Federal, State and University Policies and Mandates Fact Sheet

White House First Task Force Release April 2014

This report was prepared by the White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault. The task force discusses an array of topics on preventing and protecting students from sexual assault. The first is to collect feedback from a Campus Climate Survey. The task force then moves into preventing sexual assault on campus and how to respond effectively to a victim of sexual assault. The task force also sets up guidelines regarding an advocate's confidentiality.

For OCR FAQs on the Task Force, click here.

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act

Jeanne Ann Clery was a 19 year old university freshman who was raped and murdered while asleep in her residence hall room on April 5, 1986. Her rape and murder lead to The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act is the landmark federal law, originally known as the Campus Security Act that requires colleges and universities across the United States to disclose information about crime on and around their campuses.

The Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act of 2000

Sex offenders, under the Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act, must register with the state where an institution of higher education is located (even if they do not reside in the state) once they become enrolled or work at an institution of higher education. Changes in enrollment or employment status also must be made known to the state. The law requires institutions of higher education to issue a statement advising the campus community where law enforcement agency information provided by a State concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained.

Title IX: Federal Law

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 prohibits sexual discrimination on campus. The law requires colleges and universities receiving federal funding to combat gender-based violence and harassment, and respond to survivors' needs in order to ensure that all students have equal access to education. This can only come when people feel equally comfortable to move about campus, are safe from harassment, stalking, sexual abuse and other forms of interpersonal violence.

You can also visit an advocacy site created by students by clicking here.
Dear Colleague Letter 2011: from Vice President Biden

Letter reminding higher education institutions that Title IX requirements also cover sexual violence and that they have the responsibility to take immediate and effective steps to respond to instances of in accordance with the requirements of Title IX. In the context of the letter, sexual violence means physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person’s will or where a person is incapable of giving consent. A number of acts fall into the category of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion.

For fast facts on the Dear Colleague Letter, you can click here.

Campus SaVE Act (Sexual Violence Elimination)

SaVE requires that incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking be disclosed in annual campus crime statistic reports. Additionally, students or employees reporting victimization will be provided with their written rights to be assisted by campus authorities if reporting a crime to law enforcement. Assistance can include but is not limited to changes in academic, living, transportation, or working situations to avoid a hostile environment, to obtain or enforce a no contact directive or restraining order, to receive a clear description of their institution's disciplinary process and know the range of possible sanctions and to receive contact information about existing counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, and other services available both on-campus and in the community.

Victim’s Bill of Rights

Designed to assist victims of sexual assault and harassment in navigating the processes and procedures available to them. Rights include timely access to appropriate assistance in a safe and respectful environment free of pressure. In the event of a student becoming a victim of sexual assault, the Victim’s Bill of Rights is a vital resource for taking legal action.

VAWA – Violence Against Women Act

United States federal law that works to improve the criminal justice response to violence against women, to ensure access to necessary services for victims and their families, in addition to fostering advocacy and education on issues of domestic violence. Programs and services afforded by the VAWA include a federal rape shield law, funding for victim assistance services, legal aid for survivors of domestic violence, and increasing attention to victims of underserved communities. As a federal law, the VAWA may assist victims in ways smaller institutions and communities cannot.