



No Communication Orders and No Contact Orders Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated January 2024

In response to concerns expressed by community members about the University's No Contact, No-Communication order process, the University reexamined its policies and the circumstances under which NCOs can be issued in summer 2022 and again in December 2023. As a result of its 2023 review, the University has narrowed the circumstances under which NCOs can be issued as reflected in these FAQs. The changes do not alter how Title IX and SHARE-related NCOs are issued. The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) provide information regarding No Communication and No Contact Orders.

1. What is a No Communication Order?

A No Communication Order provides that two parties may not have any communication with each other in-person or through another party, by telephone, letter, e-mail, or other electronic media, or by any other means, including via social media. This applies on-campus and in the local vicinity, at University-sponsored events, and/or by electronic communication (from any location).

2. What is a mutual No Contact Order?

A mutual No Contact Order provides that parties may not have any contact with each other, in-person or through another party, by telephone, letter, e-mail, or other electronic media, or by any other means, including via social media. Parties subject to a No Contact Order must make a concerted effort to avoid any close proximity to the other party. However, No Contact Orders (mutual or "skewed") do not ensure that parties to such Orders will not see one another on the campus. Rather, they serve to limit potential interactions between the parties. If individuals have safety concerns and feel that they need additional protection (for example, through a temporary restraining order), they should contact the Department of Public Safety at 609-258-1000.

3. What is a "skewed" No Contact Order?

Under a "skewed" No Contact Order, in places in which neither party's presence is required, the responsibility to avoid the other party (the complainant) falls exclusively on the other party (the respondent); in places where both parties' presence is required, both parties must avoid being in close proximity to one another.

A "skewed" No Contact Order may be issued (or an existing mutual No Contact Order may be modified) when an individual has been found responsible through a formal disciplinary process for violating a University policy or a previous No Contact Order. Under this circumstance, "skewed" No Contact Orders are disciplinary in nature; they are issued by a disciplinary body only when an individual has been found responsible for violating University policy or a prior No Contact Order; they can only be modified by the appropriate appellate body; and the duration of the "skewed" No Contact Order is determined by the disciplinary body issuing the Order.

4. When are No Communication or mutual No Contact Orders issued?

No Communication or No Contact Orders may be issued in the following circumstances:

1) In an emergent situation such as where there has been a significant interpersonal conflict or altercation, a dean may issue a temporary No Communication Order for a short period of time (typically until the next business day) until the matter can be reviewed or, where a disciplinary infraction is being investigated and there is a concern for the safety of an individual, until an adjudication of the case can take place; or

2) If an individual has been found responsible for a disciplinary infraction, the Committee on Discipline, the Residential College Disciplinary Board or the Graduate School may issue a No Communication Order or No Contact Order as part of the penalty.

Individuals seeking information about No Contact or No Communication orders in situations involving sexual misconduct should consult the Sexual Harassment/Assault Advising, Resources and Education (SHARE) office or the Office of Gender Equity and Title IX Administration.

If you have general questions about No Contact or No Communication orders, you may contact Assistant Deans for Student Life (undergraduate students); Assistant Deans for Student Affairs and Assistant Director for Student Affairs and Residential Life (graduate students); Assistant Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs (postdocs); Deputy Dean of Faculty (faculty); or Human Resources manager (staff).