

What to expect: Anonymity, confidentiality and privacy

When you provide the Response & Resolution Office with information, you should know how it will be used and what limits there might be on your privacy. Here are different standards for retaining and sharing information.

ANONYMITY

Anonymity means that either (a) your identity is unknown to the Response & Resolution Office (an anonymous report), or (b) your identity will not be shared with anyone.

- (a) The Response & Resolution Office allows individuals to report anonymously—meaning that the reporter’s identity is unknown to the Response & Resolution Office.
- (b) In addition, if the reporter’s identity is known to the Response & Resolution Office, it will not share the reporter’s identity with anyone.

Anonymity does **not** mean that the information you provide will be protected. If we tell you that information is being accepted or used anonymously, it means your **name** will not be used under any circumstances.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality is rare. It means your identity and the information you have shared will not go any further than the person you have shared it with. If a Reporting Party would like the details of an incident to be kept confidential, the Reporting Party may speak with:

- Licensed professional counselors
- Local rape crisis counselors
- Domestic violence resources
- Local or state assistance agencies
- Clergy/chaplains

In addition, the Reporting Party may speak with the U.S. Olympic Committee’s Athlete Ombudsman. The Athlete Ombudsman can be reached at 1-800-ATHLETE, 719-866-5000, via email: athlete.ombudsman@usoc.org. Visit www.athleteombudsman.org for more information.

All of the above will maintain confidentiality except in extreme cases of immediate threat or danger, or abuse of a minor.

NEED TO KNOW

This is the standard the Response & Resolution Office uses for its investigations. It means no information will be shared that does not need to be shared for the purpose of conducting a thorough investigation. This means that your identity and the information you provide or share is not protected and will be used if it absolutely must be used. For example, the Response & Resolution Office will disclose the identity of a Responding Party to the applicable national governing body when it receives notice of possible sexual misconduct. You may ask us to notify you if we have felt the need to share your identity or identifying information with others.

PRIVILEGE

Privilege is a legal protection for the information you provide. There are very specific instances under which the person to whom you give information is not allowed, under any circumstance, to share or testify to what you have told them. **Your communication to the Response & Resolution Office is not privileged.**

DISCOVERABLE

In some civil or criminal litigation, certain information, including the identity of witnesses may be subject to a subpoena and disclosure to the court. We make every effort to be sure that this information is as limited as possible, but there is always a slight possibility that information about you or your matter could be disclosed on a limited basis because a court has ordered the Response & Resolution Office to do so.

PUBLIC

No information that identifies the Reporting Party or a witness will be made public by the Response & Resolution office without consent. The identity of the Responding Party may be made public after a decision is final.