

JacksonLewis

Key Title IX Sexual Harassment Information for Campus Leadership

Providing Steady Direction in an Uncertain Time

Academic Year 2021-22



Agenda

1. Understanding the Context
2. Ensuring Effective Compliance
3. Avoiding Dangerous Mistakes

TITLE IX

No person in the United States shall,
on the basis of sex, be excluded from
participation in, be denied the benefits of,
or be **subjected to discrimination** under
any education program or activity receiving
Federal financial assistance.

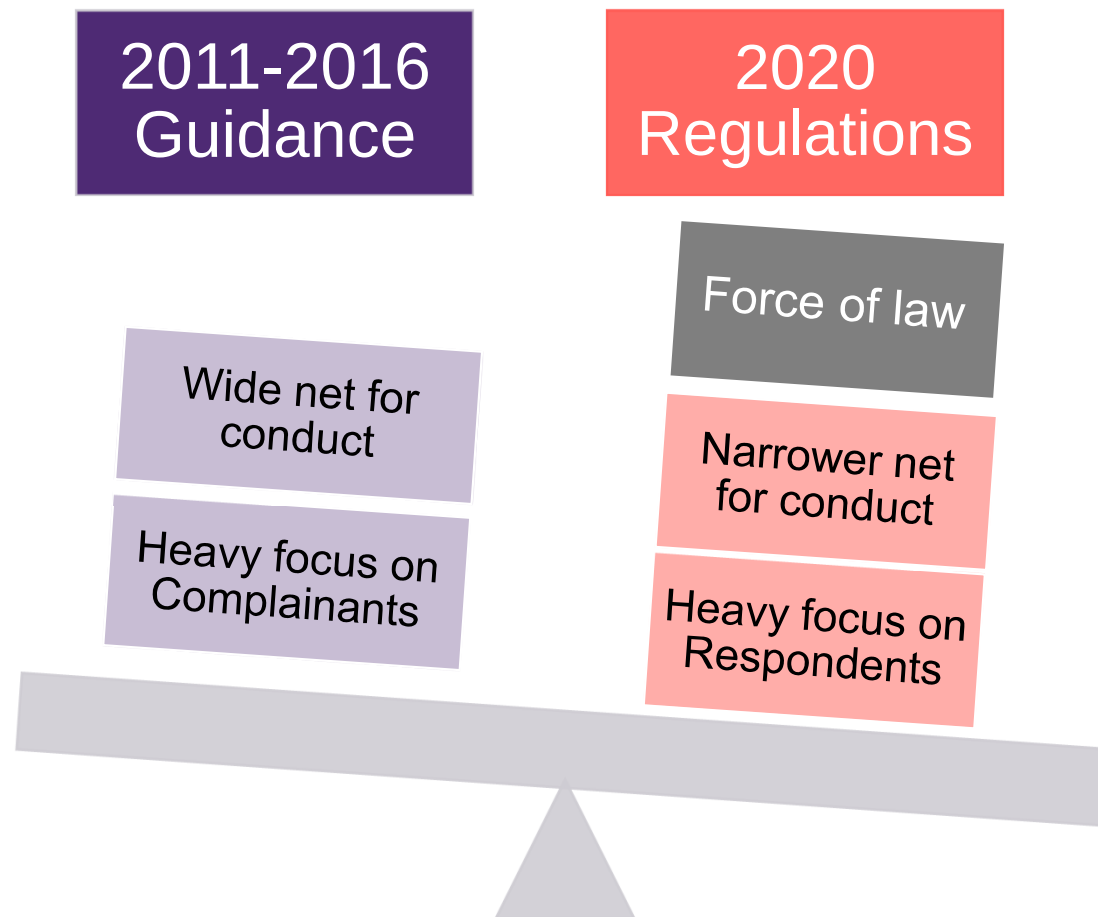


Title IX's purpose is to remove barriers.

- Prohibitions on participation based on sex
- Inequitable support for men's and women's athletics
- Pregnancy Discrimination
- Sexual Harassment
 - Sexual Assault
 - Stalking
 - Domestic/Dating Violence
 - Verbal/expressive



Shifting Emphasis from the Top



The 2020 Regulations Created Two Categories

Title IX Sexual Harassment (TIXSH)

Stalking in EPA

Dating/domestic violence in EPA

Sexual assault in EPA

Quid pro quo harassment in EPA

“Level 4” expressive harassment in EPA

Other Sexual Harassment (OSH)

Stalking not in EPA

Dating/domestic violence not in EPA

Sexual assault not in EPA

Quid pro quo harassment not in EPA

“Level 4” expressive harassment in EPA

Lesser expressive harassment in EPA

Anything outside of the country

EPA = Education Program or Activity

Two Categories



Two Sets of Procedures?

Title IX

Sexual Harassment

Other

Sexual Harassment

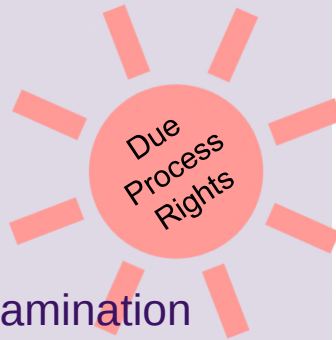
Title IX Formal Grievance Process

Required documents:

- Complaint
- Notice
- Investigative Report
- Determination
- Appeal

Official hearing with cross examination

Advisors/Lawyers

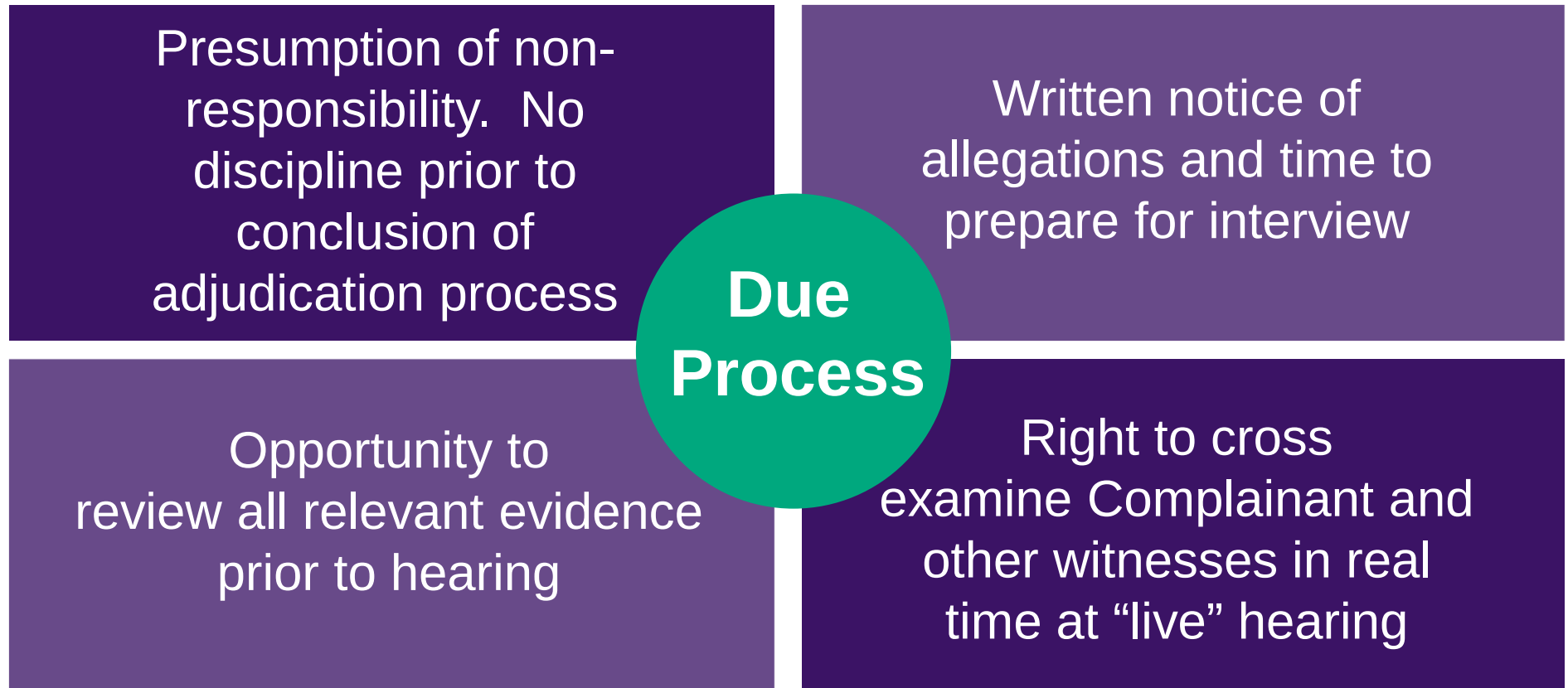


No Title IX Requirements

BUT:

- Campus SaVE Act
- Title VII
- State laws
- School Policies

Protections for Respondents in Title IX Cases



Late-Breaking DOE Guidance for the 2021-22 School Year

Q & A: 37 pages

Appendix: 18
pages of sample
policy provisions

Q & A on the Title IX Regulations on Sexual Harassment

Released: July 20, 2021

Comprehensive
review of Title IX
regulations ongoing

New regulations
expected
May 2022

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/202107-qa-titleix.pdf>

Guided by:

- *Executive Order on Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free From Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Including Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity*
- *Executive Order on Preventing and Combatting Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation*

Hey, if you want to, you can do this...

The Department of Education's Q & A encourages schools to exercise discretion in the following areas*:

Undertake prevention methods that best serve the needs and values of your educational community
(Q & A #3)

Develop and enforce codes of conduct as an additional tool for ensuring safe and supportive educational environments
(Q & A #7)

May provide supportive measures to Complainants whose allegations do not fall within Title IX
(Q & A #7, 9)

Implement rules of decorum for conducting the live hearing (rules must apply equally to all parties)
(Q & A #43, 44, 49)

May require additional individuals to report knowledge of sexual harassment to the TIX Coordinator
(Q & A #19)

* *The discretionary actions must not conflict with the 2020 Title IX regulations*

Ensuring Effective Compliance

What does it take to resolve cases successfully?

1 Title IX Coordinator who is unbiased and has excellent judgment

- Coordinates with HR and student conduct
- Treats both Complainants and Respondents with fairness and respect
- Responds in a matter that is not deliberately indifferent and not unreasonable under the circumstances

- Dept of Education regs and other applicable laws
- Risk mitigation principles
- Institutional values

2 Clear procedures for handling all sexual harassment cases (Title IX and OSH)

3

Carefully selected Title IX team with adequate training and resources to carry out the formal grievance process mandated by the 2020 rules

- **Serve impartially**, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, sexual stereotyping, and bias
- **Investigation:** Conduct witness interviews, collect evidence of all types, determine which evidence is “directly related” to the allegations, and write an investigative report
- **Adjudication:** Hold hearings, make on-the-spot judgments about which questions will be allowed, weigh evidence against the evidentiary standard, write a determination



Legal Assistance May Be Especially Helpful When...

The Respondent is an employee and the Complainant is a student

The case is populated by litigious parties and/or contentious lawyers

A matter could become high profile

Three Key Basics

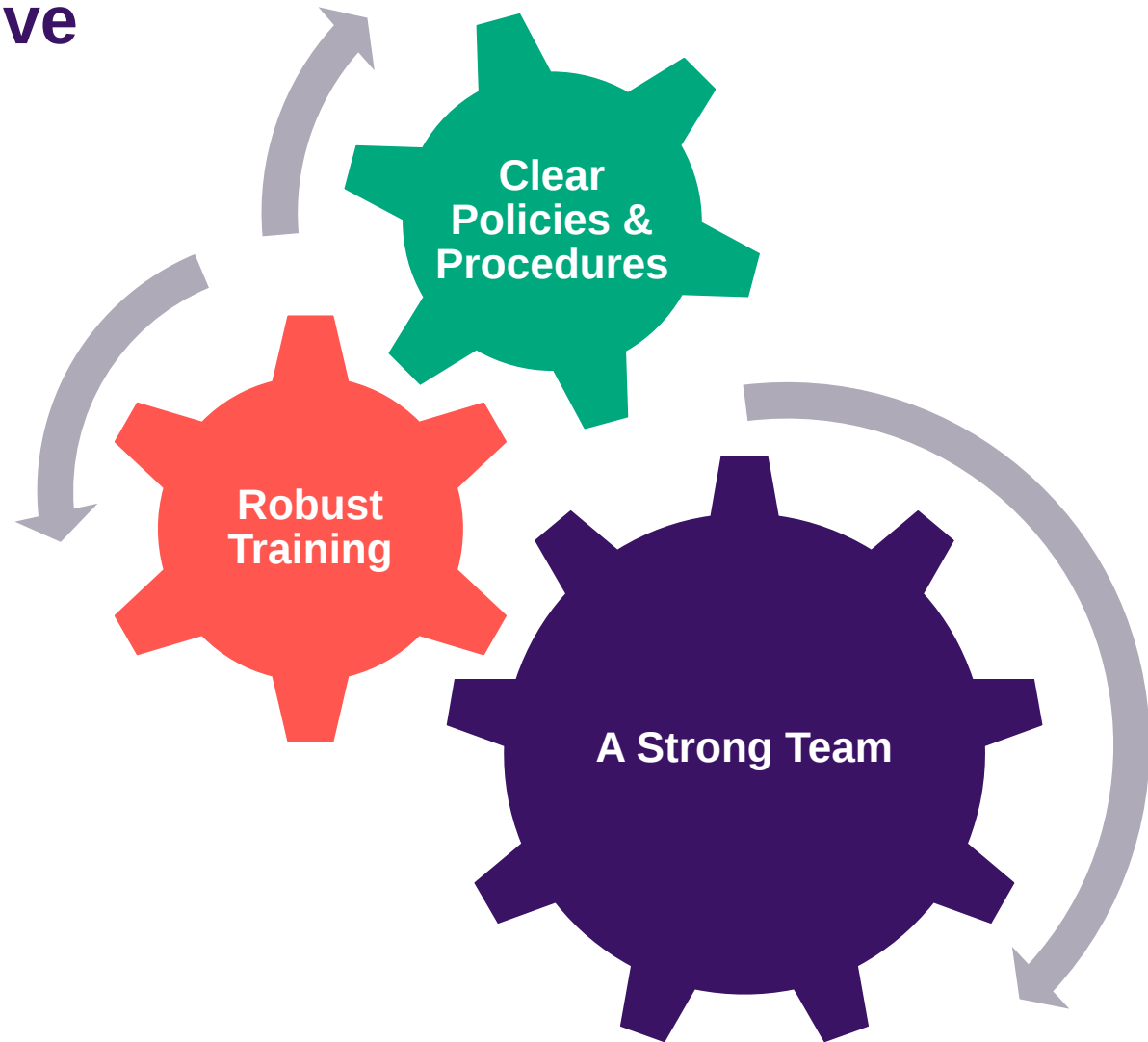
Reporting

Supportive Measures

Prevention/Education

Avoiding Dangerous Mistakes

Ensuring Effective Compliance



An Ounce of Prevention for Common Problems

1. Failure to put systems in place to make sure staff followed school policies and procedures, including data maintenance;
2. Failure to understand the scope of the school's program and activities;
3. Failure of high-level officials to register that they must report Title IX matters to the Title IX office and not attempt to handle them within their departments or schools.

The New York Times

Calls Grow for University President to Resign Over [Sexual Assault] Case

By Stephanie Saul

The board of reg-
ignored r-
can

ed an official state invest-
be universi-

LEADERSHIP

President Resigns Amid Criticism of Past Handling of Sexual Misconduct

By Jack Stripling and Andy Thomason

Public Interest

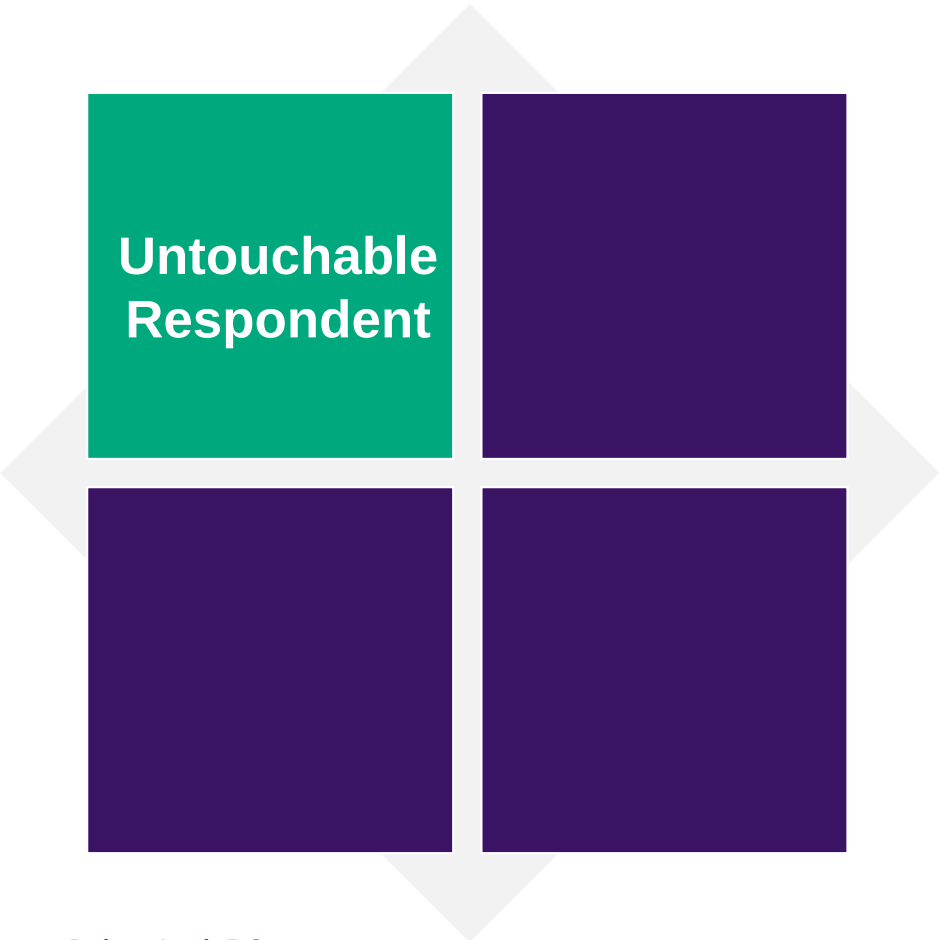
New President pledges to restore trust in
preventing campus sexual assault

New MSU president pledges to restore trust in se...



quiry. ent or, worse, that it might be involved
lay morning, also announced its
e Legislature as well

The Mistake



**Untouchable
Respondent**

The Fix

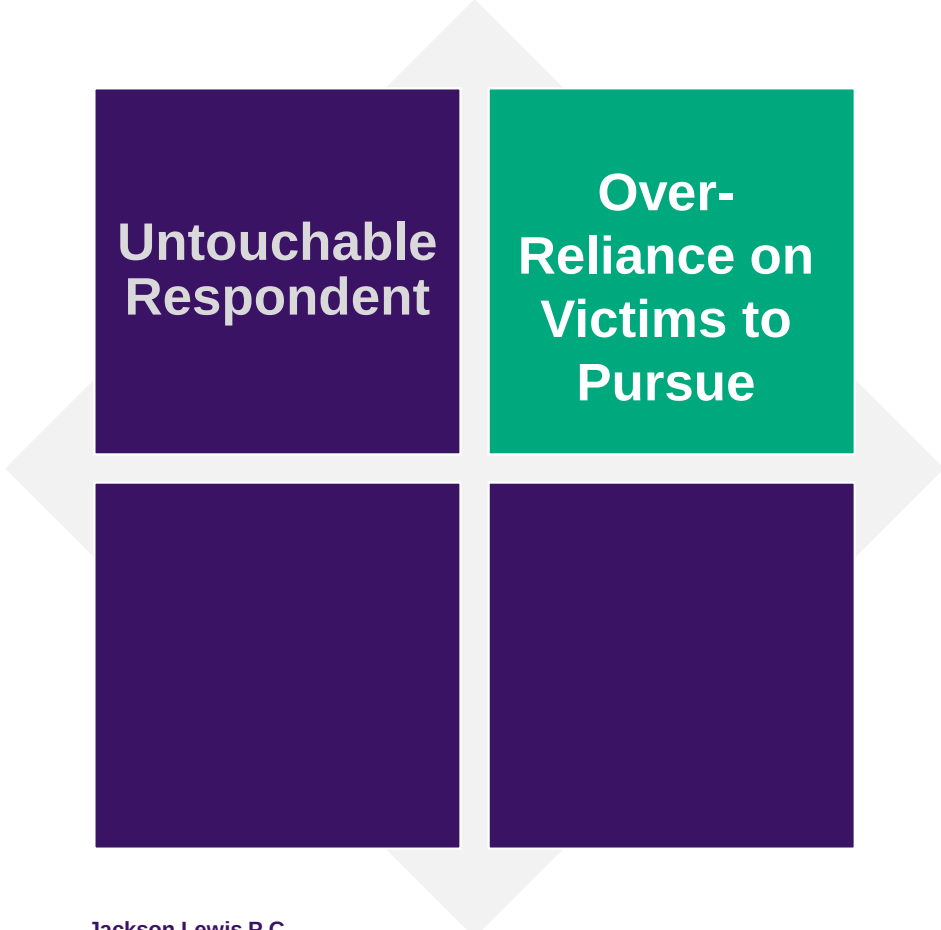
Long term

Build a culture of respect for your values and an ethic that no one is above the rules.

Immediate

Communicate to your Title IX Coordinator (and all staff) that you will support the fair and impartial enforcement of sexual misconduct rules across the board.

The Mistake



**Untouchable
Respondent**

**Over-
Reliance on
Victims to
Pursue**

The Fix

Develop clear standards for when Coordinators should pursue cases in the absence of Complainant action, paying close attention to patterns of misconduct and situations involving abuse of authority.

The Mistake

Untouchable
Respondent

Over-
Reliance on
Victims to
Pursue

Employee
Awareness
without
Action

The Fix

Continue to mandate that all employees (except confidential resources) report knowledge of sexual harassment **directly** to the Title IX Coordinator.

The Mistake



The Fix

Centralize information.

Develop procedures to allow investigators and adjudicators to review evidence of other alleged incidents of sexual misconduct.

Provide guidance as to how to appropriately weigh such evidence.

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Thank **you.**

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