

Title IX and Law Enforcement

The role that law enforcement plays in incidents of Title IX Prohibited Conduct can be a little confusing. Read below to learn a little bit more about how and when law enforcement gets involved.

First things first:

Choosing to get law enforcement involved is the victim's personal choice.

What does this mean?

If you do not want the police to get involved in your Title IX case, your requests will be honored. The only time this would not occur is if there is a "significant and articulable threat" to the victim, like when there are allegations of serious physical violence, the use of a weapon, or multiple reports against a single person alleging sexual misconduct.

So, does this mean that law enforcement will not be present at all through the Title IX Office?

This is done to protect the immediate safety of the victim, although it is rare that law enforcement gets involved against a victim's wishes.

Not exactly. A representative from the University Police Department (UPD) is one of the members of the Evaluation Panel. This group conducts a threat assessment for each victim, meaning that they assess the situation and decide how to proceed and how best they can offer support.

Here, the role of the UPD representative is to determine whether the alleged actions are not in accordance with Virginia law. However, the representative does not start a report or take any legal action unless there is a "significant and articulable" threat.

What happens if law enforcement becomes involved?

Based on where the incident occurred, a member of the UPD, Charlottesville Police, or Albemarle County Police -- or law enforcement in another location -- will reach out asking if you would like to talk.

If you are contacted, you can:



Decide to speak with them and take legal action

Decide to speak with them, but not take legal action

Decline to speak with them

Not respond to outreach

What if I want to get law enforcement involved?

If you would like to get law enforcement involved, you can request that with Title IX, or choose to file a separate report to the police.