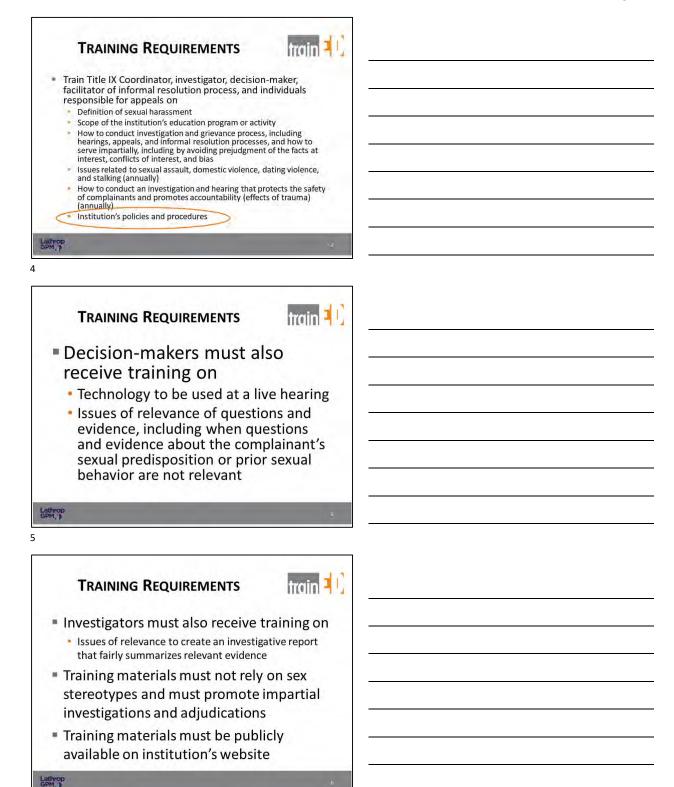
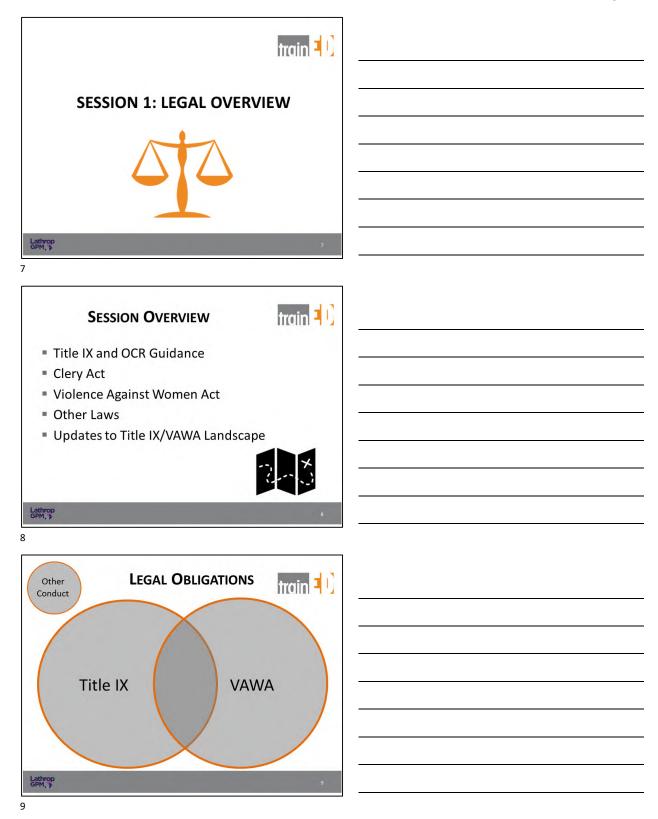
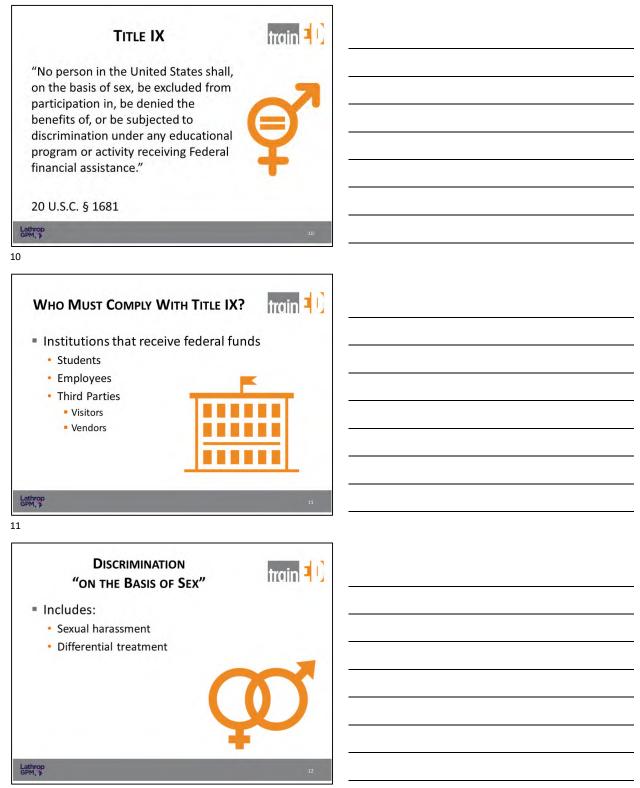


jzuccola@mcad.edu









### How Institutions Must Respond under Title IX



- Must respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent
- Deliberately indifferent = response is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances
- Follow grievance process outlined in the regulations



13

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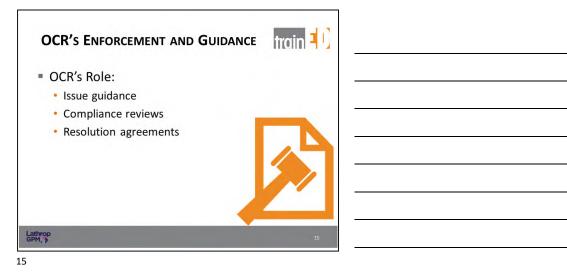
# TITLE IX REQUIREMENTS

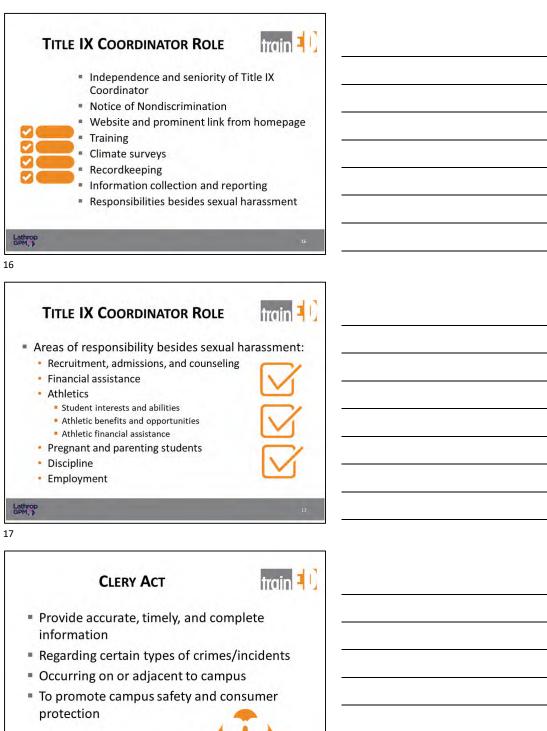


- All schools receiving federal funds must:
  - Publish Notice of Nondiscrimination
  - Designate a Title IX Coordinator
  - Disseminate policy prohibiting sex
  - discrimination
    Adopt and publish prompt and equitable grievance procedures
  - Offer supportive measures to a complainant and respondent
  - Follow a legally compliant grievance process
    Train individuals with heightened
  - responsibilities

14

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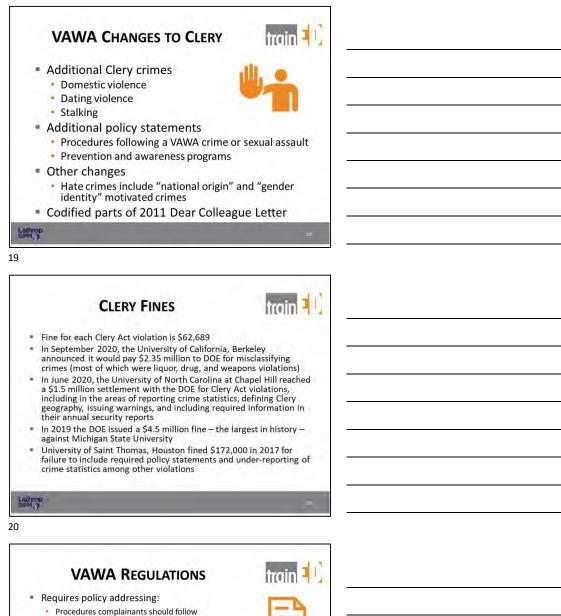




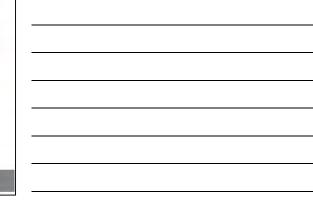
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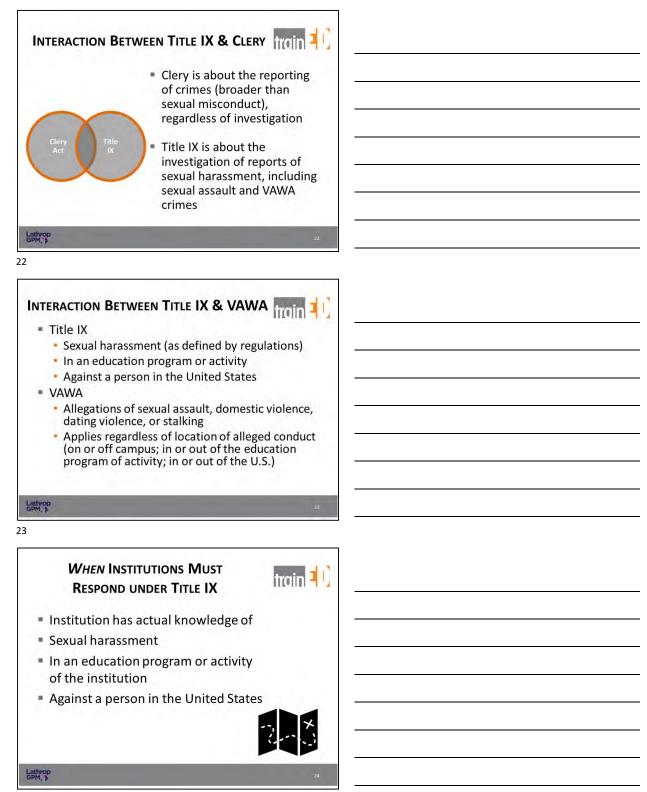




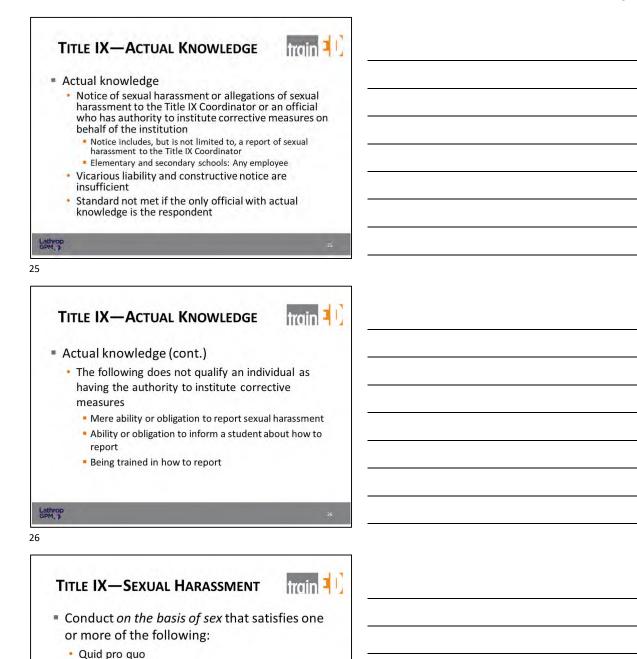
- Disciplinary procedures
- Confidentiality
- Notifications to students, employees, and complainants
- Right to advisor of choice (including attorney)
- Right to have notice of meetings with parties
- Right to have access to information used in formal/informal disciplinary meetings
- Rationale must be included in Notice of Determination
- Training for individuals with heightened responsibilities
- Training for students and employees





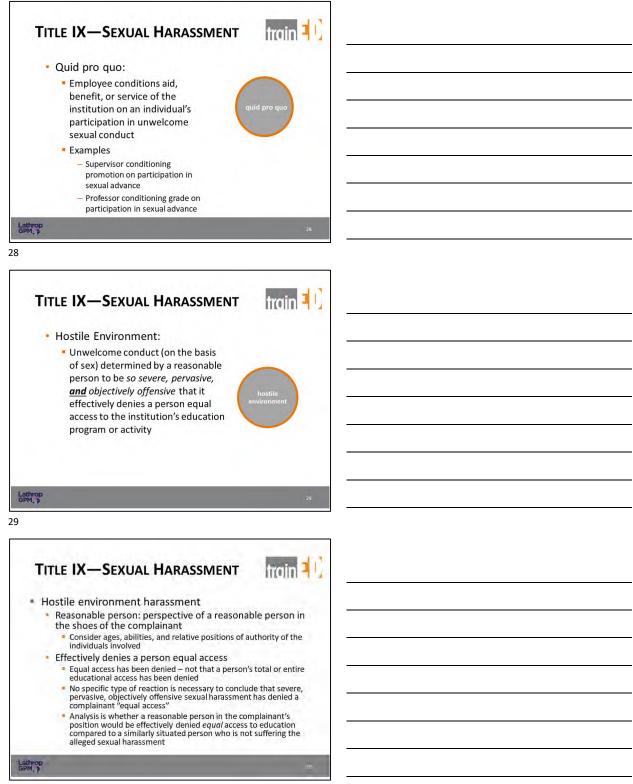


24



Hostile environment

Sexual assault and VAWA crimes







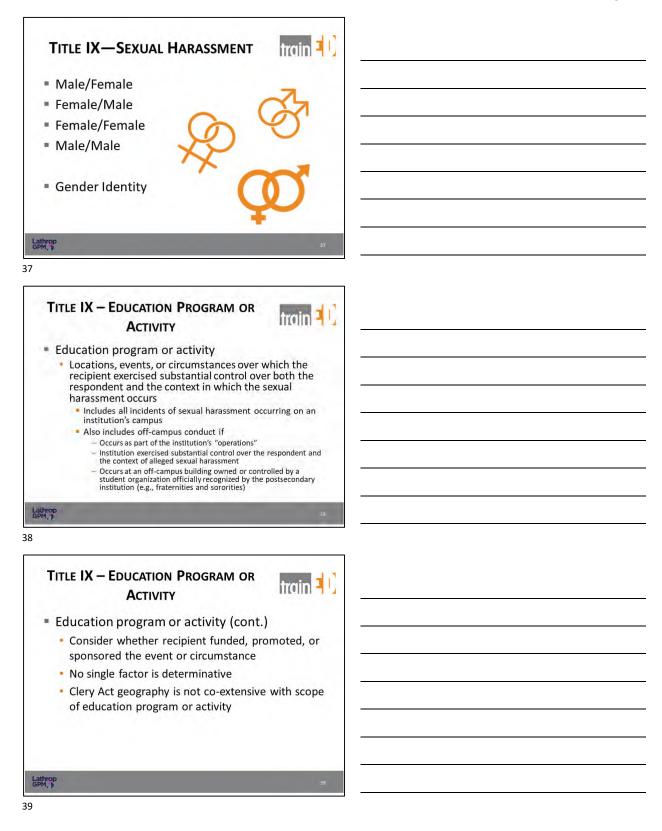




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safety or substantial emotional distress





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#### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARTIES AND INSTITUTION



Education program or activity

- Locations, events, or circumstances over which the recipient exercised substantial control over <u>both the respondent</u> and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs
- Formal complaint
  - At the time of filing a formal complaint, <u>a complainant must be</u> participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of the recipient with which the formal complaint is filed
- Permissive dismissal
  - Discretionary dismissal of formal complaint if <u>respondent is no</u> longer enrolled or employed by the institution
  - Also have discretion if respondent was never enrolled or employed by institution

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#### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARTIES AND INSTITUTION

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- Third party complainant and respondent who is a member of the campus community
  - Title IX (if within scope of Title IX)
    - Provide supportive measures
    - May not be required to comply with Title IX grievance process
  - VAWA (if allegation of sexual assault or VAWA crime)
    - No requirement to provide written explanation of rights and options (but still recommended)
    - Disciplinary process that complies with VAWA

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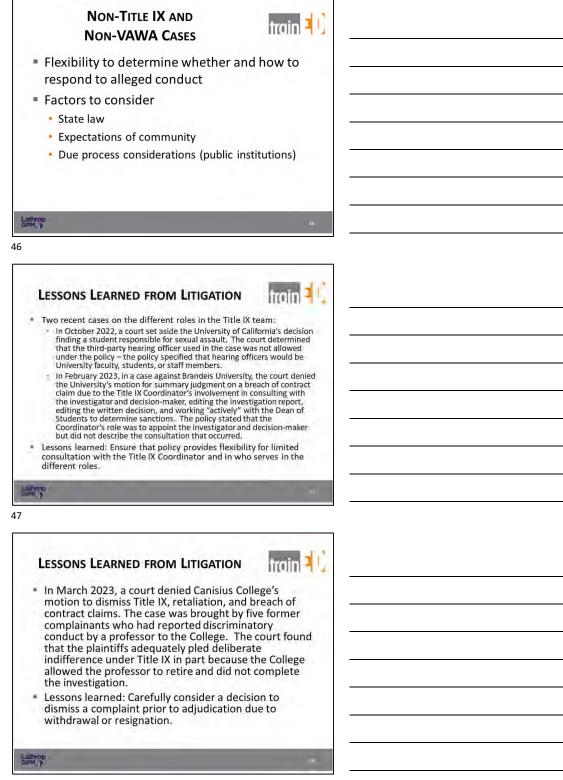
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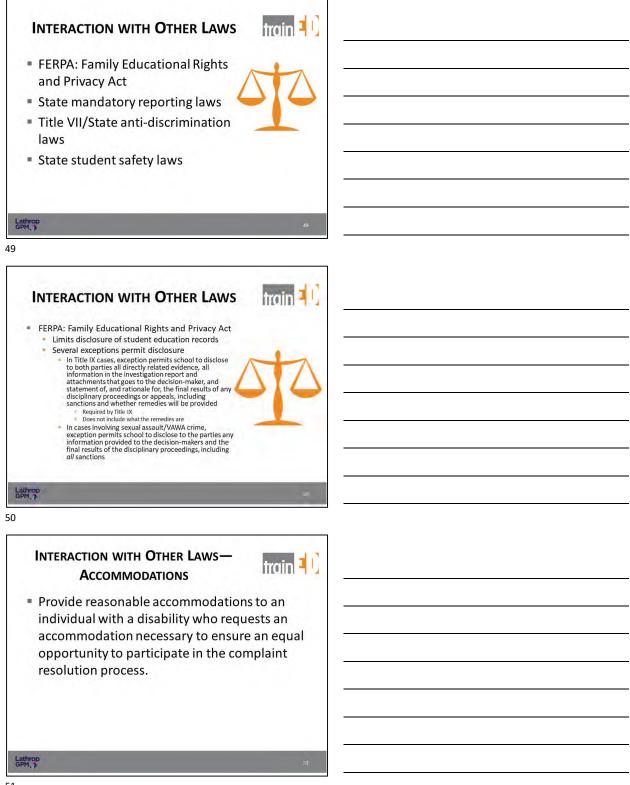
# Relationship Between Parties and Institution

- Complainant who is a member of the campus community and third party respondent
  - Title IX (if within scope of Title IX)
    - Provide supportive measures
    - Generally not required to comply with Title IX grievance process
  - VAWA (if allegation of sexual assault or VAWA crime)
     Provide a written explanation of student or employee's
    - Provide a written explanation of student or employee's rights and options
    - Could take action (no trespass) without disciplinary process
       If engaging in a disciplinary process, comply with VAWA requirements









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#### CHANGES TO TITLE IX

- June 22-23, 2021: Public Notice & Dear Colleague Letter: DOE interprets Title IX to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- Relying on Bostock v. Clayton County
- July 15, 2022: Federal judge in E.D. Tennessee temporarily
- blocked enforcement of guidance in 20 states
- July 2021: Q & A
- August 24, 2021: DOE letter regarding regulation provision concerning statements of parties/witnesses who do not submit to cross-examination
- June 23, 2022: Proposed Title IX regulations
- April 6, 2023: Proposed Title IX regulation regarding athletics
- Final regulations expected October 2023

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#### CHANGES TO TITLE IX—CHANGE TO CROSS-EXAMINATION RULE



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- If a party or witness does not appear at the hearing, decision-makers can consider other statements made by that individual in the decision-making process
  - Investigation report, text messages, police report, witness reports of statements, etc.
- Refusing to answer a question(s) or appear at the hearing may be considered in determining how much weight to give party's/witness's account or the credibility of their account
   Still may not draw an inference regarding responsibility based solely on a
  - Still may not draw an inference regarding responsibility based solely on a party's or witness's absence from the live hearing or refusal to answer questions
     Consider allowing parties to use closing argument to share questions
- Consider allowing parties to use closing argument to share questions advisor would have asked that party or witness and how the individual's testimony would have impacted the outcome
- Likely need to update written policy and procedures if institution has not yet done so

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### 2022 PROPOSED TITLE IX REGULATIONS: EXPANDED SCOPE



- Sex discrimination includes discrimination based on sex stereotypes, pregnancy, sexual orientation and gender identity
  - Includes differential treatment based on parental, family or marital status
- Sex-based harassment-hostile environment includes unwelcome sex-based conduct that is sufficiently severe <u>or</u> pervasive that, based on the totality of the circumstances and evaluated subjectively and objectively, it denies or limits a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity

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### 2022 PROPOSED TITLE IX REGULATIONS: EXPANDED SCOPE



- Includes off-campus conduct that creates or contributes to a hostile environment in an institution's education program or activity
- Includes conduct that occurs off-campus that is subject to the institution's disciplinary authority



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2022 PROPOSED TITLE IX REGULATIONS: NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Required to take prompt and effective action to end sex discrimination that has occurred within education program or activity, prevent its recurrence and address its effects (does not require actual knowledge before obligation to act)
- Individual obligated to notify Title IX Coordinator if:
  - Has authority to institute corrective action
  - Has responsibility for administrative leadership, teaching, or advising in education program or activity
- All others (except confidential resources) must either notify Title IX Coordinator OR provide Title IX Coordinator's contact info and info about reporting

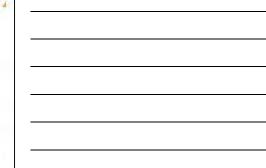
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### 2022 PROPOSED TITLE IX REGULATIONS: OTHER CHANGES



- Must offer supportive measures in response to any form of sex-discrimination, not just sexual harassment
  - Can include temporary measures that burden respondent imposed for non-punitive and nondisciplinary reasons that are designed to protect safety of complainant or education environment or deter respondent from engaging in harassment
  - Party affected by supportive measure has right to have decision modified or reversed, by someone other than individual who initially made decision



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### 2022 Proposed Title IX Regulations: Other Changes



 Certain procedural requirements for responding to allegations of *sex-based discrimination* (including access to summary of evidence, process for evaluating credibility)

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#### 2022 PROPOSED TITLE IX REGULATIONS: OTHER CHANGES



- Additional procedural requirements for responding to allegations of sex-based harassment involving student complainant and/or respondent
  - Largely track 2020 regulations
  - Access and opportunity to respond to relevant evidence or written report
  - But if party requests access to the evidence, must provide
     Hearing not required, must have process for assessing credibility of
  - parties and witnesses that includes the decision-makers asking live questions and for parties to have their questions asked Cannot rely on a statement of a party that supports that party's position if the party does not respond to questions related to their
  - position if the party does not respond to questions related to their credibility
  - Cannot draw an inference about whether sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to questions related to their credibility

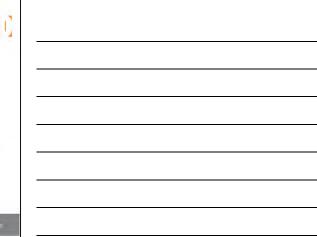
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### 2022 PROPOSED TITLE IX REGULATIONS: OTHER CHANGES

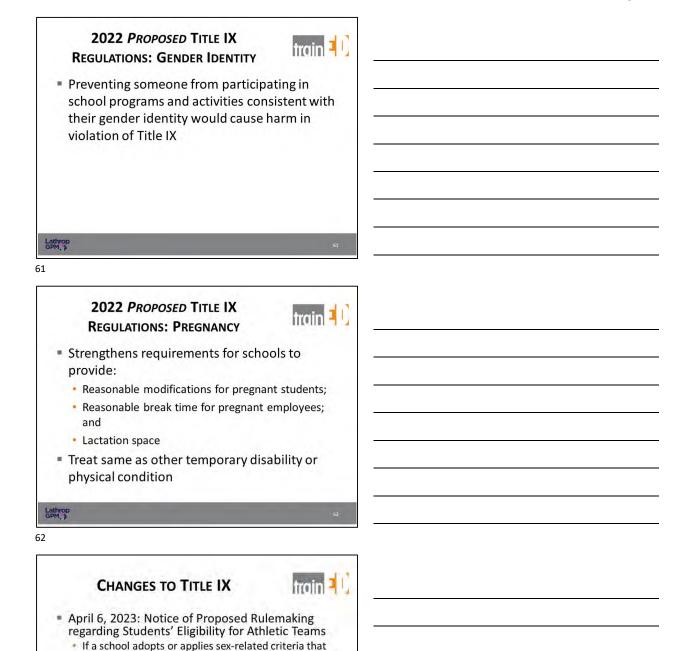


- Do not need a formal complaint to:
  - Investigate
  - Offer informal resolution
- Single investigator model is permissible
- Must use preponderance of evidence standard, unless institution uses clear and convincing for all similar types of matters



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would limit or deny a student's eligibility to participate on a male or female team consistent with their gender identity, such criteria must, for each sport, level of competition, and grade or education level:

Be substantially related to the achievement of an important

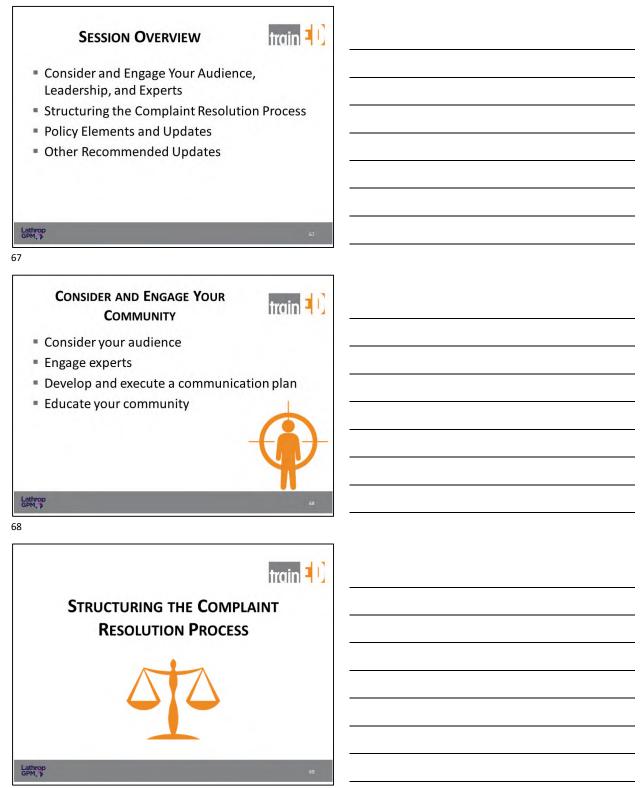
Minimize harms to students whose opportunity to participate on a male or female team consistent with their gender

educational objective, and

identity would be limited or denied. Final rule expected October 2023









#### STRUCTURING THE COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCESS

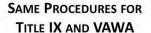


Process options

- One process: Use the same procedures for all sexual misconduct cases (including live hearings)
- Hybrid: Use the same procedures for all Title IX and VAWA cases (including live hearings) and a separate process for non-Title IX/non-VAWA cases
- Separate processes: Create separate procedures for Title IX, VAWA, and non-Title IX/non-VAWA cases

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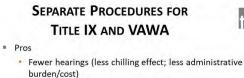
Pros

- Clarity on the process that applies to allegations of sexual misconduct
- Less risk of due process litigation

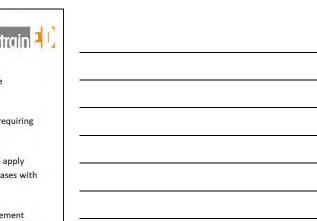
Cons

- Chilling effect of live hearing in all cases
- Cost of additional procedural requirements, including hearings
- Cannot explain hearing process as legally required in all cases
- Potential FERPA issues with information sharing in non-Title IX cases
- Less flexibility

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- Clear FERPA exceptions for each process
- Can rely on legal requirements for each process (not requiring additional process beyond legal obligations)
- Cons
  - More analysis needed to determine what process will apply
  - Complications when additional facts arise and in cases with multiple allegations
  - Confusing for parties
  - · Risk of due process litigation seeking a hearing requirement





### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**



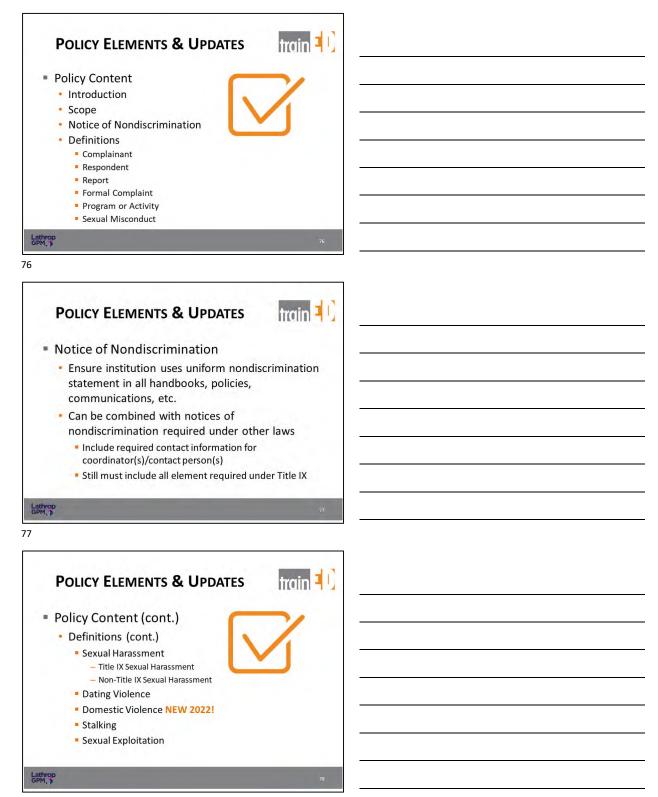
If using a non-hearing process for sexual misconduct cases that do not fall within Title IX, consider discontinuing the use of hearings in other student conduct matters that involve two parties

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DETERMINING WHICH		0	
<b>PROCESS APPLIES</b>	train 🤻	<u> </u>	
<ul> <li>Analyze when report or complaint is rec throughout the process</li> </ul>	eived and		
<ul> <li>Who determines which process applies</li> <li>Title IX Coordinator (with assistance from</li> <li>Another individual?</li> </ul>	investigator)		 
<ul> <li>If separate Title IX and VAWA procedure investigation process regardless of Title information sharing stage</li> </ul>			 
<ul> <li>Title IX: Hard copy or electronic format of evidence</li> <li>VAWA: Access to evidence that will be sha</li> </ul>			
maker When in doubt, err on side of following			
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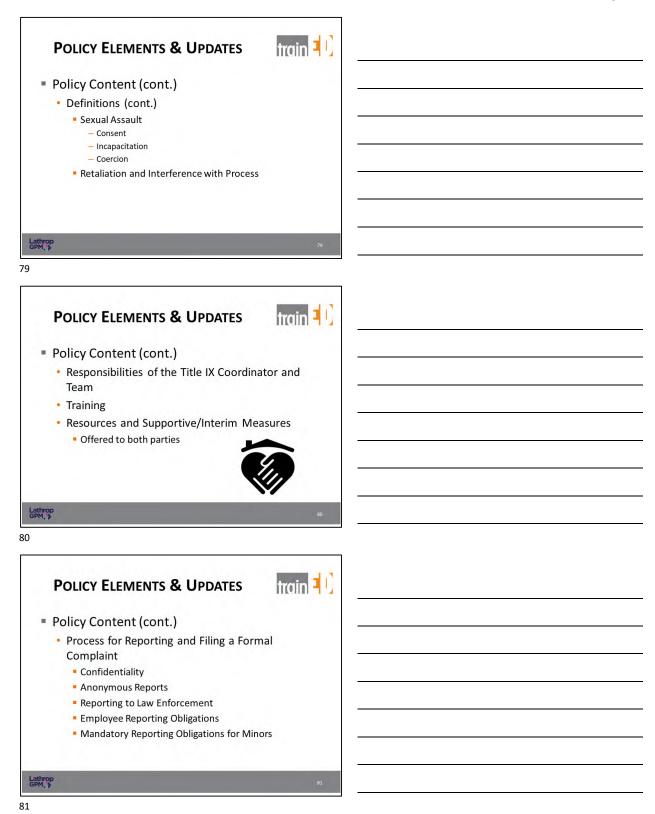


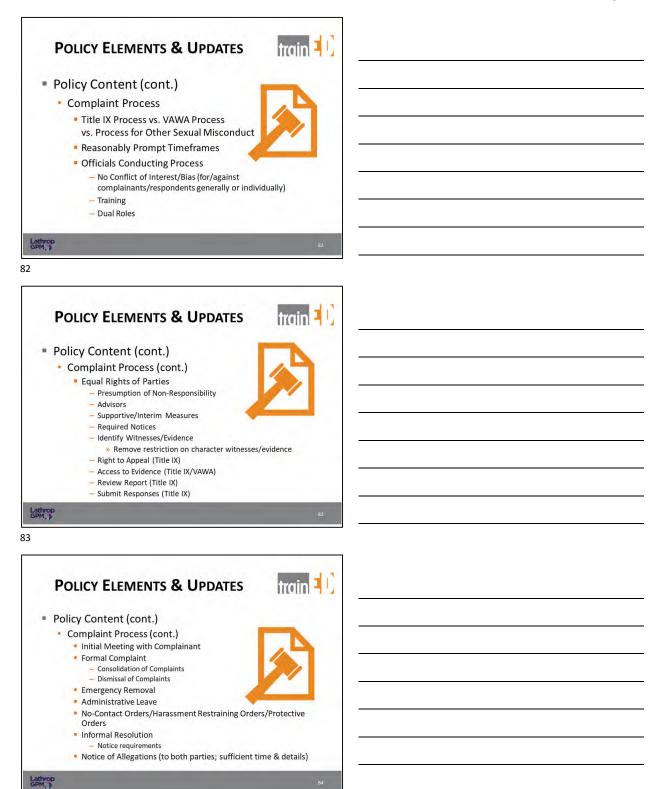




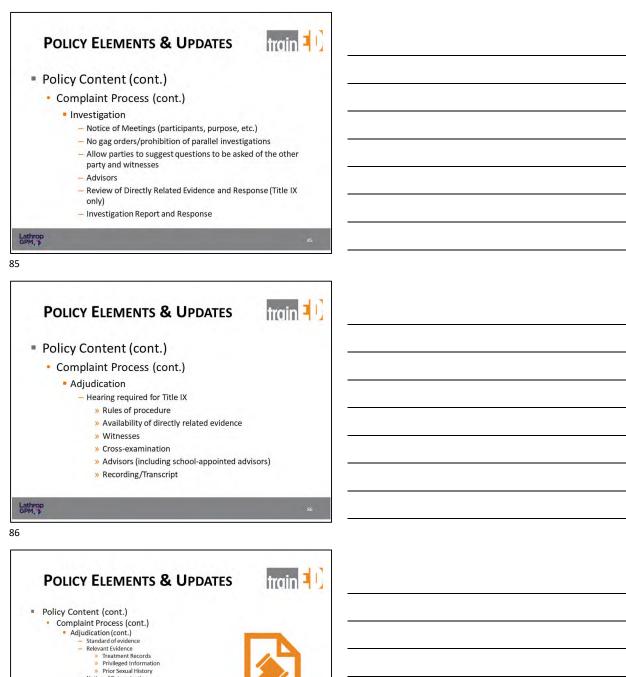




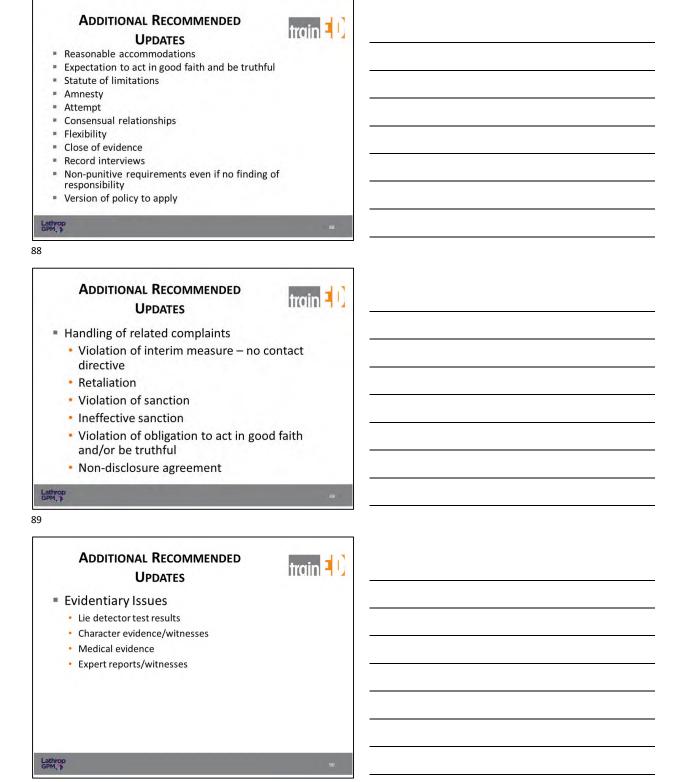




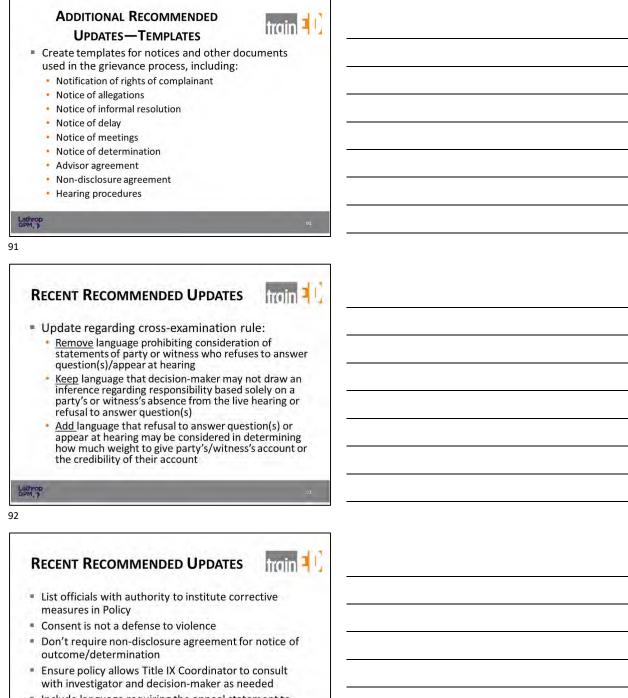
<sup>84</sup> 







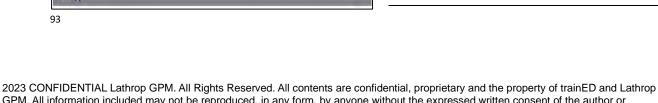
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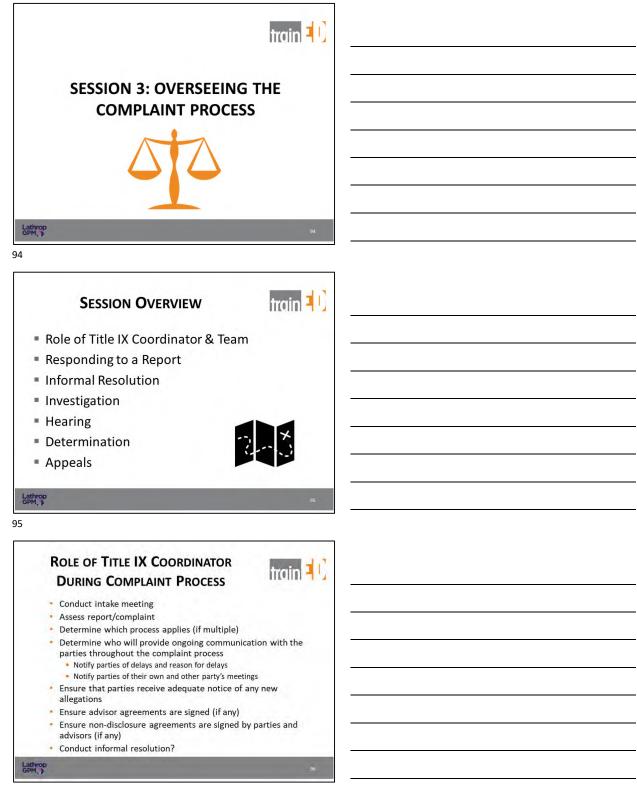
Include language requiring the appeal statement to articulate (1) on which ground(s) the appealing party is relying, and (2) how each particular ground for appeal is met

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#### ROLE OF TITLE IX COORDINATOR DURING COMPLAINT PROCESS



- Oversee process to ensure compliance with policy and designated time frames
- Investigate?
- Beware of conflicts when filling multiple roles
- Review investigation report, party responses, and rebuttals
   Redact impermissible content
  - Evaluate whether further investigation is necessary
- Cannot adjudicate or decide appeal (Title IX)

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## DUAL ROLES



- Title IX requires independent decision-maker
   Title IX Coordinator and decision-maker must be different individuals
  - Investigator and decision-maker must be different individuals
  - Title IX Coordinator and investigator may offer recommendations regarding findings and/or conclusions on responsibility, but decision-maker has independent obligation to objectively evaluate relevant evidence and cannot simply defer to recommendations
- Title IX Coordinator may act as investigator

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# ROLE OF TITLE IX TEAM

- Serve impartially
  - Avoid prejudgment of the facts
  - Presumption of non-responsibility
  - Avoid/disclose conflicts of interest/bias
    - For or against complainants or respondents individually or generally
  - Make determination of responsibility at the conclusion of the grievance process

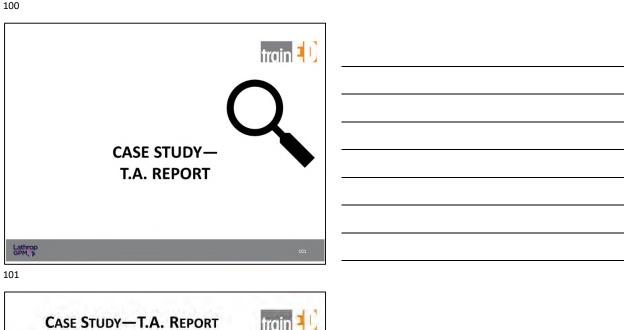


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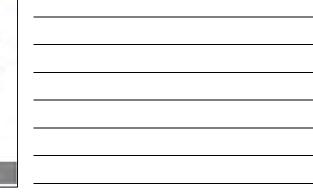
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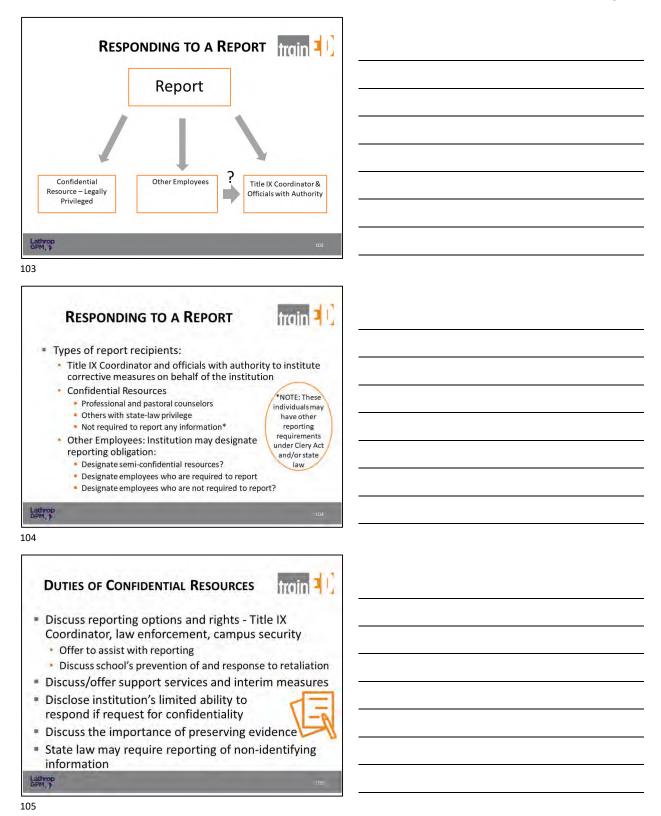
You receive a call from Cassidy. She tells you that she is a T.A. for a year-long freshman Western Cultures class. She said that there is a student in the class who had been doing quite well last semester, but this semester her grades really started slipping and lately she has been missing class. Cassidy says that she approached the student about the change, and the student broke down in tears and explained that she's been having problems with her best friend who has been pressuring her into a sexual relationship and has become really possessive of her. Cassidy tells you that the student asked her not to tell . anyone about it, but Cassidy is worried about the student.

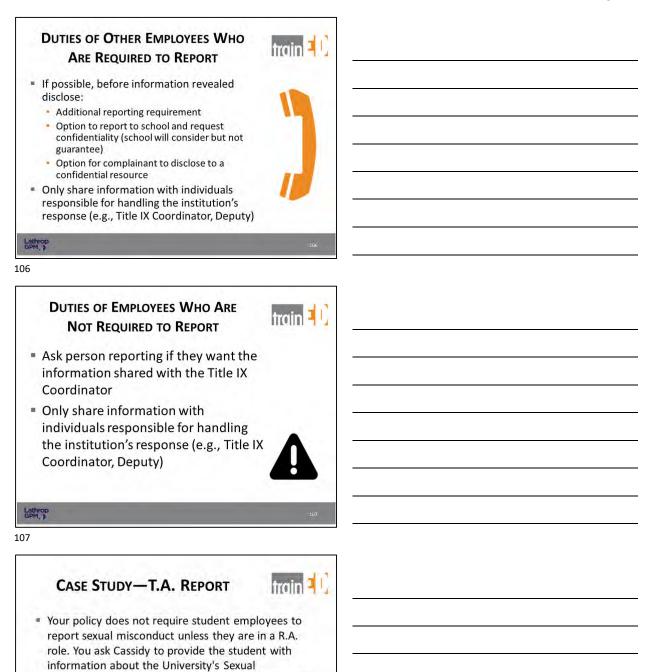
How do you respond?





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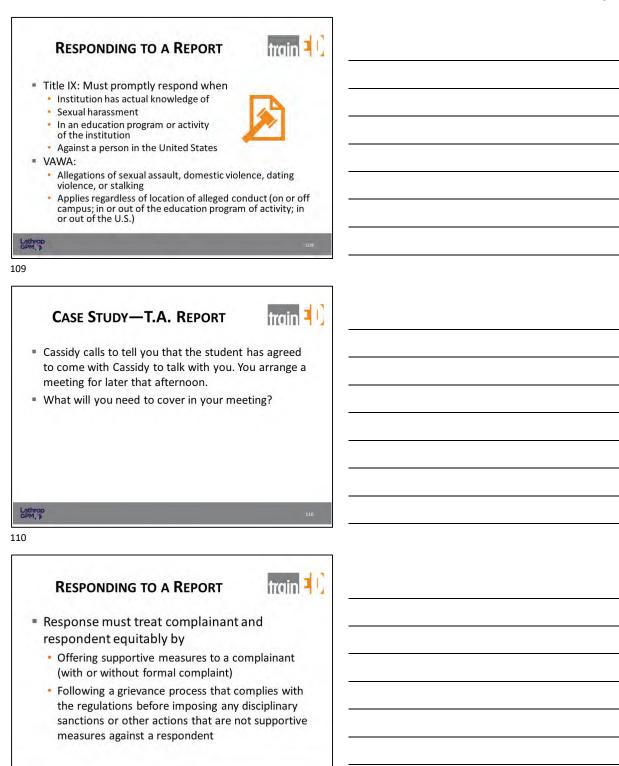




Misconduct Policy and the option to report. You also provide a list of resources for Cassidy to provide the student. You further ask Cassidy to talk to the student and encourage her to come talk to you. You suggest that Cassidy offer to come with the student

to introduce her to you. Cassidy agrees.

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#### **RESPONDING TO A REPORT**



Title IX Coordinator must promptly contact complainant (with or without formal complaint)

- Inform complainant of the availability of supportive/interim measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint
- Consider complainant's wishes with respect to supportive/interim measures
- Explain the process for filing a formal complaint
- Notify complainant of right to report to law
- enforcement and offer help with report (VAWA)
- Provide complainant with written notification of rights (VAWA)



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- Initiates grievance process
- Cannot be filed anonymously Requires complainant's physical or digital signature or otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the complaint
  - Title IX Coordinator can sign a complaint
  - Grievance process requires that complainant's identity be disclosed to respondent, if known

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#### **RESPONDING TO A REPORT** -SUPPORTIVE/INTERIM MEASURES

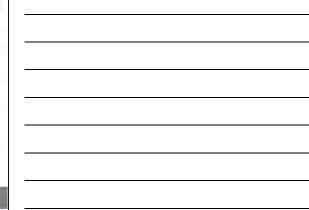
Available before or after the filing of a formal

 Offered to complainant and respondent Must be non-disciplinary, non-punitive Must be without fee or charge to the

complainant or respondent

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- complaint or where no formal complaint is filed Designed to restore or preserve equal access to recipient's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party
- Including measures designed to protect safety <u>of all parties</u> or the educational environment, or deter sexual harassment
- Must maintain as confidential as long as confidentiality does not impair ability of the institution to provide measures









#### RESPONDING TO A REPORT – WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS



- Written notification to complainants about (cont.)—
  - Possible sanctions and protective measures
  - Procedures individual should follow
  - Disciplinary procedures
  - Confidentiality
  - Existing resources for counseling, etc.
  - Supportive/interim measures



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RESPONDING TO A REPORT – WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS

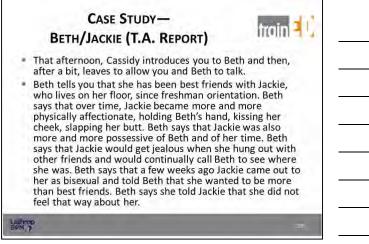


 Inform complainants that school officials will take steps to prevent all forms of retaliation and take strong responsive action if it occurs



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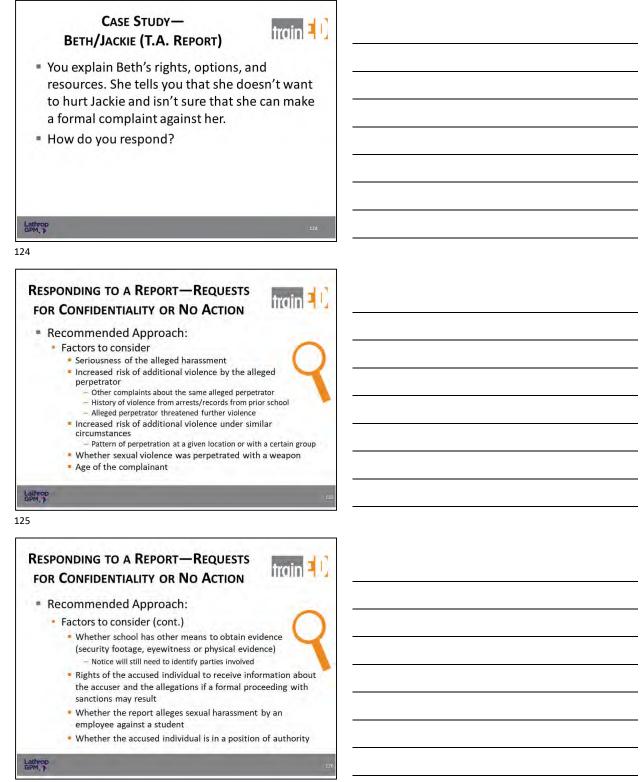
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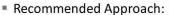








#### **RESPONDING TO A REPORT—REQUESTS** FOR CONFIDENTIALITY OR NO ACTION



- If the school determines it can honor the request for confidentiality/no action
  - Continue to offer supportive measures
- If the school determines it cannot honor the request for confidentiality/no action
  - Inform the complainant prior to proceeding
  - Continue to offer supportive measures
  - Title IX Coordinator signs formal complaint and begins process

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CASE STUDY-**BETH/JACKIE (T.A. REPORT)** 

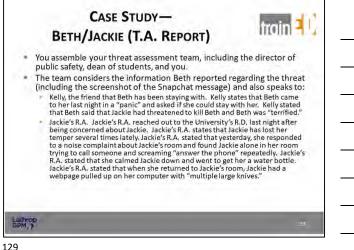


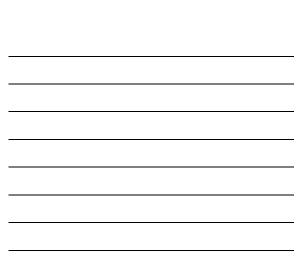
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- You discuss that the University may determine that you need to sign a formal complaint. You tell Beth that if you do so, you will tell her and if she would like, you can inform Jackie that Beth did not want to initiate a complaint process, but that the University determined it had an obligation to do so.
- . Beth asks for some time to think about next steps. You inform Beth that in light of the information she shared, the University may need to take immediate action, but that you will keep her up to date on next steps.

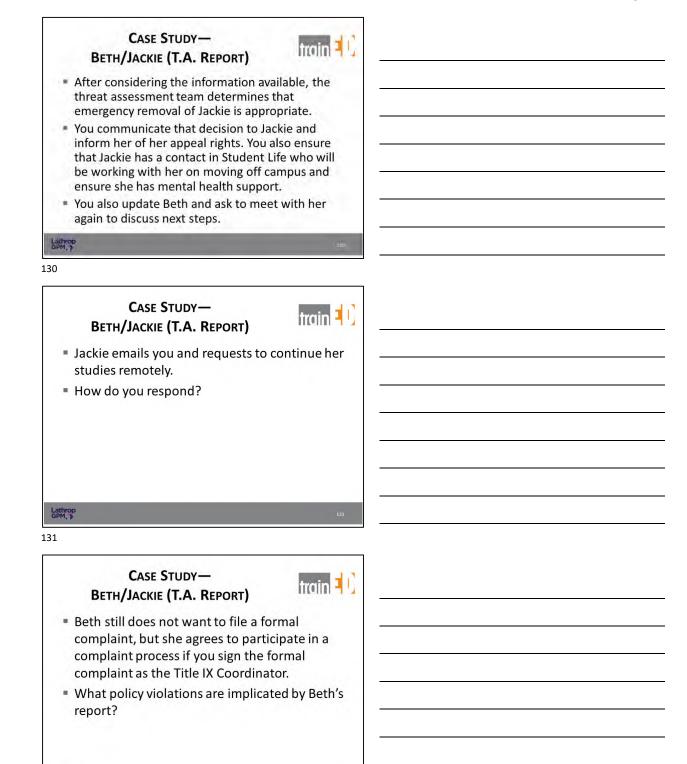
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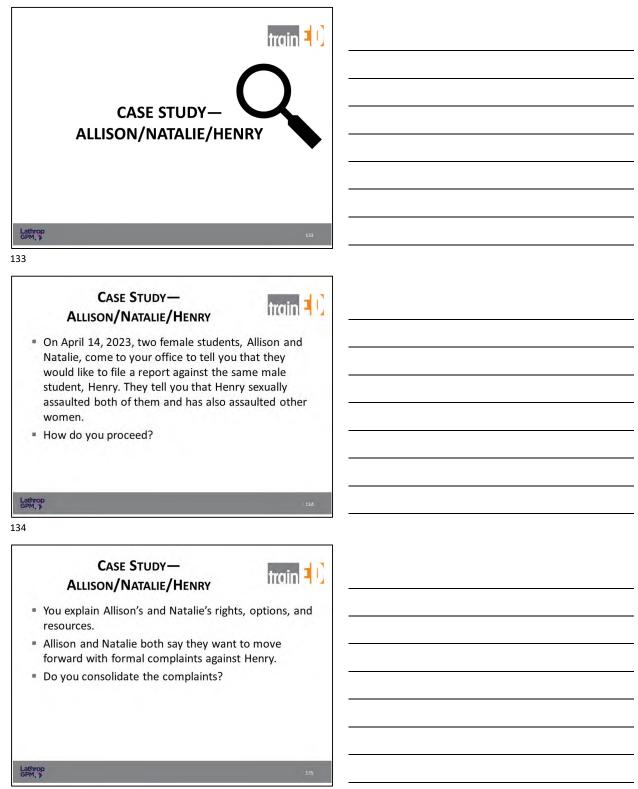








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#### CONSOLIDATION OF FORMAL COMPLAINTS



Title IX: An institution 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

VAWA: No specific guidance

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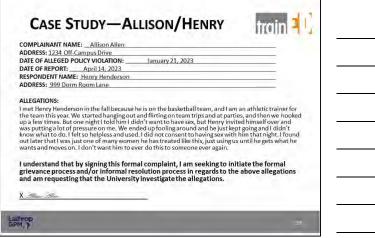
#### CASE STUDY— ALLISON/NATALIE/HENRY

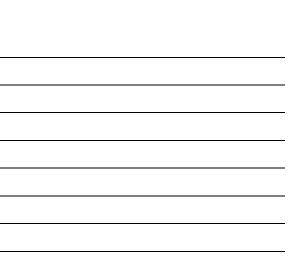


- You learn that Allison and Natalie are alleging that Henry sexually assaulted each of them on separate occasions. The only related fact in their allegations is that they are made against the same respondent.
- You inform Allison and Natalie that the complaints will be processed separately with separate investigations and adjudications.

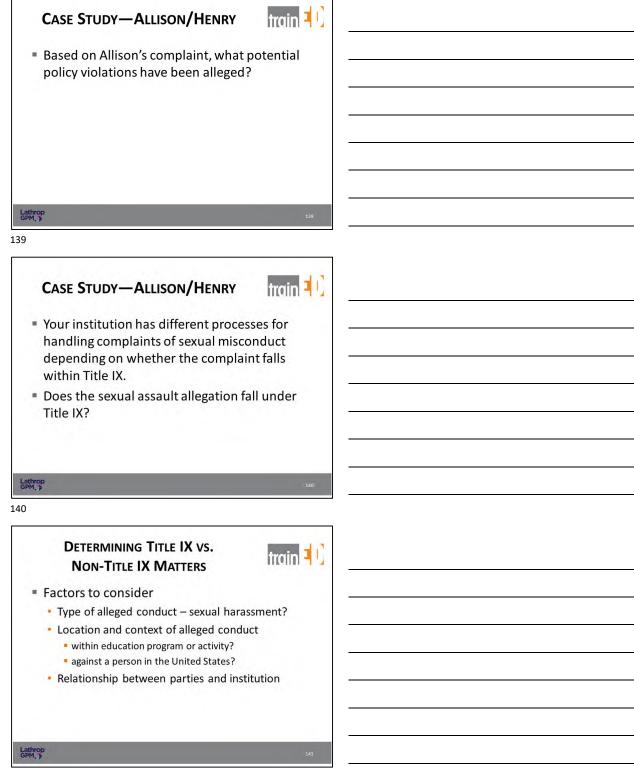
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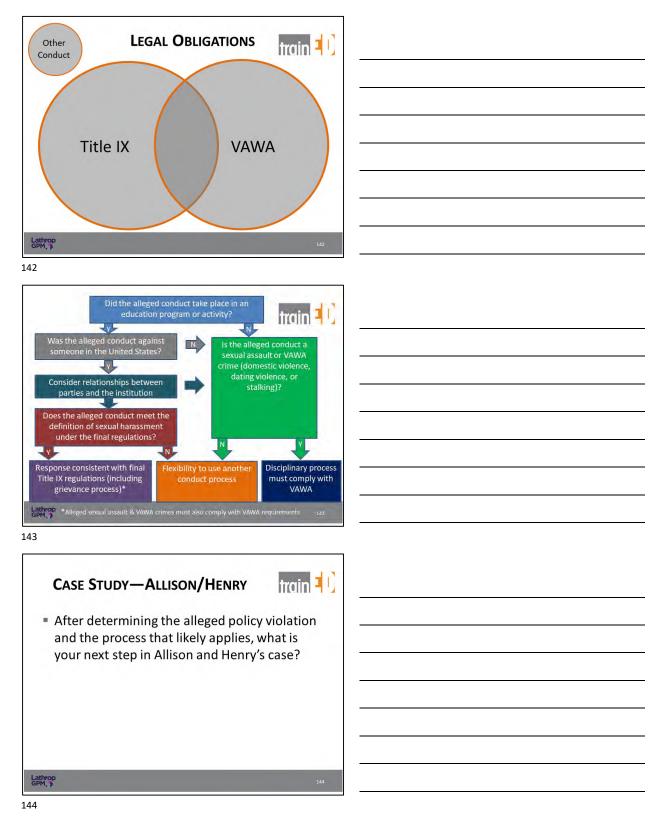


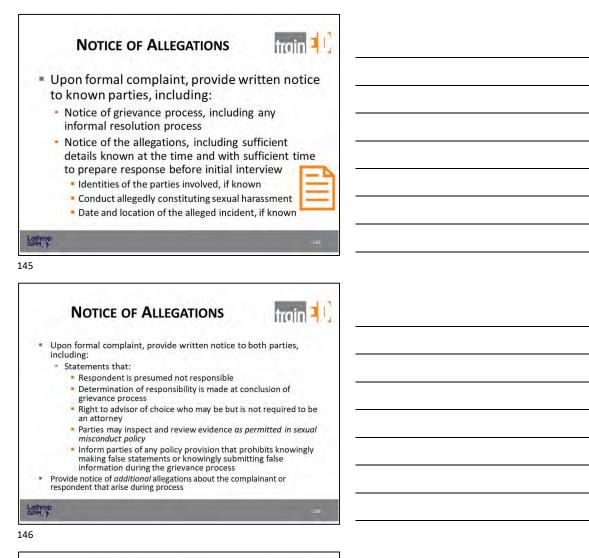














#### CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY



- You provide the notice of allegations and a mutual no-contact directive to Allison.
- You provide a notice of meeting to Henry, along with the mutual no-contact directive and notice of rights.
- At your initial meeting with Henry, you provide him with the notice of allegations and discuss the process.

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#### CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY



#### **Excerpt of Notice of Allegations**

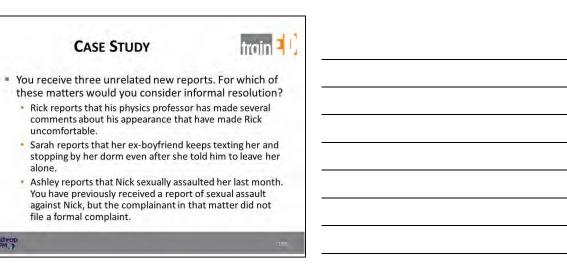
On April 14, 2023, a formal complaint of alleged sexual misconduct was submitted by Allison Allen to the Title IX Coordinator alleging conduct by Henry Henderson. In the formal complaint, Allison alleged that in the early morning hours of January 21, 2023, in her on-campus dorm room, Henry sexually assaulted her by engaging in non-consensual sexual penetration.

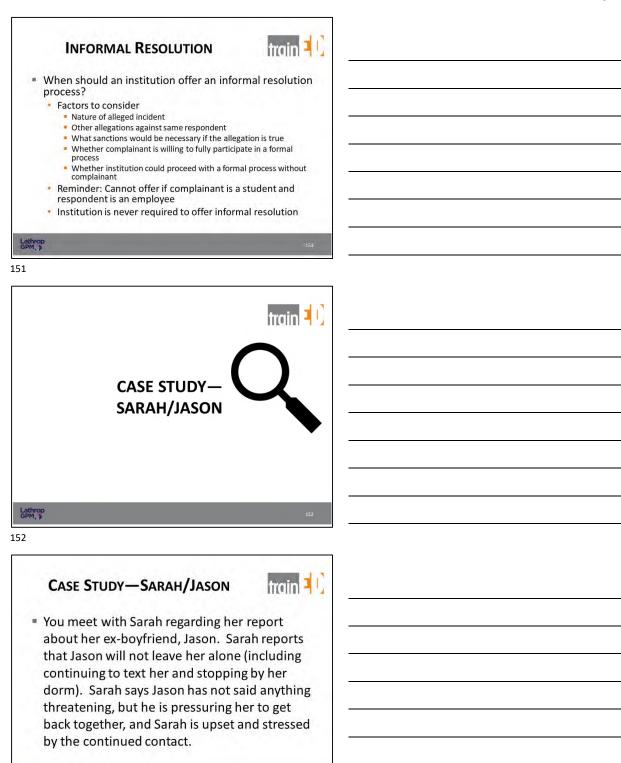
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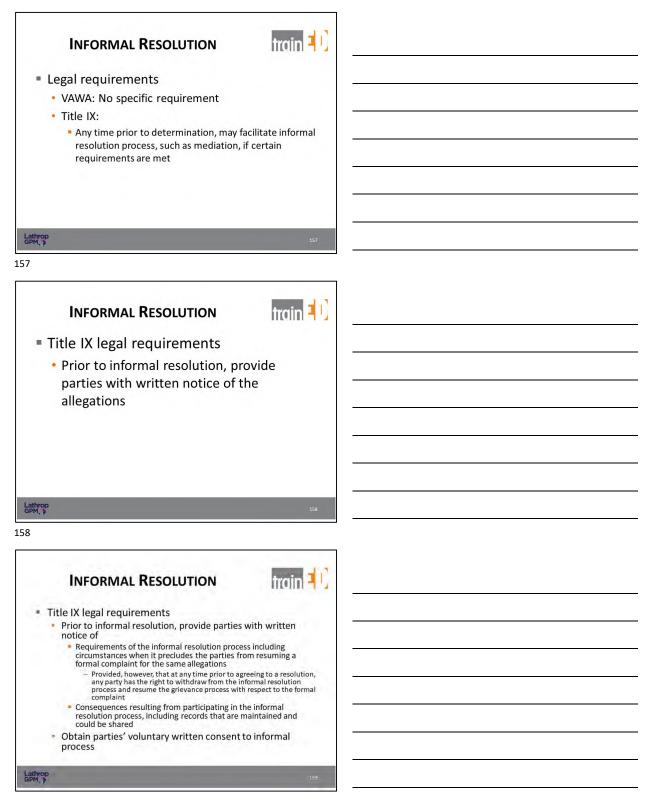








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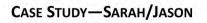
#### **INFORMAL RESOLUTION**



- Title IX legal requirements
  - May not offer informal resolution unless a formal complaint is filed
  - May never require the parties to participate in an informal resolution process
  - May not condition enrollment/continuing enrollment, employment/continuing employment, or enjoyment of any other right on waiver of the right to an investigation and adjudication of formal complaint
  - May not offer or facilitate informal resolution to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student

#### 160

GPM }





- You inform Sarah that she will need to bring a formal complaint in order to pursue an informal resolution process.
- Sarah asks what will happen if she signs a formal complaint and Jason does not agree to an informal resolution.
- How should you respond?

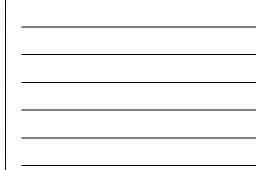
#### 161

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## CASE STUDY—SARAH/JASON

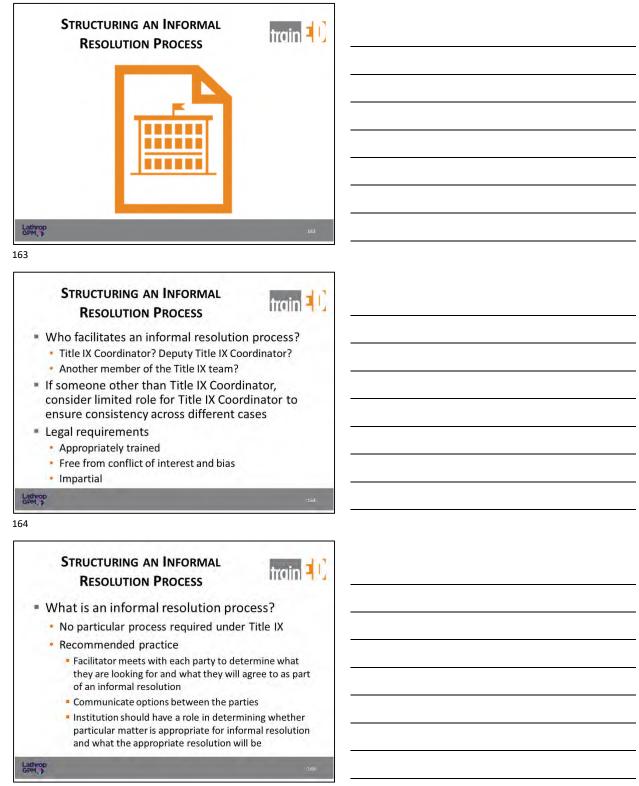


- After giving it some thought, Sarah decides to file a formal complaint alleging that Jason engaged in stalking.
- You send a notice of allegations to both parties, along with a mutual no contact directive.
- You meet with Jason, and he agrees to pursue an informal resolution process.
- Both parties receive the appropriate notice and consent in writing to the informal resolution process.
- What is the next step?

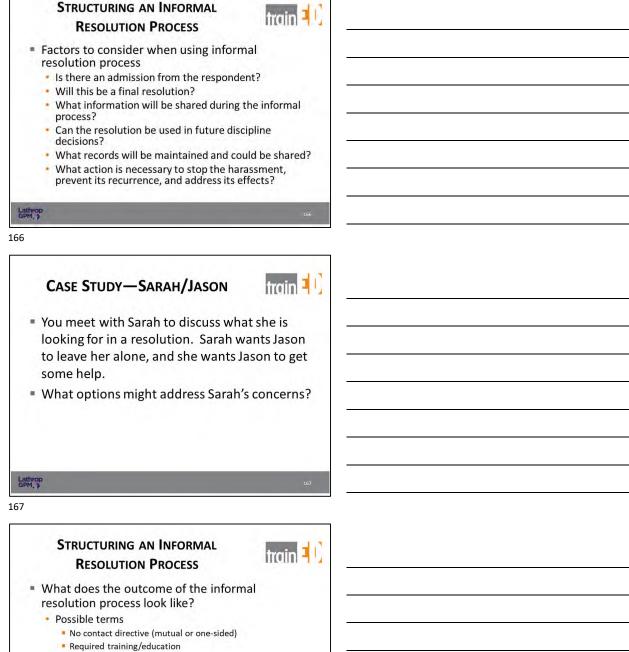




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- Required counseling
- Probation
- Temporary prohibition on leadership positions/awards
- Leave of absence from institution
- Apology letter?
  - Other

168

#### CASE STUDY-SARAH/JASON



- You discuss a potential resolution with Sarah, including a no contact directive and mandatory education for Jason on boundaries and appropriate interactions in the community.
- Sarah responds that she does not want Jason to be able to enter the library and dining center. Sarah also tells you that she does not want to have the same classes or live in the same residence hall as Jason during the rest of her time at the University (about two years). Sarah also does not want Jason to enter any residence hall in which she lives.
- How should you respond?

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SPM }

### CASE STUDY—SARAH/JASON



- Sarah also asks that Jason complete a domestic violence intervention program through a local community service provider. The course is one year, and Sarah says that Jason should submit a letter to her at the conclusion of the course explaining what he has learned and how he will avoid ever doing this to someone else in the future.
- How should you respond?

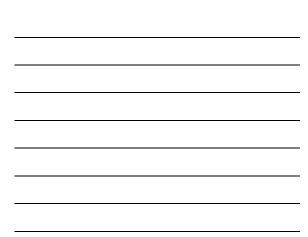
## GPM, }

170

## CASE STUDY-SARAH/JASON



- After a discussion with you, Sarah decides that priority class registration and dorm selection, a mutual no contact directive (that prohibits Jason from entering Sarah's residence hall but does not include restricted access to the library and dining center) and required training on boundaries for Jason will address her concerns.
- From the institution's perspective, are there other terms that you should consider?



<sup>171</sup> 

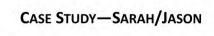
#### CASE STUDY—SARAH/JASON



- After determining potential proposed terms for the agreement, you meet with Jason to see what he is willing to agree to.
- Jason is comfortable with the priority registration and dorm selection, the no contact directive, the required training, and a prohibition on leadership positions for one year.

#### 172

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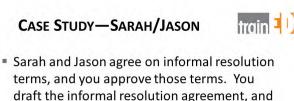


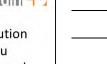


- Jason asks the following questions:
  - Can Sarah bring another complaint against him in the future?
  - If he applies to grad school, will prospective grad schools find out about this informal resolution?
  - If Jason applies for employment at the institution in the future, will the informal resolution impact his chances?
- How should you respond?

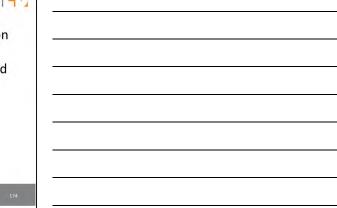
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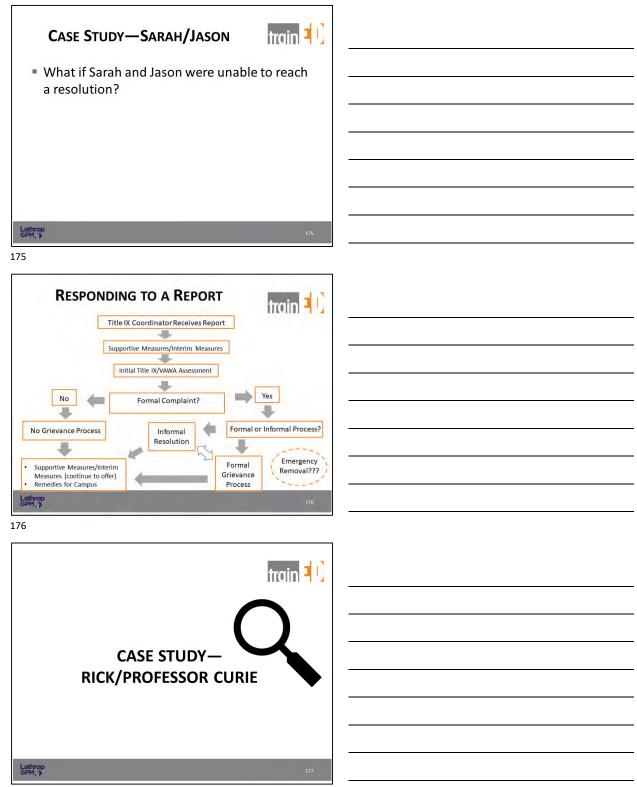


- both parties sign it.
- Any other steps for you to take?



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<sup>174</sup> 





#### CASE STUDY— RICK/PROFESSOR CURIE



Following the report that Rick made about his physics professor, Professor Curie, making comments about his appearance that made him uncomfortable, Rick met with you to discuss the allegations. In your conversation with Rick, you learned that the alleged comments were quite sexual in nature, have been occurring for several months, and have caused Rick to stop attending his classes with the professor.

- After discussing Rick's options, rights, and resources with him, Rick decides to file a formal complaint against Professor Curie.
- What policy violations are likely to be implicated by Rick's complaint?
- What supportive measures should be put in place?

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CASE STUDY— RICK/PROFESSOR CURIE

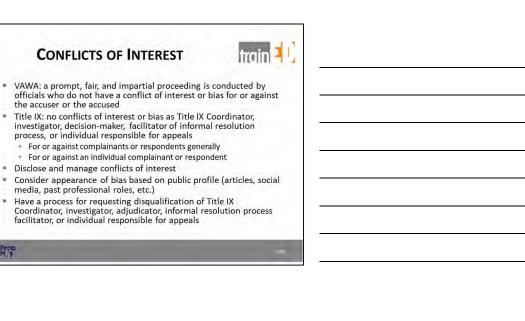


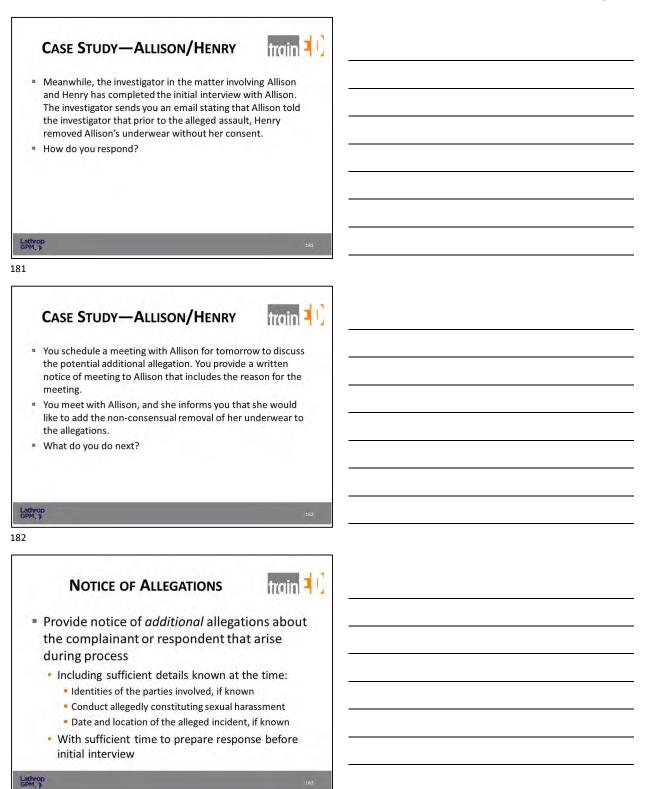
- You issue a Notice of Allegations to Rick and Professor Curie, which includes the name of the investigator for the matter.
- You receive an email from Rick stating that because Professor Curie is a long-time beloved professor at the University who has brought the University a lot of recognition and donor support, any internal investigator is going to be biased toward Professor Curie. He requests that the University hire a neutral third-party to investigate.
- How do you respond?

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#### CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY



 You issue an amended Notice of Allegations to Allison and Henry.

#### 184

#### CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY



#### **Excerpt from Amended Notice of Allegations**

On April 14, 2023, a formal complaint of alleged sexual misconduct was submitted by Allison Allen to the Title IX Coordinator alleging conduct by Henry Henderson. In the formal complaint, Allison alleged that in the early morning hours of January 21, 2023, in her on-campus dorm room, Henry engaged in sexual assault in the form of non-consensual sexual penetration **and sexual exploitation in the form of removing Allison's clothing without her consent**.

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## CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY



- A few days later, you receive a forwarded email from the investigator. Henry has asked the investigator to send him the interview questions prior to his initial interview.
- How do you instruct the investigator?



186

GPM }

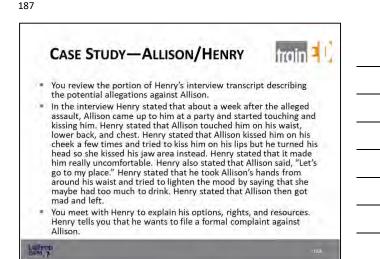
#### CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY



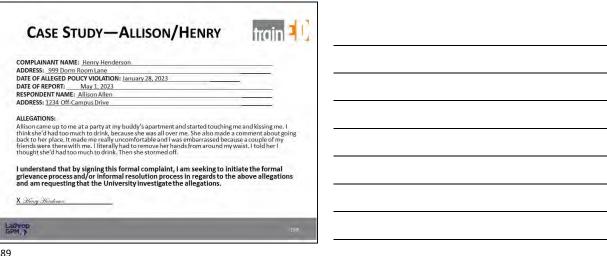
Following the initial interview with Henry, the investigator sends you an email stating that during his initial interview, Henry said that a week after the alleged assault, Allison came up to him at a party and started touching him and kissing him. Henry told the investigator that it made him "really uncomfortable."

How do you respond?

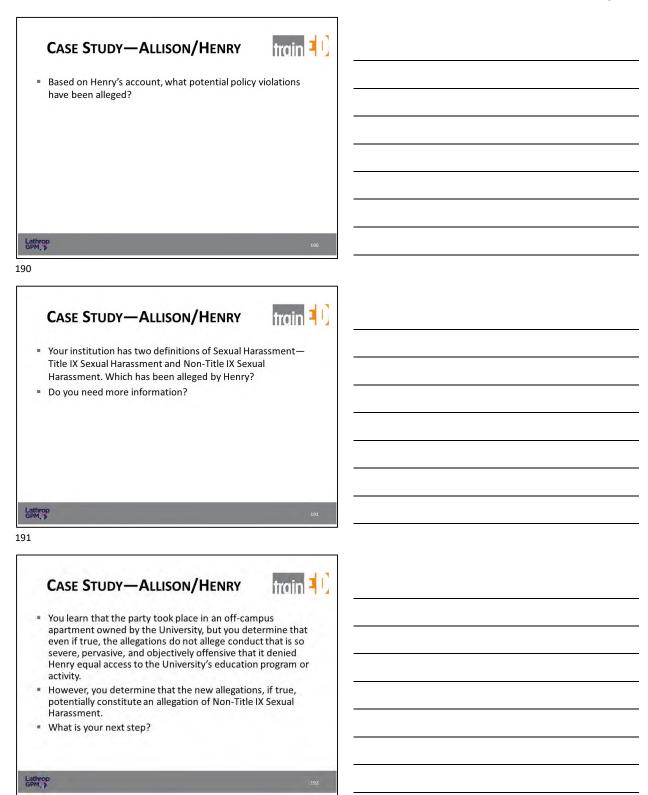
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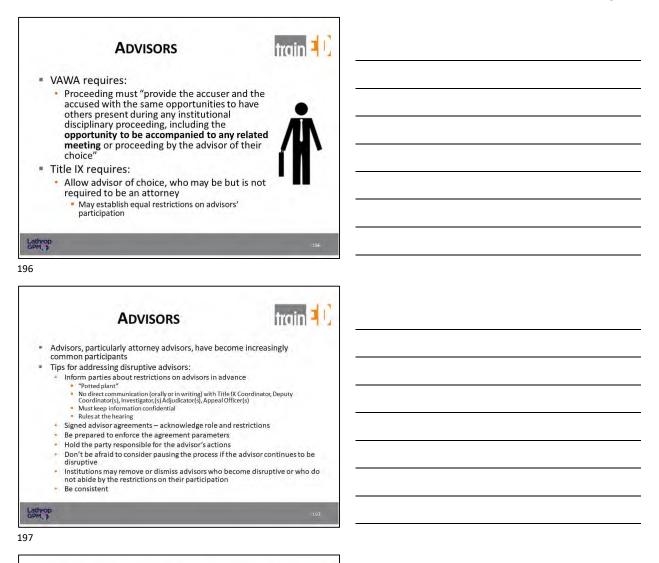












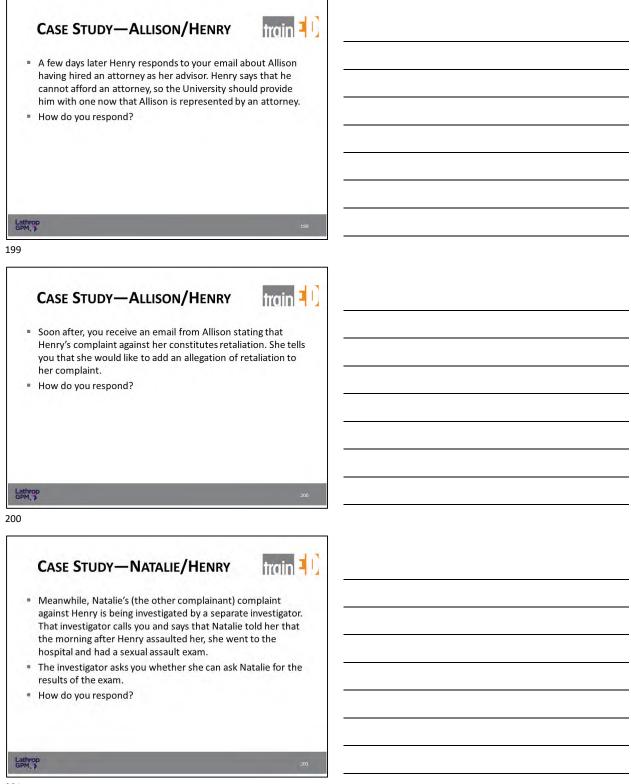
#### CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY



- You send an email to Allison reminding her that all communications with the University must come directly from her. You attach an advisor agreement for Allison's advisor to sign. You inform Allison that she may only have one advisor accompany her to meetings, not her advisor and a parent(s). You inform Allison that the University will copy her advisor on all communications to her once her advisor has signed and returned the advisor agreement.
- Allison's advisor signs and returns the agreement.
- You notify Henry that Allison has an attorney advisor.









#### **TREATMENT RECORDS**



Institution 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 institution obtains that party's voluntary, written consent to do so.

#### 202

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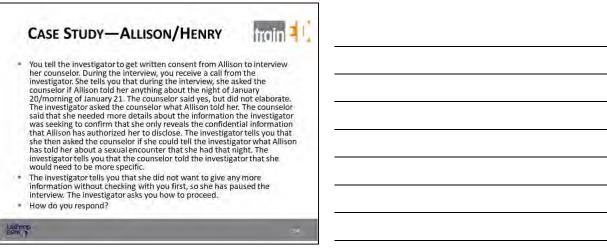
### CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY



- Returning to the matter involving Allison and Henry, the investigator also tells you that Allison stated during her initial interview that the week after she reported the alleged assault, she went to see her counselor and told her about the assault. Allison requested that the investigator interview her counselor as a witness.
- What should you tell the investigator to do?

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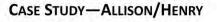


#### CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY

- The investigator also sent you an email saying that during Henry's initial interview, he told the investigator that he has proof that Allison wanted a sexual relationship with him. Henry said that right before they hooked up the second time, Allison sent Henry text messages that included nude photos of herself along with explicit comments about sexual things she wanted to do with him. The investigator says that Henry just sent the investigator an email attaching the screen shots.
- The investigator asks you what to do with the explicit content?

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- After consulting with legal counsel, you tell the investigator to ask Henry to resubmit the screenshots with the explicit content redacted. You also tell the investigator to ask Allison about the screenshots and, if she agrees she sent the photos and still has them, ask her to submit redacted versions. The investigator will then confirm with the parties that they agree on the content that has been redacted.
- You also tell the investigator that if Allison does not dispute the content of the screenshots, it may be enough to include a description of the screenshots in the investigation report (if relevant).

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#### CASE STUDY— ALLISON/NATALIE/HENRY

- You receive a phone call from the local police. The officer tells you that they are investigating criminal charges against Henry by Allison and Natalie. He instructs you to suspend your investigations until further notice from him.
- What do you do?

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What do you say?



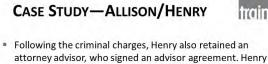
#### CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY



The investigator calls you and says she is in the middle of Allison's follow-up interview. The investigator says that Allison is accompanied by her attorney. She tells you that when she began asking Allison questions about a sexual encounter between Allison and Henry prior to the January 21 alleged assault, Allison's attorney "objected" to the question and told the investigator that under Title IX she was not allowed to ask questions about the complainant's prior sexual history. The investigator asks you how she should proceed.

How do you respond?

#### 211

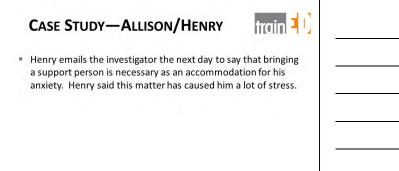


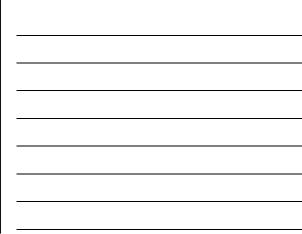
emails the investigator saying that his attorney advisor will be attending his follow-up interview. He also says that he'll be bringing his assistant basketball coach as a support person.

 The investigator forwards you the email and asks how to respond.

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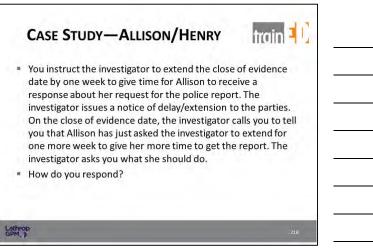
## CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY



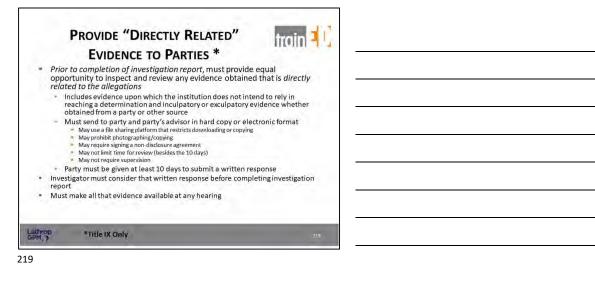
- The investigator notifies the parties of the close of evidence date.
- A few days later, before the close of evidence, the investigator forwards you an email from Allison stating that the police informed her that they have completed their investigation in the concurrent criminal matter and that the matter has been referred to the prosecutor's office. Allison tells the investigator that she just has requested a copy of the police report. She asks that the investigator delay the close of evidence until she receives a response from the police/prosecutor regarding her request. The investigator asks you whether she should delay the close of evidence date. How do you respond?

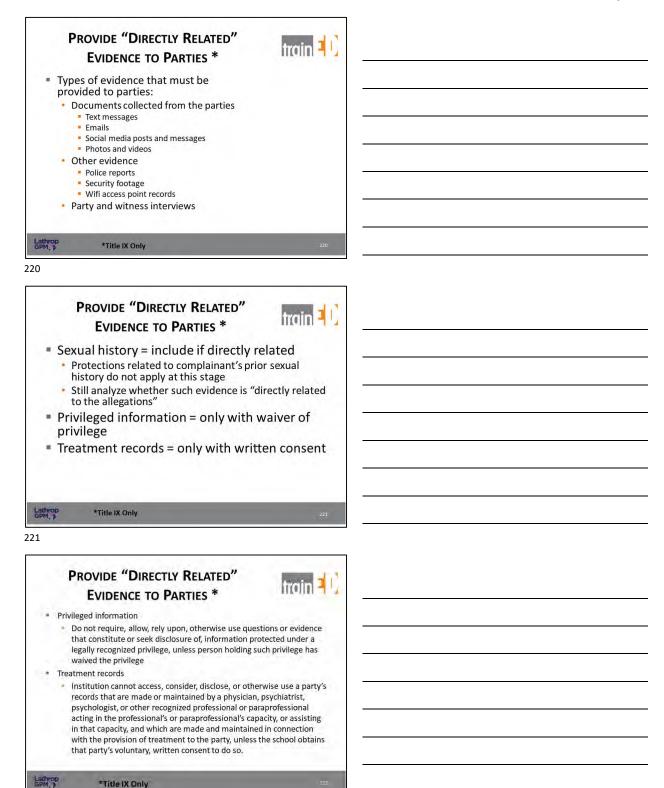
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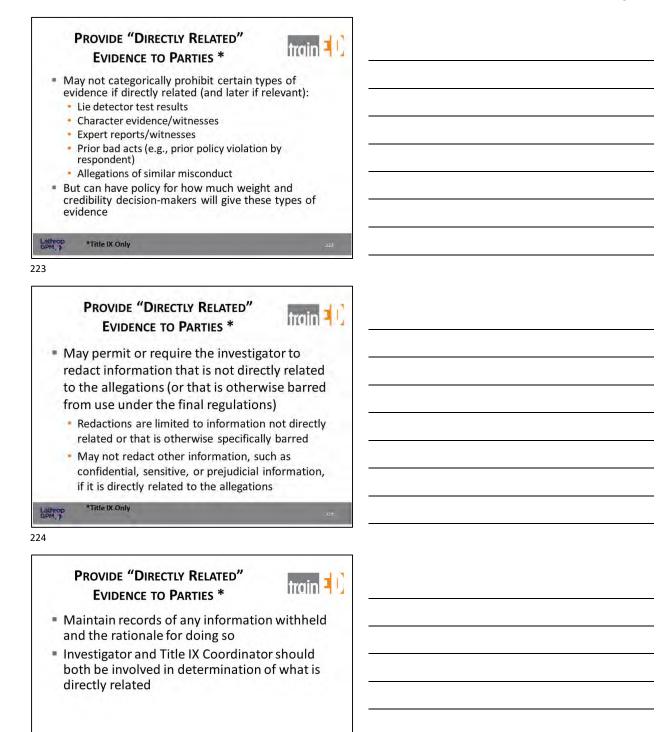


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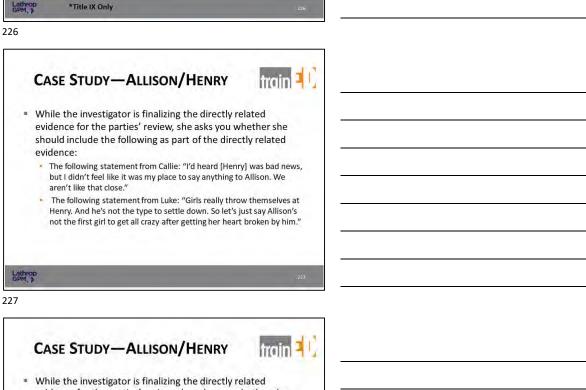
225

# **PROVIDE "DIRECTLY RELATED" EVIDENCE TO PARTIES \***

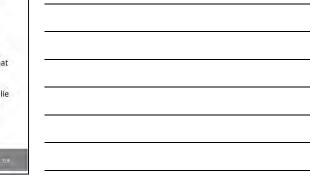


- Ensuring privacy
  - May require parties and advisors to:
    - Use the evidence (and investigation report) only for purposes of the grievance process and
    - Require them not to further disseminate or disclose these materials
  - May use a non-disclosure agreement
  - May use digital encryption or other practices to address privacy concerns

226

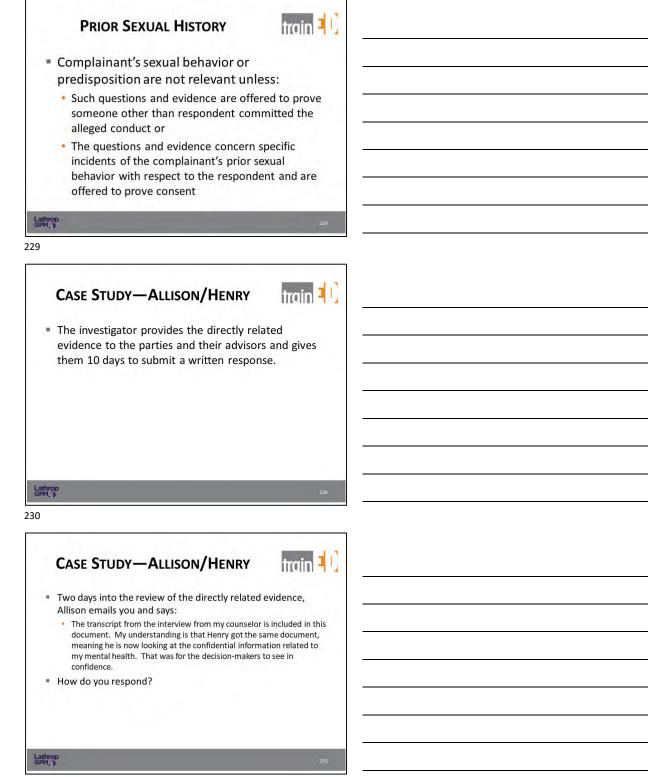


- evidence for the parties' review, she asks you whether she should include the following as part of the directly related evidence (cont.):
  - Allison's statement that she was not sure she would file a report because she was too afraid of the backlash, especially since Henry is so popular and is on the basketball team. But when she found out that he had done this to others and another girl was even going to file a complaint against him, it gave her courage to speak out.
  - Henry's statement that this "whole thing" came about because Natalie (who also filed a complaint against Henry) convinced Allison to file a complaint. Henry says Natalie planted the idea of rape in Allison's mind.
  - Redacted screenshots of explicit images sent by Allison to Henry.





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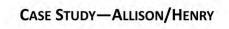
\*Title IX Only

## INVESTIGATION REPORT



- Must create investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence
- Complainant's sexual behavior or predisposition are not relevant unless:
  - Such questions and evidence are offered to prove someone other than respondent committed the alleged conduct or
  - The questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent
- Investigator should not include any information about the complainant's sexual history in the investigation report, unless it falls under one of these exceptions.

#### 235

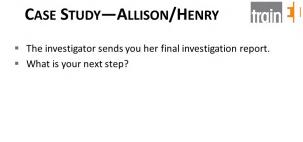




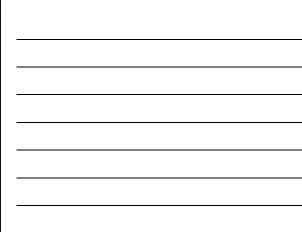
- During the investigation, the investigator asked Allison about the redacted explicit images that Henry submitted. Allison agreed that she had sent the images and said that they were sent when things were going well with Henry and she thought they were moving toward a relationship.
- Both parties submitted redacted versions of the photos. The investigator is wondering whether to include the redacted screenshots of the explicit images in the investigation report. How do you respond?

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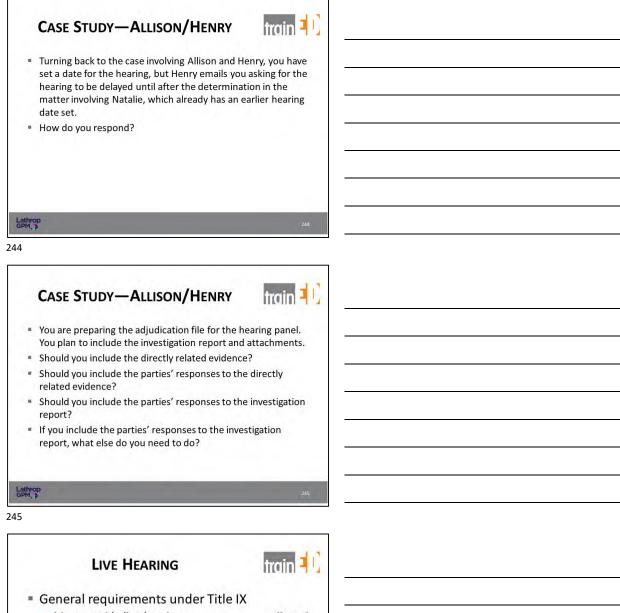
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- Must provide live hearing
- Permit each party's advisor to ask the other party and witnesses "all relevant questions and follow-up questions"



- If party does not have advisor, institution must provide one for cross-examination
- If a party or witness does not submit to crossexamination at hearing, their statements cannot be considered by decision-maker(s)

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<sup>246</sup> 

## **DECISION-MAKER(S)**



- May have single decision-maker or a panel of decision-makers
- If a panel of decision-makers, may appoint one decision-maker to make relevancy determinations at the hearing
- May appoint Title IX Coordinator or another individual who is not a decision-maker to enforce procedural rules at the hearing
  - Decision-maker(s) must still determine relevancy issues

#### 247

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Determine hearing format and arrange technology
 May conduct with all parties physically present in the same

- May conduct with all parties physically present in the same location
   At the result of other part, institution must enough for live
  - At the request of either party, institution must provide for live hearing to occur with the parties located in separate rooms with technology enabling the decision-maker and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or witness answering questions
  - Witness cannot demand to be in a separate room, unless that witness alleges they are also a victim of respondent (institution can permit witness to be in a separate room upon request)
- May conduct virtually (for all parties, witnesses, and other participants), with technology enabling participants simultaneously to see and hear each other
   Video is required; phone is insufficient

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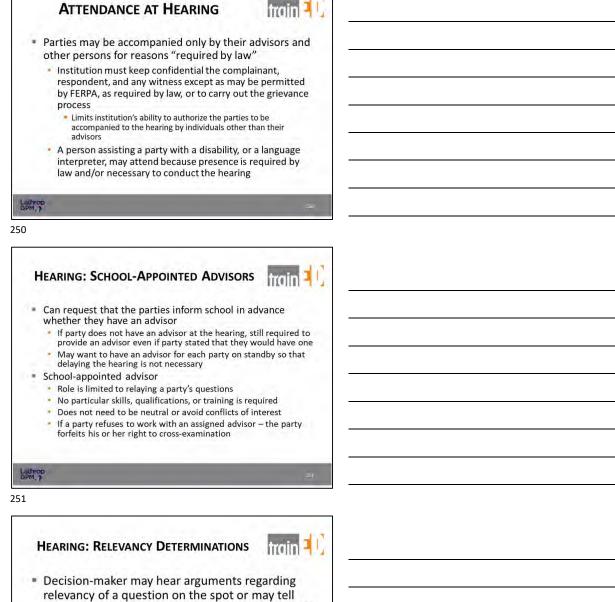


- Decision-maker(s) should review adjudication file
- Decision-maker(s) identify ultimate questions that will need to be decided
  - Consider questions or topics that may come up and any anticipated relevancy issues
- Decision-maker(s) determine whether any additional information is needed to make the decision
  - Identify witnesses to request if additional information is needed or if credibility is at issue
  - CAUTION: Don't base credibility on demeanor
- Parties identify additional witnesses
- Request that these witnesses make themselves available for the hearing





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- relevancy of a question on the spot or may tell parties to reserve arguments for appeal (incorrect relevancy determination could be an alleged procedural error on appeal)
- Must allow question if relevant, even if misleading or assumes facts not in evidence
- Can establish rule that duplicative questions are not relevant
- Exclude questions with caution



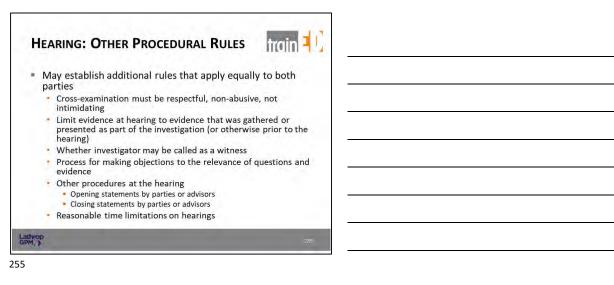
252

## train HEARING—CROSS-EXAMINATION Party or witness who does not appear at the hearing or refuses to answer questions at the hearing Decision-maker(s) may still rely on previous statements from party/witness who is absent or refuses to answer one or more questions Consider weight to be given to statements (put in policy) Consider allowing party or advisor to share questions they would have asked a party or witness who is absent or will not submit to cross-examination 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 SPM 3 253 **HEARING: CROSS-EXAMINATION** Party or witness who does not appear at the hearing

- Advisor may conduct cross-examination on behalf of party even if party is not present
- If one party does something to wrongfully procure absence of a party or witness, that is likely retaliation and the school must remedy
- School also cannot coerce unwilling participant
   Be careful with any requirement that a student or employee cooperate with grievance process
  - Discipline for not attending hearing may constitute retaliation

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#### HEARING: OTHER PROCEDURAL RULES



- Some procedural rules are prohibited
  - Cannot prohibit a party from conferring with his or her advisor during the hearing
    - Likely can prohibit conferring when a question is pending
       Could also discourage from conferring when a question is pending by warning that such conduct will be considered
  - when weighing the party's credibility
    Cannot prohibit character evidence, lie detector test results, evidence that is unduly prejudicial, or evidence of prior bad acts
    - Decision-maker may determine how much weight to give

such evidence

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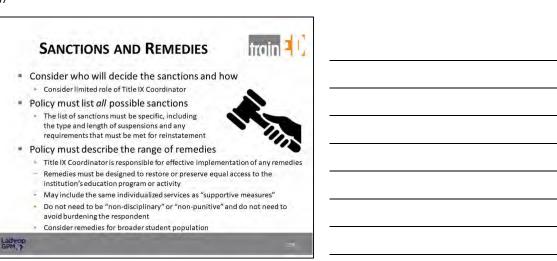
# CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY



- The hearing in the matter involving Natalie and Henry has already taken place, and the panel found Henry responsible for sexual assault. The panel has suggested a sanction of suspension.
- The timeframe for issuing the Notice of Determination in the Natalie/Henry matter will extend beyond the hearing in the Allison/Henry matter.
- Will the decision in the Natalie/Henry matter affect the hearing or decision in the Allison/Henry matter?

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#### **NOTICE OF DETERMINATION**

- Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment
- Procedural steps since complaint

   Notices to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather
  other evidence, hearings held
- Findings of fact
- Conclusion regarding application of code of conduct to the facts
- Statement of and rationale for the result as to each allegation
- Determination of responsibility
- Any disciplinary sanctions imposed on respondent Whether remedies will be provided to complainant
- Appeal information
- Simultaneous delivery to the parties

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- Becomes final either the date the parties receive the written determination of the appeal or the date on which an appeal would no longer be timely
- Sanctions may not be imposed until determination is final

# GPM, P

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# CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY



- The hearing panel has found that Henry is not responsible for Sexual Assault or Sexual Exploitation and that Allison is not responsible for Non-Title IX Sexual Harassment.
- However, because Henry is found responsible for Sexual Assault toward Natalie, he is suspended for two years or until Natalie graduates, whichever is longer.
- Do you inform Allison of the results of the case involving Natalie?





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# CASE STUDY—ALLISON/HENRY

- Several months have passed, and Allison stops by your office one day. She says that she is once again working with the men's basketball team as a trainer. She says that the guys on the team will not speak to her and even avoid being treated by her. She says they go to the athletic training room before practice to find a different trainer to tape ankles, etc. She says they haven't said anything to her, but she knows it is because they see her as a reason Henry was suspended, even though he was found not responsible in her case. She says that she asked her supervising professor if she could be assigned to a different team, but he said that it was not possible. Allison says she doesn't know what to do.
- How should you respond?

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## CASE STUDY— RICK/PROFESSOR CURIE

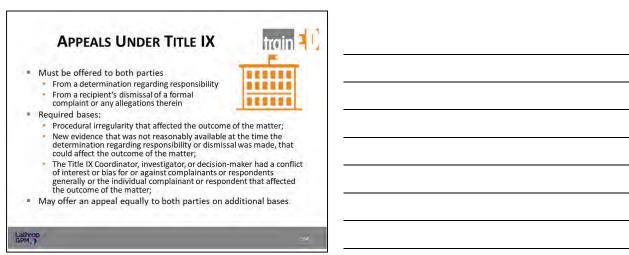


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- The University did not reach a separation agreement with Professor Curie, and the matter proceeded to a hearing. The hearing panel found Professor Curie responsible for Title IX Sexual Harassment and imposed a sanction of termination.
- Professor Curie files an appeal arguing that the University is biased against women because a male professor accused of sexual harassment last year was found not responsible and allowed to keep his job.
- How do you respond?

263

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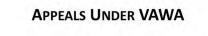
# **APPEALS UNDER TITLE IX**

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- Requirements
  - Notify other party in writing when an appeal is filed
     Appeal officer is different than Title IX Coordinator,
  - investigator and decision-maker at hearing
  - No conflict of interest or bias
  - Individuals responsible for appeal must receive training
  - Give both parties reasonable, equal opportunity to submit written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome
  - Written decision describing result of appeal and rationale
  - Simultaneous delivery of result to parties

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- Not required, but if offered, must do so equally
- Transparency, equality, notice requirements from main process will apply to appeals
- Examples include:
  - Right to advisor
  - Notice of meetings
  - Access to information used by appeals panel/individual
  - Simultaneous notice of outcome
  - Simultaneous notice of outcom

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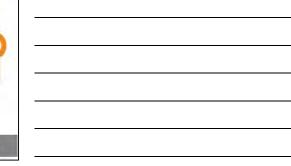
# Additional Required Post-Determination Notices

- For sexual assault and VAWA crimes, your institution must provide simultaneous notice to both parties of—
  - Any change to the results that occurs prior to the time that such results become final



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- When such results become final
- For Title IX, your institution must provide concurrent written notice of—
   The outcome of any appeal
  - The outcome of any appeal





# train RECORDKEEPING For 7 years, must maintain: Investigation and adjudication Any determination regarding responsibility Any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript of the hearing Any disciplinary sanctions imposed Any remedies provided to complainant Any appeal and result Any informal resolution and the result Training materials for investigators, decision-makers, coordinators, and persons designated to facilitate informal resolution process GPM } 268 train 💷 RECORDKEEPING For 7 years, must maintain (cont.): Any actions taken (including supportive measures) in response to a report of sexual harassment Basis for conclusion that response was not deliberately indifferent Measures were designed to restore or preserve equal access to educational programs and activities If supportive measures were not provided, document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of known circumstances Recordkeeping does not prevent inclusion of additional details or explanations later

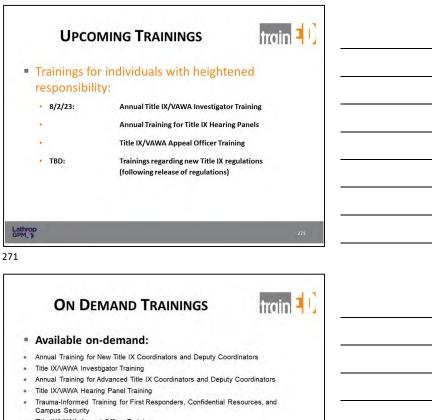
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- Title IX/VAWA Appeal Officer Training
- VAWA Adjudicator Training
   Conducting a Grievance Proce
- Conducting a Grievance Process Under the New Title IX Regulations
   Title IX Update: Final Regulations

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