

*DOJ Recommendations for Policies and Training for Campus LE (and public safety departments)*

- Institutions with sworn campus police departments, should develop victim-centered policies and procedures for the department's first responders to sexual assault ("First Response Protocols"). First Response Protocols should be distinguished from investigatory protocols and should emphasize demonstrating understanding and respect toward the victim.
- In drafting First Response Protocols for a campus police department, institutions should consider the logistics of a report of on-campus sexual assault and minimize investigatory inquiries of the victim. Specifically, First Response Protocols should limit any preliminary interview of a victim to avoid subjecting the victim to repetitive questioning. The First Response Protocols should also include standardized victim-interview practices.
- First Response Protocols, among other things, should include provisions for: (i) providing assistance to the victim, (ii) protecting the integrity of the evidence and crime scene, and (iii) locating witnesses and suspects so they can be interviewed.
- All public safety officers should be subject to comprehensive and ongoing training.
- In order to help victims recover from trauma and participate in the law enforcement process, first responders should be educated about on- and off-campus resources, including victim advocates, available to victims of sexual assault.
- First responders should be trained to contact a victim advocate as soon as possible to provide assistance throughout the investigative process should the victim choose to seek such support.
- First responders should receive special training related to drug- and alcohol-related sexual assault and acquaintance rape.
- First responders should be trained to educate victims about the investigatory process.
- First response training should include distinguishing the role of the first responder from that of an investigator. First responders must understand that their primary job is to aid the victim and preserve evidence so that a reliable investigation can be conducted.
- First responders and investigators should be trained in compassionate questioning of victims.
- In order to avoid exposing a victim to repetitive interviews, colleges and universities should coordinate criminal investigations conducted by their campus police departments with student conduct investigations or other institutional investigations that might be required under Title IX. Investigators should understand the differing standards of proof required under student codes of conduct and criminal law and be trained to investigate any allegation of sexual assault keeping both in mind.

*Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Local Law Enforcement*

- Institutions should review the MOU between their campus police department and local police to confirm that jurisdiction is understood and that campus and local enforcement communicate with one another.
- If there is no MOU with local law enforcement, institutions should consider negotiating one that clarifies the jurisdictional boundaries for a criminal investigation of sexual misconduct.
- If an institution is located in a jurisdiction that recognizes misdemeanor sexual assault, it should determine whether its campus police department will retain investigatory responsibility for these complaints and, if so, clearly define those circumstances that qualify as misdemeanors and provide appropriate training to its officers. Because misdemeanor assaults may reflect the beginning of an escalating pattern of sexual violence by the same perpetrator.