

PARTNERING TO EXPAND ACCESS + OPTIONS

TITLE IX + ADVOCACY

Oregon SATF recommends that campuses employing confidential advocates implement policies granting students access to confidential services at the time of making an initial report/disclosure of sexual harassment to the institution. This guide includes framing, rationale, preceding models in Oregon, and sample policy language.



FRAMING THE WORK

Since 2016, Oregon law has provided the opportunity¹ for campuses to employ and utilize confidential victim/survivor advocates. As professionals with expertise in systems navigation, the work of confidential campus advocates serves as a compliment to the work colleges and universities do to support students under Title IX, Clery, and Oregon law. This is achieved by providing reporting parties with access to all of the support, resources, and information about options available to them, including reporting to the Title IX office.



WHY INCLUDE ADVOCATES?

Including confidential resources as a first point of contact when a student makes a report is a trauma-informed practice that allows for survivors of violence to explore all of their available resources, including reporting, when they are ready. In Oregon, schools that employ and utilize confidential advocates in their institutional processes see 1) higher rates of reporting to Title IX and 2) increased participation by reporting parties in investigations.²



PRECEDENT + POLICY APPLICATION

Oregon SATF recommends that schools model their practice after Oregon's medical advocacy law.³ This law requires law enforcement and hospital staff to call for an advocate to be present when a survivor presents for a sexual assault exam, to explain the survivor's options and connect the survivor to resources. For schools, we recommend the following: Upon receipt of a report of sexual harassment, schools should 1) connect the reporting party to a confidential advocate via email or in-person, 2) allow 2-3 business days for reporting party to make contact with advocate to explore options and resources available to them, and then 3) follow up with reporting party to conduct initial interview with TIX Coordinator.



TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR OREGON SCHOOLS

Oregon SATF's Campus Program is available to support your team with free, confidential technical assistance, support resources, and more. To learn more, visit www.oregonsatf.org.



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1) See Oregon House Bill 3416, Enrolled 2016, ORS 40.264: https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_40.264
2) Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, "Survey of Oregon Campuses Utilizing Confidential Advocacy Services and Impacts on Title IX Reporting", 2017
3) See Oregon Senate Bill 796, Enrolled 2017: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2017R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB795/Enrolled>

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Included on the next two pages is sample language and considerations that can be utilized for your institution's Title IX Policy + Procedures. **Items in red should be changed to meet the needs of, and mirror the language of, your institution.**



SAMPLE TIX PROCEDURE LANGUAGE - PART 1

Upon receipt of a report of sexual harassment, stalking, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and/or sexual assault in which the reporting party is identified by name, Title IX Coordinator or their designee(s) will conduct outreach to the reporting party via email, and share the following information:

- Acknowledgement of receipt of initial report;
- Statement that the reporting party has the right to access confidential services, the Title IX Coordinator or designee(s), and the right to decline to do so;
- Name and contact information for the *confidential advocate/advocacy department* and Title IX Coordinator;
- The *university/college* provides confidential advocacy services at no charge to members of the campus community;
- When a report is received by the Title IX Coordinator or designee(s), the *university/college* will connect the reporting party with the confidential advocate via email to discuss the reporting person's rights, options for reporting, resources, and other supports the reporting party may need;
- The Confidential advocate will provide outreach via email within two (2) business days;
- Information shared with the confidential advocate will not be shared with the Title IX Coordinator or designee (s) by the confidential advocate without express written permission from the reporting party in accordance with Oregon law;
- Availability of supportive measures with or without meeting with the confidential advocate or filing a Formal Complaint; and
- The Title IX Coordinator or designee(s) will provide additional outreach in 2-3 business days to provide additional resources and information regarding the reporting party's rights, how to file a formal complaint, the Title IX process, how to report to law enforcement, resources for counseling, health care, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid and other available services; and the reporting party's right to an advisor of their choice.

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SAMPLE TIX PROCEDURE LANGUAGE - PART 2

When an initial report is received, Title IX Coordinator will notify the confidential advocate via email, and include the following information:

- Request for confidential advocacy outreach to student named in report;
- Date report was received by the *university/college*; and
- Date that Title IX Coordinator will conduct follow-up outreach to student named in report.

Upon receiving the request for confidential outreach from the Title IX Coordinator or their designee(s), the confidential advocate will confirm receipt via email.



SAMPLE TIX PROCEDURE LANGUAGE - PART 3

When outreach has been conducted to reporting party identified by the Title IX Coordinator or designee(s), the confidential advocate will notify Title IX Coordinator or designee(s) via email, and include the following information:

- Date outreach was performed; and
- Method(s) by which outreach was conducted (email as required by *university/college* procedure, and may also include phone, campus mail, or other methods of outreach in accordance with confidential advocacy program procedures).

No additional information will be shared with the Title IX Coordinator or designee without express written permission via a "release of information" form signed by the reporting party.



SAMPLE TIX PROCEDURE LANGUAGE - PART 4

After 2–3 business days, Title IX Coordinator or designee(s) will perform second outreach to reporting party via email, sharing the following information:

- Offer to meet with the Title IX Coordinator or designee(s) in a manner that is accessible for the student, and that the student has the right to decline to do so;
- Information required by [ORS 350.255](#);
- Information required by Title IX, Clery, and other applicable federal statutes; and
- The *university/college's* Title IX process; and
- Next steps regarding outreach to the student and status of their report.