



State of California
Office of the Attorney General

XAVIER BECERRA
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 9, 2017

To: College/University Police and Security Personnel and College/University Administrators

Re: Campus Safety and Upcoming Training Sessions

As you know, sexual violence occurs far too often on our college and university campuses.¹ More than half of sexual assaults happen in the first months of the academic year and the majority go unreported.² Unfortunately, the recent announcements by the United States Department of Education regarding compliance with federal law may have added confusion to the legal obligations of higher education institutions in California with regard to student safety.

To help your institution address this serious issue and comply with the law, I am writing to you today to point to several resources to help keep our students safe from sexual violence: refreshers about policies and procedures, as well as information and training opportunities from my team at the California Department of Justice.

Even with the recent United States Department of Education announcements, the Title IX Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) still ensure that students can learn safely on campuses around the country by protecting students against gender-based violence and discrimination. Continuing to comply with Title IX is crucial to enforce and uphold important civil rights laws that help combat sexual violence on our college campuses and protect our students.

¹ According to recent studies, as many as one in five undergraduate female students has experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault. Bureau of Justice Statistics Research and Development Series, Campus Climate Survey Validation Study and Final Technical Report, <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ccsvsfr.pdf> (January 2016); AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct, https://www.aau.edu/sites/default/files/%40%20Files/Climate%20Survey/AAU_Campus_Climate_Survey_12_14_15.pdf (September 2015).

² Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Rape and Sexual Victimization Among College-Aged Females, 1995-2013 (2014).

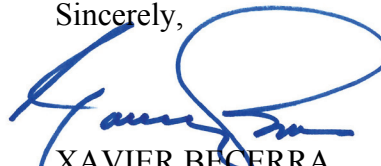
In California, state laws require colleges and universities to implement campus safety measures. Under state law, campuses must have policies and operational agreements in place to work with local law enforcement agencies on issues involving sexual assault, hate crimes and violent crime.

- **Information on state laws regarding reporting of sexual violence:**
https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/law_enforcement/info-bulletin-dle-2015-01.pdf
- **Information on standards for investigating and adjudicating reports of sexual violence:** California state law also sets out certain standards for investigating and adjudicating reports of sexual violence, and more information can be found at
https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/law_enforcement/info-bulletin-dle-2015-01.pdf
- **Information on campus trainings:** The California Department of Justice (DOJ), in collaboration with local law enforcement agencies, offers comprehensive training sessions regarding campus sexual violence for colleges and universities across California. For more information please email campussafety@doj.ca.gov.
- **Information for victims of sexual assault and for law enforcement:** In addition, the California DOJ's website has additional information for victims of sexual assault and for law enforcement at <https://oag.ca.gov/campus-sexual-assault>.

As the laws continue to evolve in this area, we will continue to work with schools and law enforcement to ensure everyone has the tools needed to keep our students safe. My office is prepared to offer our resources in order improve the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of crimes of sexual violence across our State.

It's up to all of us to work together to combat sexual violence on and off California's campuses. Moreover, I look forward to continuing to work with all partners – campus administrators, local law enforcement agents, and college and university security officers – to prevent these crimes from occurring in the first place. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions or would like to participate in trainings.

Sincerely,



XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General

cc: All California State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies