Parties have the right to select an advocate for assistance and support throughout the Department of equity and Compliance process. The advisor must be aware of the following information and guidelines prior to attending any interviews, meetings or appeals resulting from a Department of Equity and Compliance investigation.

The university conducts an administrative investigation to determine if, by a preponderance of the evidence, there is a violation of University Policy and Regulation. UA does not conduct criminal investigations.

Who is a complainant? A complainant is the individual or individuals who have allegedly been the subject of conduct prohibited under the UA discrimination policy, regardless of whether the individual or individuals file a complaint or otherwise seek disciplinary action.

Who is a respondent? A respondent is the individual or individuals who allegedly engaged in the conduct prohibited under the UA discrimination policy.

Definition of advocate: The advocate can be a person of the party’s own choosing including but not limited to an attorney, union representative, ASUAF student ombudsman, friend, family member, roommate, or etc. provided the advocate does not have a conflict of interest or conflict of position. The advocate cannot be a witness, complainant, or respondent involved in the case, nor have an interest other than to support and assist parties with the process. A student ombudsman can be reached at 907-474-7355 or http://www.asuafstudentgov.org/

Advocate role: The role of the advocate is to be of support to the party participating in the Department of Equity and Compliance process. Advocates are not permitted to ask or answer questions for the party nor are they to interfere in the process for any reason at any time. If an advocate does not adhere to these or other applicable ground rules, the advocate will be dismissed from the applicable interview, proceeding, or meeting.

Advocate restrictions: The university is entitled to restrict the advocate’s ability to speak or otherwise participate in proceedings, and any such restriction will be applied equally to the advocates of all parties.

Attorney as an advocate: If an attorney is chosen as an advocate, the party choosing to have the attorney as an advocate will be responsible for the attorney’s fees and legal costs regardless of the outcome of the proceeding.

For more information on Discrimination, go to the UAF Title IX website at: https://uaf.edu/equity/