

Title IX Training:
An Integrated and Coordinated Approach

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INTRODUCTION



Thank you to our hosts



FRAMING THE CONTEXT

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Framing the Conversation

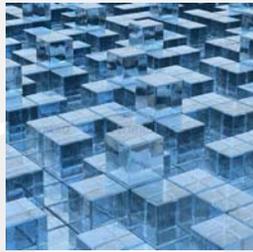


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The Context

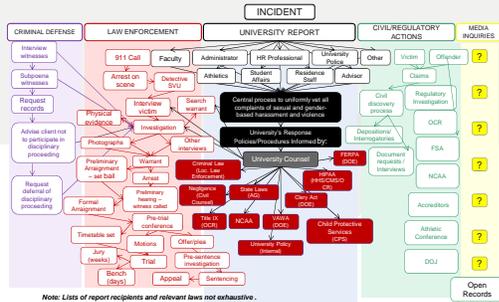
- Regulatory Framework
- Dynamics of Trauma & Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Violence
- Individual Culture, Climate, History, Resources, Policies, Procedures, Personnel and Values of the Institution



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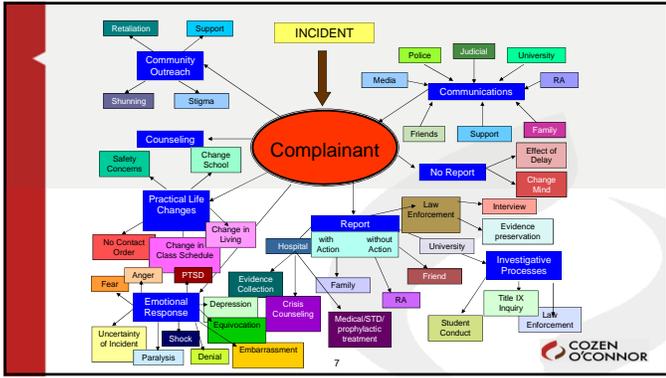
The Challenge of the Context

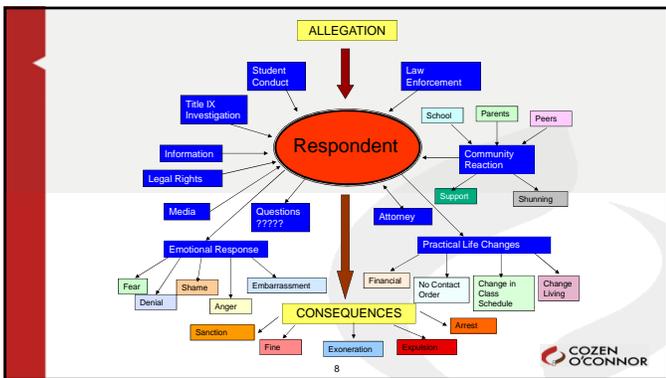


Note: Lists of report recipients and relevant laws not exhaustive.

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Federal Regulatory Framework

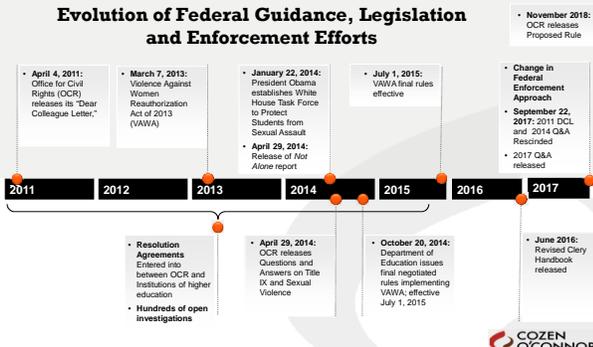
1	2	3
Title IX	Clery	VAWA
<i>Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972</i>	<i>The Jeanne Clery Act (1990)</i>	<i>The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires reporting of crimes, timely warnings, education/prevention programs, and policies and procedures for sexual assault 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amends Clery to expand sexual assault requirements and include dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking; applies to all students and employees

Implementation Rubric

- Law
- Regulations
- Guidance
- Preamble and commentary
- OCR webinars, charts, blog
- Policy
- Higher education experience
- Institutional values




Evolution of Federal Guidance, Legislation and Enforcement Efforts



- April 4, 2011: Office for Civil Rights (OCR) releases its "Dear Colleague Letter"
- March 7, 2013: Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA)
- January 22, 2014: President Obama establishes White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault
- April 29, 2014: Release of Not Alone report
- July 1, 2015: VAWA final rules effective
- November 2018: OCR releases Proposed Rule
- Change in Federal Enforcement Approach
- September 22, 2017: 2011 DCL and 2014 Q&A Rescinded
- 2017 Q&A released
- June 2016: Revised Clery Handbook released
- October 20, 2014: Department of Education issues final negotiated rules implementing VAWA, effective July 1, 2015
- April 29, 2014: OCR releases Questions and Answers on Title IX and Sexual Violence
- Resolution Agreements Entered into between OCR and Institutions of higher education
- Hundreds of open investigations



The Hierarchy



- Title IX
- Title IX Implementing Regulations (2020)
- 2011 Dear Colleague Letter (Rescinded)
- 2014 Q&A (Rescinded)
- 2017 Q&A (Rescinded)
- Preamble to Title IX Implementing Regulations
- 1997 Sexual Harassment Guidance
- 2001 Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance (Rescinded)
- Dear Colleague Letters
 - Bullying
 - Hazing
 - Title IX Coordinator (Rescinded)
 - Retaliation
- Resolution Agreements
- OCR aids and tools
- OCR webinars
- OCR blog



The Courts on Due Process and Fundamental Fairness

2019

Doe v. Allee (USC): Fundamental fairness requires, at a minimum, that the university provide a mechanism by which the accused may cross-examine those witnesses, directly or indirectly, at a hearing before a neutral adjudicator with the power to find facts and make credibility assessments independently.

Doe v. Rhodes College: An accused student must be afforded the opportunity to question the complainant and review all relevant evidence prior to the hearing.

2020

Doe v. Purdue University: Investigation report must be provided to the parties prior to the hearing and must include summaries of both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.

Boermeester v. Carry: In a DV case, the state court ruled, "...procedures were unfair because they denied Respondent a meaningful opportunity to cross-examine critical witnesses at an in-person hearing."

Doe v. Univ. of the Sciences: Notions of fairness include providing the accused with some form of cross-examination and a live, adversarial hearing during which he or she can put on a defense and challenge the evidence.

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THE CLERY ACT

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The Clery Act (As Amended by VAWA)

Core Tenets:

- Governs a school's response to **sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking** (and other crimes)
- Applies to Clery-defined crimes reported to **campus security authorities** that occur **on Clery geography**
- Requires procedural and educational components that do not fully align with Title IX requirements
- Requires reporting of **crime statistics** through
 - Daily crime log
 - Annual security report
- Includes a duty to warn/**timely warnings**

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VAWA: Prompt, Fair, and Impartial Investigation & Resolution

- **Prompt, fair, and impartial process** from the initial investigation to the final result
- Conducted in a manner consistent with the institution's policies and transparent to the accuser and accused
- The accuser and the accused have **equal opportunities** to have others present, including an **advisor of their choice**
- The accuser and accused are given **timely notice of meetings** at which one or the other or both may be present
- The accuser, the accused, and appropriate officials are given **timely and equal access to information** that will be used during informal and formal disciplinary meetings and hearings

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VAWA: Prompt, Fair, and Impartial Investigation & Resolution

- Officials are appropriately **trained** and do not have a **conflict of interest or bias** for or against the accuser or the accused
- The proceeding is completed in a **reasonably prompt timeframe**
- Explicit provision noting that institutions may extend their reasonably prompt deadlines for **good cause** with written notice to the accused and accuser of the delay and the reason for the delay
- The accuser and the accused **receive simultaneous notification**, in writing, of the result of the proceeding, the rationale, sanctions, any available appeal procedures, any change to the results that occurs prior to final resolution and when results become final

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THE NEW TITLE IX REGULATIONS

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New Title IX Regulations

- 2033 page document issued by the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) on May 6, 2020
- Includes significant resource materials: a preamble, executive summary, overview of public comments, discussion of directed questions, regulatory impact analysis and other content
- Final regulations are located at page 2008-2033
- Official version (2082 pages) were released May 19, 2020
- Regulations must be implemented as of **August 14, 2020**

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Regulations Formally Incorporate Sexual Harassment as a Form of Sex Discrimination

- Title IX obligations related to **sexual harassment as a form of sex discrimination** had not been formally addressed in the regulations
- “These final regulations impose, for the first time, **legally binding rules** on recipients with respect to responding to sexual harassment.”

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; Executive Summary, pp. 15-16

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Regulations: “Legally Binding Obligations”

- “Because these final regulations represent the Department’s interpretation of a recipient’s legally binding obligations, **rather than best practices**, recommendations, or guidance, these final regulations focus on **precise legal compliance requirements** governing recipients.”

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; Executive Summary, p. 18

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Regulations: "Best Practices"

- "These final regulations leave recipients the **flexibility to choose to follow best practices and recommendations** contained in the Department's guidance, or similarly, best practices and recommendations made by non-Department sources, such as Title IX consultancy firms, legal and social sciences scholars, victim advocacy organizations, civil libertarians and due process advocates and other experts."

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; Executive Summary, p. 18

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Guidance

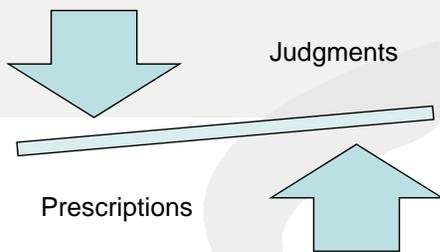
- Preamble
 - Explains the basis and purpose for the final rule
 - Serves a guidance function
- Preamble on Prior Guidance
 - "The 2017 Q&A along with the 2001 Guidance, and not the withdrawn 2011 Dear Colleague Letter, remain the baseline against which these final regulations make further changes to enforcement of Title IX obligations."
 - "Title IX policies and procedures that recipients have in place due to following the 2001 Guidance and the withdrawn 2011 Dear Colleague Letter remain viable policies and procedures for recipients to adopt while complying with these final regulations."
- OCR's Policy Guidance Portal available at:
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/frontpage/faq/rr/policyguidance/index.html>

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; Executive Summary, p. 18

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Balancing



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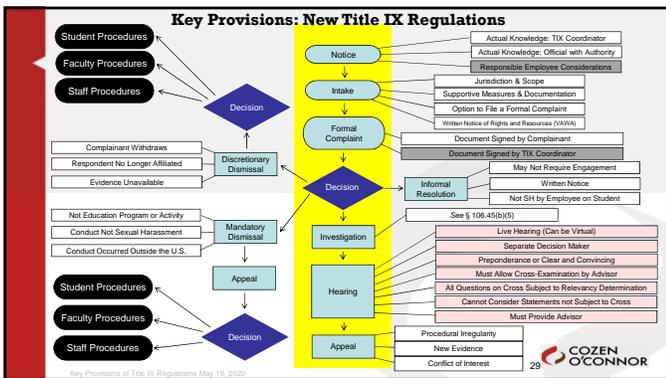


Overview of Significant Provisions

- Jurisdiction & Scope
- Notice
- Formal Complaint & Dismissal
- Supportive Measures
- Emergency Removal
- Basic Requirements of Grievance Process
- Written Notice to Parties
- Consolidation

- Investigations
- Hearings
- Determination of Responsibility
- Appeals
- Informal Resolution
- Documentation
- Retaliation
- Training





Impact of Final Regulations

What is (or Should be) the Same

- Intake and outreach process
- Supportive measures
- Neutral, impartial and trained implementers
- Investigative protocols
 - Notice
 - Opportunity to be heard
- Documentation

What is Significantly Different

- Jurisdiction/scope
- Live hearing
- Cross examination by the advisor
- Proponent of a statement must be subject to cross-examination
- Recipient must provide advisor



THE BIG THREE

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Implementing Regulations

Regulations Promulgated in 1975	2020 Final Regulations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designation of responsible employee • Complaint procedure of recipient • Notification of policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designation of coordinator • Adoption of grievance procedures • Dissemination of policy

Relevant Regulations Sections:
 Title IX Coordinator: §§ 106.8(a) and 106.8(b)(2)(i)
 Notice of Non-Discrimination: § 106.8(b)
 Grievance Procedures: § 106.8(c)

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Designation of Coordinator

- Each recipient must designate and authorize at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with its responsibilities under this part, its responsibilities under this part, which employee must be referred to as the "Title IX Coordinator."
- Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment) . . .

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.8(a)

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Dissemination of Policy

- Each recipient must notify persons entitled to a notification under paragraph (a) of this section that the recipient does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education program or activity that it operates, and that it is required by title IX and this part not to discriminate in such a manner.
- Such notification must state that the requirement not to discriminate in the education program or activity extends to admission (unless subpart C of this part does not apply) and employment, and that inquiries about the application of title IX and this part to such recipient may be referred to the recipient's Title IX Coordinator, or to the Assistant Secretary, or both.

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.8(b)

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Adopt Grievance Procedures

- . A recipient must adopt and publish grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that would be prohibited by this part and a grievance process that complies with § 106.45 for formal complaints as defined in § 106.30.
- A recipient must provide to persons entitled to a notification under paragraph (a) of this section notice of the recipient's grievance procedures and grievance process, including how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal complaint of sexual harassment, and how the recipient will respond.

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.8(c)

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SHIFT IN APPROACH & FRAMING PRINCIPLES



Framing Principles

1	2	3	4	5
"A recipient's treatment of a complainant or a respondent in response to a formal complaint of sexual harassment may constitute discrimination on the basis of sex under title IX."	"A recipient with actual knowledge of sexual harassment in an education program or activity of the recipient against a person in the United States must respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent."	"A recipient's response must treat complainants and respondents equitably by offering supportive measures . . . to a complainant, and by following a grievance process . . . before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures . . . against a respondent."	"A recipient is deliberately indifferent only if its response to sexual harassment is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances."	"If the Assistant Secretary finds that a recipient has discriminated against persons on the basis of sex in an education program or activity under this part, or otherwise violated this part, such recipient must take such remedial action as the Assistant Secretary deems necessary to remedy the violation."



Framing Principles

1

"A recipient's treatment of a complainant or a respondent in response to a formal complaint of sexual harassment may constitute discrimination on the basis of sex under title IX."

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.45(a)



Framing Principles

2

"A recipient with actual knowledge of sexual harassment in an education program or activity of the recipient against a person in the United States, must respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent."

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.45(a)



3

Framing Principles

“A recipient’s response must treat complainants and respondents equitably by offering supportive measures as defined in § 106.30 to a complainant, and by following a grievance process that complies with § 106.45 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures as defined in § 106.30, against a respondent.”

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.45(a)

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4

Framing Principles

“A recipient is deliberately indifferent only if its response to sexual harassment is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.”

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.45(a)

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Framing Principles

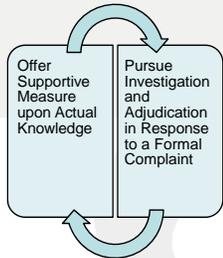
“If the Assistant Secretary finds that a recipient has discriminated against persons on the basis of sex in an education program or activity under this part, or otherwise violated this part, such recipient must take such remedial action as the Assistant Secretary deems necessary to remedy the violation.”

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.45(a)

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Understanding Two Key Provisions



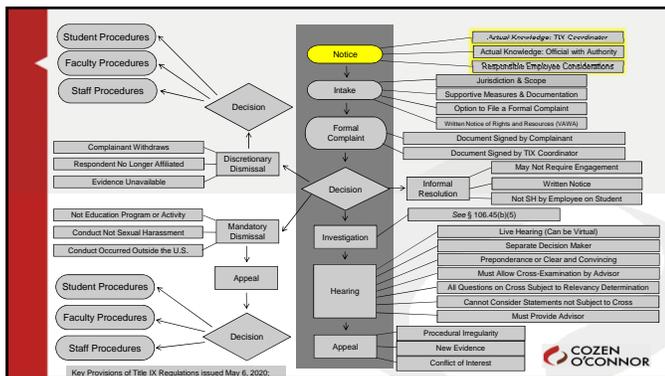
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NOTICE

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Notice

- Notice to the **Title IX Coordinator** or any official of the recipient who has **authority to institute corrective measures** on behalf of the recipient, or to any employee of an elementary or secondary school

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.30(a)

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Notice

- **Actual knowledge**, not constructive notice or vicarious liability
 - Can come from personal observation, hearing about it from a complainant or third-party, receiving a written or oral complaint, or by any other means
- The mere ability or obligation to report sexual harassment or to inform a student about how to report sexual harassment, or having been trained to do so, does not qualify an individual as one who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the recipient.

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.30(a)

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Notice: Institutional Response

When a school has **notice**, the Title IX Coordinator must:

1. Promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures
2. Consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures
3. Inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint
4. Explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.44(a)

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Practical Considerations & Challenges

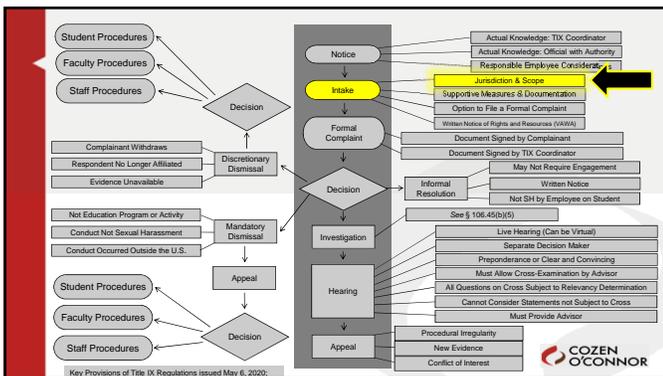


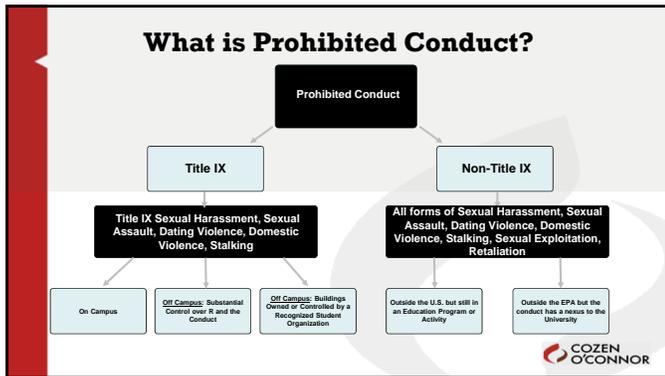
- Responsible Employee
 - Higher education institutions have the option to continue to designate responsible employees and require reporting
 - How should an institution decide whether to maintain or move away from responsible employee reporting?
- Centralized Reporting
 - Because responsible employee reporting is no longer required, how can institutions ensure they have necessary information to assess for repeat instances of sexual harassment by a person or within a group?
- Training and Resetting Expectations



JURISDICTION AND SCOPE







Jurisdiction: Framing Principle

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“A recipient with actual knowledge of sexual harassment in an education program or activity of the recipient against a person in the United States, must respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.”

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.45(a)

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Jurisdiction: Education Program or Activity

Notice

Title IX

Formal Complaint

Grievance

Investigation

Hearing

Appeal

- **“Education program or activity”** includes:
 - Locations, events, or circumstances over which the recipient exercised **substantial control** over both
 - the respondent and
 - the context in which the sexual harassment occurs, and
 - Any building **owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized** by a postsecondary institution

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.44(a)

COZEN O'CONNOR

Jurisdiction: Who

- Title IX statute applies to **any person**, in the United States, on the basis of sex, who is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or is subjected to discrimination **under any education program or activity** receiving federal financial assistance.
- Program or activity and program** means all of the operations of—
 - A college, university, or other postsecondary institution, or a public system of higher education; or
 - A local educational agency (as defined in 20 U.S.C. 8801), system of vocational education, or other school system

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; § 20 U.S.C. 1681; Title IX Implementing Regulations; § 106.2(h)

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Jurisdiction: Where

- Applies only to sex discrimination occurring **against a person in the United States** in an education program or activity
 - “The Department reiterates that the ‘education program or activity’ limitation in the final regulations
 - does not create or apply a geographic test
 - does not draw a line between ‘off campus’ and ‘on campus,’ and
 - does not create a distinction between sexual harassment occurring in person versus online.”

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.8(d); Preamble at 649

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Jurisdiction: On Campus

“[A]ll of the operations’ of a recipient (per existing statutory and regulatory provisions), and the additional ‘substantial control’ language in these final regulations, clearly include all incidents of sexual harassment occurring on a recipient’s campus.”

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; Preamble at 624

Jurisdiction: Off Campus

- “[T]he statutory and regulatory definitions of program or activity along with the revised language in § 106.44(a) clarify that a recipient’s Title IX obligations extend to sexual harassment incidents that occur off campus if **any of three** conditions are met:
 - if the off-campus incident occurs as part of the recipient’s **operations** pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1687 and 34 CFR 106.2(h);
 - if the recipient exercised **substantial control over the respondent and the context** of alleged sexual harassment that occurred off campus pursuant to § 106.44(a); or
 - if a sexual harassment incident occurs at an off-campus building **owned or controlled by a student organization officially recognized** by a postsecondary institution pursuant to §106.44(a).”

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; Preamble at 624-5

Jurisdiction: Course of Conduct

- “In situations involving some allegations of conduct that occurred in an education program or activity, and some allegations of conduct that did not, the recipient **must investigate the allegations of conduct that occurred in the recipient’s education program or activity**, and nothing in the final regulations precludes the recipient from choosing to **also address allegations of conduct outside the recipient’s education program or activity**.”
- For example, if a student is sexually assaulted outside of an education program or activity but subsequently suffers Title IX sexual harassment in an education program or activity, then these final regulations apply to the latter act of sexual harassment, and the **recipient may choose to address the prior assault through its own code of conduct.**”

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; Preamble at 631

Jurisdiction: What

- Narrowed & expanded definition of sexual harassment
 - Quid pro quo
 - Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so **severe, pervasive, and objectively** offensive that it **effectively denies** a person equal access to the recipient’s education program or activity
 - Inclusion of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking as a form of sexual harassment

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.30(a)

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Practical Considerations & Challenges

- Policy frameworks
 - How to incorporate non-Title IX conduct
 - How to address other forms of discrimination and harassment
- Coordinating with other conduct codes
 - When can you proceed under another code?
 - When is the jurisdiction determination made?
 - Threshold during initial assessment?
 - Charging decision following investigation
- What about retaliation?

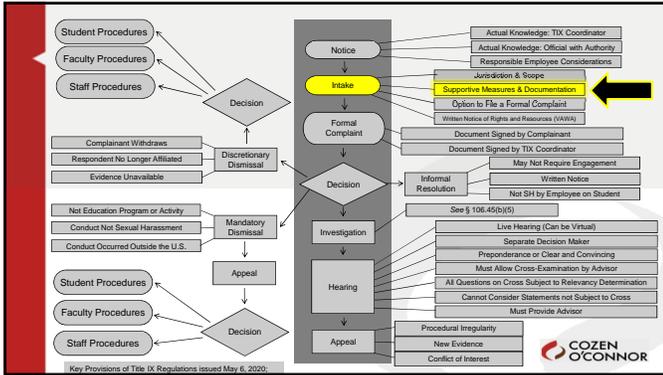
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BREAKOUT 1: JURISDICTIONAL ANALYSIS

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SUPPORTIVE MEASURES

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Framing Principles

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“A recipient’s response must treat complainants and respondents equitably by **offering supportive measures** as defined in § 106.30 to a complainant, and by following a grievance process that complies with § 106.45 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures as defined in § 106.30, against a respondent.”

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.45(a)
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Offering Supportive Measures

Notice

Intake

Formal Complaint

Decision

Investigation

Hearing

Appeal

- The Title IX Coordinator must promptly contact the complainant to:
 - Discuss the **availability** of supportive measures as defined in § 106.30,
 - Consider the **complainant’s wishes** with respect to supportive measures,
 - Inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and
 - Explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(3) and 106.45(b)(8)

Supportive Measures

- Non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed.
- Designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the recipient's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment.

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.30(a)

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Supportive Measures

- May include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures.

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.30(a)

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Supportive Measures

- Must maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the recipient to provide the supportive measures.
- The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures.

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.30(a)

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Documentation

- Must maintain records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment
- Must document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity
- If a recipient does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then the recipient must document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.45(b)(10)(i) (ii)

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Emergency Removal for Students

- Must undertake an individualized safety and risk analysis and determine that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal
- Must provide the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.44(c)

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Emergency Removal

- Where a respondent poses an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of the complainant (or anyone else), § 106.44(c) allows emergency removals of respondents prior to the conclusion of a grievance process (or even where no grievance process is pending), thus protecting the safety of a recipient's community where an immediate threat exist.

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; Preamble at 566

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Emergency Removal

- The Department notes that the final regulations expressly allow a recipient to remove a respondent on an emergency basis and do not prescribe cross-examination as a necessary procedure during the post-removal opportunity to challenge the removal.
- Recipients may also implement supportive measures that restrict students' or employees' contact or communication with others.
- Recipients thus have avenues for addressing serial predator situations even where no victim chooses to participate in a grievance process.

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; Preamble at 1176-1177

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Administrative Leave

- Nothing in this subpart precludes a recipient from placing a non-student employee respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of a grievance process that complies with § 106.45.
- This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.44(d)

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Practical Considerations & Challenges

- Limited scope allowable for emergency removal
 - Can you remove under code of conduct for lesser standard?
- What are the criteria for appropriate and reasonably available?
- What are measures to protect safety or deter sexual harassment?
- What supportive measures do you have to offer to a non-student/non-employee?
- Ensuring accurate documentation

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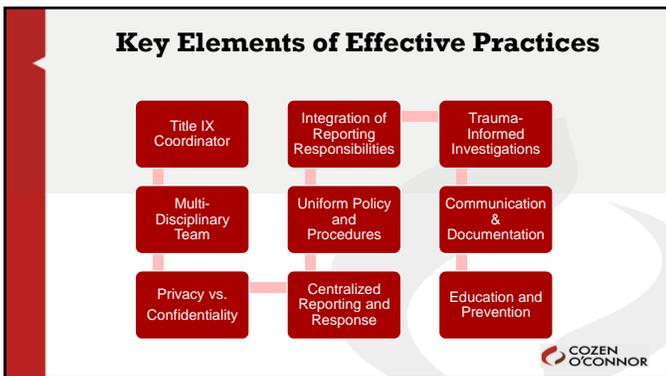
**BREAKOUT 2:
SUPPORTIVE MEASURES**

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EFFECTIVE PRACTICES





Key Elements of Effective Practices

- Title IX Coordinator
 - Independent
 - Appropriately resourced
- Coordinated multi-disciplinary response team
 - Coordination of information
 - Coordination of personnel
- Privacy v. confidentiality
 - Distinction between confidential resources and reporting options
 - Informed reporting
- Integration of reporting responsibilities:
 - Responsible Employee
 - Campus Security Authority
 - Mandatory reporter of suspected child abuse

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Key Elements of Effective Practices

- Uniform policy and procedures for resolution:
 - Complainant autonomy/agency
 - Fair and impartial practices
 - Remedies-based options
 - Sanctions-based options
- Centralized reporting and review process
 - Consistent institutional responses
 - Tracking and monitoring of incidents and climate
- Trauma-informed investigations and practices
- Communication
 - Consistency and transparency
 - At the individual and community level
- Education, prevention and training programs

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The Title IX Coordinator

- Coordinates the recipient's compliance with Title IX
- Title IX coordinator must have appropriate authority, access, autonomy, and resources
- Oversees all Title IX complaints
- Identifies and addresses any patterns or systemic problems
- Meets with students and employees as needed
- Should not have other job responsibilities that may create a conflict
- A school may designate more than one coordinator
 - Must have clearly delineated responsibilities
 - Must have titles reflecting supporting role

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Personnel

- Individual
 - Personal preparation
 - Values-based approach
 - World class effort
 - Humility
 - Cultural competency
 - Warm-heartedness
 - Listen more, speak less
 - Be collaborative
- Structural
 - The gift of time
 - Tone at the top
 - Team building
 - Resources – budget, staffing, materials, professional development
 - Commitment and consistency
 - Clear expectations and enforcement
 - Development of compassionate compliance

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Title IX Multi-Disciplinary Team

- Core stakeholders
 - Title IX Coordinator
 - Student conduct
 - Campus safety/police
 - Human resources
 - Dean of faculty
- Additional campus stakeholders
 - Counseling
 - Health center
 - Advocacy
- Community partners
 - Law enforcement
 - Prosecutor
 - Hospital/Medical Providers
 - Community crisis or advocacy centers
 - Rape Crisis Counselors
 - Domestic Violence Counselors

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Policy Considerations

- Easily accessible, identifiable and locatable
- Uniform definitions and high level principles
- Consistent application across the institution
- Procedures may vary by respondent (student, staff, faculty, third party)
- Areas of concern:
 - Intersection between Title IX and Clery
 - Intersection with tenure processes
 - Intersection with collective bargaining agreements

 84

Privacy vs. Confidentiality

- Ensure policies clearly identify reporting options and support resources both on and off campus
- Delineate confidential resources vs. non-confidential reporting options in policy and training
- Ensure all employees are familiar with Title IX reporting expectations
- Offer clear and easy to follow guidance about what happens when a report is received
- Foster a climate that encourages reporting by providing consistency in message, policy, procedure, and outcome

85



Confidential Resources

- Students or employees wishing to obtain confidential assistance may do so by speaking with professionals who are obligated by law to maintain confidentiality
- Confidential resources generally include medical providers, mental health providers, clergy, and rape crisis counselors
- Exceptions to confidentiality include:
 - Mandatory child abuse reporting
 - Tarasoff imminent risk of harm to self or others
 - State felony or sexual assault reporting

86

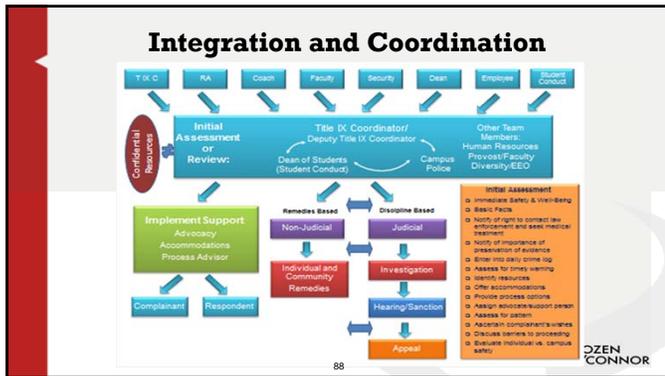


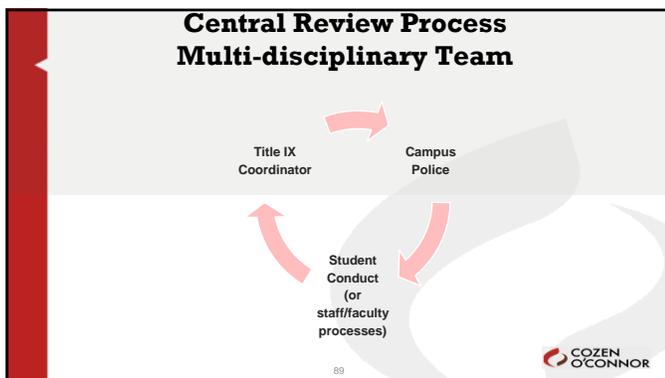
Confidential Resources vs. Reporting Options

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidential Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medical services - HIPAA - Mental health/counseling - Clergy - Rape crisis counselor • Structural Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employees with multiple hats, e.g., counselor and administrator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting Options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency for safety, physical, or emotional - Dedicated campus access points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title IX • Campus safety/police • Student conduct • Human resources - To any school employee - Anonymous - Law enforcement |
|--|---|

87







- ### Centralized Review Process
- Coordination of information and personnel
 - Clearly delineated roles and responsibilities
 - Build in regular and open lines of communication
 - Sequence events in advance
 - Separate support and advocacy from investigation and adjudication
 - Design and use template communications
 - Central tracking for patterns
 - Documentation/records
 - Ensure consistent implementation of:
 - Interim measures
 - Determination whether to proceed
 - Investigative practices
 - Sanctions
 - Community remedies
 - Transparency in outcomes
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Title IX Intake and Assessment

- Assess immediate safety and well-being
- Gather basic facts
- Notify of right to contact law enforcement and seek medical treatment
- Notify of importance of preservation of evidence
- Tend to Clery responsibilities:
 - Enter into daily crime log
 - Assess for timely warning
- Assess and implement interim measures
- Provide policies, process options, resources and supports
- Assess for pattern
- Ascertain complainant's wishes
- Discuss barriers to proceeding
- Evaluate individual vs. campus safety

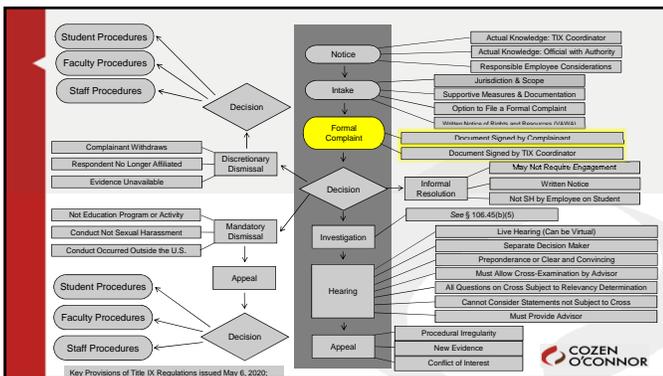
91



FORMAL COMPLAINTS

92





Key Provisions of Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020.

Formal Complaint

- Document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator
- At the time of filing a formal complaint, a complainant **must be participating in or attempting to participate in** the education program or activity of the recipient with which the formal complaint is filed

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.30(a)

94

Formal Complaint: Program or Activity

- The following may constitute "attempting to participate" in the recipient's education program or activity:
 - Applying (or intending to apply) for admission
 - Indicating a desire to re-enroll if the recipient appropriately responds to sexual harassment allegations
 - Intending to remain involved in alumni programs
- "[The 'education program or activity' requirement] prevents recipients from being legally obligated to investigate allegations made by complainants who have no relationship with the recipient, yet still protects those complainants by requiring the recipient to respond promptly in a non-deliberately indifferent manner."

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; Preamble, see pp. 225, 411, 629

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Formal Complaint: Institutional Response

Upon receipt of a **formal complaint**, the institution:

- Must complete the actions required upon receiving notice, if not already completed,
- Must evaluate jurisdiction and required/discretionary dismissal,
- Should assess appropriate supportive measures for both parties,
- Should evaluate the need for any other measures, including emergency removal/administrative leave,
- Must initiate a grievance process that complies with § 106.45

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.30(a)

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Formal Complaint: Required Dismissal



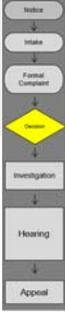
- **Must** dismiss if:
 - Conduct would not constitute sexual harassment even if proved,
 - Conduct did not occur in the recipient's education program or activity, or
 - Conduct did not occur against a person in the United States.
- Such a dismissal does not preclude action under another provision of the recipient's code of conduct

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.45(b)(3)

97



Formal Complaint: Discretionary Dismissal



- **May** dismiss the formal complaint or any allegations therein if:
 - A complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations,
 - The respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the recipient, or
 - Specific circumstances prevent the recipient from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination.

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; § 106.45(b)(3)

98



Dismissal of Formal Complaint



- Upon a dismissal required or permitted, the recipient must promptly send **written notice** of the dismissal and reason(s) therefor simultaneously to the parties
- Must offer both parties an **appeal** from a recipient's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein

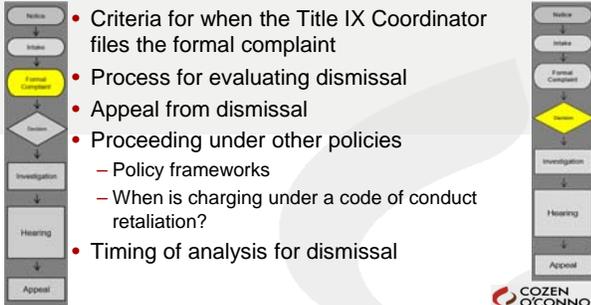
Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(3) and 106.45(b)(6)

99



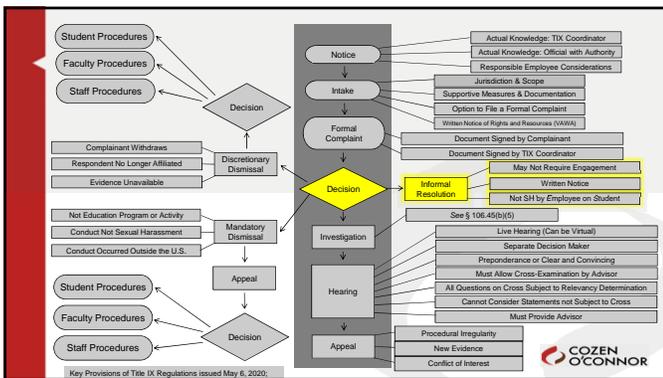
Practical Considerations & Challenges

- Criteria for when the Title IX Coordinator files the formal complaint
- Process for evaluating dismissal
- Appeal from dismissal
- Proceeding under other policies
 - Policy frameworks
 - When is charging under a code of conduct retaliation?
- Timing of analysis for dismissal



100





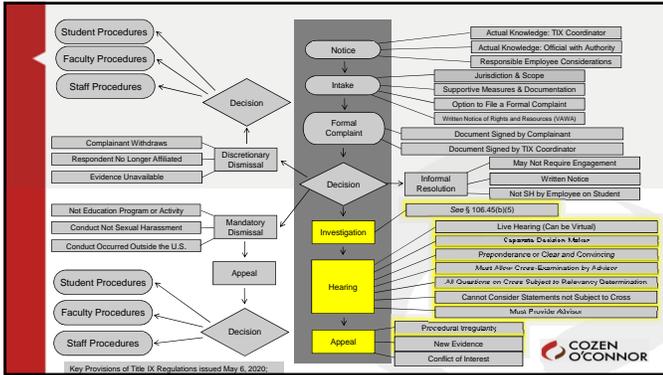
Key Provisions of Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020:



BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF GRIEVANCE PROCESSES

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Basic Requirements

- **Treat complainants and respondents equitably** by providing **remedies** to a complainant where a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the respondent, and by following a **grievance process** that complies with this section before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures as defined in § 106.30, against a respondent.

Relevant Regulations Sections:
Equitable Treatment: §§ 106.44(a) and 106.45(b)(1)(i)

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Basic Requirements

- Require an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence
 - Including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence
 - Credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status
- Implementers must be trained and free from conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent

Relevant Regulations Sections:
Equitable Treatment: §§ 106.44(a) and 106.45(b)(1)(i)
Objective evaluation of all relevant evidence: § 106.45(b)(1)(i)

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Basic Requirements

- **Presumption that the respondent is not responsible** for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process
- Include reasonably prompt time frames for conclusion of the grievance process with permissible delay for good cause
- Describe the range (or list) of possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies

Relevant Regulations Sections:
 Equitable Treatment: §§ 106.45(a) and 106.45(b)(1)(i)
 Objective evaluation of all relevant evidence: § 106.45(b)(1)(ii)
 Timeliness and avoidance of conflicts of interest: § 106.45(b)(1)(iii)

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Basic Requirements

- State whether the **standard of evidence** to be used to determine responsibility is the preponderance of the evidence standard or the clear and convincing evidence standard,
 - Apply the same standard of evidence for formal complaints against students as for formal complaints against employees, including faculty
 - Apply the same standard of evidence to all formal complaints of sexual harassment

Title IX Regulations issued May 6, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(1)(vii) and 106.45(b)(7)(i)

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Basic Requirements

- Include the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal
- Describe the range of supportive measures available
- Not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, **information protected under a legally recognized privilege**, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege

Relevant Regulations Sections:
 Appeal: §§ 106.45(b)(1)(viii) and 106.45(b)(7)(i)(F)
 Range of Supportive Measures: § 106.45(b)(1)(ix)
 Waiver of Privilege: § 106.45(b)(1)(x)

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Practical Considerations & Challenges

- How does the standard of evidence alignment impact:
 - Faculty codes
 - Staff procedures
 - Collective bargaining agreements
- Creating an evidentiary code

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INVESTIGATIONS

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Key Provisions: New Title IX Regulations

Key Provisions of Title IX Regulations (Sept. 8, 2020)

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Investigative Principles

- Open-ended and thorough inquiry
- Equitable opportunities for the parties to participate
- The conduct of the investigation matters
- Separating intake/support from investigation
- Maintaining and reinforcing impartiality
 - Screening for conflicts of interest or bias
 - Attention to language and communications
- Trained and experienced investigators

112



Regulations: “Legally Binding Obligations”

- “Because these final regulations represent the Department’s interpretation of a recipient’s legally binding obligations, **rather than best practices**, recommendations, or guidance, these final regulations focus on **precise legal compliance requirements** governing recipients.”

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble, 85 F.R. 30030

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Regulations: “Best Practices”

- “These final regulations leave recipients the **flexibility to choose to follow best practices and recommendations** contained in the Department’s guidance, or similarly, best practices and recommendations made by non-Department sources, such as Title IX consultancy firms, legal and social sciences scholars, victim advocacy organizations, civil libertarians and due process advocates and other experts.”

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble, 85 F.R. 30030

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Setting the Stage - Investigations

<p>Institutional Obligations</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; background-color: #2c4e64; color: white;"> <p>Conduct Investigation Burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; background-color: #a6c1d9; color: #2c4e64;"> <p>Facilitate Evidence Review Evidence directly related to the allegations</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; background-color: #2c4e64; color: white;"> <p>Prepare Report Relevant evidence</p> </div>	<p>Parties' Opportunity to Participate</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; background-color: #a6c1d9;"> <p>Investigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to present witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence • No restrictions on ability to discuss allegations </div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; background-color: #2c4e64; color: white;"> <p>Evidence Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to inspect and review evidence • Ability to submit a written response to the evidence </div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; background-color: #2c4e64; color: white;"> <p>Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to submit a written response to the investigative report • Ability to provide context to the evidence and prepare for the hearing </div>
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115

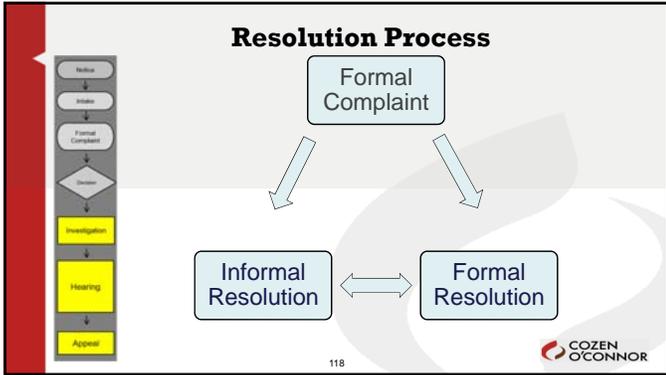
Overview

- Obligation to Investigate
- Basic Requirements of Grievance Processes
- Pre-Investigation Considerations
- Consolidation of Formal Complaints
- Investigation - Evidence Gathering
- Evidentiary Considerations
- Evidence Review
- Investigative Report
- Reasonably Prompt Time Frames

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OBLIGATION TO INVESTIGATE

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Complainant Agency & Autonomy

- “The final regulations promote clarity as to recipient’s legal obligations, and **promote respect for each complainant’s autonomy**, by distinguishing between a complainant’s report of sexual harassment, on the one hand, and the filing of a formal complaint that has initiated a grievance process against a respondent, on the other hand.”
- “The Department acknowledges that **a recipient should respect the complainant’s autonomy and wishes with respect to a formal complaint and grievance process to the extent possible.**”

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020, Preamble, 85 F.R. 30282; 30219.

Reports vs. Formal Complaints

- The new regulations distinguish and separate a recipient’s obligation to **respond to a report** of sexual harassment from a recipient’s **obligation to investigate formal complaints** of sexual harassment
 - If students would like supportive measures but do not wish to initiate an investigation...they may make a report of sexual harassment.
 - If students would like supportive measures and also would like the recipient to initiate an investigation...they may file a formal complaint.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020, Preamble, 85 F.R. 30189

Reinforcing Agency & Autonomy

- Balancing a recipient's obligation to respond to instances of sexual harassment with a complainant's autonomy
 - A rigid requirement such as an investigation in every circumstance may chill reporting of sexual harassment...
 - A student may receive supportive measures irrespective of whether the student files a formal complaint...these final regulations encourage students to report sexual harassment while allowing them to exercise some control over their report.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble, 85 F.R. 30190

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The Obligation to Investigate

- Formal complaint:
 - A document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and
 - Requesting that the recipient investigate the allegation of sexual harassment
- Once a formal complaint is filed, a recipient **must** investigate the allegations in that complaint
 - The Department believes that where a complainant has chosen to file a formal complaint, or the Title IX Coordinator has decided to sign a formal complaint, the recipient must investigate those allegations regardless of the merits of the allegations. (emphasis in original)

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 §106.30 Definitions and §106.45(b)(3) Dismissal of a formal complaint; 85 F.R. 30574

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Investigation Requirements



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PRE-INVESTIGATION CONSIDERATIONS

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Pre-Investigation Considerations

- Choice of Investigator
 - Internal or external professional
 - Sufficient training and experience
 - Free from conflict of interest or bias
- Investigative Protocols
- Template Communications
- Notice of Allegations
- Consolidation of Formal Complaints

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Separating Support from Investigations

- Separate support/advocacy/intake functions from investigative/adjudicative functions to reduce potential for conflict of interest or perception of bias
- Conflation of roles can:
 - Impact thorough assessment of the facts
 - Create distrust/confusion by complainant
 - Give appearance of bias/lack of impartiality

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Separating Support from Investigations

- Reinforce neutrality in language and communications
- Ensure sufficient resources for timely response
- Consider creative models for separation of intake from support from investigation from decision-making

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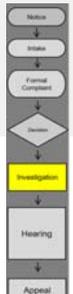
Removal of Bias or Conflict of Interest

- "Section 106.44(c) does not preclude a recipient from using Title IX personnel trained under §106.45(b)(1)(iii) to make the emergency removal decision or conduct a post-removal challenge proceeding, but **if involvement with the emergency removal process results in bias or conflict of interest for or against the complainant or respondent**, §106.45(b)(1)(iii) would preclude such personnel from serving in those roles during a grievance process."

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020, Preamble, 85 F.R. 30235.



Written Notice of all Proceedings



- Written notice of all hearings, investigative interviews or other meetings
- With sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate
- Notice must include:
 - Date, time, location of proceeding
 - Participants invited or expected to attend
 - Purpose of the proceeding

Title IX Regulations May 19 2020; §106.45(b)(5)(v) 85 F.R. 30424

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Written Notice of Allegations

- Must provide written notice of the allegations.
 - Sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview
 - Sufficient details known at the time
 - identities of the parties, if known;
 - the conduct alleged to constitute sexual harassment; and
 - the date and location of the alleged incident, if known.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(2) 85 F.R. 30576

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Written Notice of the Allegations

- Must state that:
 - the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct
 - a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process
- Must inform the parties:
 - they may have an advisor of their choice
 - they may inspect and review evidence gathered
 - of a prohibition against knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(2) 85 F.R. 30576

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Written Notice of Allegations

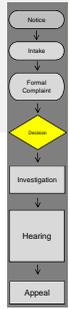
- The notice of the allegations must:
 - Be provided with sufficient time for a party to prepare a response before an initial interview
 - While the initial notice must be sent "upon receipt" of a formal complaint, with "sufficient time" for a party to prepare for an initial interview, such provisions do not dictate a specific time frame for sending the notice, leaving recipients flexibility to, for instance, inquire of the complainant details about the allegations that should be included in the written notice that may have been omitted in the formal complaint.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §106.45(b)(2), Preamble 85 F.R. 30283

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Supplemental Notice



- If during the investigation, the recipient decides to investigate allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the original notice, the recipient must provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.
- The Preamble makes it clear that any supplemental notice must be in writing.
 - Although § 106.45(b)(2) requires subsequent written notice to the parties as the recipient discovers additional potential violations...

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 §106.45(b)(2)(ii); Preamble 85 F.R. 30283



Practical Considerations

- Checkpoints for additional policy violations
 - Post complainant interview
 - Post respondent interview
 - Post evidence review
- Procedural due process: "Notice"
- Consider similar checkpoints for mandatory dismissal of the formal complaint



BREAKOUT 3: NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION

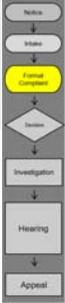


CONSOLIDATION OF FORMAL COMPLAINTS

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Consolidation of Formal Complaints



- A recipient **may** consolidate formal complaints as to allegations of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against the other party, **where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.**

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020: §106.45(b)(4) 85 F.R. 30576

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Consolidation of Formal Complaints



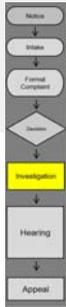
- The requirement for the same facts and circumstances means that the multiple complainants' allegations are so intertwined that their allegations directly relate to all the parties.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 Preamble 85 F.R. 30436

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Consolidation of Formal Complaints



- The Department believes that recipients and parties will benefit from knowing that recipients have discretion to consolidate formal complaints...
- Intended to give “discretion” to consolidate formal complaints that arise “out of the same facts or circumstances and involve more than one complainant, more than one respondent, or what amount to counter-complaints by one party against the other.”

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30291



Consolidation of Formal Complaints



- If the respondent is facing an additional allegation, the respondent has a right to know what allegations have become part of the investigation for the same reasons the initial written notice of allegations is part of a fair process, and the complainant deserves to know whether additional allegations have (or have not) become part of the scope of the investigation.
- This information allows both parties to meaningfully participate during the investigation, for example by gathering and presenting inculpatory or exculpatory evidence (including fact and expert witnesses) relevant to each allegation under investigation.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30283



Application to Specific Circumstances

- Multiple instances of a respondent engaging in misconduct towards the same complainant
- Multiple allegations by same complainant against same respondent
- Multiple allegations by different complainants against same respondent
- Respondent alleges complainant has engaged in past misconduct involving false reports



Practical Considerations

- Process for determining whether to consolidate formal complaints
 - Identify decision-makers
 - Identify criteria for consolidation
- Opportunity to contest consolidation?

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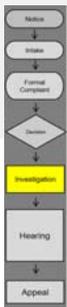


EVIDENCE GATHERING

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Burden of Gathering Evidence



- Ensure that the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence rests on the recipient and not on the parties
 - The recipient's burden is to gather evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §106.45(b)(5)(i) FN 562 .

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Burden of Gathering Evidence

```

    graph TD
      A[Notice] --> B[Intake]
      B --> C[Formal Complaint]
      C --> D{Decision}
      D --> E[Investigation]
      E --> F[Hearing]
      F --> G[Appeal]
  
```

- Undertake a **thorough search for relevant facts and evidence** pertaining to a particular case, while operating under the constraints of conducting and concluding the investigation under designated, reasonably prompt time frames and without powers of subpoena.
- Such conditions limit the extensiveness or comprehensiveness of a recipient's efforts to gather evidence while reasonably expecting the recipient to gather evidence that is available.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30292.

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Burden of Gathering Evidence

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    graph TD
      A[Notice] --> B[Intake]
      B --> C[Formal Complaint]
      C --> D{Decision}
      D --> E[Investigation]
      E --> F[Hearing]
      F --> G[Appeal]
  
```

- The investigator is obligated to **gather evidence directly related to the allegations** whether or not the recipient intends to rely on such evidence (for instance, where evidence is directly related to the allegations but the recipient's investigator does not believe the evidence to be credible and thus does not intend to rely on it).

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30248-49.

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Opportunity to Participate

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    graph TD
      A[Notice] --> B[Intake]
      B --> C[Formal Complaint]
      C --> D{Decision}
      D --> E[Investigation]
      E --> F[Hearing]
      F --> G[Appeal]
  
```

- Not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(5)(ii) ; 85 F.R. 30422-23.

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Witnesses & Evidence

Notice

↓

Intake

↓

Formal Complaint

↓

Discovery

↓

Investigation

↓

Hearing

↓

Appeal

- Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses and evidence
 - Fact and expert witnesses
 - Inculpatory and exculpatory evidence

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020, §106.45(b)(5)(iii) ; 85 F.R. 30576.

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Practical Considerations & Effective Practices

- Preparing for interview
- Interview protocols and templates for introduction, scope and conclusion
- Documenting interviews
 - Note-taking vs. recording
 - Use of two investigators
- Decision-points
 - Sharing interviews with the parties for feedback
 - Considerations regarding character witnesses
 - Guidance about expert witnesses
 - Compelling witness participation

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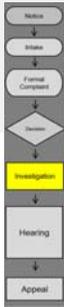
Practical Considerations for Remote Interviews

- Developing rapport
 - Allow additional time for the interview
 - Conversational language and tone
 - Avoid distractions
- Privacy considerations
 - Ensuring a private setting
 - Facilitating the presence of advisor of choice
- Sharing documents

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Advisor of Choice



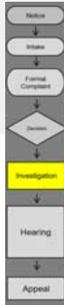
- Provide the parties with the same opportunities to have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney.
- A recipient may establish restrictions on advisors' participation, as long as the restrictions apply equally to both parties.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §106.45(b)(5)(iv). 85 F.R. 30576



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Restrictions on Advisor Participation



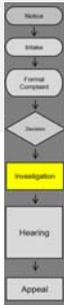
- We do not believe that specifying what restrictions on advisor participation may be appropriate is necessary, and we decline to remove the discretion of a recipient to restrict an advisor's participation so as not to unnecessarily limit a recipient's flexibility to conduct a grievance process that both complies with § 106.45 and, in the recipient's judgment, best serves the needs and interests of the recipient and its educational community.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R.30298



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Restrictions on Advisor Participation



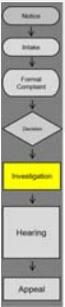
- "Section 106.45(b)(5)(iv) (allowing recipients to place restrictions on active participation by party advisors) and the revised introductory sentence to § 106.45(b) (requiring any rules a recipient adopts for its grievance process other than rules required under § 106.45 to apply equally to both parties) would, for example, **permit a recipient to require parties personally** to answer questions posed by an investigator during an interview, or personally to make any opening or closing statements the recipient allows at a live hearing, so long as such rules apply equally to both parties."

Title IX Regulations May 19 2020; Preamble at 30298.



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Training of Advisors Not Required



- The final regulations do not require training for advisors of choice. This is because the recipient is responsible for reaching an accurate determination regarding responsibility while remaining impartial, yet a party's ability to rely on assistance from an advisor should not be limited by imposing training requirements on advisors, who by definition need not be impartial because their function is to assist one particular party.

Title IX Regulations May 19 2020; Preamble at 30333.



Training of Advisors Not Required



- To allow recipients to meet their obligations with as much flexibility as possible, the Department declines to require recipients to pre-screen a panel of assigned advisors from which a party could make a selection at a hearing, or to require provided advisors to receive training from the recipient.

Title IX Regulations May 19 2020; Preamble at 30340-41.



Practical Considerations & Effective Practices

- Process meeting to discuss policy, decorum, and expectations
- Requirement that advisors:
 - Review policy in advance
 - Acknowledge decorum expectations
 - Acknowledge privacy protections regarding documents
- Consider the importance of continuity in process re: advisor given requirement to provide an advisor at the hearing



**BREAKOUT 4:
EVIDENCE GATHERING**

157



EVIDENTIARY CONSIDERATIONS

158



Evidentiary Considerations

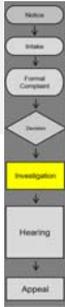
- Privileged Information & Records
- Relevance
- Prior Sexual History
- Prior or Subsequent Misconduct
- Directly Related Evidence
- Setting Evidentiary Rules

159



Privileged Information

- Not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, **information protected under a legally recognized privilege**, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege



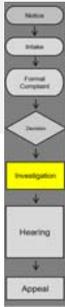
Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(1)(x) 85 F.R.30361

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Privileged Records

- Recipient cannot access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party, unless the recipient obtains that party's **voluntary, written consent** to do so for a grievance process under this section.



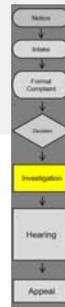
Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(5)(j) 85 F.R.30423

161



Relevance

- The final regulations do not define relevance, and the ordinary meaning of the word should be understood and applied.

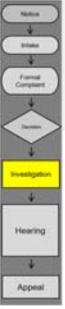


Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30247, FN 1018.

162



Relevance



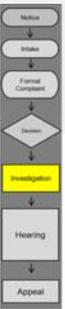
- “While the proposed rules do not speak to
 - admissibility of hearsay,
 - prior bad acts,
 - character evidence,
 - polygraph (lie detector) results,
 - standards for authentication of evidence,
 - or similar issues concerning evidence,
- the final regulations require recipients to **gather and evaluate relevant evidence**, with the understanding that . . .

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30247, footnotes omitted.

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Relevance



- this includes **both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence**, and
- the final regulations deem questions and evidence about a complainant’s prior sexual behavior to be **irrelevant** with two exceptions, and
- preclude use of any information protected by a **legally recognized privilege** (e.g., attorney-client).”

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30247, footnotes omitted.

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Prior Sexual History



- Questions and evidence about the complainant’s sexual predisposition or **prior sexual behavior** are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant’s prior sexual behavior are offered:
 - To prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or
 - To prove consent, if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant’s prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(1)(iii) and 106.45(b)(6) 85 F.R. 30451

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Prior Sexual History

Notice

↓

Intake

↓

Formal Complaint

↓

Investigation

↓

Hearing

↓

Appeal

- Only applies to complainants
 - The Department reiterates that the rape shield language in this provision does not pertain to the sexual predisposition or sexual behavior of respondents, so **evidence of a pattern of inappropriate behavior by an alleged harasser** must be judged for relevance as any other evidence must be.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(1)(iii) and 106.45(b)(6); Preamble 85 F.R.30353

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Prior Sexual History: Motive

Notice

↓

Intake

↓

Formal Complaint

↓

Investigation

↓

Hearing

↓

Appeal

- The Department disagrees that the rape shield language is too broad. Scenarios described by commenters, where a respondent might wish to prove the complainant had a motive to fabricate or conceal a sexual interaction, do not require admission or consideration of the complainant's sexual behavior.
- Respondents in that scenario could probe a complainant's motive by, for example, inquiring whether a complainant had a dating or romantic relationship with a person other than the respondent, without delving into a complainant's sexual behavior; sexual behavior evidence would remain irrelevant in such circumstances.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(1)(iii) and 106.45(b)(6); Preamble at 30351.

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Prior or Subsequent Misconduct

Notice

↓

Intake

↓

Formal Complaint

↓

Investigation

↓

Hearing

↓

Appeal

- The regulations do not prohibit the use of prior or subsequent misconduct
 - “Evidence of a pattern of inappropriate behavior by an alleged harasser” permitted if relevant
- Schools will need to determine if such conduct is:
 - Relevant
 - May be used in determining responsibility
 - May be used in sanctioning
- If so, will need to set criteria for consideration

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(1)(iii) and 106.45(b)(6); Preamble at 30351.

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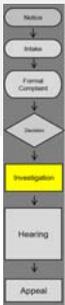
Practical Considerations

- Prior or subsequent misconduct may be relevant to demonstrate:
 - Intent/knowledge/state of mind
 - Motive
 - Opportunity
 - Lack of mistake
 - Pattern
 - Identity
 - Information that is inextricably interwoven with the facts
- Consider prejudicial vs. probative value

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Flexibility to Adopt Rules



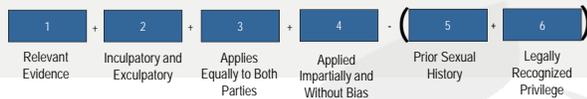
- "Within these evidentiary parameters recipients retain the flexibility to adopt rules that govern how the recipient's investigator and decision-maker evaluate evidence and conduct the grievance process (so long as such rules apply equally to both parties).
- Relevance is the standard that these final regulations require, and any evidentiary rules that a recipient chooses must respect this standard of relevance.
- For example, a recipient may not adopt a rule excluding relevant evidence because such relevant evidence may be unduly prejudicial, concern prior bad acts, or constitute character evidence."

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30248.

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Evidentiary Rules Must Consider



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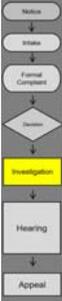


EVIDENCE REVIEW

172



Evidence Review



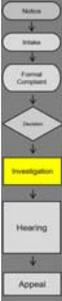
- “Provide both parties an **equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence** obtained as part of the investigation that is **directly related to the allegations** raised in a formal complaint so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation.”

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vi), 85 F.R.30411

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Evidence Review



- “Recipient must send to each party and the party’s advisor, if any, **the evidence subject to inspection and review** in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties must have at least **10 days to submit a written response**, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report.”

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vi) 85 F.R.30576

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Evidence Review

- Allowing parties the opportunity to inspect this broader universe of evidence will further each party's own interests by identifying evidence either overlooked by the investigator or erroneously deemed relevant or irrelevant.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R.30303

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Evidentiary Levels for Inclusion

- Privileged Materials: Don't include in Evidence Review or Investigative Report
- Not Directly Related: Include in Evidence Review
- Directly Related: Include in Evidence Review and Investigative Report
- Directly Related & Relevant: Include in Evidence Review and Investigative Report

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Directly Related

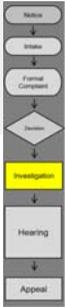
- Not defined in the regulations or the Preamble
 - The Department declines to define certain terms such as "evidence directly related to the allegations," as these terms should be interpreted using their plain and ordinary meaning.
- "Directly related" aligns with the requirements in FERPA
 - The Department previously noted that the "directly related to" requirement in § 106.45(b)(vi) aligns with FERPA.
 - For example, the regulations implementing FERPA define education records as records that are "directly related to a student" pursuant to § 99.3.
- Left to the discretion of the school
 - [T]he school has some discretion to determine what evidence is directly related to the allegations in a formal complaint.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30304, 30428.

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Directly Related



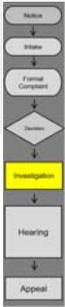
- [T]he universe of that exchanged evidence should include all evidence (inculpatory and exculpatory) that relates to the allegations under investigation, without the investigator having screened out evidence related to the allegations that the investigator does not believe is relevant.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 §106.45(b)(5)(vi);
Preamble 85 F.R.30304

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Directly Related vs. Relevant



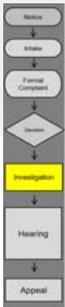
- Evidence that is “directly related to the allegations” may encompass a broader universe of evidence than evidence that is “relevant.”
- The Department does not believe that determinations about whether certain questions or evidence are relevant or directly related to the allegations at issue requires legal training and that such factual determinations reasonably can be made by layperson recipient officials impartially applying logic and common sense.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30304, 30321.

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Directly Related



- Redacting information within evidence (documents, interviews, medical records, etc.)
- May be redacted if:
 - Not directly related to the allegations
 - Privileged, or
 - Obtained without proper consent
- A recipient may permit or require the investigator to redact information ... such as information protected by a legally recognized privilege ... contained within documents ... that are directly related to the allegations, before sending the evidence to the parties for inspection and review.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R.30304

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Directly Related

- Imposing restrictions on dissemination or use
 - Recipients may impose on the parties and party advisors restrictions or require a non-disclosure agreement not to disseminate or use any of the evidence for a purpose unrelated to the Title IX grievance process.
 - As long as doing so does not violate the regulations or law.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R.30304.

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Directly Related

- Exception for evidence that is obtained illegally, such as a wiretap violation
 - If a recipient knows that a recording is unlawfully created under State law, then the recipient should not share a copy of such unlawful recording. The Department is not requiring a recipient to disseminate any evidence that was illegally or unlawfully obtained.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R.30427.

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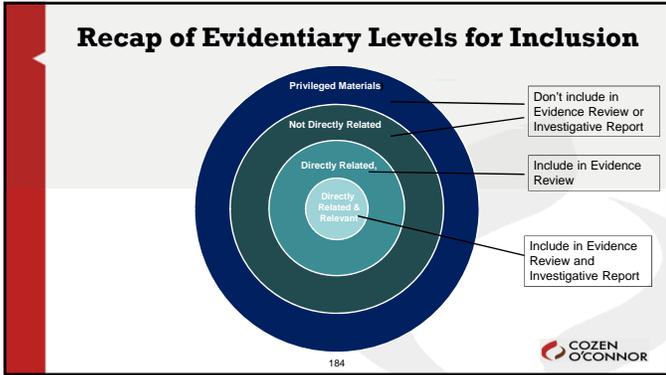
Scope of Parties' Review

- The parties may make corrections, provide appropriate context, and prepare their responses and defenses before a decision-maker reaches a determination regarding responsibility.
- If relevant evidence seems to be missing, a party can point that out to the investigator, and if it turns out that relevant evidence was destroyed by a party, the decision-maker can take that into account in assessing the credibility of parties, and the weight of evidence in the case.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R.30305 & 30300

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

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Investigative Report

- Create an **investigative report** that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and
- Send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, for their review and written response, **at least 10 days prior** to the determination of responsibility (hearing)
 - This opportunity allows the parties to "effectively provide context to the evidence included in the report" and to "advance their own interests for consideration by the decision-maker."

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020: §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vii); Preamble 85 F.R. 30254, 30307, 30309

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Investigative Report

- The regulations do not address the specific contents of the investigative report other than specifying its core purpose of summarizing the relevant evidence.
- The Department takes no position here on such elements beyond what is required in these final regulations; namely, that the investigative report must fairly summarize relevant evidence.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vii); Preamble 85 F.R. 30310. COZEN O'CONNOR

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Investigative Report

- We note that the decision-maker must prepare a written determination regarding responsibility that must contain certain specific elements (for instance, a description of procedural steps taken during the investigation) and so a recipient **may wish to instruct the investigator to include such matters in the investigative report**, but these final regulations do not prescribe the contents of the investigative report other than specifying its core purpose of summarizing relevant evidence.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vii); Preamble 85 F.R. 30310. COZEN O'CONNOR

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Content for Written Determination

- Must issue a simultaneous written determination regarding responsibility, including
 - Identification of the allegations
 - Description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination
 - Findings of fact supporting the determination
 - Conclusions regarding the application of the recipient's code of conduct to the facts
 - Rationale
 - Appeal procedures

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vii); Preamble 85 F.R. 30577. COZEN O'CONNOR

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Investigative Report: Findings?

- The Department does not wish to prohibit the investigator from including recommended findings or conclusions in the investigative report.
- However, the decision-maker is under an independent obligation to objectively evaluate relevant evidence, and thus cannot simply defer to recommendations made by the investigator in the investigative report.
- If a recipient chooses to include a credibility analysis in its investigative report, the recipient must be cautious not to violate § 106.45(b)(7)(i), prohibiting the decision-maker from being the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vii); Preamble 85
F.R. 30308 & 30436

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Investigative Report: Findings?

- § 106.45(b)(7)(i) prevents an investigator from actually making a determination regarding responsibility.
- If an investigator's determination regarding credibility is actually a determination regarding responsibility, then §106.45(b)(7)(i) would prohibit it.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vii); Preamble 85
F.R. 30436

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Revisiting Relevance

- Fairly summarizes the relevant evidence
- Investigator may redact information from the report
 - Recipients may permit or require the investigator to redact from the investigative report information that is not relevant, which is contained in documents or evidence that is relevant.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vii); Preamble 85
F.R. 30436

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Investigative Report

```

    graph TD
      A[Notice] --> B[Intake]
      B --> C[Formal Complaint]
      C --> D{Motion}
      D --> E[Investigation]
      E --> F[Hearing]
      F --> G[Appeal]
  
```

- Allow parties to provide a written response to the investigative report
 - Recipients must also give the parties meaningful opportunity to understand what evidence the recipient collects and believes is relevant, so the parties can advance their own interests for consideration by the decision-maker.
 - The decision-maker is obligated to objectively evaluate all relevant evidence and the parties have the opportunity to argue about what is relevant (and about the persuasiveness of relevant evidence).

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vii); Preamble 85
F.R. 30309 & 30249

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Investigative Report

```

    graph TD
      A[Notice] --> B[Intake]
      B --> C[Formal Complaint]
      C --> D{Motion}
      D --> E[Investigation]
      E --> F[Hearing]
      F --> G[Appeal]
  
```

- At least 10 days prior to the determination of responsibility (hearing)
 - Without advance knowledge of the investigative report, the parties will be unable to effectively provide context to the evidence included in the report.
 - A valuable part of this process is giving the parties (and advisors who are providing assistance and advice to the parties) adequate time to review, assess, and respond to the investigative report in order to fairly prepare for the live hearing or submit arguments to a decision-maker where a hearing is not required or otherwise provided.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vii); Preamble 85
F.R. 30309

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Investigative Report

```

    graph TD
      A[Notice] --> B[Intake]
      B --> C[Formal Complaint]
      C --> D{Motion}
      D --> E[Investigation]
      E --> F[Hearing]
      F --> G[Appeal]
  
```

- At least 10 days prior to the determination of responsibility (hearing)
 - The parties then have equal opportunity to review the investigative report; if a party disagrees with an investigator's determination about relevance, the party can make that argument in the party's written response to the investigative report and to the decision-maker at any hearing held.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vii); Preamble 85
F.R. 30248-49

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Practical Considerations & Effective Practices

- Use template format with consistent language and content across investigations
- Language: balanced, neutral and non-judgmental
- Avoid declarative credibility language
 - “Unreliable” vs. insufficient information
 - Recognize perspective of the parties
 - Comment on the evidence, not the parties
- Use of verbatim quotes
- Leave sufficient time for writing, editing, proof reading and review by a fresh set of eyes

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Recap of Investigation Requirements

Formal Complaint	Notice of Allegations	Investigation	Evidence Review	Written Responses to Evidence	Investigative Report	Written Responses to Report
Filed by Complainant or Signed by Title IX Coordinator	With sufficient Detail and time for a party to prepare for an initial interview	Thorough search for relevant facts and evidence Conducted by a trained investigator who is free from conflicts of interest or bias	Of any evidence that is directly related to the allegations	10-day review period Parties may submit written response	Fairly summarizes relevant evidence Includes inculpatory and exculpatory evidence	10-day review period Parties may submit written response

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REASONABLY PROMPT TIME FRAMES

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Reasonably Prompt Time Frames

- The grievance process must include:
 - reasonably prompt time frames for conclusion of the grievance process, including reasonably prompt time frames for filing and resolving appeals and informal resolution processes if the recipient offers informal resolution processes
 - a process that allows for the temporary delay of the grievance process or the limited extension of time frames for good cause with written notice to the complainant and the respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 §106.45(b)(1)(v) 85 F.R. 30522 & 30575

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Reasonably Prompt Time Frames

- The grievance process must include:
 - reasonably prompt time frames for conclusion of the grievance process, including reasonably prompt time frames for filing and resolving appeals and informal resolution processes if the recipient offers informal resolution processes
 - a process that allows for the temporary delay of the grievance process or the limited extension of time frames for good cause with written notice to the complainant and the respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action
- Good cause may include considerations such as:
 - the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness;
 - concurrent law enforcement activity;
 - the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 §106.45(b)(1)(v). 85 F.R. 30575

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Reasonably Prompt Time Frames

- A recipient must resolve each formal complaint of sexual harassment according to the time frames the recipient has committed to in its grievance process.
- The Department believes that each recipient is in the best position to balance promptness with fairness and accuracy based on the recipient's unique attributes and the recipient's experience with its own student disciplinary proceedings, and thus requires recipients to include "reasonably prompt time frames" for conclusion of a grievance process that complies with these final regulations.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 §106.45(b)(1)(v), Preamble 85 F.R. 30269

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TRAINING

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Training

- A recipient must ensure that **Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution** process, receive training on:
 - The definition of sexual harassment in § 106.30
 - The scope of the recipient's education program or activity
 - How to conduct an investigation and grievance process including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable
 - How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias
- A recipient must ensure that **decision-makers** receive training on:
 - Any technology to be used at a live hearing
 - Issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, as set forth in paragraph (b)(6) of this section.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(1)(iii) 85 F.R. 30575

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Training

- A recipient also must ensure that investigators receive training on:
 - Issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence
- Any materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process, must not rely on sex stereotypes and must promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of sexual harassment

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(1)(iii) 85 F.R. 30575



SERVING WITHOUT CONFLICT OF INTEREST OR BIAS

205



Awareness of the Impact of Language

Identifying the Parties Complainant/victim/survivor/reporting party/accuser Respondent/offender/accused/responding party/perpetrator	Inclusivity & Avoiding Reinforcement of Negative Perceptions/Myths "He said/she said" vs. "word-against-word credibility assessment"
Neutral, Non-judgmental "Believe" or "feel" vs. "experience" "story" vs. "account"	Process Words Investigation Review Assessment

Individuality
Inclusivity
Respect

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Identifying Our Own Biases

- What does sexual assault look like?
- Over-identifying with complainant or respondent
 - I would have...
 - If it was me...
 - That could have been me...
 - What were they thinking when...
 - What did they think was going to happen?
- Culture/diversity/world view

207



Diversity and Culture

- Sensitivity to language and bias in a variety of communities
 - LGBTQ+
 - Cultural differences
 - Race
 - Insular groups
 - 504/disability
 - Neurodiversity
- Reporting barriers
- Communication differences/impediments

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Case Evaluation

- Nature of sexual and gender-based harassment and violence
 - Delay in reporting
 - Barriers to reporting and proceeding with formal action
 - Reluctance to report to law enforcement
 - Word-against-word credibility
 - Often involve the use of alcohol or other drugs
 - Often involve people who are known to one another
- Evaluate in the context of all available information

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Disclosure

- A process where an individual reveals abuse or assault
- On-going, not a one time event
- Stages of Disclosure:
 - Denial
 - Tentative
 - Active
 - Recantation
 - Reaffirmation
- Triggers for Disclosure
 - Accidental – person's secret is found out
 - Purposeful – person makes decision to tell

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Framing Difficult Questions

- Why frame?
- Difficult topics:
 - Alcohol or other drug use
 - Clothing
 - Body positions
 - How and whether consent was communicated

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ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND INCAPACITATION

212



The Role of Alcohol

- Central nervous system depressant
- Impairs cognition and psychomotor skills
- Progressively impairs all body functions
- Decreases inhibitions
- Impairs perceptions
- May cause blackouts or loss of consciousness
- May cause memory loss
- Effects exacerbated when mixed with other drugs
- Intoxication breeds vulnerability
- A person may be less likely to think someone is trying to sexually assault him/her
- A person intent on harming another may not need to use physical force
- A person may not realize incident has occurred
- A person may delay in reporting for multiple reasons
- No toxicological evidence of BAC/impairment level due to delay in report

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The Role of Alcohol

- 80% to 90% of sexual assaults on campus are acquaintance rapes and involve drugs or alcohol.¹
- “Nearly half of America’s 5.4 million full-time college students abuse drugs or drink alcohol on binges at least once a month.”²
- 90% of campus rapes are alcohol related.³

1. DOJ, National Institute of Justice, 2005.
 2. National Center on Addition and Substance Abuse at Columbia University 2007.
 3. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2000, National Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities

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Alcohol: Investigative Challenges

- Lack of memory
- Inability to give detail
- Person may have been unconscious or in and out of consciousness
- Delay in reporting because:
 - May not know event occurred
 - May not recognize it as lack of consent
 - Feeling of “contributory negligence”
 - Concerns over conduct policy consequences

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Frame Questions Appropriately

- Be aware that questions about drugs and alcohol are often subject to misinterpretation
- Explain amnesty
- Commit to clarity on why you are asking
- Explain the reasons for your questions
 - Assessing for incapacitation
 - Evaluating the “lens” through which the party or witness observed the events (opportunity to see, hear, understand, and remember)
- Explain that you will ask similar questions of all witnesses
- Invite the witness to ask questions before you go further

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Get Detailed Information

- Timeframe of consumption (first drink, last drink, spacing)
- Number of drinks
- For each drink:
 - Type (beer, wine, liquor – with specific brand, if possible)
 - Was it mixed with anything? Who mixed it?
 - How was it served? (Bar or restaurant will lead to more available information)

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Get Detailed Information

- List of others present and when they were there
- Other factors that affect the impact of alcohol:
 - Food consumed before, during, and after and whether food intake was normal or abnormal for the person
 - Height and weight
 - Medications
 - Different sleep patterns
 - Illness
 - Low hydration
 - History of blackouts

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Get Detailed Information

- Complainant's internal experience of their own intoxication (subjective)
 - Loss of consciousness/lack of memory – get the "bookends" of memory
 - Physical impairments – walking, standing, sitting, grasping, keeping head upright, ability to text, ability to remove one's own clothing, incontinence, vomiting
 - Cognitive impairments – dizzy, foggy, sleepy, giggly, hyperactive, sluggish, nonsensical
 - Verbal impairments – slurring, inability to talk, volume regulation
 - Any other effects

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Get Detailed Information

- Others' observations of Complainant (objective)
 - Observations of Complainant's consumption – when, where, what, who else was there?
 - Physical impairments
 - Cognitive impairments
 - Verbal impairments
 - Any other effects



Get Detailed Information

- Other information that can establish timeline, assist in assessing level of impairment, and can provide corroboration of either party's account:
 - History of relationship between the parties
 - Witness's knowledge of Complainant's sober behavior
 - Parties' communications or interactions with each other (compare pre- and post-incident)
 - Parties' descriptions of the incident to others – context, content, demeanor
 - Text/social media messages sent before, during, and after the incident



Considerations

Avoid	Why?	Try this instead
Asking about intoxication on a scale (e.g., "from 1-10?")	There is no universal understanding of what the numbers on the scale mean.	Asking about the impact of alcohol on a person physically, cognitively, verbally, and otherwise. Asking for specific observations regarding conduct.
Committing to a determining a specific BAC	It is very difficult to pinpoint a person's BAC after the fact. Additionally, BAC is only one data point and does not correlate precisely to a person's subjective experience or objective indices of intoxication/impairment.	Use BAC when it is available in medical records. Otherwise, avoid attempting to pinpoint the BAC and rely instead on the subjective and objective indices of intoxication/impairment.
Failing to obtain or ignoring medical evidence or observations of first responders, when they are available	Such witnesses are (generally) subject to discovery and are paying close attention to the parties and surroundings. Their observations are critical, but it may require coordination with external law enforcement or medical personnel.	Be attentive to mentions of first responders or medical personnel and try to obtain as much information about them as you can. Witnesses may remember, for example, that the BAC was tested and had short-term fail. Work with your local agencies to identify such personnel and ascertain whether they can be made available for an interview.
Failing to fully contextualize witness observations through use of a timeline	Witness statements taken out of context do not help answer the critical question – whether the Respondent knew or should have known that the Complainant was intoxicated.	Create a visual timeline of events that depicts the parties' alcohol consumption, witness observations, and the alleged incident. Circle or highlight the timeline when the parties were in each other's presence.



Incident Response Checklist

- Introduction focusing on safety and wellbeing
- Communication regarding preservation of evidence
- Support with transportation to obtain medical services and/or law enforcement support
- Inform / discharge duties
 - Options
 - Protections
 - Services
 - Clery Act:
 - Importance of prompt complaint
 - Importance of gathering evidence
- Title IX / DCL:
 - Confidentiality limitations
 - Facilitation of report to police

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Incident Report Form

- Time and date of report
- Time and date of incident
- Location of incident
- Information about the Complainant:
 - Name
 - Sex
 - Affiliation
 - Residence
- Respondent:
 - Name (if known)
 - Relationship to Complainant
 - Sex
 - Number of Respondents
- Information about the alleged conduct:
 - Type of coercion/force
 - Physical injury
 - Penetration
 - Sexual contact without penetration
 - Reported to police

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Investigation Checklist

- Complainant's name or anonymity requested
- Place of occurrence
- Nature of occurrence
- Time of occurrence
- Time of reporting
- Alcohol involved: Drugs involved
- Physical Injury
- Name of accused: known or unknown
- Other crimes evidence/priors
- Complainant's description of event
- Names of witnesses
- Interviews of all parties
- Prior contacts between complainant and accused
- School records
- Intimidation attempts
- Physical evidence:
 - Injury / Medical Evidence - records
 - Security Monitoring Records / Visitor Logs / Audio-Video recordings
 - Telephone records
 - Voicemail
 - Text / E-mail / Social Media
 - Clothing / Tangible Objects
 - Any other physical / forensic evidence
- 911 Tape
- Photographs of the scene
- Photographs of injuries
- Advised re: law enforcement report
- Advised re: preservation and medical treatment
- Advised re: counseling
- Concerns regarding safety of community
- Discharge Title IX responsibilities
- Discharge Clery responsibilities
- Court / Cease & Desist Orders
- Protection Orders

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Investigation Checklist: Reporter

- Reports are consistent over time?
 - Is the complainant's account consistent?
 - Is timeline consistent?
 - Do allegations change? If so, is there a reasonable explanation?
 - Over time?
 - During therapy?
 - With different interviewers?
 - In terms of content?
- Circumstances at time of report?
 - Where?
 - To whom?
 - When?
 - Why?
 - Demeanor?
 - Corroborated by witness?
- Any change in behavior/demeanor/routine after alleged incident?
 - Explore past relationship:
 - Whether and how long he or she had known the accused?
 - Circumstances of their meeting
 - Extent of any previous relationship
 - Details of any relevant prior sexual contact with respondent
- Circumstances at time of prior disclosure(s)?
 - Where?
 - To Whom?
 - When?
 - Why?
 - Demeanor?

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Investigation Checklist: Reporter

- Overall credibility?
 - Cognitive impairment?
 - Evidence of psychosis?
 - Evidence of coaching?
 - Current situation impacted by results of conclusions?
- Demeanor?
 - At time of event?
 - At time of reporting?
 - As reported by other witnesses? If so, identify witnesses.
 - In our interview?
- Secondary gain?
 - Financial?
 - Situational?
 - Occupational?
- Interests or bias?
- Details of description:
 - Central issues?
 - Peripheral issues?
- Corroboration?
- Do facts hang together? Why? Why not?

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Investigation Checklist: Respondent

- Other acts/behaviors relevant to intent?
 - Evidence of substance abuse?
 - If so, is it admitted?
 - Evidence of impulse control issues?
 - If so, is it admitted?
 - Admission of physically inappropriate behavior?
 - Admission of sexually inappropriate behavior?
 - Evidence of fabrication in record (not limited to allegation)?
- Overall Credibility
 - Demeanor?
 - Interest or bias?
 - Corroboration?
 - Do facts hang together? Why or Why not?
- Any witness intimidation?
- Past History
 - Evidence of other misconduct or disciplinary action?
 - Theft/misappropriation?
 - Legal history?
 - Substance abuse?
 - How did the accused respond to prior interventions?
- Evidence of problematic behavior
- Troubled relationships?
- History of previous sanctions?
- History of treatment/intervention of inappropriate or concerning behaviors?
- Previous concerns re: protection of others?

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Resources

- As investigator, develop and be prepared to refer to:
 - Incident Response Checklist
 - Incident Report Form
 - Investigation Checklist
 - Investigation Checklist: Complainant
 - Investigation Checklist: Respondent

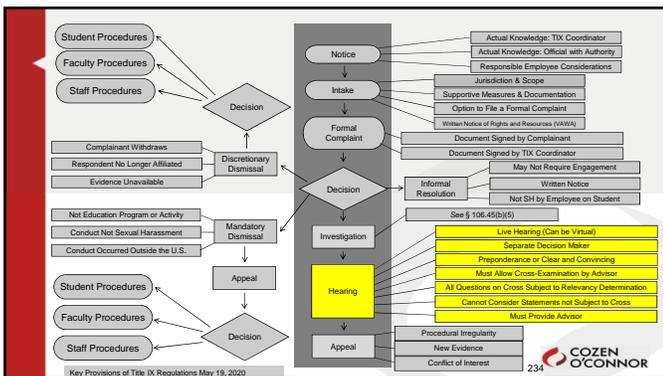
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OVERVIEW OF HEARING REQUIREMENTS

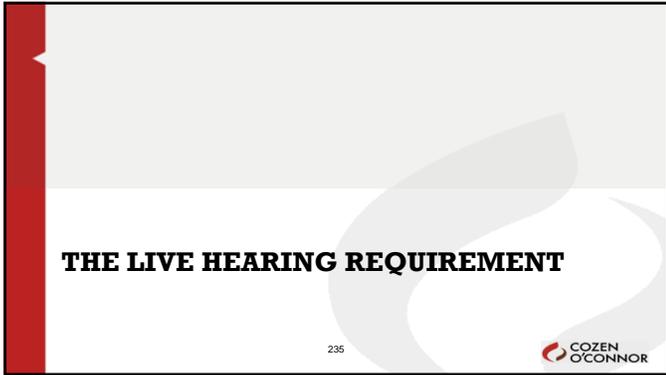
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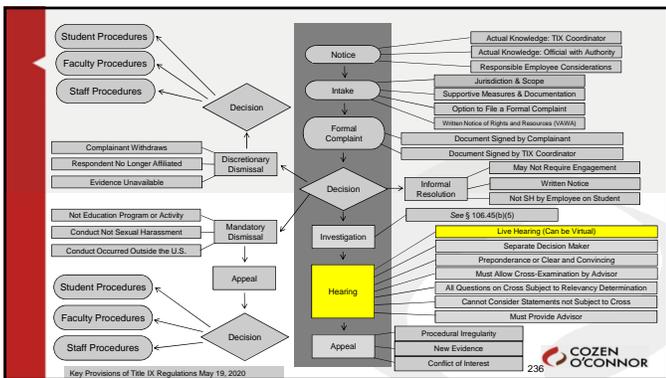


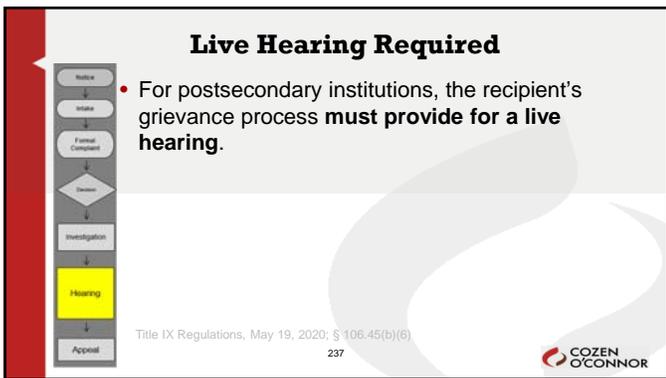


Key Provisions of Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020









Live Hearing Required

- [A] live hearing gives both parties the most meaningful, transparent opportunity to present their views of the case to the decision-maker, **reducing the likelihood of biased decisions, improving the accuracy of outcomes, and increasing party and public confidence in the fairness and reliability of outcomes of Title IX adjudications.**

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30359 .
238

Option to Use Technology

- Live hearings pursuant to this paragraph may be conducted with all parties physically present in the same geographic location or, at the recipient's direction, any or all parties, witnesses and other participants may appear at the live hearing **virtually, with technology** enabling participants simultaneously to see and hear each other.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6)
239

Virtual Hearing Considerations

- At the request of either party, the recipient must provide for the live hearing to occur with the parties located in separate rooms with **technology** enabling the decision-maker(s) and parties to **simultaneously see and hear** the party or the witness answering questions.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6)
240

Virtual Hearing Considerations

- The Department agrees with commenters who asserted that cross-examination provides opportunity for a decision-maker to assess credibility based on a number of factors, **including evaluation of body language and demeanor**, specific details, inherent plausibility, internal consistency, and corroborative evidence.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30321;
241

Virtual Hearing Considerations

- The final regulations grant recipients discretion to allow participants, including witnesses, to appear at a live hearing virtually; however, **technology must enable all participants to see and hear other participants**, so a telephonic appearance would not be sufficient to comply with §106.45(b)(6)(i).

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30348
242

Flexibility to Adopt Rules

- Recipients may adopt rules that govern the **conduct and decorum** of participants at live hearings so long as such rules comply with these final regulations and apply equally to both parties.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30315.
243

Flexibility to Adopt Rules



- Within these evidentiary parameters recipients retain the **flexibility to adopt rules** that govern how the recipient's investigator and **decision-maker** evaluate evidence and conduct the grievance process (so long as such rules apply equally to both parties).

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30248
244



Relevance Limitation on Flexibility



- **Relevance is the standard that these final regulations require**, and any evidentiary rules that a recipient chooses must respect this standard of relevance.
- For example, a recipient **may not adopt a rule excluding relevant evidence** because such relevant evidence may be **unduly prejudicial, concern prior bad acts, or constitute character evidence**.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30248
245



Participation by Parties and Witnesses



- The Department understands commenters concerns that **respondents, complainants, and witnesses may be absent from a hearing**, or may refuse to submit to cross-examination, for a variety of reasons, including a respondent's self-incrimination concerns regarding a related criminal proceeding, a complainant's reluctance to be cross-examined, or a witness studying abroad, among many other reasons.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30346
246



Participation by Parties and Witnesses



- In response to commenters' concerns, the Department has revised the proposed regulations as follows:
 - (1) We have revised § 106.45(b)(6)(i) to state that where a decision-maker must not rely on an absent or non-cross examined party or witness's statements, the decision-maker **cannot draw any inferences about the determination regarding responsibility based on such absence or refusal** to be cross-examined;
 - (2) We have revised § 106.45(b)(6)(i) to grant a recipient discretion to hold the entire hearing **virtually using technology** that enables any or all participants to appear remotely;

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30346



Participation by Parties and Witnesses



- (3) § 106.71 **expressly prohibits retaliation** against any party, witness, or other person exercising rights under Title IX, including the right to participate or refuse to participate in a grievance process;
- (4) § 106.45(b)(3)(ii) grants a recipient **discretion to dismiss a formal complaint**, or allegations therein, where the complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the **complainant wishes to withdraw** the allegations, or **the respondent is no longer enrolled or employed** by the recipient, or **specific circumstances prevent the recipient from gathering evidence** sufficient to reach a determination.
- These changes address many of the concerns raised by commenters stemming from reasons why parties or witnesses may not wish to participate and the consequences of non-participation.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30346



Participation by the Complainant



- Where a grievance process is initiated because the Title IX Coordinator, and not the complainant, signed the formal complaint, the complainant who did not wish to initiate a grievance process **remains under no obligation to then participate in the grievance process**, and the Department does not believe that exclusion of the complainant's statements in such a scenario is unfair to the complainant, who did not wish to file a formal complaint in the first place yet remains eligible to receive supportive measures protecting the complainant's equal access to education.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R.30346

249



Transcript or Recording

- Recipients must create an **audio or audiovisual recording, or transcript**, of any live hearing and make it available to the parties for inspection and review.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6)
250

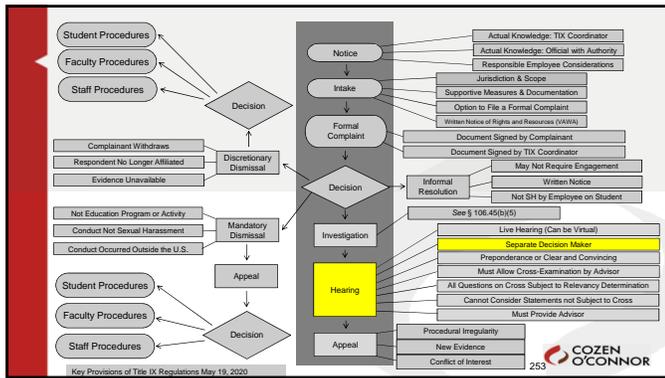
Practical Considerations & Effective Practices

- Impact of requirement that parties and/or witnesses participate in the hearing
 - Party vs. witness
 - Student vs. employee
- Decisions re: technology
- Recording versus transcription
- Procedures for non-postsecondary institutions

251

ROLE OF DECISION-MAKER

252



Determine Relevance of Questions

- Before a complainant, respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or other question, the decision-maker(s) must **first determine whether the question is relevant ...**

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020, § 106.45(b)(6)
254

Explain Decisions to Exclude Questions

- The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions **any decision to exclude** a question as not relevant.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020, § 106.45(b)(6)
255

Apply the Standard of Evidence

- To reach [a] determination, the recipient must apply the standard of evidence described in paragraph (b)(1)(vii) of this section.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(7)
256

Issue Written Determinations

- The decision-maker(s) ... must issue a simultaneous written determination regarding responsibility, including
 - Identification of the allegations
 - Description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination
 - Findings of fact supporting the determination
 - Conclusions regarding the application of the recipient's code of conduct to the facts
 - Rationale
 - Appeal procedures

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(7)
257

Separate Decision-Maker

- The Department wishes to clarify that the final regulations **require the Title IX Coordinator and investigator to be different individuals from the decision-maker**, but nothing in the final regulations requires the Title IX Coordinator to be an individual different from the investigator.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30372
258

Investigator May not Determine Responsibility

- § 106.45(b)(7)(i) prevents an investigator from actually making a determination regarding responsibility.

Notice
↓
Intake
↓
Formal Complaint
↓
Decision
↓
Investigation
↓
Hearing
↓
Appeal

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vii); Preamble 85 F.R. 30436
259

Decision-Maker Must Determine Responsibility

- Nothing in the final regulations prevents Title IX Coordinators from offering recommendations regarding responsibility to the decision-maker for consideration, but the final regulations **require the ultimate determination regarding responsibility to be reached by an individual (i.e., the decision-maker) who did not participate in the case as an investigator or Title IX Coordinator.**

Notice
↓
Intake
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Formal Complaint
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Decision
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Investigation
↓
Hearing
↓
Appeal

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30372
260

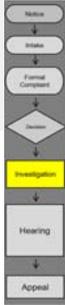
Independent Obligation to Evaluate Evidence

- The Department does not wish to prohibit the investigator from including recommended findings or conclusions in the investigative report.
- However, the decision-maker is under an **independent obligation to objectively evaluate relevant evidence**, and thus cannot simply defer to recommendations made by the investigator in the investigative report.

Notice
↓
Intake
↓
Formal Complaint
↓
Decision
↓
Investigation
↓
Hearing
↓
Appeal

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vii); Preamble 85 F.R. 30308 & 30436
261

Independent Obligation to Evaluate Credibility



- If a recipient chooses to include a **credibility analysis** in its investigative report, the recipient must be cautious not to violate § 106.45(b)(7)(i), prohibiting the decision-maker from being the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator.
- If an investigator's determination regarding credibility is actually a determination regarding responsibility, then §106.45(b)(7)(i) would prohibit it.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(viii); Preamble 85 F.R. 30308 & 30436

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Practical Considerations & Effective Practices

- Choice of decision-maker(s)
 - Hearing panel vs. sole adjudicator
 - External professional vs. internal administrator
- Decision-maker on sanction
 - Can be same or different from decision-maker on finding
- Use of Hearing Coordinator?
- Whether to have investigator make recommended findings or include a credibility analysis

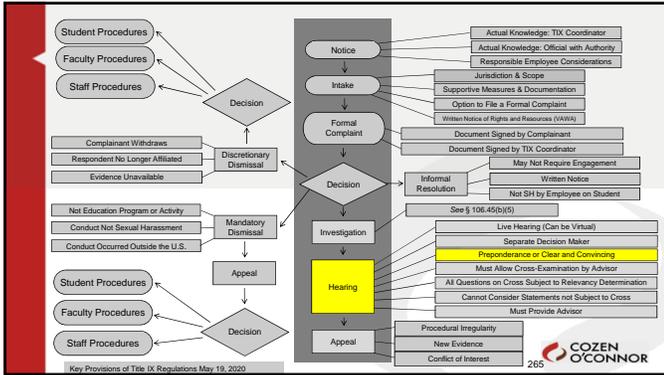
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STANDARD OF EVIDENCE

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Standard of Evidence

- [T]he recipient must apply the same standard of evidence to student and employee matters, using either the clear and convincing standard or the preponderance of the evidence standard.
- The recipient must apply the same standard of evidence to all formal complaints of sexual harassment.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6)
266

Standard of Evidence

- For reasons described above, the Department has determined that the approach to the standard of evidence contained in § 106.45(b)(1)(vii) and § 106.45(b)(7)(i) of the final regulations represents the **most effective way of legally obligating recipients to select a standard of evidence** for use in resolving formal complaints of sexual harassment under Title IX to ensure a fair, reliable grievance process **without unnecessarily mandating that a recipient select one standard over the other.**

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30388.
267

Standard of Evidence

- In short, under the final regulations the **same standard of evidence will apply to all formal complaints of sexual harassment under Title IX** responded to by a particular recipient, **whether the respondent is a student or employee.**

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30388.
268

Standard of Evidence

- Beyond a Reasonable Doubt
- Clear and Convincing Evidence
- Preponderance of the Evidence
- Some Evidence

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Clear and Convincing*

- The evidence is highly and substantially more likely to be true than untrue
- The fact finder must be convinced that the contention is highly probable
- Proof which requires more than a preponderance of the evidence but less than proof beyond a reasonable doubt
- Clear and convincing proof will be shown where the truth of the facts asserted is highly probable
- Quality of the evidence, not quantity
- NOT beyond a reasonable doubt

* Based on common usage.
270

Preponderance of the Evidence*

- More likely to be true than not
- More probable than not
- The greater weight of the evidence
- Tipping the scale ever so slightly
- 51 %
- Based on the more convincing evidence and it's probable truth or accuracy, not on the amount
- Quality of the evidence, not quantity
- NOT beyond a reasonable doubt

* Based on common usage.

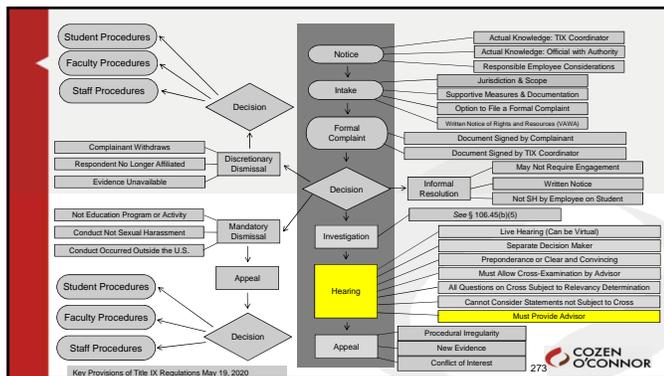
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ADVISOR OF CHOICE

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Title IX: Advisor of Choice



- Parties must have the same opportunities to ... be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by **an advisor of their choice**.
- The advisor may be, but is not required to be, **an attorney**.
- A recipient **may establish restrictions** on advisors' participation, as long as the restrictions apply equally to both parties.
- “[T]he role of an advisor is to assist and advise the party.”

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020: § 106.45(b)(5)(iv); Preamble 85 F.R. 30328. 274



VAWA: Advisor of Choice

- Provide the accuser and the accused with the same opportunities to have others present during any institutional disciplinary proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the **advisor of their choice**
- **Not limit the choice of advisor** or presence for either the accuser or the accused in any meeting or institutional disciplinary proceeding
- However, the institution **may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in the proceedings**, as long as the restrictions apply equally to both parties

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act § 668.46(k)(2)(iii)-(iv); 79 F.R. 62789. 275



No Limit as to Conflicts of Interest



- The Department notes that the 106.45 (b)(1)(iii) prohibition of Title IX personnel having conflicts of interest or bias **does not apply to party advisors** (including advisors provided to a party by a post secondary institution as required under 106.45(b)(6)(i)) and thus, **the existence of a possible conflict of interest where an advisor is assisting one party and also expected to give a statements as a witness does not violate the final regulations.**

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020: Preamble at 30299. 276



ROLE OF THE ADVISOR AT HEARING

277



Role of the Advisor



- At the live hearing, the decision-maker(s) must permit each party's advisor to **ask the other party and any witnesses all relevant questions** and follow-up questions, including those challenging credibility.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6)

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Advisor's Role at the Hearing



- Such cross-examination at the live hearing must be conducted directly, orally, and in real time by the party's advisor of choice and never by a party personally, **notwithstanding the discretion of the recipient under paragraph (b)(5)(iv) of this section to otherwise restrict the extent to which advisors may participate in the proceedings.**

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble, 85 F.R. 30336, 30577.

279



Cross-Examination by Advisor

- [A] party's advisor may appear and conduct cross-examination **even when the party whom they are advising does not appear.**

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30346
280

Discretion as to Advisor's Role

- Section 106.45(b)(5)(iv) (allowing recipients to place restrictions on active participation by party advisors) and the revised introductory sentence to § 106.45(b) (requiring any rules a recipient adopts for its grievance process other than rules required under § 106.45 to apply equally to both parties) would, for example, **permit a recipient to require parties personally to answer questions** posed by an investigator during an interview, or **personally to make any opening or closing statements** the recipient allows at a live hearing, so long as such rules apply equally to both parties.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble, 85 F.R. 30298.
281

Discretion as to Advisor's Role

- We do not believe that specifying what **restrictions on advisor participation** may be appropriate is necessary, and we **decline to remove the discretion of a recipient to restrict an advisor's participation** so as not to unnecessarily limit a recipient's flexibility to conduct a grievance process that both complies with § 106.45 and, in the recipient's judgment, best serves the needs and interests of the recipient and its educational community.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble, 85 F.R. 30298.
282

Obligation to Provide an Advisor



- If a party does not have an advisor present at the live hearing, the recipient **must provide without fee or charge to that party, an advisor** of the recipient's choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, to conduct cross-examination on behalf of that party.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6)
283



Must Provide Advisor Even in Party's Absence



- [W]here one party does not appear and that party's advisor of choice does not appear, a recipient-provided advisor **must still cross-examine the other, appearing party "on behalf of" the non-appearing party**, resulting in consideration of the appearing party's statements but not the non-appearing party's statements (without any inference being drawn based on the non-appearance).

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30346
284



Appearance Without an Advisor



- The final regulations do not preclude recipients from adopting a rule that requires parties to inform the recipient in advance of a hearing whether the party intends to bring an advisor of choice to the hearing; but **if a party then appears at a hearing without an advisor** the recipient would need to **stop the hearing as necessary to permit the recipient to assign an advisor** to that party to conduct cross-examination.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30342
285



Refusal to Conduct Cross-Examination



- A party cannot “fire” an assigned advisor during the hearing, **but if the party correctly asserts that the assigned advisor is refusing to “conduct cross-examination on the party’s behalf”** then the recipient is **obligated to provide the party an advisor to perform that function**, whether that means counseling the assigned advisor to perform that role, or stopping the hearing to assign a different advisor. ...

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; 85 F.R. 30342

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Party Cannot Conduct Own Cross-Examination



- If a party to whom the recipient assigns an advisor **refuses to work with the advisor** when the advisor is willing to conduct cross-examination on the party’s behalf, then for reasons described above **that party has no right of self-representation with respect to conducting cross-examination**, and that party would not be able to pose any cross-examination questions.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6)

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; 85 F.R. 30342

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Practical Considerations & Effective Practices

- Process meeting to discuss policy, decorum, and expectations
- Considerations for advisors:
 - Review policy in advance
 - Acknowledge decorum expectations
 - Acknowledge privacy protections regarding documents
- Consider the importance of continuity in process re: advisor given requirement to provide an advisor at the hearing

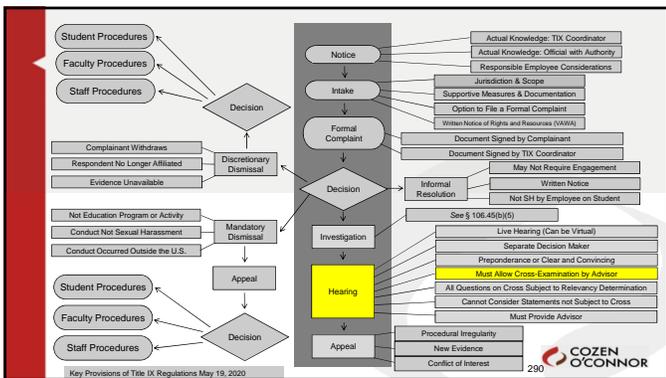
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CROSS-EXAMINATION BY ADVISOR

289





Cross-Examination

- At the live hearing, the decision-maker(s) must permit each party's advisor to **ask the other party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions, including those challenging credibility.**

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6)

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Cross-Examination

- Such cross-examination at the live hearing must be conducted **directly, orally, and in real time** by the party's advisor of choice and never by a party personally, notwithstanding the discretion of the recipient under paragraph (b)(5)(iv) of this section to otherwise restrict the extent to which advisors may participate in the proceedings.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6)

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Recap on Evidence Review

- “Provide both parties an **equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence** obtained as part of the investigation that is **directly related to the allegations** raised in a formal complaint so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation.”

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(5)(vi), 85 F.R.30411

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Availability of Evidence at the Hearing

- The recipient must make all such evidence subject to the parties' inspection and review [directly related evidence shared at the evidence review] available at any hearing to give each party equal opportunity to refer to such evidence during the hearing, including for purposes of cross-examination.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(5)(vi)

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Opportunity to Challenge Evidence



- Cross-examination in the § 106.45 grievance process is **intended to give both parties equal opportunity to meaningfully challenge the plausibility, reliability, credibility, and consistency of the other party and witnesses** so that the outcome of each individual case is **more likely to be factually accurate, reducing the likelihood of either type of erroneous outcome** (i.e., inaccurately finding a respondent to be responsible, or inaccurately finding a respondent to be non-responsible).

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020, Preamble 85 F.R. 30336

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Questions to Advance a Party's Interest



- The Department clarifies here that conducting cross-examination **consists simply of posing questions intended to advance the asking party's perspective with respect to the specific allegations at issue**; no legal or other training or expertise can or should be required to ask factual questions in the context of a Title IX grievance process.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020, Preamble 85 F.R. 30319

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Cross-Examination



- Only **relevant** cross-examination and other questions may be asked of a party or witness.
- Before a complainant, respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or other question, the decision-maker(s) must **first determine whether the question is relevant ...**
- The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions **any decision to exclude** a question as not relevant.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6)

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Determinations Regarding Relevance



- The final regulations **do not preclude a recipient from adopting a rule** (applied equally to both parties) that does, or does not, **give parties or advisors the right to discuss the relevance determination with the decision-maker during the hearing.**
- If a recipient believes that arguments about a relevance determination during a hearing would unnecessarily protract the hearing or become uncomfortable for parties, **the recipient may adopt a rule that prevents parties and advisors from challenging the relevance determination (after receiving the decision-maker's explanation) during the hearing.**

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6)
 Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; 299 Preamble 85 F.R. 30343



"Pause" to Reinforce Decorum



- We have also revised § 106.45(b)(6)(i) in a manner that **builds in a "pause" to the cross-examination process**; before a party or witness answers a cross-examination question, the decision-maker must determine if the question is relevant.
- This **helps ensure that content of cross-examination remains focused only on relevant questions** and that the **pace of cross-examination** does not place undue pressure on a party or witness to answer immediately.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30323-24
 299



Rules of Decorum



- The final regulations do not preclude a recipient from enforcing rules of decorum that **ensure all participants, including parties and advisors, participate respectfully and non-abusively during a hearing.**
- If a party's advisor of choice refuses to comply with a recipient's rules of decorum (for example, by insisting on yelling at the other party), the recipient may require the party to use a different advisor.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30320
 300



Rules of Decorum



- Similarly, if **an advisor that the recipient provides** refuses to comply with a recipient's rules of decorum, the recipient may provide that party with a different advisor to conduct cross-examination on behalf of that party.
- This incentivizes a party to work with an advisor of choice in a manner that complies with a recipient's rules that govern the conduct of a hearing, and incentivizes recipients to appoint advisors who also will comply with such rules, so that hearings are conducted with **respect for all participants**.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30320
301



Training Not Required for Advisors



- The Department **declines to require training for assigned advisors** because the goal of this provision is not to make parties "feel adequately represented" but rather to ensure that the parties have the opportunity for their own view of the case to be probed in front of the decision-maker.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30342
302



May Not Impose Training Requirements



- Recipients **may not impose training or competency assessments on advisors of choice selected by parties**, but nothing in the final regulations prevents a recipient from training and assessing the competency of its own employees whom the recipient may desire to appoint as party advisors.

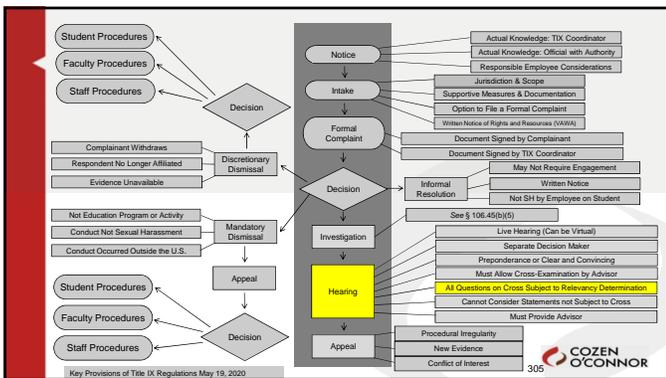
Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30342
303



RELEVANCE

304





Questions Must be Relevant

- Only **relevant** cross-examination and other questions may be asked of a party or witness.
- Before a complainant, respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or other question, the decision-maker(s) must **first determine whether the question is relevant ...**
- The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions **any decision to exclude** a question as not relevant.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6)

306



Relevance

- The final regulations do not define relevance, and the ordinary meaning of the word should be understood and applied.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30247, FN 1018

307

Relevance

- While the proposed rules do not speak to
 - admissibility of hearsay,
 - prior bad acts,
 - character evidence,
 - polygraph (lie detector) results,
 - standards for authentication of evidence,
 - or similar issues concerning evidence,
- the final regulations require recipients to **gather and evaluate relevant evidence**, with the understanding that . . .

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30247, footnotes omitted.

308

Relevance

- this includes **both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence**, and
- the final regulations deem questions and evidence about a complainant's prior sexual behavior to be **irrelevant** with two exceptions, and
- preclude use of any information protected by a **legally recognized privilege** (e.g., attorney-client).

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30247, footnotes omitted.

309

Limitations on Relevance

Notice

↓

Intake

↓

Formal Complaint

↓

Decision

↓

Investigation

↓

Hearing

↓

Appeal

- To that end, the Department has determined that recipients **must consider relevant evidence** with the following conditions:
 - a complainant's prior sexual behavior is **irrelevant** (unless questions or evidence about prior sexual behavior meet one of two exceptions, as noted above);
 - information protected by any legally recognized privilege **cannot be used**; no party's treatment records may be used without that party's voluntary, written consent; and
 - statements not subject to cross-examination in postsecondary institutions **cannot be relied on** by the decision-maker.
 - The Department notes that where evidence is duplicative of other evidence, a recipient may deem the evidence **not relevant**.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020, Preamble 85 F.R. 30337
310

Privileged Information

Notice

↓

Intake

↓

Formal Complaint

↓

Decision

↓

Investigation

↓

Hearing

↓

Appeal

- Not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, **information protected under a legally recognized privilege**, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020, § 106.45(b)(1)(x) 85 F.R.30361
311

Privileged Information: Per Se Irrelevant

Notice

↓

Intake

↓

Formal Complaint

↓

Decision

↓

Investigation

↓

Hearing

↓

Appeal

- In response to commenters' concerns that relevant questions might implicate information protected by attorney-client privilege, the final regulations add § 106.45(b)(1)(x) to bar the grievance process from requiring, allowing, relying on, **or otherwise using questions or evidence** that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30361
312

Relevance: Prior Sexual History

- Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or **prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless** such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered:
 - To prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or
 - To prove consent, if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(1)(iii) and 106.45(b)(6) 85 F.R. 30461
313
COZEN O'CONNOR

Prior Sexual History

- Only applies to complainants
 - The Department reiterates that the rape shield language in this provision does not pertain to the sexual predisposition or sexual behavior of respondents, so **evidence of a pattern of inappropriate behavior by an alleged harasser** must be judged for relevance as any other evidence must be.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(1)(iii) and 106.45(b)(6); Preamble 85 F.R. 30353
314
COZEN O'CONNOR

Prior Sexual History: Motive

- The Department disagrees that the rape shield language is too broad. Scenarios described by commenters, where a respondent might wish to prove the complainant had a motive to fabricate or conceal a sexual interaction, do not require admission or consideration of the complainant's sexual behavior.
- Respondents in that scenario could probe a complainant's motive by, for example, inquiring whether a complainant had a dating or romantic relationship with a person other than the respondent, without delving into a complainant's sexual behavior; sexual behavior evidence would remain irrelevant in such circumstances.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; §§ 106.45(b)(1)(iii) and 106.45(b)(6); Preamble at 30351
315
COZEN O'CONNOR

Prior Sexual History: Per Se Irrelevant

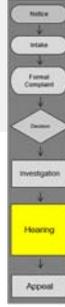


- The final regulations clarify the rape shield language to state that **questions and evidence subject to the rape shield protections are “not relevant,”** and therefore the rape shield protections apply wherever the issue is whether evidence is relevant or not.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30353
316



Prior or Subsequent Misconduct



- The regulations do not prohibit the use of prior or subsequent misconduct
 - “Evidence of a pattern of inappropriate behavior by an alleged harasser” permitted if relevant
- Schools will need to determine if such conduct is:
 - Relevant
 - May be used in determining responsibility
 - May be used in sanctioning
- If so, will need to set criteria for consideration

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Practical Considerations

- Prior or subsequent misconduct may be relevant to demonstrate:
 - Intent/knowledge/state of mind
 - Motive
 - Opportunity
 - Lack of mistake
 - Pattern
 - Identity
 - Information that is inextricably interwoven with the facts
- Consider prejudicial vs. probative value

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No Comprehensive Evidentiary Rules



- The Department desires to prescribe a grievance process adapted for an educational environment rather than a courtroom, and **declines to impose a comprehensive, detailed set of evidentiary rules** for resolution of contested allegations of sexual harassment under Title IX.
- Rather, the Department has carefully considered the procedures most needed to result in fair, accurate, and legitimate outcomes in Title IX grievance processes.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020, Preamble 85 F.R. 30337

319



Simplified Evidentiary Considerations



- Recipients are educational institutions that **should not be converted into de facto courtrooms.**
- The final regulations thus prescribe a process that **simplifies evidentiary complexities** while ensuring that determinations regarding responsibility result from **consideration of relevant, reliable evidence.**

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020, Preamble 85 F.R. 30348

320



Relevant and Reliable Evidence



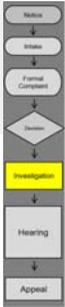
- The Department believes that the final regulations strike the appropriate balance for a postsecondary institution context between **ensuring that only relevant and reliable evidence is considered** while not over-legalizing the grievance process.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020, Preamble 85 F.R. 30348

321



Flexibility to Adopt Rules



- “Within these evidentiary parameters **recipients retain the flexibility to adopt rules that govern how the recipient’s investigator** and decision-maker evaluate evidence and conduct the grievance process (so long as such rules apply equally to both parties).
- **Relevance is the standard that these final regulations require**, and any evidentiary rules that a recipient chooses must respect this standard of relevance.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30248. 322



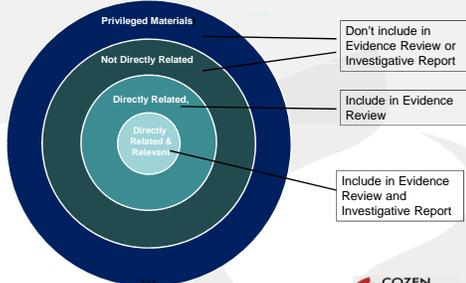
Evidentiary Rules Must Consider



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Evidentiary Levels for Inclusion



Directly Related

- Not defined in the regulations or the Preamble
 - The Department declines to define certain terms such as “evidence directly related to the allegations,” as these terms should be interpreted using their plain and ordinary meaning.
- “Directly related” aligns with the requirements in FERPA
 - The Department previously noted that the “directly related to” requirement in § 106.45(b)(vi) aligns with FERPA.
 - For example, the regulations implementing FERPA define education records as records that are “directly related to a student” pursuant to § 99.3.
- Left to the discretion of the school
 - [T]he school has some discretion to determine what evidence is directly related to the allegations in a formal complaint.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30304, 30428.
325

Directly Related

- [T]he universe of that exchanged evidence should include all evidence (inculpatory and exculpatory) that relates to the allegations under investigation, without the investigator having screened out evidence related to the allegations that the investigator does not believe is relevant.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 §106.45(b)(5)(vi); Preamble 85 F.R.30304
326

Directly Related vs. Relevant

- Evidence that is “directly related to the allegations” may encompass a broader universe of evidence than evidence that is “relevant.”
- The Department does not believe that determinations about whether certain questions or evidence are relevant or directly related to the allegations at issue requires legal training and that such factual determinations reasonably can be made by layperson recipient officials impartially applying logic and common sense.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020; Preamble at 30304, 30321.
327

Relevant Questions



- For example, a recipient may not adopt a rule excluding relevant evidence because such relevant evidence may be unduly prejudicial, concern prior bad acts, or constitute character evidence.
- A recipient's additional evidentiary rules may not, for example, exclude relevant cross-examination questions even if the recipient believes the questions assume facts not in evidence or are misleading.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30248; 30361

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Relevant Questions



- [T]he final regulations add § 106.45(b)(1)(x) to bar the grievance process from requiring, allowing, relying on, or otherwise using questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege.
- Additionally, questions that are duplicative or repetitive may fairly be deemed not relevant and thus excluded.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30361

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Relevance: Explaining Exclusion



- Before a complainant, respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or other question, the decision-maker(s) must first determine whether the question is relevant and explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.
- This provision does not require a decision-maker to give a lengthy or complicated explanation.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6)
Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30343

330



Relevance: Explaining Exclusion

- [I]t is sufficient, for example, for a decision-maker to explain that a question is irrelevant because the question calls for **prior sexual behavior** information without meeting one of the two exceptions, or because the question asks about a detail that is **not probative of any material fact** concerning the allegations. No lengthy or complicated exposition is required to satisfy this provision.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30343

331



Flexibility to Discuss Relevance

- The final regulations **do not preclude a recipient from adopting a rule** (applied equally to both parties) that does, or does not, **give parties or advisors the right to discuss the relevance determination with the decision-maker during the hearing.**
- If a recipient believes that arguments about a relevance determination during a hearing would unnecessarily protract the hearing or become uncomfortable for parties, the recipient **may adopt a rule that prevents parties and advisors from challenging the relevance determination (after receiving the decision-maker's explanation) during the hearing.**

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30343

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Appeal of Relevance Determination

- Parties have the equal right to appeal on three bases including procedural irregularity that affects the outcome, so if a party disagrees with a decision-maker's relevance determination, the party has the **opportunity to challenge the relevance determination on appeal.**

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30349, footnote 1340, citing § 106.45(b)(6)

333



Appeal of Relevance Determination

- Parties **may appeal erroneous relevance determinations**, if they affected the outcome, because § 106.45(b)(8) allows the parties equal appeal rights on grounds that include procedural irregularity that affected the outcome.
- However, asking the decision-maker to also explain the exclusion of questions during the hearing does not affect the parties' appeal rights and may reduce the number of instances in which a party feels the need to appeal on this basis because the decision-maker will have explained the decision during the hearing.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30343
334

Practical Considerations & Effective Practices

- Use of a hearing coordinator to support timely determinations by the decision-maker regarding relevance
- How to enable panels to make real-time relevancy determination on cross-examination questions
- Whether to permit discussion of relevancy during the live hearing, or whether to defer the opportunity to challenge to the appeal
- Upon appeal, permitting the decision-maker to augment their reasoning for disallowing a question

335

Walking through an Example

- Can you adopt a rule excluding subsequent use of statements made during informal resolution?

336

Statements Made During Informal Resolution



- The regulations permit a recipient to facilitate an informal resolution, provided that the recipient provides the parties written notice disclosing:
 - The allegations,
 - The requirements of the informal resolution process,
 - The circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming the formal complaint, provided that at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process, and
 - Any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(9) 337



Statements Made During Informal Resolution



- The Department appreciates commenters' concerns that comprehensive rules of evidence adopted in civil and criminal courts throughout the U.S. legal system apply detailed, complex rules to certain types of evidence resulting in **exclusion of evidence that is otherwise relevant to further certain public policy values** (e.g., exclusion of statements made during settlement negotiations, exclusion of hearsay subject to specifically-defined exceptions, exclusion of character or prior bad act evidence subject to certain exceptions, exclusion of relevant evidence when its probative value is substantially outweighed by risk of prejudice, and other admissibility rules).

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30337 338



Statements Made During Informal Resolution



- With respect to **informal resolution facilitators potentially serving as witnesses** in subsequent formal grievance processes, we leave this possibility open to recipients.
- If recipients were to accept such witnesses, then the **Department would expect this possibility to be clearly disclosed to the parties** as part of the § 106.45(b)(9)(i) requirement in the final regulations to provide a written notice disclosing any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30400-30401 339



Statements Made During Informal Resolution



- Relevance is the standard that these final regulations require, and any evidentiary rules that a recipient chooses must respect this standard of relevance.
- For example, a recipient may not adopt a rule excluding relevant evidence because such relevant evidence may be unduly prejudicial, concern prior bad acts, or constitute character evidence.

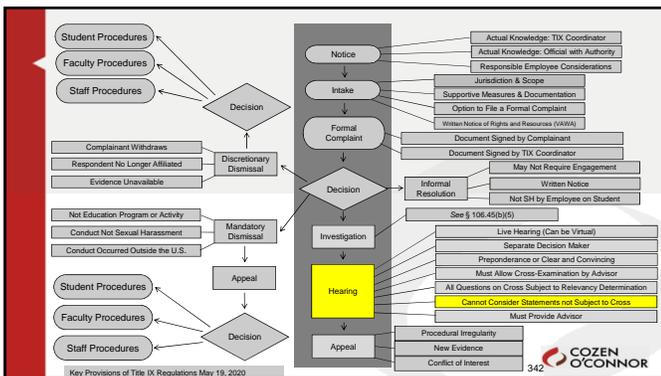
Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30247-30248
340



EXCLUSION OF STATEMENTS NOT SUBJECT TO CROSS-EXAMINATION

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Key Provisions of Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020



Exclusion of Statement

- If a party or witness does not submit to cross-examination at the live hearing, the decision-maker(s) **must not rely on any statement of that party or witness** in reaching a determination regarding responsibility; provided, however, that the decision-maker(s) cannot draw an inference about the determination regarding responsibility based solely on a party's or witness's absence from the live hearing or refusal to answer cross-examination or other questions.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; § 106.45(b)(6) 85 F.R. 30577
343

Exclusion of Statement

- [I]n the postsecondary context, **only statements that have been tested for credibility** will be considered by the decision-maker in reaching a determination regarding responsibility.
- Because party and witness statements so often raise **credibility** questions in the context of sexual harassment allegations, the **decision-maker must consider only those statements that have benefitted from the truth-seeking function of cross-examination.**

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R 30345; 30348
344

Exclusion of Statement

- The prohibition on reliance on “statements” applies not only to statements made during the hearing, but also to **any statement of the party or witness** who does not submit to cross-examination.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R 30349
345

Exclusion of Statement

- Absent importing comprehensive rules of evidence, the alternative is to apply a **bright-line rule** that instructs a decision-maker to either consider, or not consider, statements made by a person who does not submit to cross-examination.
- The Department believes that in the context of sexual harassment allegations under Title IX, **a rule of non-reliance on untested statements is more likely to lead to reliable outcomes** than a rule of reliance on untested statements.
- If statements untested by cross-examination may still be considered and relied on, the benefits of cross-examination as a truth-seeking device will largely be lost in the Title IX grievance process.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30347
346

Exclusion of Statement

- Reliance on party and witness statements that have not been tested for credibility via cross-examination undermines **party and public confidence** in the fairness and accuracy of the determinations reached by postsecondary institutions.
- This provision **need not result in failure to consider relevant evidence** because parties and witnesses retain the opportunity to have their own statements considered, by submitting to cross-examination.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30347
347

Exclusion of Statement

- Probing the **credibility and reliability** of *statements* asserted by witnesses contained in such evidence requires the parties to have the opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses making the statements.
- Where a Title IX sexual harassment allegation **does not turn on the credibility of the parties or witnesses**, this provision allows the other evidence to be considered even though a party's statements are not relied on due to the party's or witness's non-appearance or refusal to **submit to cross-examination**.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30349, 30345
348

Submit to Cross-Examination

- Commenters suggested making this provision more precise by replacing “does not submit to cross-examination” with “does not appear for cross-examination.”
- Commenters asserted that parties should have the right to “waive a question” without the party’s entire statement being disregarded.
- The Department appreciates the opportunity to clarify here that to “**submit to cross-examination**” means answering those cross-examination questions that are relevant.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30345; 30349
349

Submit to Cross-Examination

- This provision requires a party or witness to “submit to cross-examination” to avoid exclusion of their statements; the same exclusion of statements **does not apply to a party or witness’s refusal to answer questions posed by the decision-maker.**
- If a party or witness **refuses to respond to a decision-maker’s questions**, the decision-maker is not precluded from relying on that party or witness’s statements.

Title IX Regulations, May 19, 2020; Preamble 85 F.R. 30349
350

SANCTIONING

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Sanctioning



- An equitable response for a respondent means a grievance process that complies with § 106.45 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures, as defined in § 106.30.
- The grievance process must describe the range of possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 § 106.44 (a); § 106.45(b)(1)(vii) 85 F.R. 30575, 30395

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Discretion in Sanctioning



- The Department does not wish to dictate to recipients the sanctions that should be imposed when a respondent is found responsible for sexual harassment as each formal complaint of sexual harassment presents unique facts and circumstances.
- As previously stated, the Department believes that teachers and local school leaders with unique knowledge of the school climate and student body, are best positioned to make disciplinary decisions.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 Preamble 85 F.R. 30377, 30394

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Educational Purpose



- Because the final regulations do not require particular disciplinary sanctions, the final regulations do not preclude a recipient from imposing student discipline as part of an “educational purpose” that may differ from the purpose for which a recipient imposes employee discipline.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 Preamble 85 F.R. 30377, 30394

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Appeal of Sanction

- The Department notes that under the final regulations, whether the parties can appeal based solely on the severity of sanctions is left to the recipient's discretion, though if the recipient allows appeals on that basis, both parties must have equal opportunity to appeal on that basis.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 355 Preamble 85 F.R. 30397

EVALUATING CREDIBILITY

356

Evaluating Credibility

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Credibility Factors

- Assessing credibility factors:
 - Demeanor
 - Interest
 - Detail
 - Corroboration
 - Common sense
- Testing inherent plausibility in light of the known information, relationships, and circumstances of the disclosure

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Demeanor

- Demeanor may be informative, not determinative
- Assessing demeanor requires individual assessment as to how demeanor supports or detracts from overall reliability of information
- Fact-finders should not place undue reliance on demeanor as an indicator of candor or evasion.
- Demeanor is one factor to observe in the context of the totality of the information

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Demeanor

- Complainant/respondent may be affected by emotional component of sexual assault allegations
- Range of behaviors and emotional reactions vary
- Elicit and consider information from witnesses as to demeanor after the reported incident, during the disclosure, and in response to the report
- Note changes in demeanor and explanations for significant changes
- Consider demeanor during proceedings

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Interest

- If Respondent and Complainant know each other:
 - Understand the context and history of any prior relationships
 - Understand significant events or markers in relationship
- Explore effects of incident:
 - Emotional: fear, intimidation, worry, anxiety
 - Actual: financial, time, participation in the process
- Is there any particular animus/motive/ill will for/or against any party or witness?

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Interest

- How will the party/witness be impacted by their participation in the process?
 - Was information provided “against” interests?
- How will the party/witness be impacted by any particular outcome?
 - Will information shared impact current or future relationships?

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Detail

- Explore all details of event – before, during, and after
- Surrounding details – seemingly insignificant facts that may have greater import
- Sensory details – using the five senses to describe the physical reality of the crime
- Behavioral changes and responses
- Emotional cues and indicators
- Listen for “ring of truth” language on the periphery
- Evaluate panoramic view of events from all parties/witnesses

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Corroboration

- Freeze frame and explore critical junctures
- Cross-reference Complainant and Respondent accounts with all other evidence and witnesses' statements
- Look to attendant details and behavior pre- and post-incident by both parties
- Focus on resolution of conflicts through believable evidence and common sense
- Outline case by issue and cross reference with all available evidence including timelines



Corroboration

- Consider other attendant details such as:
 - Size, age, power, authority and/or social status differential for Complainant and Respondent
 - Location of incident
 - Isolation of Claimant
 - Potential witnesses or reasons for lack of witnesses
 - Any change in either party's demeanor, personality, or routine after the incident
 - E.g., roommate noticed that Complainant began wearing baggy clothes, stopped attending class regularly, ceased eating
 - E.g., friends noticed Respondent became withdrawn and went home every weekend



Evaluating Changes in Account

- Explore all circumstances of each account
- Understand the who, what, and where of the interview
- Ask the "why" (without asking why); questions to explore:
 - State of mind
 - Life circumstances at the time
 - Perception of interviewer/process
 - Changes in interest or motivation
- Inquire directly about inconsistencies
- Attempt to reconcile where possible



Disclosure

- A process where an individual reveals abuse or assault
- On-going, not a one time event
- Stages of Disclosure:
 - Denial
 - Tentative
 - Active
 - Recantation
 - Reaffirmation
- Triggers for Disclosure
 - Accidental – person’s secret is found out
 - Purposeful – person makes decision to tell



Synthesis

- Testing inherent plausibility of the conflicting accounts in light of the known information
- How does it all fit together?
- Does it make sense in the context of:
 - These individuals?
 - The setting?
 - The community?
 - The activity?
 - The relationships?



Integrated Analysis

Dynamics of Sexual Assault	Informed understanding of dynamics of sexual and gender-based harassment and interpersonal violence.
Demeanor	Did the witness speak in a convincing manner? Was he/she uncertain, confused, self-contradictory or evasive? How did he/she look, act and speak while testifying / reporting?
Interest / Motive / Bias	Did the witness have any interest in the outcome of the case, bias, prejudices, or other motive that might affect his/her testimony?
Detail	Use direct quotes from testimony or statements. How well could the witness remember and describe the things about which he/she testified? Was the ability of the witness to see, hear, know, remember, or describe those things affected by youth or old age or by any physical, mental or intellectual deficiency?
Corroboration	How well did the testimony of the witness square with the other evidence in the case, including the testimony of other witnesses? Was it contradicted or supported by the other testimony and evidence?
Common Sense	Does it all add up? (Gut check) Is there something missing?



Questions to Consider: Credibility Generally

- As judges of the facts, you are sole judges of the credibility of the witnesses and their testimony
- This means you must judge the truthfulness and accuracy of each witness's testimony and decide whether to believe all, or part, or none of that testimony
- The following are some factors that you may and should consider when judging credibility and deciding whether to believe or not to believe testimony

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Questions to Consider: Detail

- Was the witness able to see, hear, or know the things about which they testified?
- How well could the witness remember and describe the things about which they testified?
- Was the ability of the witness to see, hear, know, remember, or describe those things affected by youth or old age or by any physical, mental, or intellectual deficiency?
- Were there inconsistencies or discrepancies in the witness's testimony?

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Questions to Consider: Interest

- Did the witness have any interest in the outcome of the case, bias, prejudice, or other motive that might affect their testimony?
- Did the witness stand to receive any benefit from a particular outcome?

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Questions to Consider: Demeanor

- Did the witness testify in a convincing manner?
- How did the witness look, act, and speak while testifying?
- How did the witness's nonverbal communications (posture, gestures, facial expressions, eye contact) match their verbal communications (voice, expression)?
- Was the testimony uncertain, confused, self-contradictory, or evasive?

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Questions to Consider: Corroboration

- How well did the testimony of the witness square with the other evidence in the case, including the testimony of other witnesses?
- Was it contradicted or supported by the other testimony and evidence?

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Questions to Consider: Common Sense

- Does it make sense?

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Credibility Considerations from OCR

1997 Sexual Harassment Guidance

If there is a dispute about whether harassment occurred or whether it was welcome -- in a case in which it is appropriate to consider whether the conduct could be welcome -- determinations should be made based on the **totality of the circumstances**. The following types of information may be helpful in resolving the dispute:

- **Statements by any witnesses** to the alleged incident.

...
(continued on next slide)

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Credibility Considerations from OCR

(1997 Sexual Harassment Guidance continued)

- **Evidence about the relative credibility** of the allegedly harassed student and the alleged harasser. For example, the level of **detail and consistency** of each person's account **should be compared** in an attempt to determine who is telling the truth. Another way to assess credibility is to see if **corroborative evidence is lacking where it should logically exist**. However, the absence of witnesses may indicate only the unwillingness of others to step forward, perhaps due to fear of the harasser or a desire not to get involved.

...

377



Credibility Considerations from OCR

(1997 Sexual Harassment Guidance continued)

- **Evidence that the alleged harasser has been found to have harassed others** may support the credibility of the student claiming the harassment; conversely, the student's claim will be weakened if he or she has been found to have made **false allegations against other individuals**.

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Credibility Considerations from OCR

(1997 Sexual Harassment Guidance continued)

- Evidence of the allegedly harassed student's **reaction or behavior after the alleged harassment**.
 - For example, were there **witnesses who saw the student immediately after the alleged incident** who say that the student appeared to be upset?
 - However, it is important to note that **some students may respond to harassment in ways that do not manifest themselves right away**, but may surface several days or weeks after the harassment.
 - For example, a student may initially show no signs of having been harassed, but several weeks after the harassment, there may be significant changes in the student's behavior, including **difficulty concentrating on academic work, symptoms of depression, and a desire to avoid certain individuals and places at school**.

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Credibility Considerations from OCR

(1997 Sexual Harassment Guidance continued)

- Evidence about whether the student claiming harassment filed a complaint or **took other action to protest the conduct** soon after the alleged incident occurred. However, failure to immediately complain may merely reflect a fear of retaliation or a fear that the Claimant may not be believed rather than that the alleged harassment did not occur.

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Credibility Considerations from OCR

(1997 Sexual Harassment Guidance continued)

- Other **contemporaneous** evidence. For example, did the student claiming harassment write about the conduct, and his or her reaction to it, soon after it occurred (e.g., in a diary or letter)? Did the student tell others (friends, parents) about the conduct (and his or her reaction to it) soon after it occurred?

See [1997 Sexual Harassment Guidance](#)

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APPEALS

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Appeals



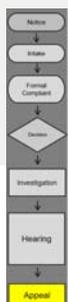
- A recipient must offer both parties an appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, and from a recipient's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:
 - Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter
 - New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
 - The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individuals complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.
- A recipient may offer an appeal equally to both parties on additional bases.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 §106.45 (b)(8)

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Appeals



- As to all appeals, the recipient must:
 - Notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties;
 - Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker(s) that reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator;
 - Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal complies with the standards set forth in paragraph (b)(1)(iii) of this section [regarding no conflict of interest or bias, and properly trained];
 - Give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging the outcome;
 - Issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and
 - Provide written decision simultaneously.

Title IX Regulations May 19, 2020 §106.45 (b)(8)

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Use of Slides

- This PowerPoint presentation is not intended to be used as a stand-alone teaching tool.
- These materials are meant to provide a framework for informed discussion, not to provide legal advice regarding specific institutions or contexts.
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