

**Accused Student Cases
Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
September 26th, 2014**

Question: OCR has turned down a number of Title IX complaints by accused students over the years, has OCR accepted any cases?

Answer: Each case is fact-specific and each Title IX determination is based on the particular set of facts presented. Although we do not give legal advisory opinions, we are happy to provide information on how Title IX applies generally.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX). Title IX protects all students at recipient institutions from sex discrimination, including both male and female students. The Department's Title IX regulations require all recipient educational institutions to adopt and publish grievance procedures providing for the prompt and equitable resolution of sex discrimination complaints. OCR will review all aspects of a recipient institution's grievance procedures to determine if they satisfy this requirement, including whether the procedures: provide for the adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints, including the opportunity for both parties to present witnesses and other evidence; include designated and reasonably prompt time frames for the major stages of the complaint process; and provide written notice to both parties of the outcome of the complaint and any appeal.

Anyone who believes that a recipient institution has engaged in sex discrimination may file a complaint with OCR and OCR will process the complaint in accordance with the Case Processing Manual, available at <https://www2.ed.gov/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.html>.

OCR is committed to providing the public with information about the civil rights laws OCR enforces. In responding to correspondence, OCR provides general, publicly available information about a wide variety of civil rights issues in the education context. OCR does not, however, provide legal or other advice or issue advisory opinions to customers concerning specific factual scenarios. Correspondence issued by OCR in response to an inquiry from the public does not constitute a formal statement of OCR policy and should not be construed as creating or articulating new policy. OCR's formal policy statements are approved by a duly authorized OCR official and made available to the public.

