

## Sexual Misconduct Decision Maker Class

### Presented by:

### A D. Stafford & Associates Title IX Team Member

D. Stafford & Associates, LLC, 179 Rehoboth Avenue, #1121, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971 302-344-5809

Dolores Stafford, President & CEO Dolores@DStaffordandAssociates.com

www.dstaffordandassociates.com



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### **Construction the Hearing Process Agenda**

Day 1 Day 2

#### Module 1: The Law and the Hearing Process

- The Title IX Grievance Process
  - Definitions
  - Jurisdiction
  - Resolution Processes
  - Hearing Basics
- Conflict of Interest and Bias

#### **Module 2: Hearing Preparation**

- Steps of the Formal Process
- Hearing Attendees
- Hearing Preparation
- Q and A

#### Module 3: The Hearing

- Evidence and Relevancy
- Roles at the Hearing
- The Hearing agenda
- Relevancy determinations
- Difficult situations
- Case Studies

#### **Module 4: Findings and Appeals**

- Weighing the Evidence
- Elements of a violation
- Findings, Sanctions and Remedies
- Written Determination
- Appeals and Other Decision-makers
- Case Studies
- Q and A

179 Rehoboth Avenue, #1121 Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971 Phone: (202) 438-5929 dolores@dstaffordandassociates.com

#### TITLE IX

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#### **ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES FOR COMPLETION OF DSA/NACCOP CLASSES**

To receive a certificate for classes held by D. Stafford & Associates, LLC or the National Association of Clery Compliance Officers and Professionals (NACCOP), attendees must attend the majority of the class. This includes in-person classes and virtual classes. DSA and NACCOP understands that attendees may need to miss class for a legitimate reason for longer periods of time or may need to leave the room during a class for a few minutes to take a phone call or attend to other business. That said, our general rule of thumb for our 4 and 5 day classes is that if an attendee misses more than 1 hour of class time, they will not be issued a certificate of completion for the class. If the class is a 1, 2 or 3 day class, the amount of time that can be missed may be less, as classes of those lengths are more condensed.

For virtual classes, because we can't see all of the attendees all of the time like we can in an in-person class (based on the attendee controlling whether they have their camera turned on or not), the criteria for receipt of a certificate is determined based on missed class time (no more than 1 hour or less, depending on the length of the class) and participation in the Attendance Polls that will be launched throughout each day of class. Attendance polls are left up for approximately 5 minutes and the instructor notifies the attendees that a poll is being launched before doing so, to ensure that everyone who is there can/will respond to the poll. If there is an issue with responding to the attendance poll, the attendee would need to immediately notify the Administrative Support person in the course via the chat function in the zoom platform. That way we can immediately resolve any issues and give the attendee credit for being in attendance for the poll. Notifying us hours or days after having an issue with not being able to complete the attendance poll will not allow us to give the attendee credit for being in class during the poll.

Our classes qualify for credit toward a Master's Degree at New England College (and regardless if you decide to seek credit or not, but accreditation requirements mandate that we follow the same standards for all class attendees), so we have strict attendance standards that we follow for issuance of a certificate, which equates to verification that the participant attended the complete class. For DSA and NACCOP, issuance of a Certificate of Completion is verification of that fact.

If the attendee missed class for a legitimate reason, that doesn't mean that an attendee wasn't there for much of the class and that they didn't benefit from that attendance. It just means that based on the missed time and/or attendance polls (in virtual classes only), we aren't able to issue you a certificate of completion.

If an attendee has to miss time in class, the instructions attendees receive before the class provide instructions for notifying the Administrative Support person about the time that will be missed IN ADVANCE, so we can jointly identify what blocks of instruction will be missed, and the DSA/NACCOP team will then work with the attendee to see if we can get them in a future class module to make up that material, which would result in us being able to issue the attendee a certificate. We provide this service and opportunity at no additional cost, as we want each attendee to finish the class and get a certificate of completion. Effective communication by each attendee is the key to this option.

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## Catherine Cocks, M.A. Consultant, Student Affairs, Title IX, and Equity Compliance Services



Ms. Cocks has been a higher education professional for over thirty years. Her work with D. Stafford & Associates focuses on Title IX investigations and training; assessment of student affairs policies, practices and services; and behavioral threat assessment. Cathy was the Director of Community Standards for the University of Connecticut for 14 years where she managed the student conduct process, which included managing all Title IX cases involving student respondents and chaired the University's student threat assessment team. Prior to that, she held several positions within Residential Life at the University of Connecticut and Roger Williams University.

She is a faculty member for the Association for Student Conduct Administration's (ASCA) Donald D. Gehring Academy teaching on subjects such as ethics, governance, threat assessment, media relations, and higher education trends. She was an affiliated faculty

member for many years in the University of Connecticut's Higher Education and Student Affairs Master's program teaching "The Law, Ethics, and Decision-Making in Student Affairs."

Cathy has co-authored the "Philosophy of Student Conduct" chapter in the 2nd edition of "Student Conduct Practice" (2020) and was a member of the writing team for CAS Standards' Cross-functional Framework for Identifying and Responding to Behavioral Concerns.

Cathy is a Past President of ASCA. She has also served as a Circuit representative, co-chair of the Public Policy and Legislative Issues Committee, and as a member of the ASCA Expectations of Members Task Force. Cathy has served in a variety of leadership roles in NASPA Region I.

She was the 2015 recipient of ASCA's Donald D. Gehring Award. She is a past recipient of the NASPA Region I Mid-Level Student Affairs Professional Award and the NASPA Region I Continuous Service Award.

She earned her Master's degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Connecticut and Bachelor's degree in Communications/Media from Fitchburg State University.

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## Beth Devonshire, Consultant Equity Compliance and Title IX/Civil Rights Training



Beth Devonshire, Esq., has been an Associate with DSA since 2012 and she became a full-time consultant in August of 2018. She was the Associate Dean of Students at UMass Boston from November 2016 to July 2018. In that role, Beth administered the student conduct system, chaired the CARE and BIT Teams, served as the Deputy Title IX Coordinator, oversaw the U-Access (an office dedicated to assisting students who are dealing with a multitude of issues such as food insecurity, homelessness, emancipation from foster care, and chronic poverty), and acted as a liaison with the various constituencies around the University. Additionally, Beth was responsible drafting the policies and procedures related to students. Prior to that, Beth was the Director of Student Conduct at Bridgewater State University and the Director of Community Standards Stonehill College. Before beginning her career in Higher Education, Beth served as a clerk for the Justices of the Superior

Court, and in various positions for the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Beth has also presented extensively on Title IX including presentations to Colleges, State Wide Organizations, Regional Conferences, and at the OCR Title IX Conference in March of 2011.

Additionally, Beth has given multiple presentations on other legislation and legal issues effecting higher education, including FERPA, Clery and Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention. Beth is the former National Knowledge Community Public Policy Liaison for NASPA, and also the former Massachusetts Public Policy Liaison for MA NASPA. Beth also served as the Director of the Legislative Committee for The Association for Student Conduct Administrators (ASCA) for two years. In those roles, Beth was charged with keeping abreast of proposed and passed legislation and cases impacting higher education and communicating those changes to the membership.

Before beginning her career in Higher Education, Beth served as a clerk for the Justices of the Superior Court from 2006-2007. Prior to that, Beth worked at the Massachusetts State House as Deputy Attorney for House Ways and Means, Chief of Staff for the Committee on Election Laws and as a Researcher for the Committee on Local Affairs.



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Devonshire currently serves as an Associate for D. Stafford & Associates, a highly reputable consulting firm specializing in delivering on organizational, physical security, vulnerability and arming assessments; Clery Act compliance audits; assessments of Title IX compliance; Behavioral Intervention Team and Student Conduct Assessments and Training; and a host of other services related to security, safety and compliance for institutions of higher education.



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### Adrienne Meador Murray, Executive Director of Training and Compliance Activities



Adrienne Meador Murray began her career in municipal law enforcement as a civilian employee with the City of Richmond Police graduated Department (Virginia). She from Commonwealth University Police Training Academy and began her career as a sworn police officer for the University of Richmond (UR) Police Department (Virginia). At UR, Murray progressed through the ranks from a night shift patrol officer to Operations Lieutenant (overseeing criminal investigations, crime prevention and patrol) over the span of a decade before becoming the Chief of Police at Davidson College in North Carolina. Most recently, Murray served as Chief of Police at Trinity Washington University (in Washington, D.C.). In January 2014, Murray joined the National Association of Clery Compliance Officers & Professionals (NACCOP) and D. Stafford & Associates where she currently serves as Executive Director of Training and Compliance Activities after having been affiliated with D. Stafford & Associates as a part-time Associate since 2012.

As the Executive Director, Equity Compliance and Civil Rights Services, Murray builds on her 17-year career in law enforcement in which she became a nationally recognized expert in the field of best practice postsecondary institutional response to the sexual victimization of college women in the United States and in Canada. She is also a trained civil rights investigator and is well respected throughout the country for her ability to aid institutions in understating how to do best practice criminal and civil rights investigations concurrently. She is well known for her work in having provided support, advocacy and criminal investigative services for victims of sexual assault, stalking and intimate partner violence and is a sought-out speaker and investigator. She has expertise in the construction of best practice law enforcement standard operating procedures and training police officers to respond in best practice and trauma-informed ways to victims of sexual assault and intimate partner violence. In her current role, Murray coordinates curriculum development and instruction for national classes, including basic and advanced sexual misconduct investigation classes; an investigation of dating violence, domestic violence and stalking class; and a Title IX Coordinator/Investigator class offered through D. Stafford & Associates. To date, Murray has trained more than 3,500 criminal and civil rights investigators throughout the U.S.

Drawing on her experiences as a trained criminal and civil rights investigator, Murray also oversees independent investigations of complex sexual misconduct cases; conducts audits of Title IX/VAWA Compliance; drafts institutional sexual misconduct policies and procedures; and conducts campus-based



trainings pertaining to the resolution of sexual misconduct offenses on college and university campuses. Murray frequently presents at regional and national conferences on topics such as the *Sexual Victimization of College Women, Understanding Consent and Incapacitation*, and *Responding to Sexual Assault on Campus: Clery Act and Title IX Implications*. Murray also conducts provincially specific sexual misconduct trainings throughout Canada.

Murray is a graduate of the University of Richmond, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Applied Studies in Human Resource Management and of New England College, where she received her Master's Degree in Campus Public Safety Administration. Murray is also a graduate of the 235th session of the prestigious FBI National Academy where she was awarded a graduate certificate in Criminal Justice from the University of Virginia. She has authored numerous journal articles.

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### Ann Todd Consultant, Equity Compliance and Civil Rights Investigations



Ann Todd, Esq is a seasoned civil rights investigator in higher education for D. Stafford & Associates (DSA). Ms. Todd is a graduate of Davidson College with a degree in psychology and holds a JD from the University of Nebraska. Prior to joining DSA, she practiced law in Charlotte, NC, specializing in employment and civil rights and worked for a number of non-profit organizations. She returned to her alma mater (Davidson College) in 2008 and worked there through March of 2016 serving as the Assistant Director of Human Resources with the responsibility of managing employee relations and the learning and development function.

Ms. Todd joined the DSA in 2015 and currently serves as the Consultant, Equity Compliance and Civil Rights Investigations. She is the Senior Investigator for the DSA Title IX Investigation Team. She conducts external investigations on behalf of colleges and universities, specializing in investigating student allegations of sex discrimination, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking. Additionally, she brings a strong Human Resources

background to investigating a range of employee misconduct—from performance issues to discrimination.

In addition to conducting investigations, Ms. Todd is a frequent speaker and consultant on Title IX investigations, conducting 20-30 courses every year on best practices for investigating sex discrimination and sex crimes on campus. She works with schools to draft policies and processes that provide equity and fairness to all parties involved and is adept at facilitating discussions with institutions to ensure the end product represents the values of the campus community.

Ms. Todd is a member of the NC Bar and a Certified Clery Compliance Officer through the National Association of Clery Compliance Officers and Professionals (NACCOP). She is also a certified 360 facilitator through the Center for Creative Leadership. She lives in Davidson, NC where she volunteers on a number of local and town boards.





#### **COURSE AGENDA**

- Module 1: The Law and the Hearing Process
- Module 2: Hearing Preparation
- Module 3: The Hearing
- Module 4: Conflict of Interest and Bias

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#### Introduction





Name

Role on Campus

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#### **Course Logistics**

- Camera
- Breaks
- Interact
- Attendance

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#### Agenda

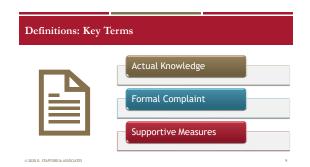
- The Title IX Grievance Process
- Legal Overview
- Definitions
- Jurisdiction
- Hearing Basics
- Conflict of Interest and Bias

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# Interpreting Laws Law Regulations Substantive guidance Case law

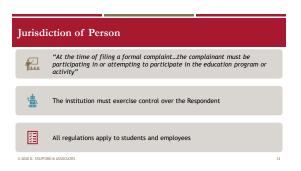
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New Regulations	
For it to be covered under Title IX, it must meet:  New Definitions Jurisdiction of person Jurisdiction of activity  If it does NOT meet these requirements Mandatory dismissal Can go to different resolution process	



### Jurisdiction of Activity

- Behavior must occur as part of the "education program or activity"
- Locations, events, or circumstances over which the recipient exercised substantial control over the context in which the sexual harassment occurs
- And any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized
- Must occur in the United States

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#### Definition of Sexual Harassment under Title IX

Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the

1. An employee of the recipient conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the recipient on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;

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

3. "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

following:

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#### PRONG 1: Quid Pro Quo



Must be an employee (not volunteer, visitor, student)



"This for that" harassment



When favorable professional or educational treatment is conditioned on a sexual activity  $% \left( \frac{1}{2}\right) =\frac{1}{2}\left( \frac{1}{2}\right) =\frac{1}{2}$ 

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# PRONG 2: Hostile Environment+ (The Davis Standard) No definition of consent required Not the same Title VII "hostile environment" or 2001 Guidance First Amendment protections

PRONG 3: The VAWA Crimes					
A	Sexual Assault	Rape Fondling Incest Statutory Rape			
•	Intimate Partner Violence	Dating Violence Domestic Violence			
不	Stalking				
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Definitions/consent/jurisdiction at your institution: Where do the non-Title IX sexual misconduct cases go?  $_{_{\parallel}}$ 

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#### Other Considerations









Retaliation

Bias/Conflict of Interest State Laws

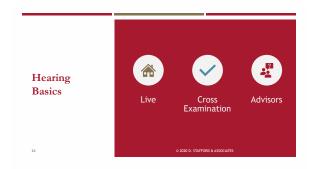
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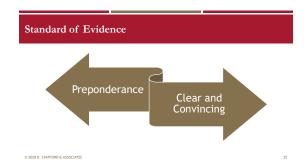
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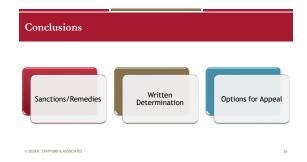












Intimidation, threats, coercions, discrimination	
May use same grievance procedure	Retaliation
1 <sup>st</sup> Amendment	Prohibited
False reports	
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#### Conflicts of Interest



campus







Past employment

Volunteering

Interactions with parties

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Bias		
Parties	Gender Gender identity	Sexual orientation Nationality
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#### How to address





Acknowledgements





Party-identified Decision-maker-Conflict identified Conflict

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Training

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#### Agenda

- Steps of the Formal Process
- Hearing Attendees
- Hearing Preparation

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#### Three Primary Stages







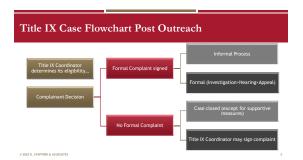
Intake

Investigation

Resolution

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# Formal Process Output Notice Assign to Investigator Investigation

#### **Investigation Steps**









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#### Ability to Utilize Evidence



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#### Versions of the Report



Preliminary Report: Scope Methodology Evidence Obtained



Scope Methodology (edited) Evidence Obtained Summary of Relevant Evidence



Written Determination:

Scope Methodology (edited), Summary of Evidence (edited), Results (including rationale, sanctions, remedies)





Decision-makers for the hearing Decision-makers on appeal

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#### Decision-maker Rules

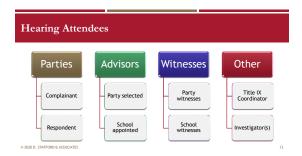




No previous role

Requests for removal for bias/conflict

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Hearing technology

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Pre-hearing Steps
Role of the Decision-maker pre-hearing

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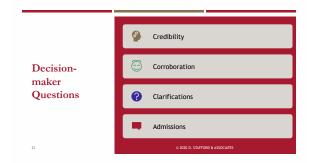
#### Rules and Process (from the Regs)

Recipients may adopt rules that govern the conduct and decorum of participants at live hearings so long as such rules comply with these final regulations and apply equally to both parties

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# Decision-maker Pre-work Review report Review allegations Review policy Draft relevant questions











#### Agenda

- Evidence and Relevancy
- Roles at the Hearing
- The Hearing AgendaRelevancy DeterminationsDifficult situations

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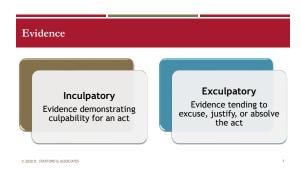


# Types of Evidence Real evidence Demonstrative Documentary Testimonial

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Other Sources of Evidence							
Photographs	Text me	ssages	Social med		(diagram	ments s, memos, , notes)	
Voice	email	Phor	ne logs	Guest	lists		



#### Versions of the Report



Preliminary Report:

Scope Methodology Evidence Obtained



#### Final Report:

Scope Methodology (edited) Evidence Obtained Summary of Relevant Evidence



#### Written Determination:

Scope Methodology (edited), Summary of Evidence (edited), Results (including rationale, sanctions, remedies)

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# Everything Collected Directly Related Relevant

#### Relevancy Determination



"Before a complainant, respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or other question, the decision-maker(s) must first determine whether the question is relevant and explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant."

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#### What Does Relevancy Mean?



- Directly <u>related</u> to the issue and <u>helps prove or disprove</u> the issue
- Fact must be <u>material</u> to an issue in the case
- Makes something more/less true or more/less false

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#### Other Ways to Put It...

The evidence does not need to be conclusive

The evidence constitutes a link in the chain of proof

The evidence, in connection with other evidence, helps "a little"

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### Relevancy Examples







Admissions

Eyewitness

Credibility

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#### Relevancy Examples







Background

Charts

Floorplans

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#### Relevant Examples







Research

Character and Character Traits

**Expert Testimony** 

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#### Not Applying Federal Rules of Evidence

Rule 403: The court may exclude relevant evidence if its probative value is substantially outweighed by a danger of one or more of the following: unfair prejudice, confusing the issues, misleading the jury, undue delay, wasting time, or needlessly presenting cumulative evidence.

Rule 404: Evidence of a person's character or character trait is not admissible to prove that on a particular occasion the person acted in accordance with the character or trait.

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#### NOT RELEVANT (from the Regs)

#### Past Sexual Behavior

- Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior unless...
- Offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged or
- Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent

#### Privileged Information

- Physician, psychiatrist, psychologist records in connection with the provision of treatment to the party unless
- Voluntary, written consent

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### Not Relevant







Repetitive

Related By Not Relevant

New Evidence - Is It Relevant?

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### STAYING ON POINT

- Allegation
- Definitions
- Summary of Relevant Evidence

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### Cross-examination - The Preamble

The Department clarifies here that conducting cross-examination consists simply of posing questions intended to advance the asking party's perspective with respect to the specific allegations at issue ... (Fed. Reg. 30319)

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### Role of the Decision-maker







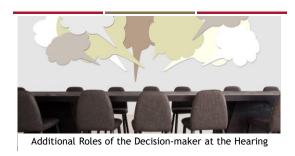


Credibility Relevancy Determinations Assessment

Make Finding

Written Determination

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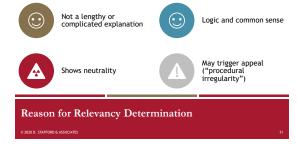
Review of institutional policy on hearings Hearing agenda

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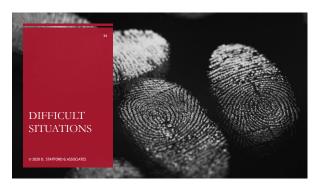






Decision-maker Questions

Statement of Accuracy Credibility Clarity





# "If a party or witness does not submit to cross-examination at the live hearing, the decision-maker(s) must not rely on any statement of that party or witness in reaching a determination regarding responsibility."

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### Attendance



"The 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."

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### Advisor Issues



Refusal to cross







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### Decision-maker issues (appeal grounds)







Procedural Error

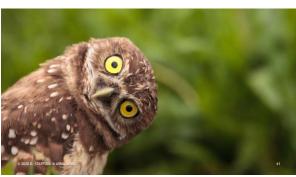
New Evidence

Bias/Conflict

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ASSOCIATES









### Agenda

- Weighing the Evidence
- Elements of a Violation
- Findings, Sanctions and Remedies
- Written Determination
- Appeals and Other Decision-makers

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### From the Regs...

"must objectively evaluate all relevant evidence (inculpatory and exculpatory) but retains discretion, to which the Department will defer, with respect to how persuasive a decisionmaker finds particular evidence to be"

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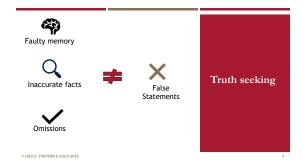


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Weight/Relevance		
Character Prior bad acts	Pre/post behavior Hearsay	Opinion New evidence

<ul> <li>Specific details</li> <li>Inherent plausibility</li> <li>Internal consistency</li> <li>Corroborative evidence</li> </ul>	Assessing Credibility from the Regs
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Credibility	Perception  Memory  Deception  Motivation
	Bias
	Plausibility
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Impact on Memory	
Details	Time and Context
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Response

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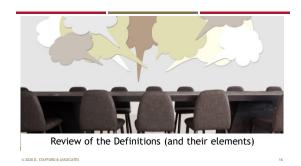


Habi

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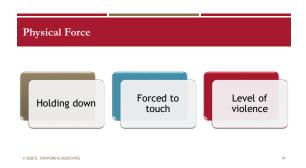
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	Sex Act
	Relationship
Elements of	Consent
the Policy	Act of Violence
Violations	Conduct
	Impact
	Location
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Consent		
Consent cues Ir	Force, Coercion, timidation, Threats	Policy definition



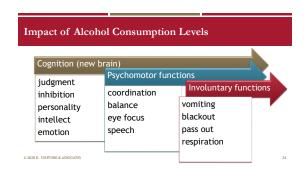
Coercion			
Frequency +	Intensity +	Duration +	Isolation
?	Now	5 minutes?	Library
Twice	?	?	Bar
Fifty times	?	2 days?	?

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Levels of Consumpt	ion	
Impairment	Intoxication	Incapacitation
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Incapacitation			
Physical and mental impairment	Temporary or permanent	Decisions and judgement	Unconscious, sleep, blackout
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Two-Step Determination	
Was the Complainant incapacitated?	
Did the Respondent (or would a reasonable person) know?	



### Formal Resolution – Making a Finding









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### Disciplinary Sanctions and Remedies





Sanctions

Remedies

### Formal Resolution - Disciplinary Sanctions

A recipient may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a respondent after a grievance process that complies with § 106.45.

"The Department does not prescribe whether disciplinary sanctions must be imposed, nor restrict recipient's discretion in that regard. As the Supreme Court noted, Federal courts should not second guess schools' disciplinary decision, and the Department likewise believes that disciplinary decisions are best left to the cound discretion of recipients."

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## Formal Resolution - Disciplinary Sanctions Status - Expulsion, separation, probation Prevention - Protective measures, restrictions, separation Educational - Action plans

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### Formal Resolution - Disciplinary Sanctions





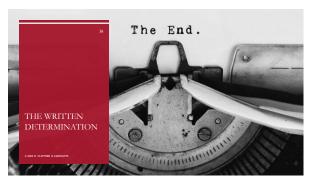
Aggravating factors

Mitigating factors

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### Determination Regarding Responsibility

Allegations

Procedural steps

Findings of fact

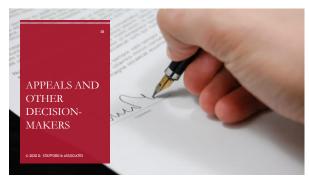
Conclusion/application

Rationale

Appeal procedures

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### Title IX Required Appellate Grounds

- 1. <u>Procedural irregularity</u> that affected the outcome of the matter;
- New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a <u>conflict of interest or bias</u> for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

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### Role of Appellate Decision-Maker Follow the Appellate Basis Not A Substitute of Judgement Respect the Credibility of Previous Decision-maker

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