such information shall be subject to public disclosure only after a determination as to probable cause has been made or until the investigation becomes inactive.

2. However, not more than 30 days before the results of an investigation are to be presented to a probable cause panel, an officer who is being investigated, or the officer's attorney, may review any documents or other information regarding the investigation which was developed by or provided to the commission.

(c) When an officer's certification is revoked in any discipline, his or her certification in any other discipline shall simultaneously be revoked.

(7) Upon a finding by the commission that a certified officer has not maintained good moral character, the definition of which has been adopted by rule and is established as a statewide standard, as required by s. 943.13(7), the commission may enter an order imposing one or more of the following penalties:

(a) Revocation of certification.

(b) Suspension of certification for a period not to exceed 2 years.

(c) Placement on a probationary status for a period not to exceed 2 years, subject to terms and conditions imposed by the commission. Upon the violation of such terms and conditions, the commission may revoke certification or impose additional penalties as enumerated in this subsection.

(d) Successful completion by the officer of any basic recruit, advanced, or career development training or such retraining deemed appropriate by the commission.

(e) Issuance of a reprimand.

(8)(a) The commission shall, by rule, adopt disciplinary guidelines and procedures to administer the penalties provided in subsections (6) and (7). The commission may, by rule, prescribe penalties for certain offenses. The commission shall, by rule, set forth aggravating and mitigating circumstances to be considered when imposing the penalties provided in subsection (7).

(b)1. The disciplinary guidelines and prescribed penalties must be based upon the severity of specific offenses. The guidelines must provide reasonable and meaningful notice to officers and to the public of penalties that may be imposed for prohibited conduct. The penalties must be consistently applied by the commission.

2. On or before July 1 of each odd-numbered year, the commission shall conduct a workshop to receive public comment and evaluate disciplinary guidelines and penalties. The commission chair shall appoint a 12-member advisory panel, composed of six officers and six representatives of criminal justice management positions, to make recommendations to the commission concerning disciplinary guidelines.

(c) For the purpose of implementing the penalties provided in subsections (6) and (7), the chair of the commission may appoint one or more panels of three commissioners each to determine probable cause. In lieu of a finding of probable cause, the probable cause panel may issue a letter of guidance to the officer.

(d) When an employing agency disciplines an officer and the officer's employment is continued or reinstated by the agency, the Criminal Justice Professionalism Program shall review the sustained disciplinary charges and disciplinary penalty to determine whether the penalty conforms to the disciplinary penalties prescribed by commission rule, and, in writing, notify the employing agency and officer of the results of the review. If the penalty conforms to the disciplinary penalty provided by rule, the officer and employing agency shall be notified, by a letter of acknowledgment, that no further action shall be taken. If the penalty does not conform to such disciplinary penalty prescribed by rule, the officer and employer shall be notified, in writing, of further action to be taken. The commission shall adopt rules establishing procedures for administering this subsection.

(e) An administrative law judge assigned to conduct a hearing under ss. 120.569 and 120.57(1) regarding allegations that an officer is not in compliance with, or has failed to maintain compliance with, s. 943.13(4) or (7) must, in his or her recommended order:

1. Adhere to the disciplinary guidelines and penalties set forth in subsections (6) and (7) and the rules adopted by the commission for the type of offense committed.

2. Specify, in writing, any aggravating or mitigating circumstance that he or she considered in determining the recommended penalty. Any deviation from the disciplinary guidelines or prescribed penalty must be based upon circumstances or factors that reasonably justify the aggravation or mitigation of the penalty. Any deviation from the disciplinary guidelines or prescribed penalty must be explained, in writing, by the administrative law judge.

(9) Each person employed pursuant to s. 943.131 is subject to discipline by the commission. Persons who have been subject to disciplinary action pursuant to this subsection are ineligible for employment or appointment under s. 943.131.

(a) The commission shall cause to be investigated any conduct defined in subsection (6) or subsection (7) by a person employed under s. 943.131 and shall set disciplinary guidelines and penalties prescribed in rules applicable to such noncertified persons.

(b) The disciplinary guidelines and prescribed penalties must be based upon the severity of specific offenses. The guidelines must provide reasonable and meaningful notice to officers and to the public of penalties that may be imposed for prohibited conduct. The penalties must be consistently applied by the commission.

(c) In addition, the commission may establish violations and disciplinary penalties for intentional abuse of the employment option provided by s. [943.131](#) by an individual or employing agency.

(10) An officer whose certification has been revoked pursuant to this section shall be ineligible for employment or appointment under s. [943.131](#).

[943.1395](#) Certification for employment or appointment; concurrent certification; reemployment or reappointment; inactive status; revocation; suspension; investigation.—

(1) The commission shall certify, under procedures established by rule, any person for employment or appointment as an officer if:

(a) The person complies with s. [943.13](#)(1)-(10); and

(b) The employing agency complies with s. [943.133](#)(2) and (3).

(2) An officer who is certified in one discipline and who complies with s. [943.13](#) in another discipline shall hold concurrent certification and may be assigned in either discipline within his or her employing agency.

(3) Any certified officer who has separated from employment or appointment and who is not reemployed or reappointed by an employing agency within 4 years after the date of separation must meet the minimum qualifications described in s. [943.13](#), except for the requirement found in s. [943.13](#)(9). Further, such officer must complete any training required by the commission by rule in compliance with s. [943.131](#)(2). Any such officer who fails to comply with the requirements provided in s. [943.131](#)(2) must meet the minimum qualifications described in s. [943.13](#), to include the requirement of s. [943.13](#)(9).

(4) The certification of an officer who fails to comply with s. [943.135](#)(1) shall be inactive, and the officer may not be employed or appointed as an officer until he or she complies with the provisions of s. [943.135](#)(1).

(5) The employing agency must conduct an internal investigation if it has cause to suspect that an officer is not in compliance with, or has failed to maintain compliance with, s. [943.13](#)(4) or (7). If an officer is not in compliance with, or has failed to maintain compliance with, s. [943.13](#)(4) or (7), the employing agency must submit the investigative findings and supporting information and documentation to the commission in accordance with rules adopted by the commission. The commission may inspect and copy an employing agency's records to ensure compliance with this subsection.

(6) The commission shall revoke the certification of any officer who is not in compliance with the provisions of s. [943.13](#)(4) or who intentionally executes a false affidavit established in s. [943.13](#)(8), s. [943.133](#)(2), or s. [943.139](#)(2).

(a) The commission shall cause to be investigated any ground for revocation from the employing agency pursuant to s. [943.139](#) or from the Governor, and the commission may cause verifiable complaints to be investigated. Any investigation initiated by the commission pursuant to this section must be completed within 6 months after receipt of the completed report of the disciplinary or internal affairs investigation from the employing agency or Governor's office. A verifiable complaint shall be completed within 1 year after receipt of the complaint. An investigation shall be considered completed upon a finding by a probable cause panel of the commission. These time periods shall be tolled during the appeal of a termination or other disciplinary action through the administrative or judicial process or during the period of any criminal prosecution of the officer.

(b)1. The report of misconduct and all records or information provided to or developed by the commission during the course of an investigation conducted by the commission are exempt from the provisions of s. [119.07](#)(1) and s. [24](#)(a), Art. I of the State Constitution and, except as otherwise provided by law, such information shall be subject to public disclosure only after a determination as to probable cause has been made or until the investigation becomes inactive.

2. However, not more than 30 days before the results of an investigation are to be presented to a probable cause panel, an officer who is being investigated, or the officer's attorney, may review any documents or other information regarding the investigation which was developed by or provided to the commission.

(c) When an officer's certification is revoked in any discipline, his or her certification in any other discipline shall simultaneously be revoked.

(7) Upon a finding by the commission that a certified officer has not maintained good moral character, the definition of which has been adopted by rule and is established as a statewide standard, as required by s. [943.13](#)(7), the commission may enter an order imposing one or more of the following penalties:

(a) Revocation of certification.

(b) Suspension of certification for a period not to exceed 2 years.

(c) Placement on a probationary status for a period not to exceed 2 years, subject to terms and conditions imposed by the commission. Upon the violation of such terms and conditions, the commission may revoke certification or impose additional penalties as enumerated in this subsection.

(d) Successful completion by the officer of any basic recruit, advanced, or career development training or such retraining deemed appropriate by the commission.

(e) Issuance of a reprimand.

(8)(a) The commission shall, by rule, adopt disciplinary guidelines and procedures to administer the penalties provided in subsections (6) and (7). The commission may, by rule, prescribe penalties for certain offenses. The commission shall, by rule, set forth aggravating and mitigating circumstances to be considered when imposing the penalties provided in subsection (7).

(b)1. The disciplinary guidelines and prescribed penalties must be based upon the severity of specific offenses. The guidelines must provide reasonable and meaningful notice to officers and to the public of penalties that may be imposed for prohibited conduct. The penalties must be consistently applied by the commission.

2. On or before July 1 of each odd-numbered year, the commission shall conduct a workshop to receive public comment and evaluate disciplinary guidelines and penalties. The commission chair shall appoint a 12-member advisory panel, composed of six officers and six representatives of criminal justice management positions, to make recommendations to the commission concerning disciplinary guidelines.

(c) For the purpose of implementing the penalties provided in subsections (6) and (7), the chair of the commission may appoint one

or more panels of three commissioners each to determine probable cause. In lieu of a finding of probable cause, the probable cause panel may issue a letter of guidance to the officer.

(d) When an employing agency disciplines an officer and the officer's employment is continued or reinstated by the agency, the Criminal Justice Professionalism Program shall review the sustained disciplinary charges and disciplinary penalty to determine whether the penalty conforms to the disciplinary penalties prescribed by commission rule, and, in writing, notify the employing agency and officer of the results of the review. If the penalty conforms to the disciplinary penalty provided by rule, the officer and employing agency shall be notified, by a letter of acknowledgment, that no further action shall be taken. If the penalty does not conform to

such disciplinary penalty prescribed by rule, the officer and employer shall be notified, in writing, of further action to be taken. The commission shall adopt rules establishing procedures for administering this subsection.

(e) An administrative law judge assigned to conduct a hearing under ss. [120.569](#) and [120.57](#)(1) regarding allegations that an officer is not in compliance with, or has failed to maintain compliance with, s. [943.13](#)(4) or (7) must, in his or her recommended order:

1. Adhere to the disciplinary guidelines and penalties set forth in subsections (6) and (7) and the rules adopted by the commission for the type of offense committed.

2. Specify, in writing, any aggravating or mitigating circumstance that he or she considered in determining the recommended penalty.

Any deviation from the disciplinary guidelines or prescribed penalty must be based upon circumstances or factors that reasonably justify the aggravation or mitigation of the penalty. Any deviation from the disciplinary guidelines or prescribed penalty must be explained, in writing, by the administrative law judge.

(9) Each person employed pursuant to s. [943.131](#) is subject to discipline by the commission. Persons who have been subject to disciplinary action pursuant to this subsection are ineligible for employment or appointment under s. [943.131](#).

(a) The commission shall cause to be investigated any conduct defined in subsection (6) or subsection (7) by a person employed under s. [943.131](#) and shall set disciplinary guidelines and penalties prescribed in rules applicable to such noncertified persons.

(b) The disciplinary guidelines and prescribed penalties must be based upon the severity of specific offenses. The guidelines must provide reasonable and meaningful notice to officers and to the public of penalties that may be imposed for prohibited conduct. The penalties must be consistently applied by the commission.

(c) In addition, the commission may establish violations and disciplinary penalties for intentional abuse of the employment option provided by s. [943.131](#) by an individual or employing agency.

(10) An officer whose certification has been revoked pursuant to this section shall be ineligible for employment or appointment under s. [943.131](#)

[943.253](#) Exemption; elected officers.—

Elected officers are exempt from the requirements of ss. [943.085-943.25](#). However, an elected officer may participate in the programs and benefits under ss. [943.085-943.25](#) if he or she complies with s. [943.13](#)(1)-(7).

[944.275](#) Gain-time.—

(1) The department is authorized to grant deductions from sentences in the form of gain-time in order to encourage satisfactory prisoner behavior, to provide incentive for prisoners to participate in productive activities, and to reward prisoners who perform outstanding deeds or services.

(2)(a) The department shall establish for each prisoner sentenced to a term of years a "maximum sentence expiration date," which shall be the date when the sentence or combined sentences imposed on a prisoner will expire. In establishing this date, the department shall reduce the total time to be served by any time lawfully credited.

(b) When a prisoner with an established maximum sentence expiration date is sentenced to an additional term or terms without having been released from custody, the department shall extend the maximum sentence expiration date by the length of time imposed in the new sentence or sentences, less lawful credits.

(c) When an escaped prisoner or a parole violator is returned to the custody of the department, the maximum sentence expiration date in effect when the escape occurred or the parole was effective shall be extended by the amount of time the prisoner was not in custody plus the time imposed in any new sentence or sentences, but reduced by any lawful credits.

(3)(a) The department shall also establish for each prisoner sentenced to a term of years a "tentative release date" which shall be the date projected for the prisoner's release from custody by virtue of gain-time granted or forfeited as described in this section. The initial tentative release date shall be determined by deducting basic gain-time granted from the maximum sentence expiration date. Other gain-time shall be applied when granted or restored to make the tentative release date proportionately earlier; and forfeitures of gain-time, when ordered, shall be applied to make the tentative release date proportionately later.

(b) When an initial tentative release date is reestablished because of additional sentences imposed before the prisoner has completely served all prior sentences, any gain-time granted during service of a prior sentence and not forfeited shall be applied.

(c) The tentative release date may not be later than the maximum sentence expiration date.

(4)(a) As a means of encouraging satisfactory behavior, the department shall grant basic gain-time at the rate of 10 days for each month of each sentence imposed on a prisoner, subject to the following:

1. Portions of any sentences to be served concurrently shall be treated as a single sentence when determining basic gain-time.

2. Basic gain-time for a partial month shall be prorated on the basis of a 30-day month.

3. When a prisoner receives a new maximum sentence expiration date because of additional sentences imposed, basic gain-time shall be granted for the amount of time the maximum sentence expiration date was extended.

(b) For each month in which an inmate works diligently, participates in training, uses time constructively, or otherwise engages in positive activities, the department may grant incentive gain-time in accordance with this paragraph. The rate of incentive gain-time in effect on the date the inmate committed the offense which resulted in his or her incarceration shall be the inmate's rate of eligibility

to earn incentive gain-time throughout the period of incarceration and shall not be altered by a subsequent change in the severity level of the offense for which the inmate was sentenced.

1. For sentences imposed for offenses committed prior to January 1, 1994, up to 20 days of incentive gain-time may be granted. If granted, such gain-time shall be credited and applied monthly.

2. For sentences imposed for offenses committed on or after January 1, 1994, and before October 1, 1995:

a. For offenses ranked in offense severity levels 1 through 7, under former s. [921.0012](#) or former s. [921.0013](#), up to 25 days of incentive gain-time may be granted. If granted, such gain-time shall be credited and applied monthly.

b. For offenses ranked in offense severity levels 8, 9, and 10, under former s. [921.0012](#) or former s. [921.0013](#), up to 20 days of incentive gain-time may be granted. If granted, such gain-time shall be credited and applied monthly.

3. For sentences imposed for offenses committed on or after October 1, 1995, the department may grant up to 10 days per month of incentive gain-time.

(c) An inmate who performs some outstanding deed, such as saving a life or assisting in recapturing an escaped inmate, or who in some manner performs an outstanding service that would merit the granting of additional deductions from the term of his or her sentence may be granted meritorious gain-time of from 1 to 60 days.

(d) Notwithstanding the monthly maximum awards of incentive gain-time under sub paragraphs (b)1., 2., and 3., the education program manager shall recommend, and the Department of Corrections may grant, a one-time award of 60 additional days of incentive gain-time to an inmate who is otherwise eligible and who successfully completes requirements for and is, or has been during the current commitment, awarded a high school equivalency diploma or vocational certificate. Under no circumstances may an inmate receive more than 60 days for educational attainment pursuant to this section.

(e) Notwithstanding subparagraph (b)3., for sentences imposed for offenses committed on or after October 1, 2014, the department may not grant incentive gain-time if the offense is a violation of s. [782.04](#)(1)(a)2.c.; s. [787.01](#)(3)(a)2. or 3.; s. [787.02](#)(3)(a)2. or 3.; s. [794.011](#), excluding s. [794.011](#)(10); s. [800.04](#); s. [825.1025](#); or s. [847.0135](#)(5).

(f) An inmate who is subject to subparagraph (b)3. is not eligible to earn or receive gain-time under paragraph (a), paragraph (b), paragraph (c), or paragraph (d) or any other type of gain-time in an amount that would cause a sentence to expire, end, or terminate, or that would result in a prisoner's release, prior to serving a minimum of 85 percent of the sentence imposed. For purposes of this paragraph, credits awarded by the court for time physically incarcerated shall be credited toward satisfaction of 85 percent of the sentence imposed. Except as provided by this section, a prisoner may not accumulate further gain-time awards at any point when the tentative release date is the same as that date at which the prisoner will have served 85 percent of the sentence imposed. State prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment shall be incarcerated for the rest of their natural lives, unless granted pardon or clemency.

(5) When a prisoner is found guilty of an infraction of the laws of this state or the rules of the department, gain-time may be forfeited according to law.

(6)(a) Basic gain-time under this section shall be computed on and applied to all sentences imposed for offenses committed on or after July 1, 1978, and before January 1, 1994.

(b) All incentive and meritorious gain-time is granted according to this section.

(c) All additional gain-time previously awarded under former subsections (2) and (3) and all forfeitures ordered prior to the effective date of the act that created this section shall remain in effect and be applied in establishing an initial tentative release date.

(7) The department shall adopt rules to implement the granting, forfeiture, restoration, and deletion of gain-time.

[947.149](#) Conditional medical release.—

(1) The commission shall, in conjunction with the department, establish the conditional medical release program. An inmate is eligible for consideration for release under the conditional medical release program when the inmate, because of an existing medical or physical condition, is determined by the department to be within one of the following designations:

(a) "Permanently incapacitated inmate," which means an inmate who has a condition caused by injury, disease, or illness which, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, renders the inmate permanently and irreversibly physically incapacitated to the extent that the inmate does not constitute a danger to herself or himself or others.

(b) "Terminally ill inmate," which means an inmate who has a condition caused by injury, disease, or illness which, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, renders the inmate terminally ill to the extent that there can be no recovery and death is imminent, so that the inmate does not constitute a danger to herself or himself or others.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, any person determined eligible under this section and sentenced to the custody of the department may, upon referral by the department, be considered for conditional medical release by the commission, in addition to any parole consideration for which the inmate may be considered, except that conditional medical release is not authorized for an inmate who is under sentence of death. No inmate has a right to conditional medical release or to a medical evaluation to determine eligibility for such release.

(3) The authority and whether or not to grant conditional medical release and establish additional conditions of conditional medical release rests solely within the discretion of the commission, in accordance with the provisions of this section, together with the authority to approve the release plan to include necessary medical care and attention. The department shall identify inmates who may be eligible for conditional medical release based upon available medical information and shall refer them to the commission for consideration. In considering an inmate for conditional medical release, the commission may require that additional medical evidence be produced or that additional medical examinations be conducted, and may require such other investigations to be made as may be warranted.

(4) The conditional medical release term of an inmate released on conditional medical release is for the remainder of the inmate's sentence, without diminution of sentence for good behavior. Supervision of the medical releasee must include periodic medical evaluations at intervals determined by the commission at the time of release.

(5)(a) If it is discovered during the conditional medical release that the medical or physical condition of the medical releasee has improved to the extent that she or he would no longer be eligible for conditional medical release under this section, the commission may order that the releasee be returned to the custody of the department for a conditional medical release revocation hearing, in accordance with s. [947.141](#). If conditional medical release is revoked due to improvement in the medical or physical condition of the releasee, she or he shall serve the balance of her or his sentence with credit for the time served on conditional medical release and without forfeiture of any gain-time accrued prior to conditional medical release. If the person whose conditional medical release is revoked due to an improvement in medical or physical condition would otherwise be eligible for parole or any other release program, the person may be considered for such release program pursuant to law.

(b) In addition to revocation of conditional medical release pursuant to paragraph (a), conditional medical release may also be revoked for violation of any condition of the release established by the commission, in accordance with s. [947.141](#), and the releasee's gain-time may be forfeited pursuant to s. [944.28](#)(1).

(6) The department and the commission shall adopt rules as necessary to implement the conditional medical release program.

