Disclosures in Campus Climate Surveys
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In our most recent Campus Climate Survey, it was indicated by one student that her campus staff/supervisor had made alarming comments, which are a clear violation of our campus’ Sexual Misconduct Policy, as well as general HR policy. We indicated that all responses on our survey will remain confidential, and the only way we can link to a student’s name is as a result of the incentives provided for survey completion.

Is it acceptable to act on information provided by a student in these circumstances? A clear violation has been indicated.

It would not be appropriate to contact the individual who claimed this in the survey. If you've promised confidentiality (vs privacy), then you need to uphold your promise. Our introductory remarks to our Campus Climate Survey make it clear that any disclosures will not be viewed as reporting. Also, you might want to double check with your institutional research board as ours would have extreme difficulty with us even being able to match a response with an individual name let alone reaching out to that person about something they included in their response.

See previous Tip of the Week: Campus Climate Survey, for specific Campus Climate Survey introduction wording.