

# Decision-Maker Determination Regarding Responsibility Checklist

Identification of the Allegations
<ul> <li>Description of Procedural Steps Taken</li> <li>Notifications to the Parties</li> <li>Interviews with Parties and Witnesses</li> <li>Site visits</li> <li>Methods used to gather other evidence</li> <li>Hearings held</li> </ul>
Findings of Fact Supporting Determination
Conclusions Regarding the Application of the Code of Conduct to the Facts
<ul> <li>Result of Each Allegation Including Rationale</li> <li>Determination Regarding Responsibility</li> <li>Disciplinary sanctions</li> <li>Whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to education program or activity provided to the Complainant</li> </ul>
Procedures and Permissible Bases for Appeal

## **Investigation Flow Chart**



### **Notice of Allegations**

### **Investigation**

Notice to parties of all meetings and interviews with time to prepare

### **Review**

Opportunity for parties to inspect, review, and respond to all evidence directly related to allegations- relevant or not Written Response: 10 days

### **Investigative Report**

- Considers responses to evidence
- Determines what evidence is relevant
- Summarizes the relevant evidence
- May include recommended finding

### **Review**

Opportunity for parties to review the investigative report. Can provide written response

10 days

# **Hearing**

# FORMAL TITLE IX **GRIEVANCE PROCESS FOR INVESTIGATORS**

**INVESTIGATE** 

**OPPORTUNITY** TO INSPECT AND **REVIEW EVIDENCE RELATED TO ALLEGATIONS AND PROVIDE** WRITTEN **RESPONSE** 10 days



**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT** 



**OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW FINAL REPORT** AND PROVIDE WRITTEN **RESPONSE** 

10 days



**HEARING** 

**APPEAL** 

6





# Notice of Allegations Checklist

Notice of Grievance Process; Including Informal
Allegations Potentially Constituting Sexual Harassment • Identities of the Parties • Conduct Constituting Sexual Harassment • Date of Incident • Location of Incident
Statement: Respondent Presumed Not Responsible/Responsibility Determined After Process
Right to Advisor of Choice
Code of Conduct Provision Prohibiting False Statements or False Information in Process

HIGHER EDUCATION



# TITLE IX INVESTIGATOR

©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

# LESSON ONE

WELCOME AND REMINDERS





# **AGENDA**

Lesson One Welcome and Reminders

Lesson Two Role and Scope Overview

Lesson Three | Before the Investigation

Lesson Four Prepping for the Investigation

Lesson Five Investigation - Interviews

Lesson Six Investigation - Gathering Evidence

Lesson Seven Investigation - Follow Up

Lesson Eight Investigation - Identifying and Interviewing Witnesses

Lesson Nine Investigation - Building and Maintaining Your File

Lesson Ten Evidence Review

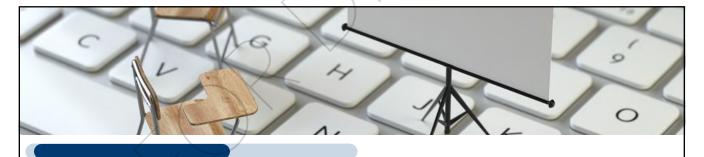
Lesson Eleven Report Writing and Review

Lesson Twelve After the Investigation

Lesson Thirteen Wrap-Up and Assessment of Knowledge



©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved



### **COURSE APPROPRIATE FOR:**



Title IX Investigators



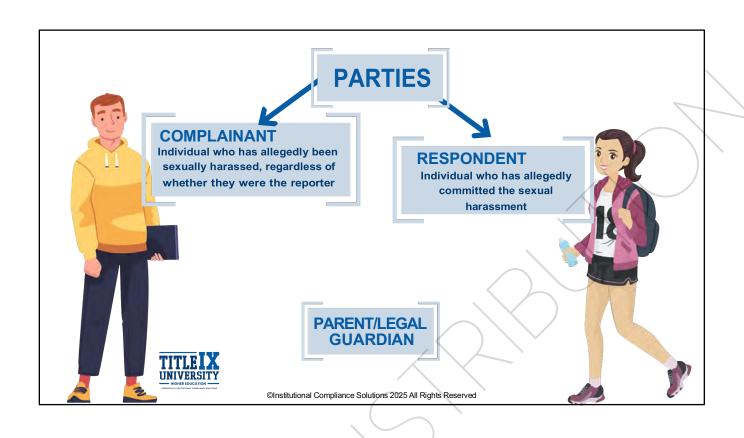
Title IX Decision-Makers















ROLE AND SCOPE OVERVIEW





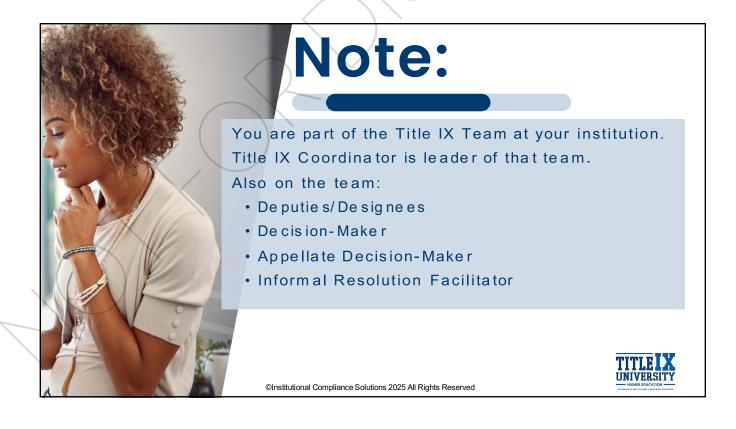
©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved



WHAT IS THE
ROLE/PURPOSE OF A TITLE
IX INVESTIGATOR (WHY
ARE WE DOING THIS
WORK?)











# LESSON THREE

BEFORE THE INVESTIGATION



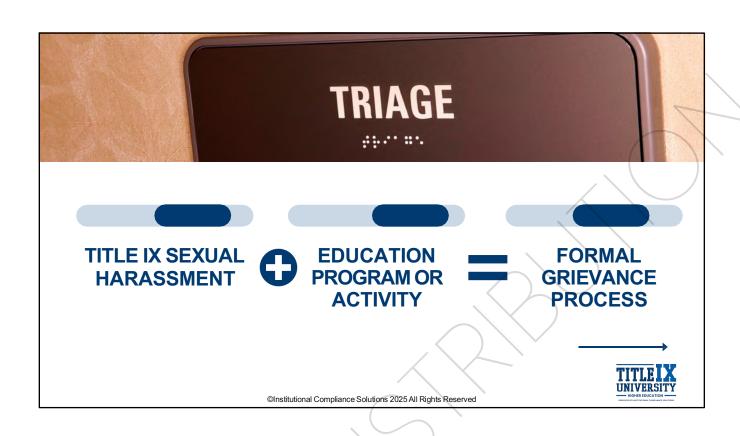


©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

### REPORT/NOTIFICATION PATHWAY **OVERVIEW** Investigation Appeal? If Formal Complaint, May be an appeal of the investigator assigned outcome \*No investigation without NOA **O**2 **O**3 04 **Decision-making Informal Resolution?** Report/Notification Can be directly to Title IX At conclusion of Informal resolution may %@\ Coordinator/Employee or occur during the grievance investigation, other mechanism. Title IX determination made procedure Coordinator will offer through a live hearing supportive measures/assess for appropriate pathway - Title IX or? ©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved









# ROLE OF INVESTIGATOR WITH SUPPORTIVE MEASURES?



TITLE IX
UNIVERSITY
HIGHER EDUCATION
HIGHER EDUCATION

©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved



# IF A COMPLAINANT DOES NOT WANT TO FILE A FORMAL COMPLAINT:

Title IX Coordinator may initiate/sign

Title IX Coordinator does not become the Complainant/a party

Provide all notices as Investigator as if Complainant is participating





# CONSOLIDATION OF COMPLAINTS

### School MAY consolidate:

- Complaints related to more than one Respondent.
- Complaints related to or more than one Complainant against one or more Respondents.
- Complaints by one party against another party.

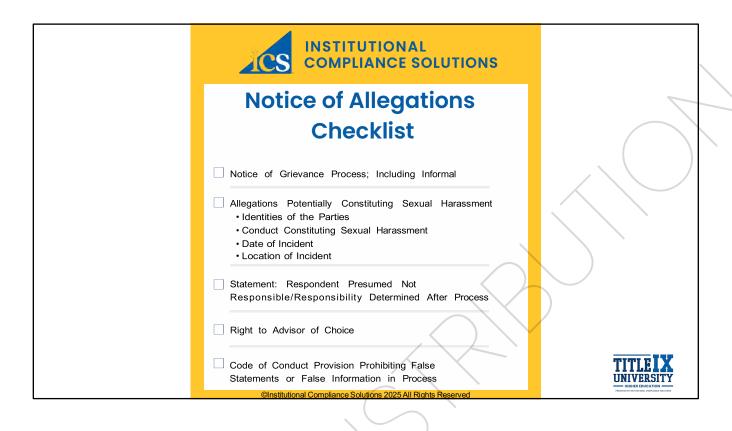


©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

# NOTICE OF ALLEGATIONS

- Notice of Grievance Process (including informal resolution process if one exists)
- · Allegations potentially constituting Sexual Harassment
  - Identities of the parties
  - Conduct constituting Sexual Harassment
  - Date of incident
  - Location of incident
- Statement: Respondent presumed not responsible, and responsibility is determined after Grievance Process
- · Right to Advisor of choice
- Code of Conduct provision(s) prohibiting false statements or false information in process









Notice of Allegations tells you WHAT you are investigating, and it should be updated if needed. Do not investigate matters outside of the NOA!





# Important!

# THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS FOR AN INVESTIGATOR

- 🕦 Formal Complaint
- Notice of Allegations
  - Do not investigate matters outside of what is in the NOA
  - If more information comes to light, you will need to update and redistribute the NOA







PREPPING FOR THE INVESTIGATION









# WHAT TYPES OF CASES WILL YOU BE INVESTIGATING?

- Who are the parties involved?
- What is the conduct at issue?



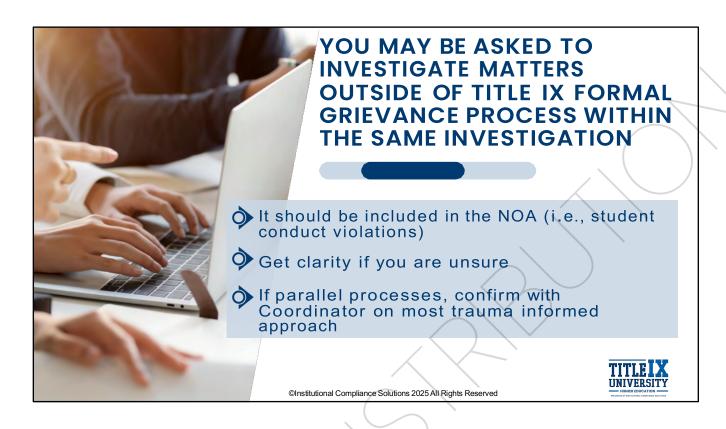
©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved



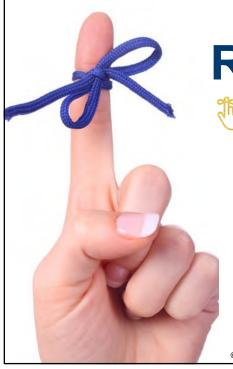
# CONDUCT AT ISSUE

\*Review definitions from Introduction and Overview Course and your policies and procedures









# **REMINDER!!!**

Don't forget to include advisors

\*note: not required to provide notice to witnesses, but we recommend it



©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved



### IMPORTANT NOTES FOR INVESTIGATIONS:



### BURDENS

- Burden of gathering evidence on school NOT the parties
- Burden/Standard of Proof Preponderance of the Evidence (more likely than not) or Clear and Convincing Evidence
- May NOT access, consider, disclose, or use party's treatment records unless school obtains voluntary WRITTEN consent
- MUST provide equal opportunity for parties to:
  - Present witnesses (fact or expert--does not say character)
  - Gather and present relevant evidence
- May NOT restrict the ability of the parties to discuss the allegations or gather and present relevant evidence (no gag orders)

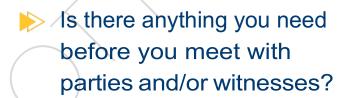


# BEFORE YOU START... THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARATION



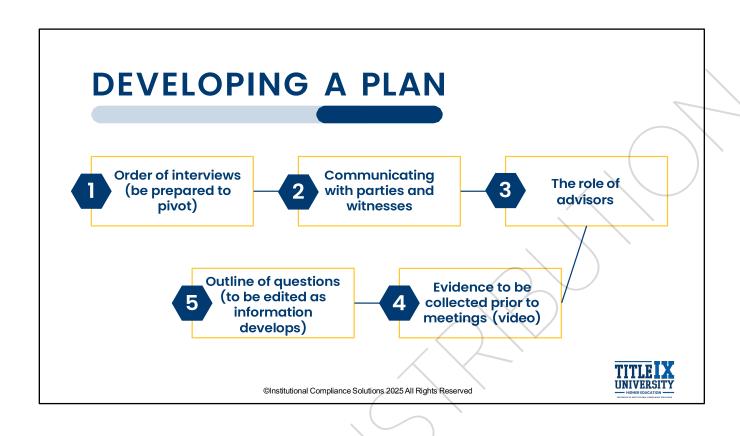
©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

# WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU HAVE?











# LESSON FIVE

**INVESTIGATION - INTERVIEWS** 





©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved



# OPENING THE MEETING... THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY



# YOU ONLY GET ONE FIRST IMPRESSION

Before they "walk in" either in person or virtually, CHECK YOURSELF











 $\hbox{@Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025\,AII\,Rights\,Reserved}$ 

# TRAUMA INFORMED MEETING NECESSITIES

**THE 4 - C'S** 









Clear

Consistent

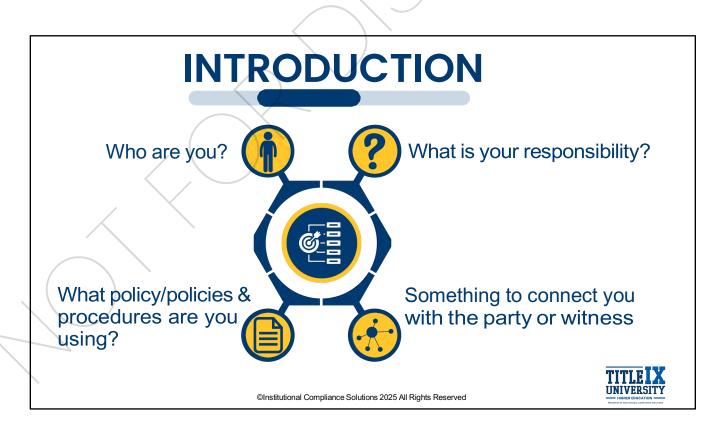
Convenient

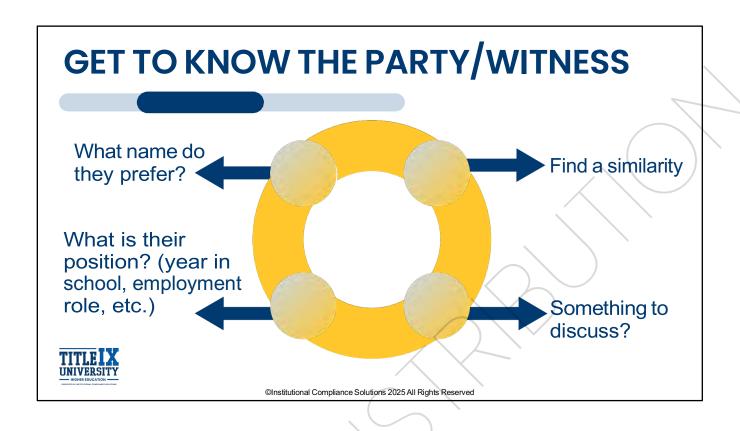
TITLE IX
UNIVERSITY
HIGHET EDUCAL CONTAINED

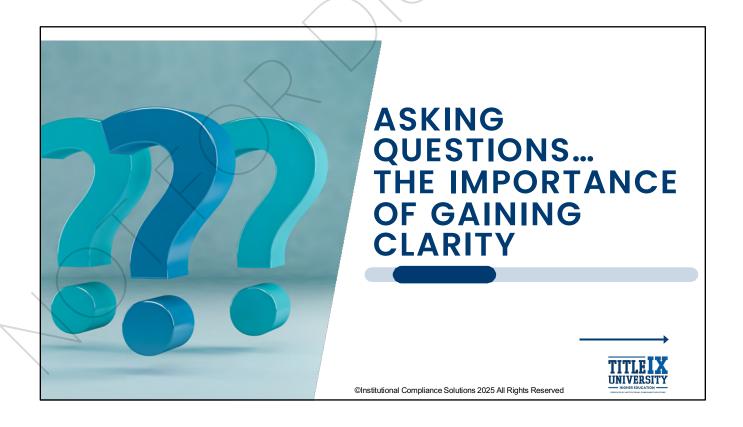
# **CHECK YOUR BIASES**

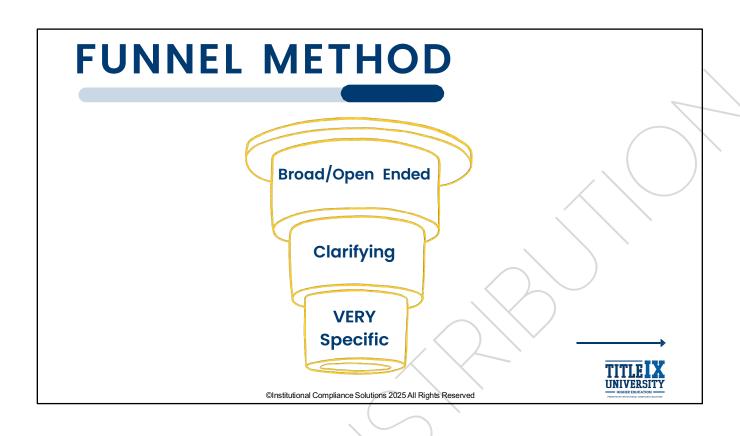
- Where are your potential biases in the case?
- Can you overcome any biases that exist?
- Is your mind in a neutral position?



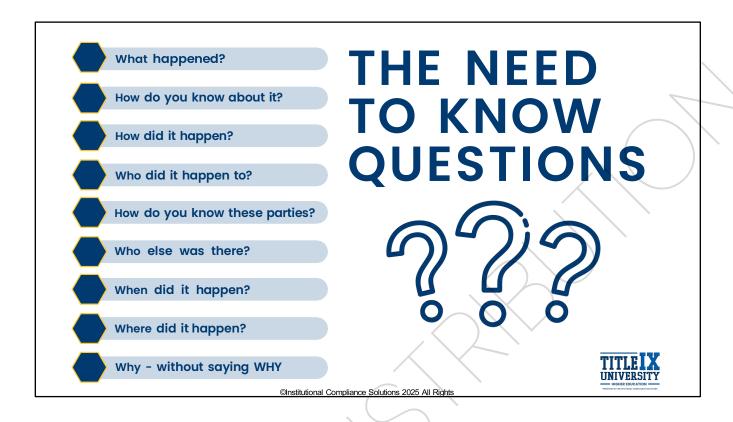


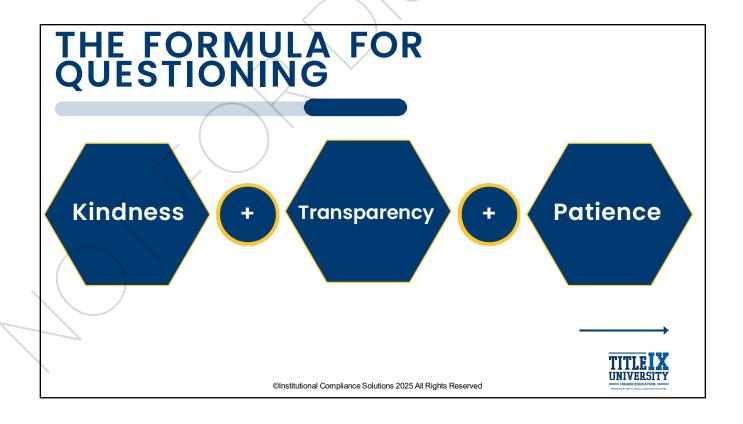












# CHALLENGING WITNESSES / PARTIES

The "Hulk"



The Rabbit Chaser

The "Turtle"



The Big Reveal



The Reluctant Participant



©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

# NOTE-TAKING

Detailed, but not so much that it slows down the interview

Decide what is most important

Extra person in the room?

 Give notice and explain their role as notetaker

Use quotations if possible

Note-taker vs. dual investigator

Ask for a pause or clarification if necessary







# LESSON SIX

INVESTIGATION - GATHERING EVIDENCE





©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

# THE IMPORTANCE OF CURIOSITY WHEN GATHERING EVIDENCE





# **SLEUTH**

### Noun

a person who investigates a crime; a detective



### Verb

carry out a successful investigation into a crime or mystery

"there's nothing you can do but sleuth around until you find the answer"



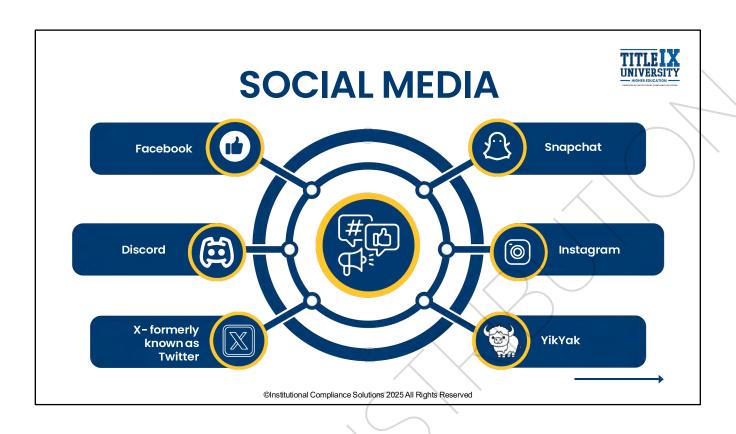
©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

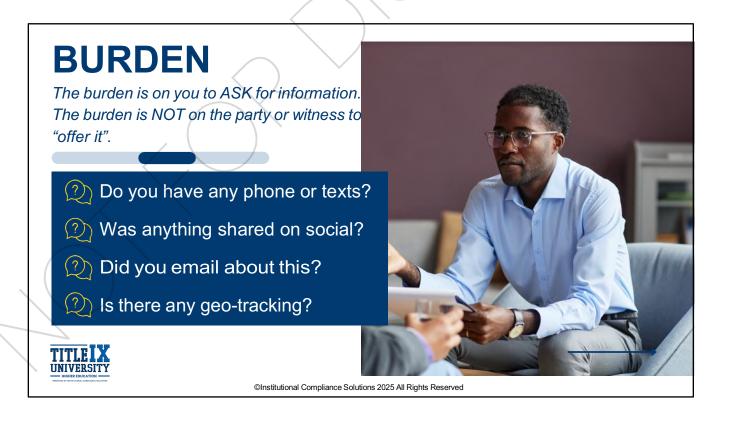
# **VIDEO QUESTIONS**



- ? Do you have access?
- ? Who else has access?
- ? How long is it stored?
- ? Do you know how to save it?
- ② Does someone make sure all cameras are working reguarly?

TITLE IX UNIVERSITY







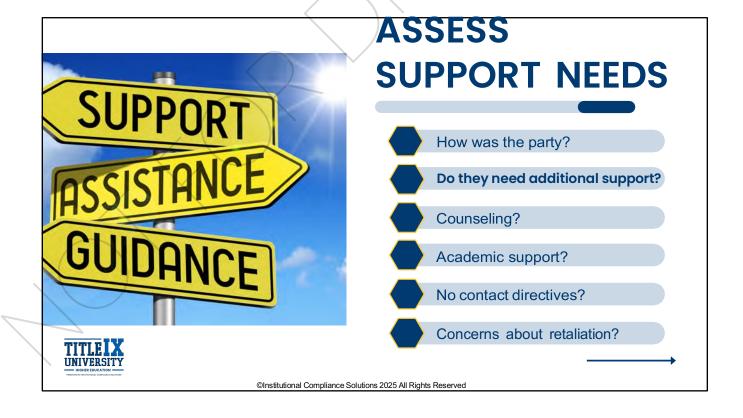


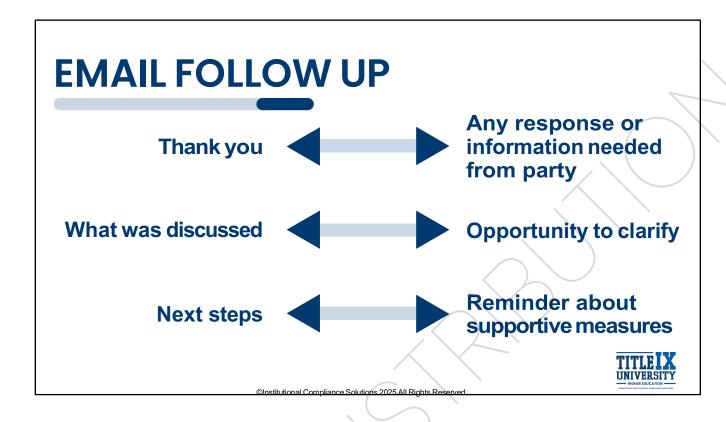
## LESSON SEVEN

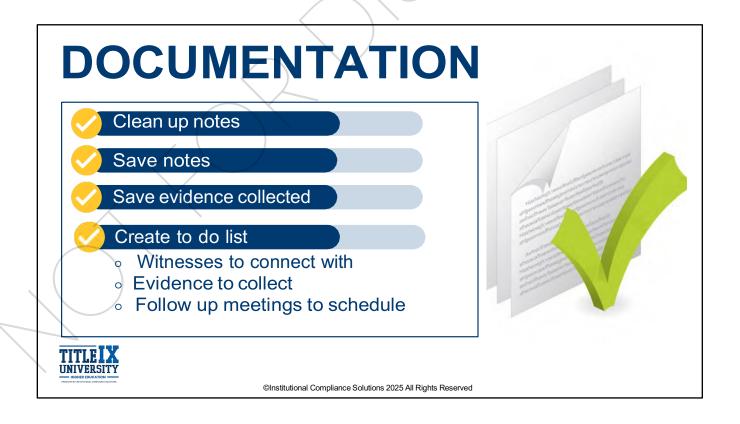
INVESTIGATION - FOLLOW-UP













If you were unable to continue with the investigation starting tomorrow, would the person picking up the file know what had been done and what is left to do?

### Sustainability Planning



©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved



**REMINDER!** 

Information for case needs to be saved for 7 years

TITLELX
UNIVERSITY



## LESSON EIGHT

IDENTIFYING AND INTERVIEWING WITNESSES





©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

# WHO ARE YOUR WITNESSES AND WHO IDENTIFIED THEM?

Witnesses identified by the Complainant

Witnesses identified by the Respondent

Witness

Witnesses identified by you

Witnesses identified by other witnesses





#### **TYPES OF WITNESSES**

- Eye Witnesses
- Fact Witnesses
- Expert Witnesses
- Mearsay Witnesses
- Character Witnesses



©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved



# MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- How do you know the Complainant?
- How do you know the Respondent?
- How do you know the other witnesses?
  - How long?
  - In what capacity?
  - Describe your relationship with them





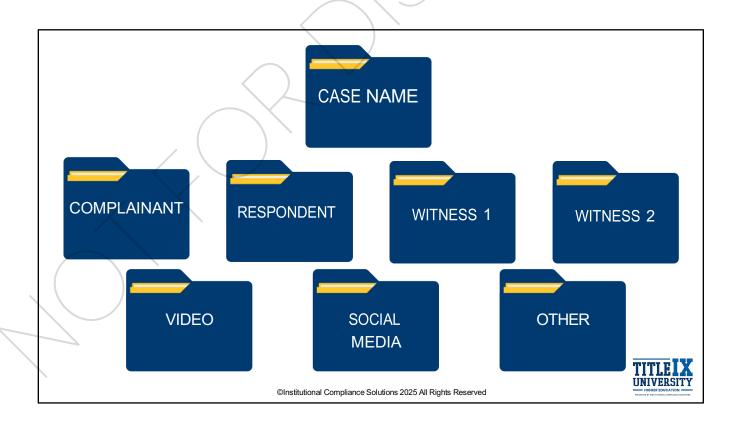
## **MEMORY**

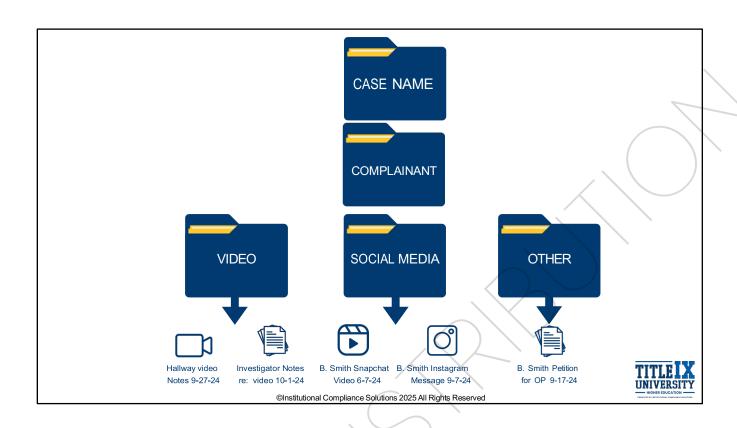
- How much do witnesses actually remember?
- What impacts memory?

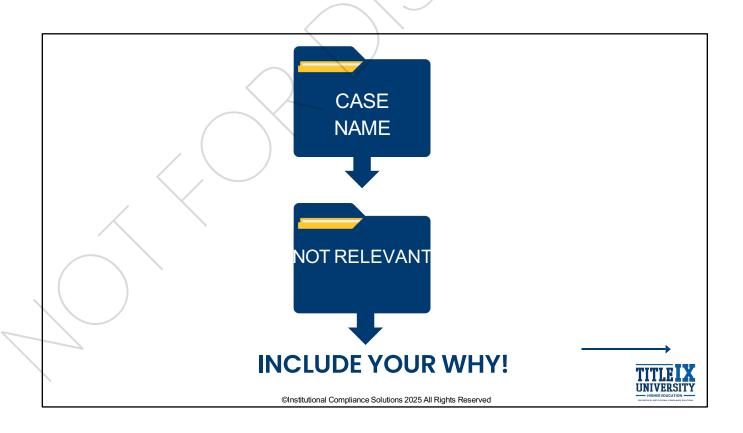














## LESSON TEN



EVIDENCE REVIEW



©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

MUST: PROVIDE BOTH PARTIES AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO INSPECT AND REVIEW ANY EVIDENCE OBTAINED AS PART OF THE INVESTIGATION THAT IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE ALLEGATIONS INCLUDING:

- The evidence upon which the school does not intend to rely in reaching a determination
- Inculpatory or exculpatory evidence







01

Sending securely

02

The anxiety it may cause (PROVIDE SUPPORT)

03

The VOLUME of information

04

Some of the information may not be "Relevant"

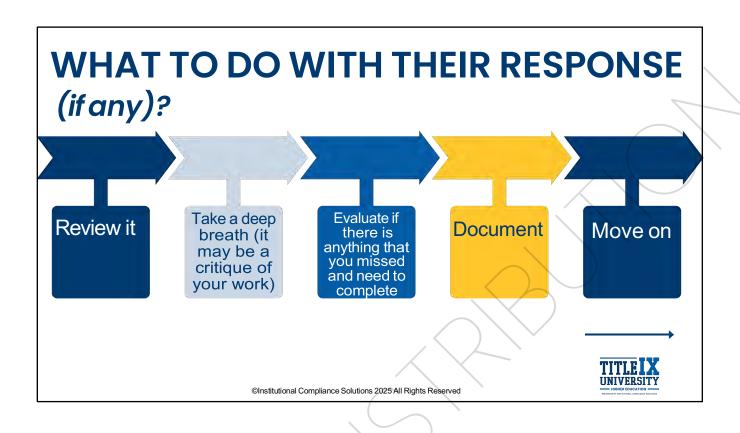


©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

### **REMINDER!**

How Long?
10 days
(business or calendar?)
Define in policy







# LESSON ELEVEN

REPORT WRITING AND REVIEW





©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

#### A TITLE IX REPORT IS A SUMMARY OF RELEVANT EVIDENCE

THIS IS **NOT** A DUMP OR COPY OF YOUR NOTES.





#### **ORGANIZATION**



Easy to Follow, Clear, Concise

Can the reader follow the report and understand who reported/said what?



Roadmap for the Decision-Maker

This report will guide the decision maker, help them ask questions, and provide a roadmap for their process



Includes the Basics

Assume the reader knows NOTHING



Reviewed by Colleague

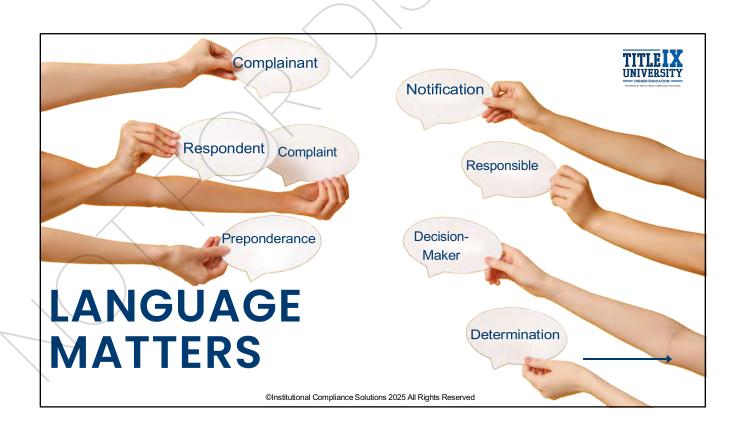
Trusted counterpart



#### Consistent but Not Identical

There is room for a little flexibility





#### WHO IS YOUR AUDIENCE?





Judge

Family



©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

### THE ART OF SUMMARIZING



What is important?



What is relevant?



What is outside the scope?



What needs to be quoted?



#### **RELEVANCY**

Information that has a tendency to make a fact more or less probable than it would be without the information—and the fact must be of consequence to the allegations.



©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

#### ORGANIZATION IS KEY



By party/witness?



By time/chronological?



By event?



#### OTHER REPORT MUST HAVES

Page numbers

Footnotes?

#### Timeline(s)

- Investigation
- Events



Appendix/Attachments WITH PAGE NUMBERS

- Table of Contents for appendix/
  - attachments





# THE DELIVERY OF THE REPORT CAN BE TRAUMATIC



Witnesses may say things that are surprising to the parties



Changing the trajectory of individual's lives



©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

## CONSIDERATIONS

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO DELIVER THE REPORT

ARE THERE SUPPORT RESOURCES IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE

DO YOU NEED TO PROVIDE A HEADS UP THAT IT IS COMING

**NEXT STEPS** 

APPEAL OPTIONS





# REPORT REVIEW... THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT TAKING IT PERSONAL



©Institutional Compliance Solutions 2025 All Rights Reserved

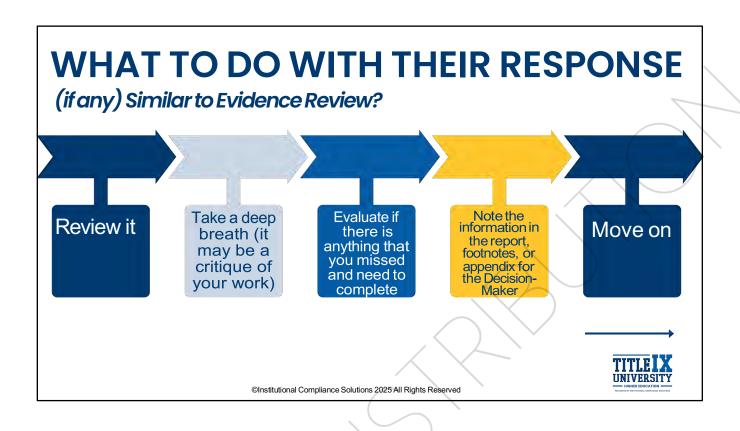
#### REVIEW OF REPORT

REQUIRED 10 DAY REVIEW AND RESPONSE PERIOD (BEFORE DETERMINATION)

CONSIDER WAITING FOR RESPONSE BEFORE SENDING TO DECISION-MAKER









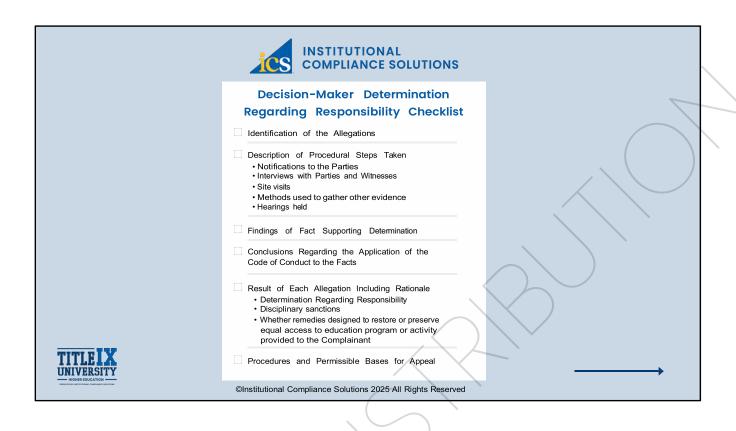
# LESSON TWELVE

AFTER THE INVESTIGATION











#### **APPEALS**



Offered to both parties

Can appeal dismissal of Formal Complaint or any allegations therein or determination regarding responsibility

#### On the following basis:

- · Procedural irregularity 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
- Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decision-maker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the individual Complainant or Respondent that affected the outcome of the matter
- Additional bases if offered equally to both parties

Notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed

Give both parties a reasonable opportunity to submit a written statement in support of or challenging the outcome

Written decision describing the result and rationale for the result

Provide written decision simultaneously to both parties

TITLE IX
UNIVERSITY
HIGHER EDUCATION

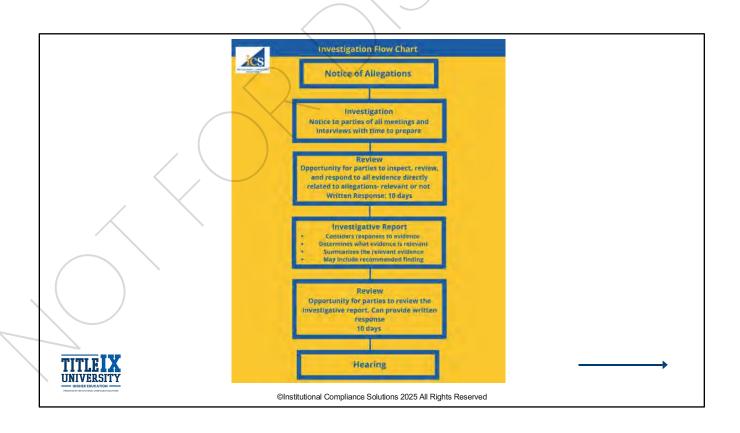


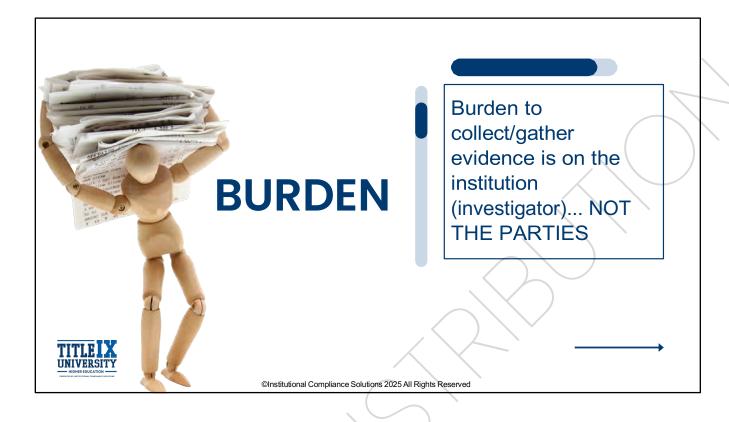
## LESSON THIRTEEN

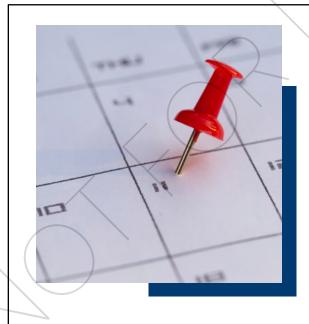
WRAP UP AND ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE





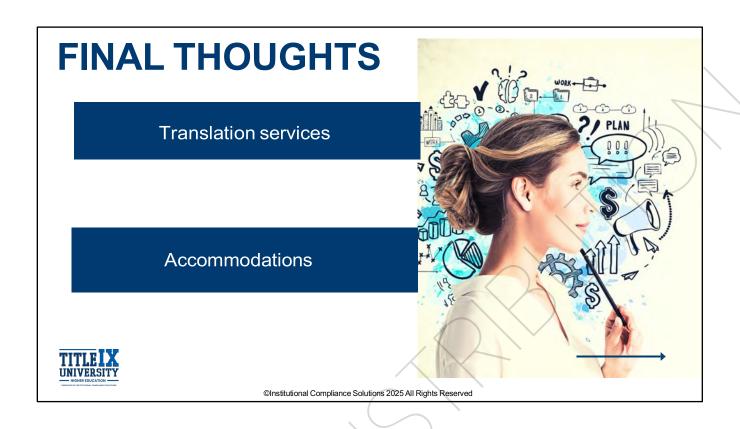


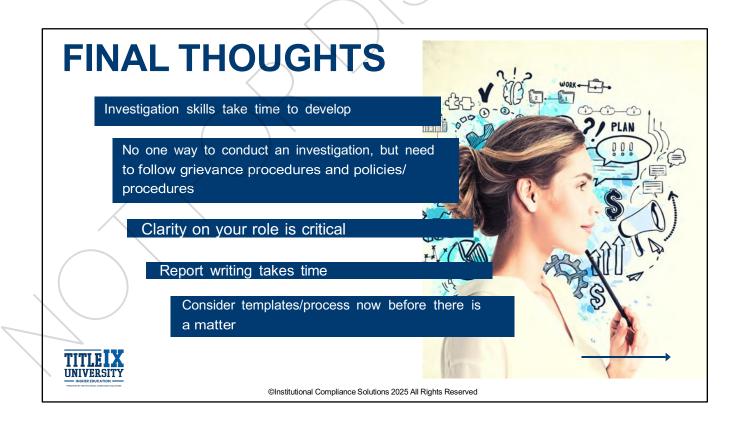




TITLE IX UNIVERSITY

#### PAY ATTENTION TO THE TIMELINES REQUIRED BY YOUR POLICIES FOR THE INVESTIGATIVE STAGE











Title IX Coordinator info@titleixu.com





