



Q: WILL I BE CONTACTED IF MY STUDENT MAKES A REPORT OR SOMEONE MAKES A REPORT ABOUT THEM?

No. The Office of Equal Opportunity and Access & Title IX will typically only contact family members in the event that the student has granted permission to that person(s) under a FERPA waiver. If a FERPA waiver is on file, please know that our general practice is to speak with the family member in the presence of the student. Your student may submit a FERPA waiver online directly to the University's Office of the Registrar by going to [The Registrar's web page](#) and navigating the following steps:

Q: CAN YOU GIVE ME UPDATE ABOUT MY STUDENT'S CASE?

The Office of Equal Opportunity and Access & Title IX complies with federal regulations regarding privacy and a student's records. If you would like to receive information regarding your student's educational record as it applies to a matter in the Office, the student must first submit a FERPA waiver with the University. Without a FERPA waiver, the Office is limited to discussing only general, non-case specific information about the Office's policies and procedures

Q: IS PARTICIPATION IN AN INVESTIGATION MANDATORY?

No. Students who report concerns are not required to go through the formal investigation process. Likewise, students who are responding to a complaint may decide whether, or to what extent, they wish to participate in an investigation. Students are entitled to meet with the Director of Equal Opportunity and Access or the Title IX Coordinator to help your student make an informed decision regarding whether or how they would like to participate. But note that if the Office is conducting a formal investigation, the investigation will proceed without your student's perspective should he/she/they choose not to participate in an interview.

Q: HOW LONG DOES A FORMAL INVESTIGATION TAKE?

There is no fixed time frame to complete an investigation. In previous years, the average time to complete an investigation has been about 60-90 days. A formal investigation begins from the date a complainant submits his/her/their final statement. The Office strives to complete the investigation in a timely manner balancing principles of thoroughness and fundamental fairness with promptness. An investigation may take longer depending on the complexity of a case, the number of witnesses, volume of information provided by the parties, University breaks or vacations, or other factors. The Office will provide the parties periodic updates about the status of the investigation. You can contact the Office at any time to receive any update.

Q: WHY WAS MY STUDENT REMOVED OR GIVEN A NEW ROOM ASSIGNMENT?

The University may implement Interim Supportive Measures to ensure the safety, security or integrity of all parties involved.

Q: WHO HAS ACCESS TO MY STUDENT'S RECORDS (INCLUDING THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT)?

The Office of Equal Opportunity and Access & Title IX is not a confidential resource. That is, while the Office works to maintain the privacy a student's records, it may share information, including a final report at the end of an investigation with a member of the University who has an educational need to know. Campus partners with an educational need to know may include, but are not limited to: Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Retention Initiatives and the Emergency Consultation Team/Threat Assessment Team. Records of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access & Title IX are subject to lawful subpoena. Additionally, employees in the Office are required to report information regarding minors to law enforcement. Otherwise, records regarding a student are generally protected by FERPA and not released.

Q: SHOULD I GET AN ATTORNEY?

The Office of Equal Opportunity and Access & Title IX does not provide legal advice. Complainants and Respondents in an investigation are able to bring a support person/advisor with them to an interview. Advisors may be attorneys. However, attorneys are not able to speak directly with an Investigator nor are they able to speak on behalf of a party during an interview.

Q: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY STUDENT IF FOUND “RESPONSIBLE” FOR VIOLATING THE UNIVERSITY’S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES?

The Office of Equal Opportunity and Access & Title IX consists of neutral Investigators who are tasked with collecting the evidence to aid Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Retention Initiatives in determining whether an alleged incident violated the University’s policies and procedures. If, at the end of an investigation, a student is found “responsible” for a violation, the hearing officer will identify outcomes or “sanctions” for the violation. [The Policy](#) outlines the spectrum of outcomes that may be issued.

Q: WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR MY STUDENT?

You can also find a full list of resources on our webpage:

http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/resources.php.