





## **Title IX Coordinator Responsibilities**

- Must be called Title IX Coordinator
- Must be identified (with name or title, address, phone, and email) in policy and on website
- Must meet with alleged victims of Title IX Sexual Harassment

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## **Title IX Coordinator Responsibilities**

- Informs CP of availability of supportive measures and formal complaint process
- Decides whether to "sign" a complaint when the CP doesn't want to file
- Coordinates implementation of supportive measures
- Ensures effective implementation of remedies
- Monitors ongoing compliance with Title IX

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5

## **Timeline**



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# Website Posting Required by 8/14

- Training materials used to train Title IX Team
- Title IX Coordinator Information
- Policy Language
  - Nondiscrimination Language
  - TIX SH Grievance Process

## **Robin's Report**

- This morning
- Email from Dean of Students/AP
- Robin, a first-year lacrosse player, reported conduct that occurred against Robin's friend, Cameron, also a first-year lacrosse player

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7

## **Robin's Report**

- Lacrosse orientation week
- Park across street from the school
- Two upperclass students lacrosse players vs. Cameron—the main Respondent is Parker

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## Robin's Report

- Verbal harassment
  - Going to violate your mother
  - Want to "smoke" (understood to mean sexual assault), will give starting position on team if do
- Grabbed Cameron by the neck and bent Cameron over; poked Cameron's anus over the clothes

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9

## Robin's Report

- Coaches saw the incident
  - Laughed at first
  - Noticed Cameron looked shaken
  - Sternly reprimanded upperclass students in front of Cameron
  - > Told Cameron if it happened again to report it
- Nonetheless, physical incidents kept occurring

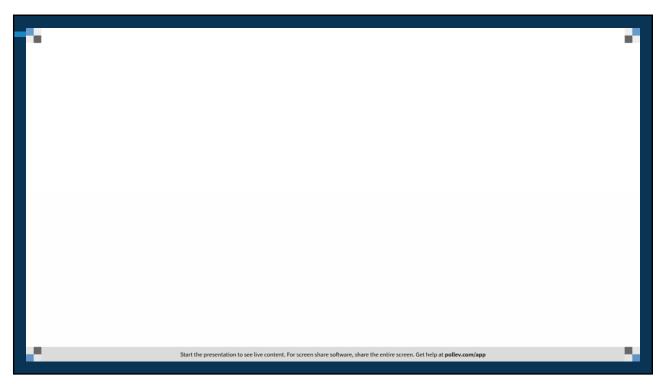
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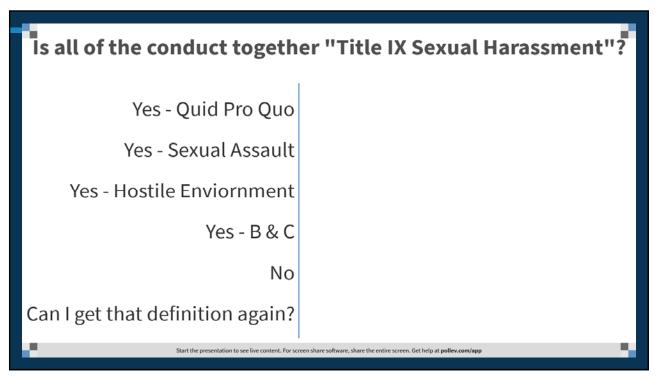
## **Robin's Report**

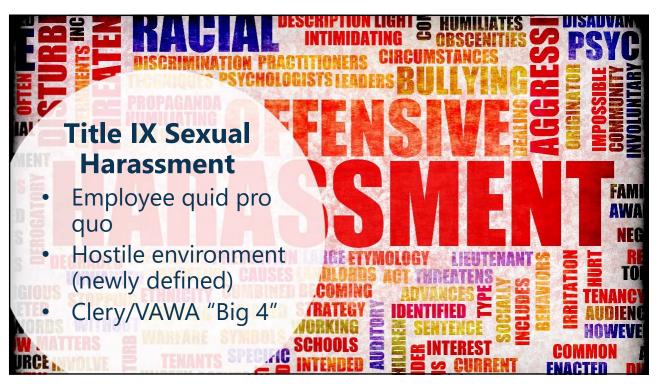
- One (same) coach observed later incident; shook her head and walked away
- Last day of orientation
  - Hazing ritual
  - Multiple upperclassmen grabbed Cameron and two other rookies
  - Pulled down pants, poked anus with broomstick

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11







## **TIX Quid Pro Quo**

**Definition:** An employee of the recipient conditioning an aid, service, or benefit of the recipient on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct

**New:** Only an employee (not a volunteer, another student, etc.)

Codified: Severity and harm presumed

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15

## VAWA "Big Four"

Sexual Assault 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v)

Domestic Violence 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8)

Dating Violence 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10)

Stalking 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30)

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## **Sexual Assault under VAWA**

- Sexual Assault:
  - Penetration without consent (rape)
  - Fondling without consent
  - > Incest
  - Statutory rape

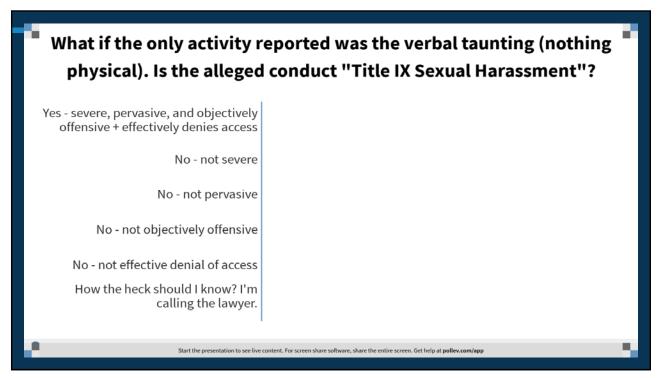
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17

## Also, Hostile Environment

- Unwelcome conduct
- Of a sexual nature
- So severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive
- Effectively denies equal access

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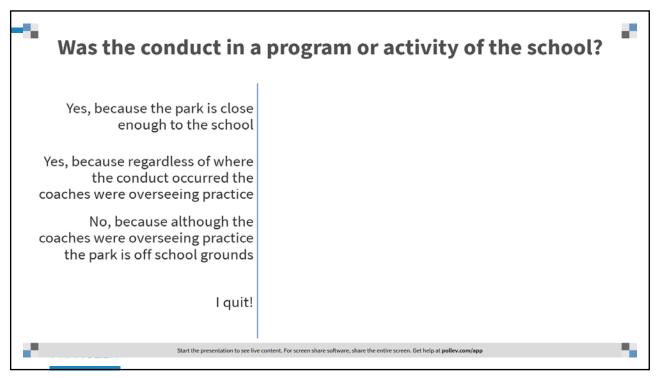
### Title IX – What is a Hostile Environment

#### **Old Definition**

Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be severe, pervasive or persistent as to interfere with or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from school services, activities, or opportunities

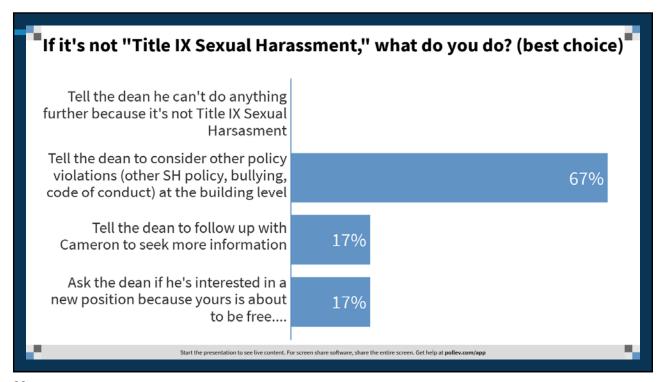
#### **New Definition (8/14)**

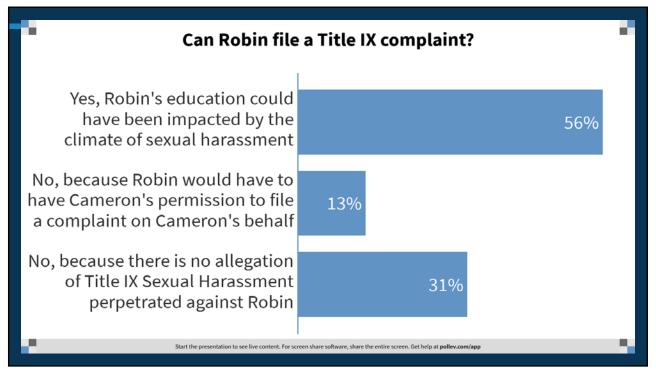
Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person's equal access to the school's education program or activity

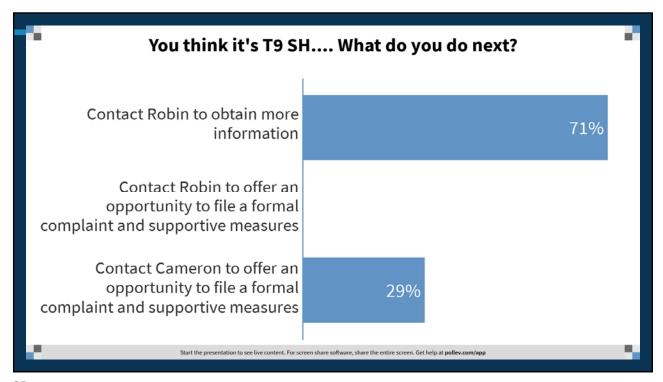




**Program or Activity:** Any location, events, or circumstance over which the school exhibits substantial control over both the alleged harasser and the "context" in which the harassment occurred



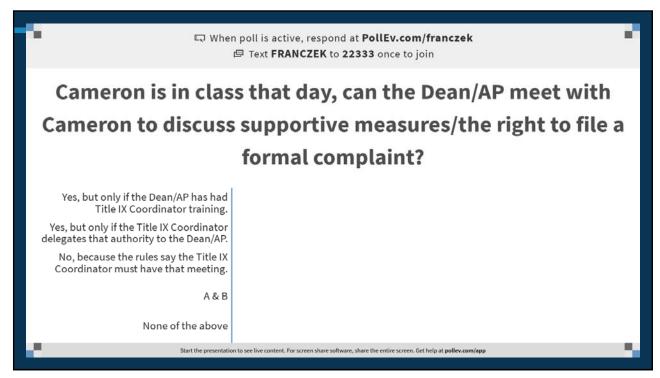




# Title IX Coordinator must promptly, **even if no Formal Complaint is filed**:

- Contact the Title IX Complainant to discuss the availability of "supportive measures"
- Consider the Title IX Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures
- Inform the Title IX Complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint
- Explain the process for filing a Formal Complaint

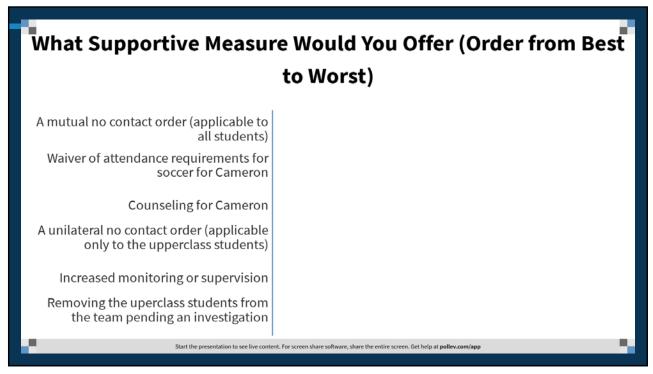




## **Cameron's Report**

- You tell the Dean to meet with Cameron (WRITE IT DOWN)
- Cameron confirms all of the allegations

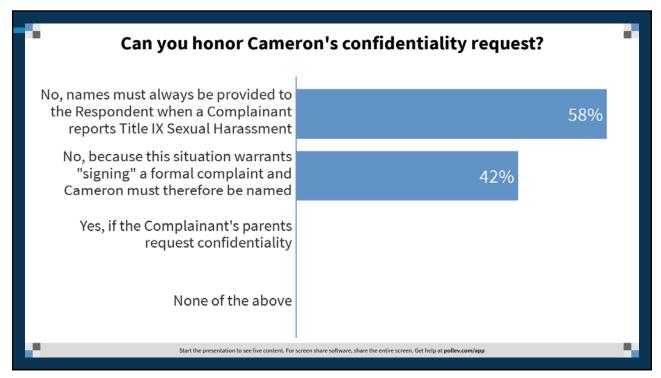
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## **Cameron's Report**

- Cameron does not want to file a formal complaint
- Cameron begs not to be named to the upperclass students

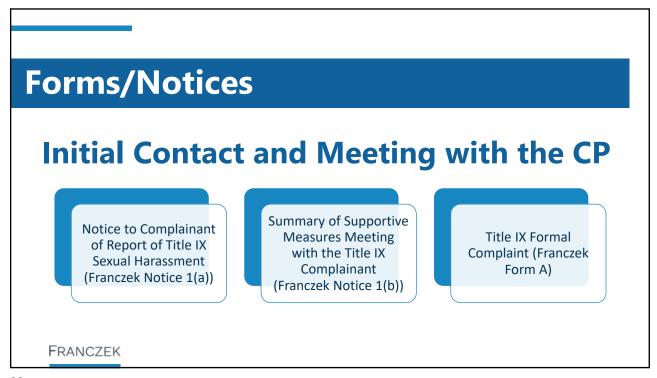
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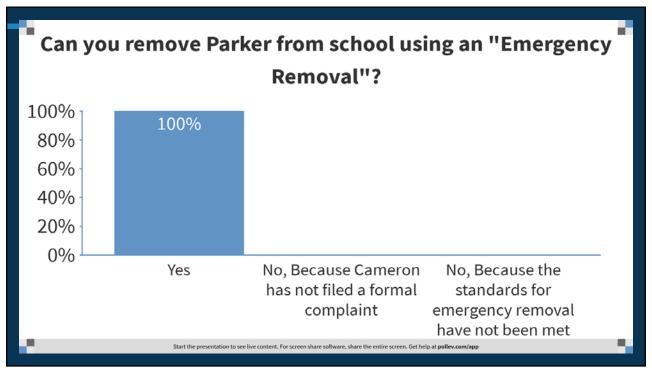


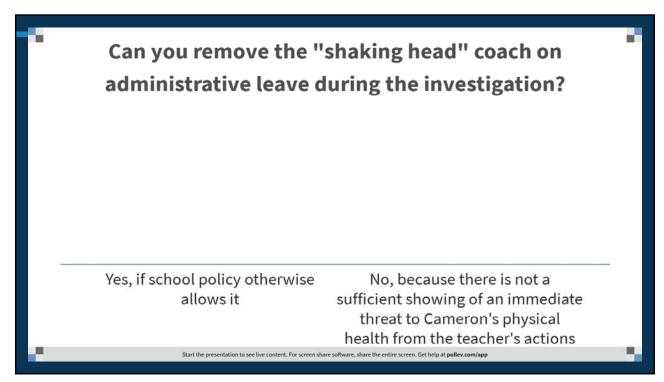
## "Signing a Complaint"

- Consider:
  - Position of authority
  - Pattern of alleged conduct
  - > Involvement of violence, weapons, etc.
  - Seriousness of alleged conduct
  - Age of student harassed
- Title IX Coordinator does not become Complainant or party
- Decision to sign a Formal Complaint or not reviewed for "deliberate indifference"

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### Emergency Removal/ Admin Leave

# Immediate emergency removal (34 C.F.R. 106.44(c))

- Based on an individualized safety and risk analysis
- Necessary to protect a student or other individual from immediate threat to physical health or safety
- Notice, opportunity to challenge provided "immediately" provided the removal

## **Employee administrative leave**

(34 C.F.R. 106.44(d))

- Not prohibited
- Consider state law, board policy, handbooks, and bargaining agreements

## Remember State & Federal Law

- Additional process may be required for emergency removal to occur
  - Student discipline state laws (e.g., long term suspension, expulsion)
  - Disability rights federal and state law
  - Employee rights law, policy, agreements

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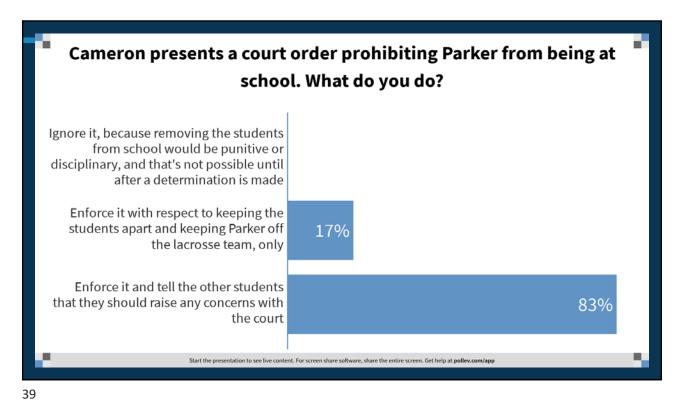
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## **Forms/Notices**

## **Notice of Emergency Removal**

Notice of Title IX Emergency Removal (Franczek Letter 4(a)) Notice of Title IX
Admin Leave for
Employee (Franczek
Letter 4(b))

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## **Formal Complaint – Next Steps**

- Written notice to all known parties
  - Grievance process
  - Allegations
  - Respondent presumed not responsible
  - Right to advisor
  - Right to inspect/review evidence
  - Notice of provision on false statements

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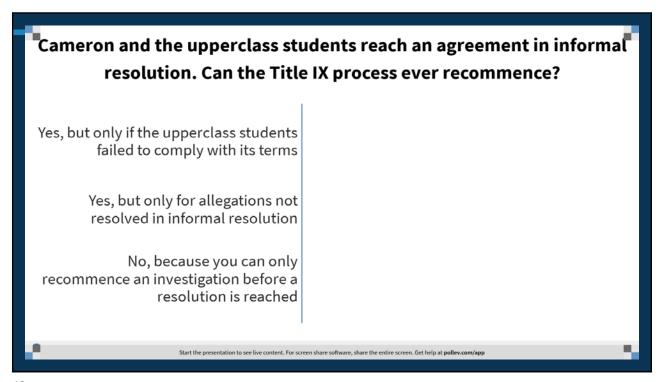
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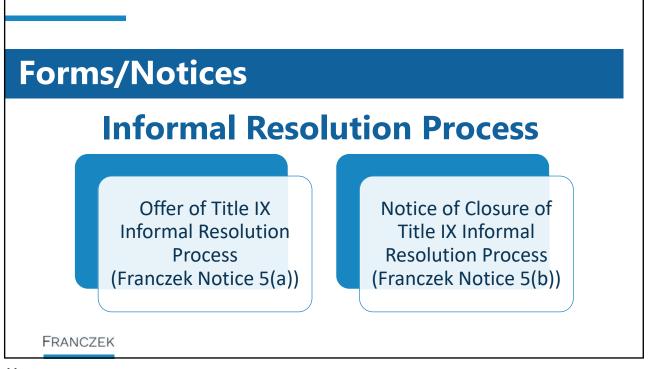
## **Forms/Notices**

## **Notice of Allegations**

Notice of Allegations of Title IX Sexual Harassment by a Complainant (Franczek Notice 2(a)) Notice of Allegations
Upon Signing of Formal
Complaint by the Title
IX Coordinator
(Franczek Notice 2(b))

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## Let the investigation begin....

- Identify investigator
- Investigator sends notice to parties (and, we recommend, to witnesses) before interviews

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45

## **Forms/Notices**

## **Notice of Interview**

Notice of Title IX Interview or Meeting with Title IX Party (Franczek Notice 6(a)) Notice of Title IX
Interview or Meeting
with Non-Party
Witness (Franczek
Notice 6(b))

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## Witness - Devon

- Devon, witness
- Also on the lacrosse team, upperclass student

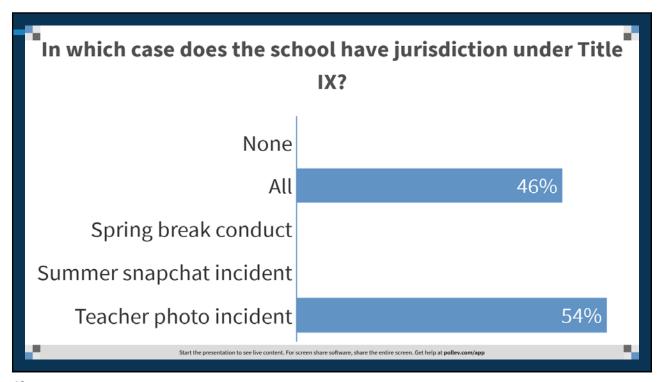
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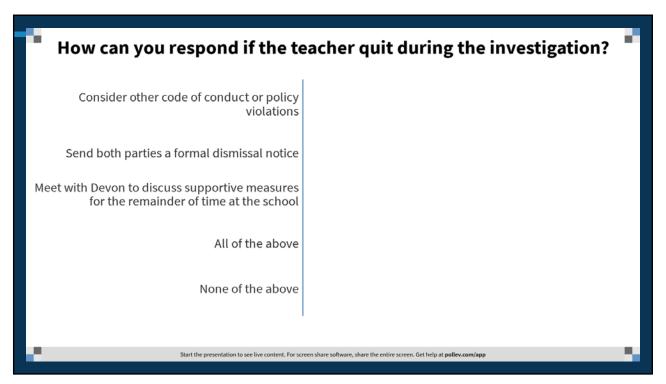
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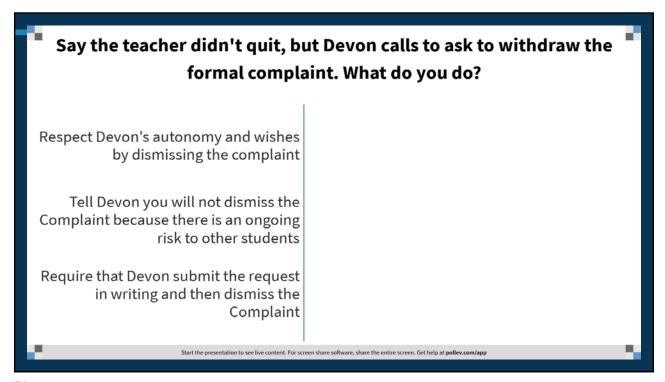
## Witness - Devon

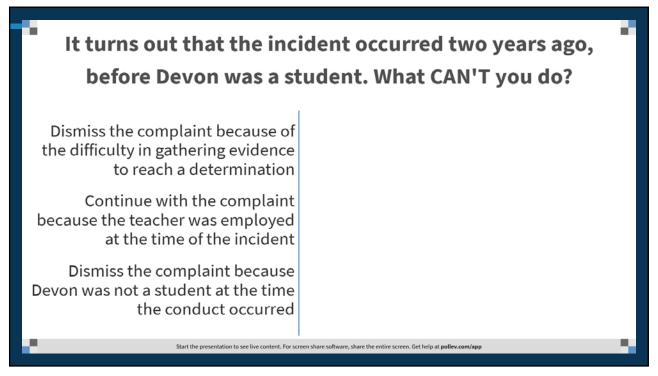
- Sexual assault by classmate on spring break trip abroad last year
- Sexual harassment by classmate via Snapchat over the summer (off-campus, not on school tech or hours)
- A teacher asked Devon for a naked photo and Devon shared one
- Devon files a formal Title IX Complaint

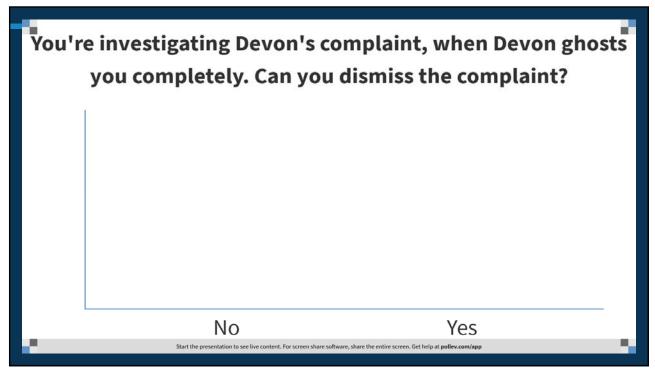
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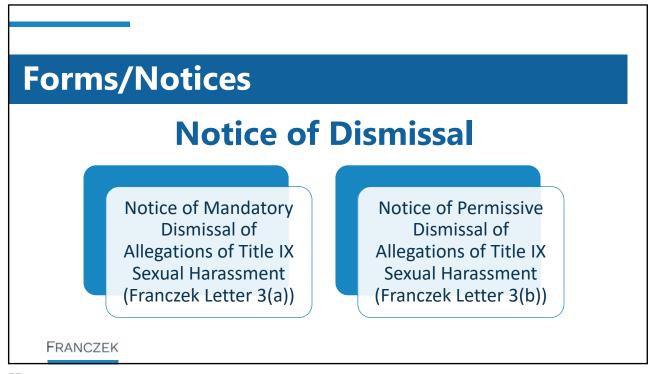




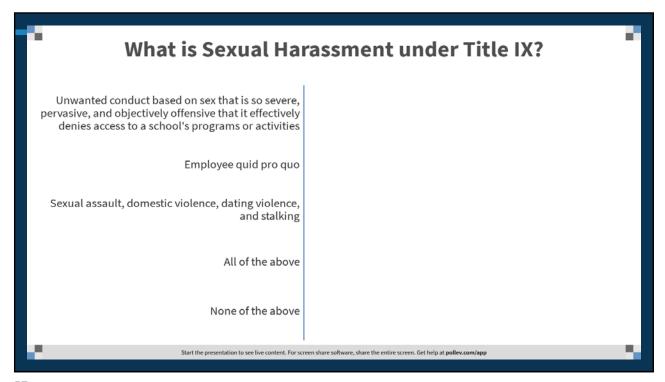




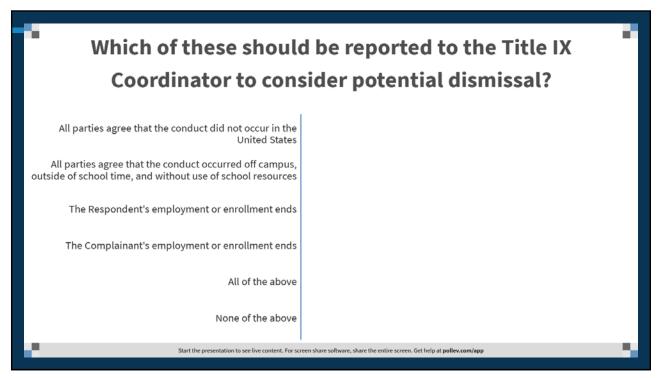














# Title IX Investigator Responsibilities

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61



# Investigation: Required Elements

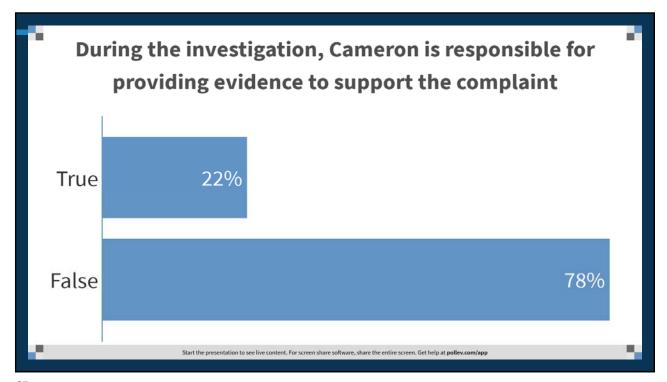
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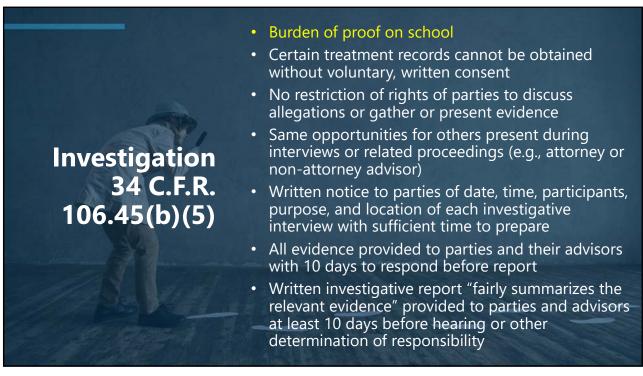
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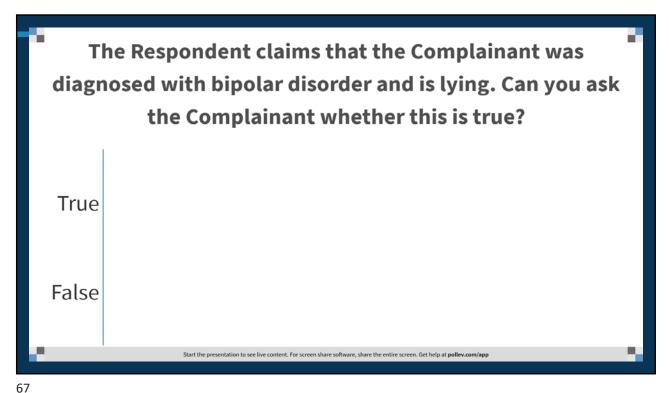
## Investigation

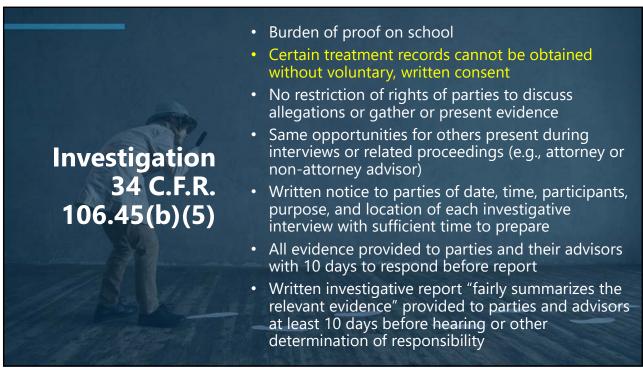
- Occurs when there is a "formal complaint"
- Must contain specific elements
- Must treat parties equally on any additional elements

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## **Treatment Records**

- Can't access, consider, disclose, or use records
- Made by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional
- Which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment,
- Unless the party gives voluntary, written consent

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69



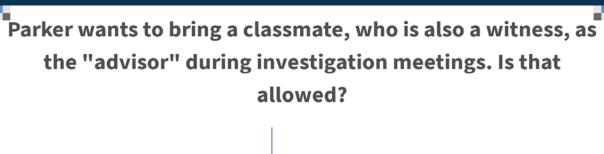


- Burden of proof on school
- Certain treatment records cannot be obtained without voluntary, written consent
- No restriction of rights of parties to discuss allegations or gather or present evidence
- Same opportunities for others present during interviews or related proceedings (e.g., attorney or non-attorney advisor)
- Written notice to parties of date, time, participants, purpose, and location of each investigative interview with sufficient time to prepare
- All evidence provided to parties and their advisors with 10 days to respond before report
- Written investigative report "fairly summarizes the relevant evidence" provided to parties and advisors at least 10 days before hearing or other determination of responsibility

## **Retaliation and Gag Orders**

- Gag order not allowed
- Warn of risks from speaking about the complaint
- Notify all parties and witnesses of retaliation rights and encourage follow up

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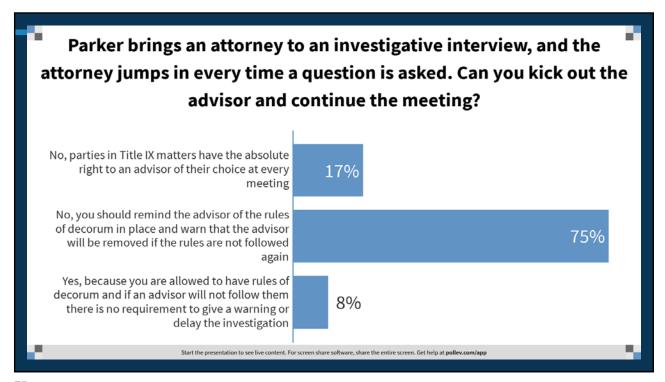
Yes, parties can bring the advisor of choice to a meeting

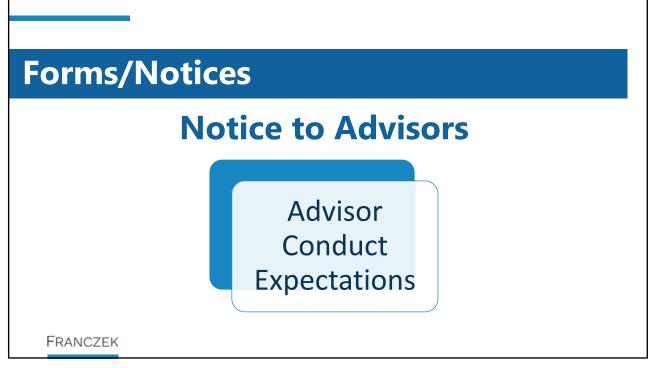
No, Parker can bring a parent or attorney as an advisor, but not a witness

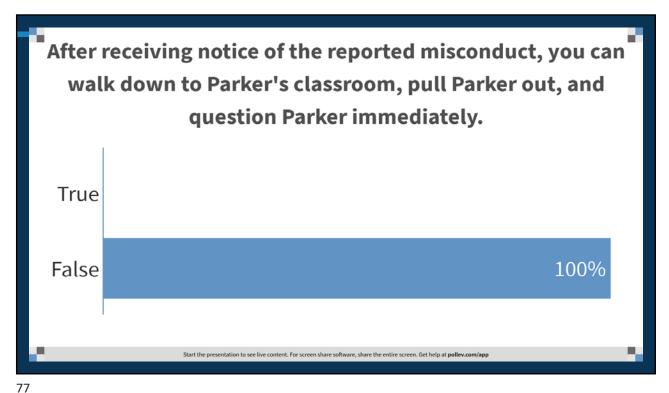
Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at pollev.com/app

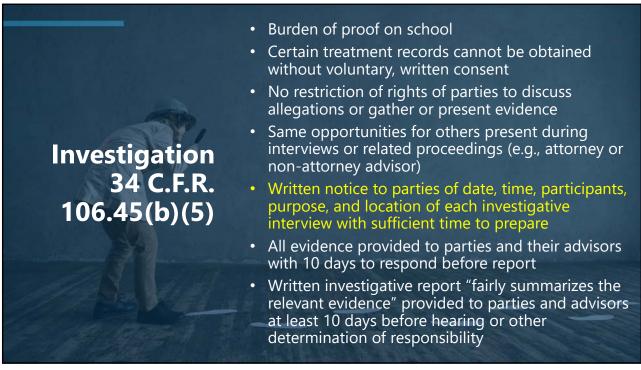
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#### Burden of proof on school Certain treatment records cannot be obtained without voluntary, written consent No restriction of rights of parties to discuss allegations or gather or present evidence Same opportunities for others present during interviews or related proceedings (e.g., attorney or Investigation non-attorney advisor) 34 C.F.R. Written notice to parties of date, time, participants, purpose, and location of each investigative 106.45(b)(5) interview with sufficient time to prepare All evidence provided to parties and their advisors with 10 days to respond before report Written investigative report "fairly summarizes the relevant evidence" provided to parties and advisors at least 10 days before hearing or other determination of responsibility









# **Before Party Interviews**

#### Communicate in Writing:

- Date, time, location, participants, purpose
- With sufficient time to prepare Recommend same for witnesses (not required)

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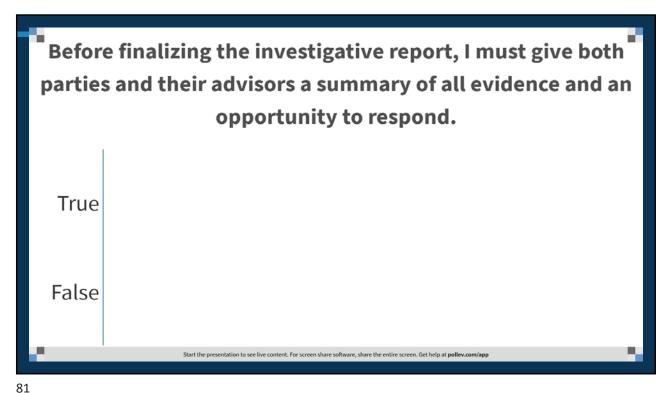
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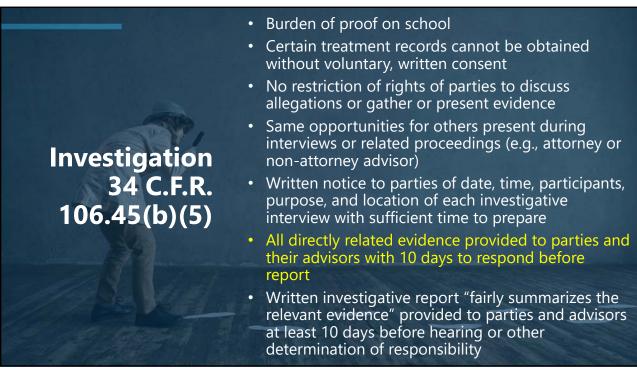
# **Forms/Notices**

#### **Notice of Interview**

Notice of Title IX Interview or Meeting with Title IX Party (Franczek Notice 6(a)) Notice of Title IX
Interview or Meeting
with Non-Party
Witness (Franczek
Notice 6(b))

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# **Directly Related Evidence**

- Must share evidence directly related to the allegations with both parties and advisors simultaneously with 10 days to respond before writing the report
  - ➤ Review/consider responses
  - ➤ Share responses with the other side

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83

# Which of these is NOT directly related evidence in Cameron's formal complaint? Email messages from Cameron to Parker earlier in the school year in which Cameron and Parker seem to be flirting Draft interview notes from interviews with parties and witnesses (final version was created) Text messages from Parker to another female student with similar conduct Facebook messages between Cameron and another student with raunchy sexual language Rumors from a witness of something another witness (not available to interview) said about Parker engaging in similar conduct with the unavailable witness None of the above (they all are directly related)zoom login

# **Forms/Notices**

# **Sharing of Evidence**

Notice of Directly Related Evidence (Franczek Letter 7(a)) Notice of Other Party's Written Response to Evidence (Franczek Letter 7(b))

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85

Investigation 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(5)

- Burden of proof on school
- Certain treatment records cannot be obtained without voluntary, written consent
- No restriction of rights of parties to discuss allegations or gather or present evidence
- Same opportunities for others present during interviews or related proceedings (e.g., attorney or non-attorney advisor)
- Written notice to parties of date, time, participants, purpose, and location of each investigative interview with sufficient time to prepare
- All evidence provided to parties and their advisors with 10 days to respond before report
- Written investigative report "fairly summarizes the relevant evidence" provided to parties and advisors at least 10 days before hearing or other determination of responsibility

# **Investigation Report**

- Applicable policies and procedures
- Timeline of investigation
- Description of allegations
- Unbiased summary of evidence gathered, including interviews
- Credibility determination(s)

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87

#### **Forms/Notices Investigative Report** Transmittal Cover Title IX Investigative Notice of Investigative Notice of Other Party's Letter to Decision-Report Template Report (Franczek Written Response maker at Conclusion of (Franczek Form B) Notice 8(a)) (Franczek Notice 8(b)) Investigation (Franczek Letter 8(c)) FRANCZEK

# **Investigation Report**

- Must fairly summarize all <u>relevant</u> <u>evidence</u>
- Relevant evidence is different from evidence "directly related to the allegations"

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89

#### **Determining Relevance**

- Evidence is generally considered relevant if it has value in proving or disproving a fact at issue
- Exceptions
  - ➤ Sexual behavior of CP (except in limited situations)
  - ➤ Legal privilege
  - >Treatment records

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# Rape Shield for CP

- Exclude evidence of Complainant's sexual behavior or predisposition
- Two narrow exceptions
  - Someone other than RP committed conduct
  - ➤ Past conduct between CP & RP to show consent
- Does not apply to Respondent

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91

#### **Treatment Records**

- Can't access, consider, disclose, or use records
- Made by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional
- Which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment,
- Unless the party gives voluntary, written consent

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# **Legally Privileged Information**

- Cannot use questions or evidence that seek disclosure of legally privileged information, unless waived
- Consider:
  - ➤ Attorney-client communication
  - ➤ Privilege against self-incrimination
  - >Confessions to a clergy member or religious figure
  - ➤ Spousal privilege

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93

# Which of these is NOT relevant evidence? Email messages from Cameron to Parker earlier in the school year in which Cameron and Parker seemed to be flirting Draft interview notes from interviews with parties and witnesses (a final version was created) Text messages from Parker to another female student with similar conduct Facebook messages between Cameron and another student with raunchy sexual language Rumors from a witness of something another witness (not available to interview) said about Parker engaging in similar conduct with the unavailable witness

# Investigation: Techniques & Best Practices

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95

# The Investigation Plan

- Witness List
- · Order of Interviews
- Questions for Witnesses
- Physical Evidence Needed, e.g., records, documents, reports, photos, and letters



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## **Cameron's Formal Complaint**

- Cameron reports that the sexual assault occurred after a party. Bobbie and Ali (students) were at the party.
- After the party, Cameron told Robin, Cameron's roommate, what happened. Cameron also talked to a teacher, Mr. Smith.
- Cameron submitted to a police interview and SANE exam shortly after the incident.

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97

# What must you do while delaying for law enforcement reasons? Indefinitely suspend Parker because of the violent nature of the alleged offense Provide equal supportive measures to the parties Comply with timelines in other laws, if applicable Require Parker to sit for an interview None of the above

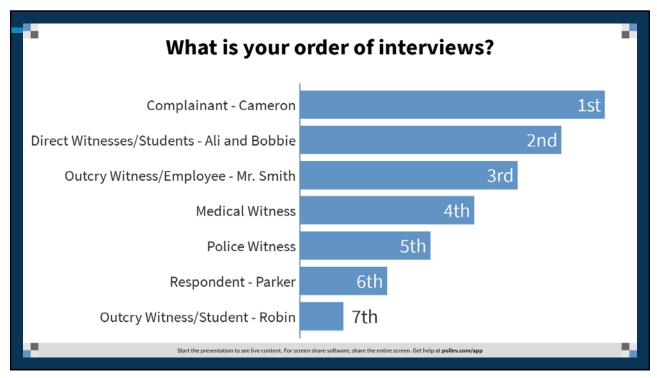
#### **Concurrent Law Enforcement**

- Only "temporary" or "limited" allowed
  - Not "more than briefly" beyond timeframes
  - > Not required
- Reasons potential impact on interviews, self incrimination privilege for PR, release of evidence by police on certain timeline

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99





# **Party Interview Tips**

- Describe allegations
- Avoid discussing theories or assessment of evidence
- Obtain account of events in detail (within reason)

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#### **Prefaces for Witnesses**

- Your Identity and Role as a Neutral
- Notes and Records Confidentiality
- Allegations (if necessary)
- Role of Advisor (if allowed)
- Retaliation
- Rapport Building

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103

#### **Questions**

- Relationships
- Identities of Parties
- Details of Conduct Between the Parties •
- Effect of Alleged Conduct on the **Parties**
- Outcry/Reports
- Other Responses of **Parties**
- Documentary and Other Evidence
- Identities of Witnesses

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#### **Avoid**

- Discussing theories or assessment of the evidence
- Suggesting agreement or outcome
- Pressuring for more information on irrelevant incidents
- Body language or words suggesting judgement

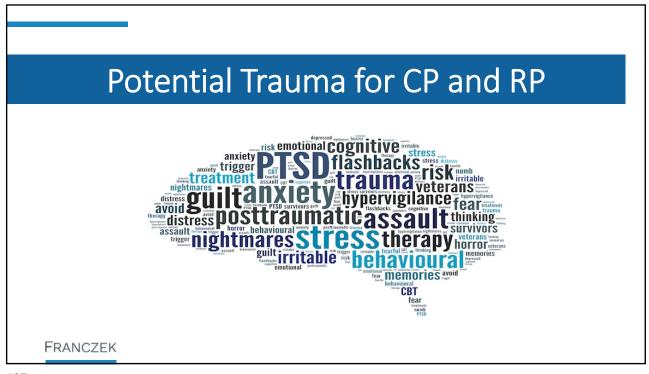
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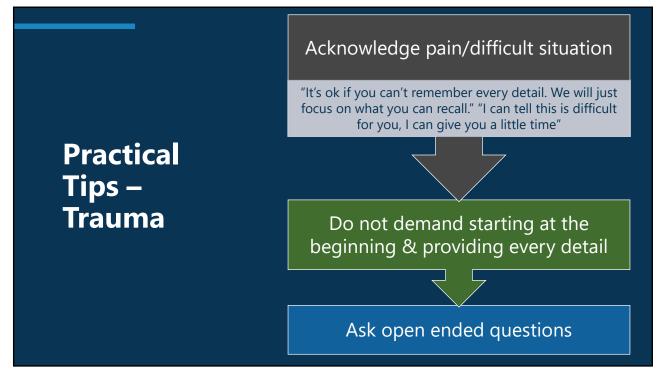
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# Closing

- Anything else?
- Any questions?
- Advisor questions (if allowed)
- Encourage follow-up
- Process (again for parties)

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#### **Emotions**

- Silence is ok
- Sympathy is ok (within reason/neutral) "I can tell this is hard" "I'm sorry this is difficult"
- Allow breaks
- Remember equality not equity is goal for processes

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# **Cardinal Sins of Interviewing**

- Questions that are evaluative
- Long, confusing questions
- Sticking blindly to a script
- Using undefined terms (witness can define)
- Interrupting and rushing

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111

In your own words, what happened?

What did you witness?

Did you respond? If so, how?

For all: where, when, who present?

#### How did the conduct affect you?

What would you like to see as an outcome? (avoid making any promises)

113

# Consider whether appropriate to ask for more incidents than offered

Perhaps instead, focus on repeating "Is there anything else you'd like to tell me or for me to look into?"

#### Retaliation

IN EVERY INTERVIEW, warn about retaliation and explain that a complaint can be filed if someone retaliates.

Watch for different treatment

Actions by staff in avoiding complainant

Harassment by the Respondent or their friends



115

#### **After Interviews**

- Follow up in writing to summarize any points that might need confirmation
- Clean up notes
- Document less formal interactions
- Send links/copies to policies if relevant
- REASSESS allegations, investigation plan, and supportive measures

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# **Scope of the Investigation**

Must be "thorough," but not required to review all potential sources of evidence parties or witnesses identify



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117



# **Serving Impartially**

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119

# **Impartiality**

- Trained
- No: bias, conflict of interest, prejudgment
- Appeal: can be based on improper, biased/conflicted team member

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#### **Standard**

- Declined to define "bias," "conflict of interest," "prejudge"
- The Department encourages recipients to apply an objective (whether a reasonable person would believe bias exists), common sense approach to evaluating whether a particular person serving in a Title IX role is biased, exercising caution not to apply generalizations that might unreasonably conclude that bias exists....

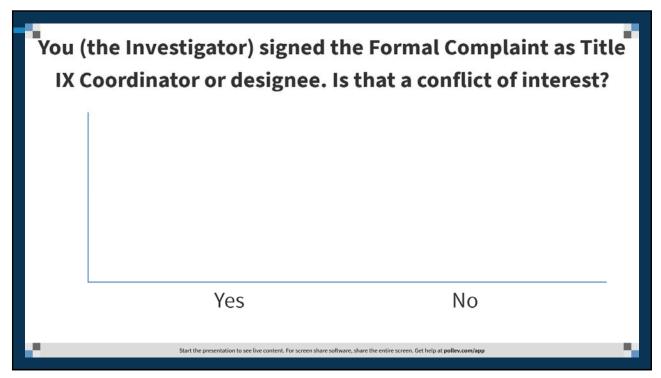
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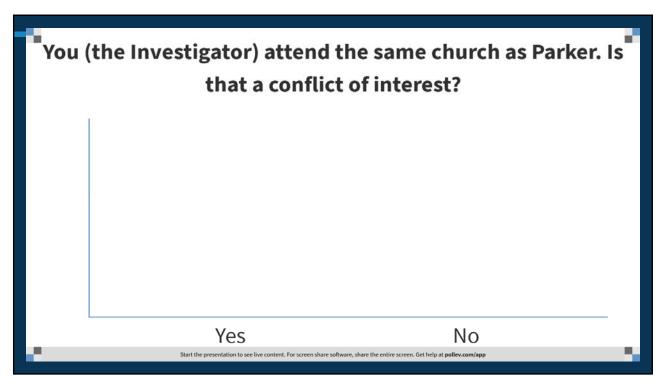
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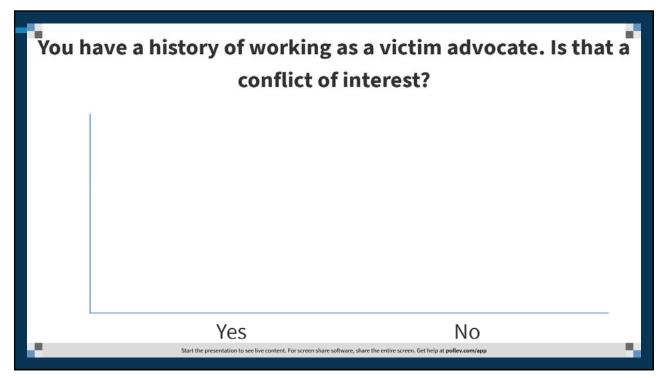
# **Cameron's Complaint**

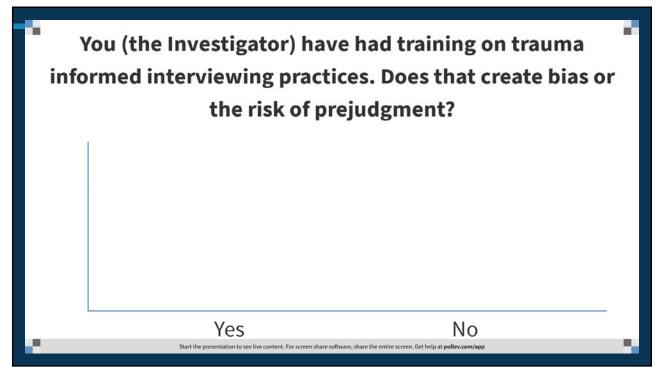
- Cameron, a freshman, claims that another student, a senior, Parker, sexually assaulted Cameron
- You are assigned the formal complaint and send the written notices of Title IX allegations to the parties

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#### What Might be Bias, Conflict, Prejudgment?

- Discouraging a party from submitting certain evidence
- Using terms like "victim" and "perpetrator"
- Permitting credibility inferences or conclusions based on party status

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127

# What Might be Bias, Conflict, Prejudgment?

- Using sex stereotypes
- Placing the burden of proof on one party
- Unauthorized interim suspensions or other penalties before conclusion of grievance process

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# What Likely Is Not...

- Deciding an allegation warrants an investigation
- Being an employee (and even attorney)
- Finding in favor of one party over another

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129

# Recordkeeping

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# **Investigation File**

- What should be in the investigation file?
  - **≻**Complaint
  - ➤ Applicable Policies
  - ➤Investigation Plan (can be a living document)
  - ➤ Records of Communications
  - ➤ Interview Notes
  - ➤ Evidence Collected
  - **≻**Report

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131

#### **Interview Notes**

- Include: Facts + Statements (consider quotes)
- Don't Include: Conclusions + Judgements
- Label: Name of Witness, Date, Time, Interviewer, Location, Method, Those Present

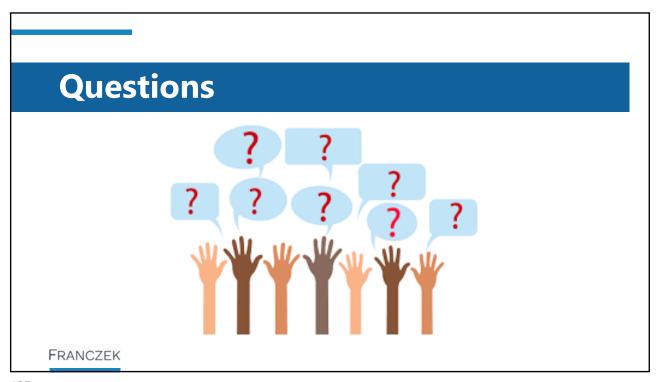
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# **Recordkeeping Essentials**

- Overview of Required Recordkeeping
- File Checklist

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