

# Title IX+ COVID-19 Q&A



nvrdc

Network for Victim Recovery of DC





## Is my school required to respond to sexual harassment during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes! Colleges and universities are still obligated to comply with Title IX during the pandemic, even though they have closed residence halls, campuses, or moved to online learning. Schools must continue to provide supportive measures and accept formal complaints of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking during the pandemic.

## How will the complaint process work if students aren't on campus?

For the health and safety of everyone involved, many schools have shifted their Title IX processes online in order to meet their requirements under federal law. Interviews with Title IX investigators may be conducted through a video-conferencing platform and reports and evidence are often shared through online document-sharing services. Hearings will also be conducted remotely. Schools have an obligation to provide a prompt process, so they cannot indefinitely postpone a Title IX case.



# I'm not comfortable participating in a remote hearing. What should I do?

Student-survivors are sharing a variety of concerns with NVRDC about participating in remote hearings. Some survivors are living back home with their parents or other family members and don't want their family to find out about the sexual harassment complaint or don't want them overhearing testimony the survivor might give in a remote hearing. Other student-survivors are concerned about not being in the same room as their advisor during the remote hearing. Others have limited or no access to the internet or a webcam. Whatever the reason may be, because of the pandemic, it may be difficult for schools to conduct in-person hearings or delay hearings until they can be safely conducted in-person.

If a student-survivor is considering filing a complaint but is uncomfortable with a remote process, it may be a good idea to speak with the Title IX office about their options before filing a formal complaint .





NVRDC provides free lawyers who act as attorney-advisors to survivors in Title IX cases at DC colleges and universities.

If you attend a college or university in the District of Columbia, are the complainant in a Title IX case, and would like to speak to an NVRDC lawyer who could serve as your advisor, please contact 202-742-1727 or email [info@nvrdc.org](mailto:info@nvrdc.org)

