

Penn State Ethics Hotline – Reporting and Investigations Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What happens after I submit a report?

Once your report is received, it is reviewed and forwarded to the appropriate university office or department based on the nature of the concern. That office is responsible for reviewing and addressing the matter.

2. How long does the process take?

While timelines may vary depending on the complexity of the case, we typically request a status update from the responsible department within 45 business days to ensure a thorough review.

3. Will anyone be interviewed?

Yes. Interviews may be conducted with relevant individuals to gather facts about the case. Please note that interviews are not recorded, and participation is handled respectfully and confidentially.

4. Can I remain anonymous?

Yes, you can remain anonymous throughout the process. However, if you disclose certain types of information—such as threats of harm, child abuse, or other mandatory reporting issues—we may be legally required to report that information to the appropriate authorities.

5. Will University Police be involved?

If your report involves allegations of criminal activity, it might be referred to University Police. In such cases, OEC may not be informed of the investigation's outcome due to law enforcement confidentiality.

6. What support services are available to individuals affected by an ethical concern?

The Red Folder (<https://redfolder.psu.edu/>) offers information on available resources, including counseling, academic support, and crisis intervention services. These services are designed to assist individuals who may be experiencing distress.

7. Concerns regarding retaliation?

The University strictly prohibits retaliation against individuals who report concerns in good faith, as detailed in [University Policy AD67 Disclosure of Wrongful Conduct and Protection from Retaliation](#). If you believe you have experienced retaliation, we encourage you to report it immediately.

8. Who sees the final investigation report?

The final investigation report is shared only with authorized senior leadership and decision-makers within the university. It is not made public or shared with those involved.