

YOUNG, MINNEY & CORR, LLP EXPERT CHARTER SCHOOL LEGAL SERVICES

Legally Required Title IX Training

Presented by:

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FIRM OVERVIEW

Young, Minney & Corr, LLP (YM&C) has been the leader in charter school law for over two decades, representing well over half of California's charter schools with offices in Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Walnut Creek. The firm principals have been working with charter schools since the inception of California's Charter Schools Act in 1992.

We offer superior legal expertise, as well as the technical know-how, to allow you to effectively resolve your problems and meet all of your charter school needs.

The YM&C team of experts can assist charter schools in every aspect of charter school creation, expansion, and operation including:

- Labor & Employment
- Student Rights & Discipline
- Special Education
- Board Governance
- Facilities
- Granting Agency Relations
- Charter Development & Renewal

- Charter Defense
- Insurance Defense
- Charter Litigation
- Independent Study
- Corporate Law
- Public Law

We emphasize a preventative approach to the law, helping our clients anticipate legal difficulties, minimize exposure to legal claims and fees, and prevent operational challenges.

With our main office located in Sacramento, YM&C is also uniquely positioned to influence the public policy debate in California – helping shape the future of charter schools.

For more information on our team of expert attorneys and services, please visit **www.mycharterlaw.com** or call us at **916-646-1400**.

Sacramento Office: 655 University Avenue, Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95825

Los Angeles Office: 5200 Lankershim Avenue, Suite 370, North Hollywood, CA 91601

San Diego Office: 591 Camino De La Reina, Suite 910, San Diego, CA 92106

Walnut Creek Office: 500 Ygnacio Valley Road, Suite 190, Walnut Creek, CA 94596



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Jerry W. Simmons Partner

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Jerry Simmons has represented charter schools in every aspect of their operations for more than fifteen years. Between his work at the firm and at the Charter Schools Development Center, Jerry has personally assisted in the development of hundreds of California's charter schools through drafting charter petitions, memorandums of understanding for business and special education services, facilities use agreements, private leases, property purchases, and development of school policies covering every facet of charter school operations. Jerry has also assisted charter schools with employment and labor law matters, board governance and training, zoning and building code compliance, defense of audit findings in both annual and extraordinary audits, compliance with the Brown Act, Political Reform Act Public Records Act, and Family Educational Records Protection Act.

Jerry has presented workshops for the Charter Schools Development Center and frequently presents at California Charter Schools Association conferences. He also presents at Governance Academies jointly sponsored by the firm and the California Charter Schools Association.

His understanding of governance and public agency laws has been enriched by his own prior service as both a both member and President of the Sierra Community College District Board of Trustees. He also previously served as a member of the City of San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission, Chair of the City of San Jose's Youth Commission, Chair of the Santa Clara County Youth Commission and Student Body President at San Jose State University.



PRACTICE AREAS

Board Governance Facilities Charter Development Charter Defense Independent Study Public Law

EDUCATION

- Pepperdine School of Law (J.D.)
- Harvard University (M.A)
- San Jose State University (B.A.)

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Casey L. Fee Senior Counsel

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Casey Hazelhofer's primary practice areas include litigation, facilities, corporate compliance, and student matters. Prior to joining Young, Minney & Corr, LLP, she practiced employment law and litigation for over three years, which involved defense of employment claims including discrimination, harassment and retaliation. She has also defended public schools in prosecuting employee discipline and discharge matters, workers compensation claims, and requests for reasonable accommodation.

Casey is a California native and was raised in a family of educators and administrators. Her mother was an adaptive physical education teacher for over 30 years, her step-father was a Program Specialist for 17 years, and her father was the Principal of the first ever charter school in her hometown of Livermore.



PRACTICE AREAS

Student Rights & Discipline Facilities Charter Litigation

EDUCATION

- University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law (J.D.)
- Arizona State University (B.A.)

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Legally Required Training for Title IX Coordinators, Investigators, and Decision-Makers

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THE CHARTER LAW FIRM

Disclaimer



- · This webinar cannot substitute for personalized legal advice.
- · Our advice is based upon the latest available guidance which is subject to change in this ever-evolving landscape.
- During the webinar and after we are happy to answer questions as time permits. Please use the chat box.
- Sign up for our YMC Legal Alerts on our website to receive updated information on the topics discussed today: www.mycharterlaw.com.

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YM&C Firm Overview



YOUNG, MINNEY & CORR, LLP

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- · Partners have over 125 years of collective experience working with charter schools
- · 34 attorneys working with charter schools throughout the state in all areas of charter school law (e.g., employment/labor, special education, nonprofits, litigation, audits, facilities, etc.)
- Represent more than half of California's charter schools •
- Conduct workshops for charter schools in all areas of ٠ legal compliance

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Overview of Training



- Title IX
 - Scope of Title IX
 - Responsibilities of the Title IX Coordinator
 - Responses and Grievance Procedures
 - Policy and Notice Requirements
 - Training and Recordkeeping
 - Most Common Pitfalls for Title IX Coordinators

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Scope of Title IX



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- What is 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 educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." (20 USC § 1681; 34 CFR Part 106)
- Sex-based discrimination includes sexual harassment and sexual assault.



Scope of Title IX



- · Applies only to sex-based discrimination occurring in the U.S.
- · Applies to recipients of Federal financial assistance operating education programs or activities
- · Applies to students and employees and may also apply to third-party complaints

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Scope of Title IX



- "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 also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by a postsecondary institution (34 CFR Part 106.44(a))
 - Includes all the academic, educational, extra-curricular, athletic, and other programs of the school, whether they take place in the facilities of the school, on a school bus, at a class or training program sponsored by the school at another location, or elsewhere (2001 DOE Guidance cited by Title IX Final Rule)
 - Not necessarily dictated by the geographic location of the incident; requires a fact-specific inquiry (Title IX Final Rule)

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Scope of Title IX



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- "Education program or activity" (cont.)
 - May be affected by whether sexual harassment was perpetrated by a teacher against a student
 - May include school networks, platforms, and computer hardware or software owned or operated by the school, or used in school operations
 - Student's use of a personal device to sexually harass another student online during class time may constitute a circumstance over which the school exercises substantial control (Title IX Final Rule)

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Scope of Title IX	stewardship, her integrity noun 1. adherer principles; sour
 "Sexual Harassment" - Conduct on the satisfies one or more of the following: 	e basis of sex that
 An employee of the recipient conditioning th aid, benefit, or service of the recipient on an participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; 	n individual's
 Unwelcome conduct determined by a reaso so severe, pervasive, and objectively offens denies a person equal access to the recipie program or activity; or 	sive that it effectively
 "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 10 "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12 "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(2291(a)(10), 12291(a)(8), or

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Title IX Coordinator

- · The School must designate and authorize at least one employee to serve as the "Title IX Coordinator." The Title IX Coordinator:
 - Coordinates the School's efforts to comply with the requirements of Title IX and the regulations
 - Receives reports of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and formal sexual harassment complaints, and inquiries about the application of Title IX

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Title IX Coordinator



- May investigate complaints or reports but cannot serve as a decision-maker for formal complaints of sexual harassment
- Must not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent
- Must serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias

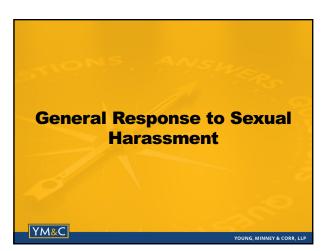
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Title IX Coordinator



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- · The Title IX Coordinator also coordinates the effective implementation of remedies and supportive measures
 - Promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures
 - Consider the complainant's wishes regarding supportive measures
 - Inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint
 - Explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint



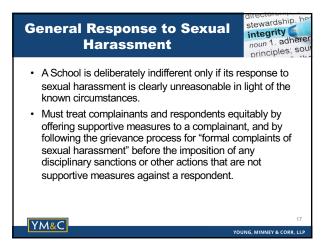


General Response to Sexual Harassment



- · If the School has actual knowledge of sexual harassment in an education program or activity of the School against a person in the U.S., the School must respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.
 - Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment.
 - Reports may be made at any time by using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report.

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· "Actual knowledge"

- Means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to the School's Title IX Coordinator or any School official who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the School, or to any employee of an elementary and secondary school (other than the respondent).

- "Complainant"
 - Means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- "Respondent"
- Means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual arassment

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Supportive Measures



"Supportive Measures"

- Non-disciplinary, non-punitive, free individualized services offered to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint is filed.
- Designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party.

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- 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. - Must maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the

School's ability to provide the supportive measures.

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Grievance Procedures

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- The School 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 Title IX and the regulations; and
 - A grievance process for formal complaints of sexual harassment that complies with 34 CFR § 106.45.









- Means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the School investigate the allegation of sexual harassment.

- At the time of filing, the complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity.

 Must contain the complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicate that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint and may be submitted electronically. YM&C

Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints



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- Basic requirements for grievance process for formal complaints of sexual harassment:
- Treat complainants and respondents equitably by providing remedies to a complainant where sexual harassment found, and by following the formal complaint grievance process before imposing any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent.
- Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination of responsibility is made at the conclusion of the process.
- Remedies must be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the School's education program or activity. Remedies may include "supportive measures" and discipline.

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- Basic requirements for grievance process for formal complaints of sexual harassment (cont.):
 - Require an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence - and provide that credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.
 - Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, and any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process must receive required training and not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents. Must serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue.

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Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints



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- · Basic requirements for grievance process for formal complaints of sexual harassment (cont.):
 - Include reasonably prompt time frames for conclusion of the grievance process, appeal process and any informal resolution processes.
 - Allow for temporary delay of the grievance process or the limited extension of time frames for good cause with written notice to the parties. Good cause may be based on the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodation.

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Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints

- · Basic requirements for grievance process for formal complaints of sexual harassment (cont.)
 - Include a list or describe the range of possible disciplinary sanctions, remedies, and supportive measures.
 - State whether the standard of evidence will be the preponderance of the evidence standard or the clear and convincing evidence standard and apply the same standard to all formal complaints of sexual harassment.

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- · Basic requirements for grievance process for formal complaints of sexual harassment (cont.)
 - Include the procedures and permissible bases for 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.

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Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints



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- · Notice of allegations sent to known parties upon receipt of a formal complaint including notice of:
 - The School's grievance process, including any informal resolution process.
 - The allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview.
 - Presumption that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until the conclusion of the grievance process.

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Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints



- Notice of Allegations (cont.)
 - Their right to have an advisor of their choice and inspect and review evidence.
 - Any provision in the School's code of conduct that prohibits knowingly making false statements or submitting false information during the grievance process.
 - If additional allegations will be investigated, the School must provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

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- Informal resolution
 - Voluntary and may not be offered unless a formal complaint is filed.
 - Must obtain the parties' voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process.
 - Must not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

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Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints



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· Informal resolution (cont.)

- Must provide written notice to the parties of:

- o The allegations
- $\circ\,$ The requirements of the informal resolution process and when it may preclude the parties from resuming a formal complaint on the same allegations
- o 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
- o Consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared

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Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints

- · Investigation of a formal complaint
 - Burden of proof and of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination on responsibility rests on the School.
- School must have valid written, voluntary consent to access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in their capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained for the provision of treatment to the party. YM&C





· Investigation of a formal complaint (cont.)

- Do not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.
- Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.
- Provide the parties with equal opportunities to have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied by the advisor of their choice, and not limit the choice or presence of advisor for either the complainant or respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding. The School may establish restrictions that apply to may participate in the proceedings. both parties equally, regarding the extent to which the advisor

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Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints



- · Investigation of a formal complaint (cont.)
 - Provide, to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings, investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.
 - Provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained in the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the formal complaint, including evidence upon which the School does not intend to rely and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence, so that each party can meaningfully respond prior to conclusion of the investigation.

Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints



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· Investigation of a formal complaint (cont.)

- Must serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias.
 - Avoid sex-based biases and stereotypes.
 - E.g., "Boys will be boys"
 - \circ $\,$ Whether bias exists is fact-specific, and schools should use a common sense approach.
 - Do not make credibility determinations based on a person's sex or status as a complainant, respondent or witness.
 - Treat complainants and respondents equitably.
 - o Respondent is presumed not responsible until a determination is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.





· Investigation of a formal complaint (cont.)

- Prior to completion of the investigative report, the School 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.
- Investigative report must fairly summarize relevant evidence and be provided in electronic or hard copy at least 10 days prior to any hearing or date of determination on responsibility to each party and the party's advisor, for review and response.

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Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints



- · Questions from the parties
 - After the School has sent the investigative report to the parties and before reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the decision-maker(s) must afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party.
 - The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

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Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints



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- · Mandatory dismissal of a formal complaint
 - The School must investigate the allegations in a formal complaint and dismiss a formal complaint if the conduct alleged:
 - o Would not constitute sexual harassment even if proved
 - o Did not occur in the School's education program or activity
 - Did not occur against a person in the U.S.





- Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein.
- Respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the School.
- Specific circumstances prevent the School from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.

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- Dismissals
 - Upon a dismissal, the School must promptly send written notice of the dismissal and reason(s) therefor simultaneously to the parties.
 - Dismissal does not preclude action under another provision of the School's code of conduct.

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Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints



Decision-maker(s), who cannot be the same person(s) as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator(s), must issue a written determination and apply the standard of evidence specified.

- The written determination must:
 - 1. Identify the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment
 - Describe the procedural steps taken, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held

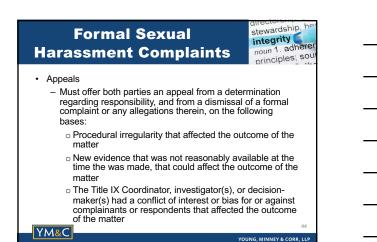
3. Findings of fact supporting the determination





- Conclusions on the application of the School's code 4. of conduct to the facts
- State the result, rationale and determination of 5. responsibility as to each allegation and any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent
- State whether remedies will be provided to the 6. complainant
- The School's procedures and permissible bases for 7. appeal
- 8. Be provided to the parties simultaneously
- 9. Become final on the date that the School provides the parties with written result of any appeal, or the deadline for appeal.

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Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints

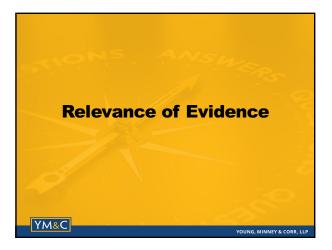
· Appeals (cont.)

- May offer an appeal equally to both parties on additional bases.
- Notify the other party in writing and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties.
- Decision-maker(s) cannot be the same as the initial decision-maker(s), the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator and must comply with the required standards.
- Give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement.

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- Written decision describing the result and the rationale
- provided simultaneously to both parties. YM&C





Relevance of Evidence



- · Investigations and determinations of responsibility must include an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence inculpatory and exculpatory. Investigative report must fairly summarize relevant evidence.
- Evidence is relevant if it has any tendency in reason to prove or disprove any disputed fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action.
- · Investigator and decision-maker may give different weight to evidence or evaluate evidence differently.

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Relevance of Evidence



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- · Factors that may affect weight given to relevant evidence: - First-hand v. hearsay
 - Direct evidence v. circumstantial evidence
 - Physical or documentary evidence
- · Credibility factors:
 - 1) corroboration;
 - 2) consistency;
 - 3) motivation/interest;
 - 4) plausibility;
 - 5) bias/hostility



Relevance of Evidence



· Irrelevant evidence under Title IX includes:

- Information protected under a legally recognized privilege
- Evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition
- Evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior except when:
 - Used to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged; or
 - · Relating to specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and used to prove consent.

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Relevance of Evidence



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- A party's treatment records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional/paraprofessional acting or assisting in the professional's/paraprofessional's capacity, unless the school obtains voluntary, written consent to use such records for the grievance process from the party (if the party is an "eligible student") or the party's parent/guardian (if the party is a minor)





Policy and Notice Requirements



- The School must provide applicants for admission and employment, students, parents/guardians, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the School notice of the School's Title IX policy and grievance procedures and process.
- Must prominently display the below contact information for the Title IX Coordinator(s) and the School's Title IX policy on its website, if any, and in each handbook that it makes available to the stakeholders listed above.

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Policy and Notice Requirements



- The notice must state:
- The name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the employee(s) designated as the Title IX Coordinator(s).
- That the School does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activity and is required by Title IX and Part 106 not to discriminate in such a manner.
- For certain institutions, that the requirement not to discriminate in the education program or activity extends to admission and employment.
- That inquiries about the application of Title IX and Part 106 to the School may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator(s), to the Assistant Secretary, or both.

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Training Requirements

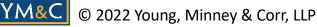


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- Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process must receive training on all the following:
 - The definition of sexual harassment in 34 CFR § 106.30
 - The scope of the School's 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





Training Requirements

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- Investigators must receive training on issues of relevance to • create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.
- Training materials must not rely on sex stereotypes and must promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of sexual harassment.



Recordkeeping



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The School must maintain the following records for a period of seven years-

- Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility and any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript required, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity;
- Any appeal and the result therefrom;
- Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and



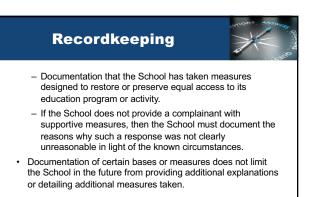


Recordkeeping

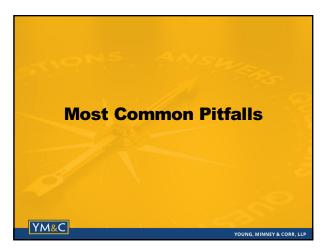


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- All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The training materials must be publicly available on the School's website.
- · For general responses to sexual harassment, the School must create and maintain the following for a period of seven years-
 - Records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment.
 - Documentation of the basis for concluding that the School's response was not deliberately indifferent.









Most Common Pitfalls



 Not *promptly* contacting the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, informing the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explaining to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

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Most Common Pitfalls



- Not treating an email as a formal complaint because it is not on the School's "Title IX Complaint Form."
- 3. Jumping to investigate a formal sexual harassment complaint before ensuring both parties receive a Notice of Allegations.

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Most Common Pitfalls



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- Failing to ensure the School creates and maintains all the required records under Title IX.
- 5. Failing to ensure all required notices and postings are provided.





