



# Taking Action Against Sexual Misconduct

**Our position is clear: Every human being has the right to practice yoga free from abuse, harassment, and manipulation. Acts of sexual harassment, assault, or criminal activity of any kind, by any yoga teacher, are unethical and illegal, and Yoga Alliance will not tolerate these actions.**

## Our Support for Ahimsa:

The new administration at Yoga Alliance recognizes our responsibility to promote safety and respect within the yoga community and among those who rely on the Yoga Alliance credential. Therefore:





- Our updated policy provides clear and defined guidelines and procedures, an investigatory function, and due process for all involved.
- We are fully stepping into an appropriate role for a standards and credentialing body — that of one critical steward of public safety in yoga.



Revelations of sexual misconduct in many communities and workplaces have come to the forefront in recent months – and the yoga community has not been exempt from this disturbing pattern.

While Yoga Alliance does not have the same authority or resources to investigate or stop criminal activity as law enforcement bodies, we recognize our responsibility to educate, inform, and take action.

That is why, as of February 1, 2018, we strengthened our response and support to anyone reporting grievances or allegations of abuse. Introduced in our [updated policy](#) are:

-  Newly defined procedures based on the nature of the grievances;
-  Clear definitions of offenses and related potential sanctions;
-  An appeal process; and
-  Distinct timelines for each process to ensure that issues are addressed in a timely manner.

**#AhimsaNow** is not a tagline. It is a call to action.



In the event of any incident, you are not alone.

Support includes:

**Victims' rights advocates, such as the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)**

Call 800.656.HOPE (4673) to be connected to a trained staff member from a local sexual assault service provider or visit [online.rainn.org](https://online.rainn.org) to chat anonymously.

## Additional resources to support you include:

### Local law enforcement

Reporting criminal activity can be a strong deterrent, hold people accountable, and offer Yoga Alliance essential information that can help inform our process and decisions.

### Civil and criminal legal representation

To help you know your rights and advocate on your behalf.

### Yoga Alliance's Sexual Misconduct Policy

A clear process for reporting, investigating, and ensuring due process:

01

A person with first-hand knowledge of or experience with an incident files a grievance at [grievance@yogaalliance.org](mailto:grievance@yogaalliance.org) or through our new Sexual Misconduct Incident phone line: 888-912-1770, Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (ET). Necessary information includes:

- A clear statement reporting the alleged conduct, with date, location, and full name of the Teacher, School, and/or Continuing Education Provider that performed alleged conduct.
- Any available supporting, tangible evidence.

02

If Yoga Alliance determines the allegations are credible, then Yoga Alliance will issue a Notice of Disciplinary Proceeding to the credential holder describing the allegation(s) and provide them 21 days to submit a written response along with supporting evidence.

- In cases of Egregious Physical Sexual Misconduct, Yoga Alliance can move to suspend an individual's credential while the investigation takes place.

03

Based on the available facts, including any submitted statements from the complainant, credential holder, and witnesses, the accountability department – with the help of independent investigators when appropriate – will determine what, if any, disciplinary action is warranted.

04

If the accountability department finds the credential holder in violation of the Code of Conduct or Sexual Misconduct Policy, Yoga Alliance may utilize formal censures, suspension, registration revocation, revocation of registration eligibility, and/or other actions deemed appropriate by Yoga Alliance. An appeals process is available. The decisions of Yoga Alliance are final.

For more detailed information on the process, please visit [https://www.yogaalliance.org/Sexual\\_Misconduct\\_Resources](https://www.yogaalliance.org/Sexual_Misconduct_Resources)

