

**Mutual No Contact Orders**  
**Office for Civil Rights**  
**U.S. Department of Education**  
**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Question:** Does OCR have advice on the automatic issuance of mutual no contact orders between the parties to a sexual assault?

**Answer:** As you are aware, OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (Title IX). Although OCR refrains from offering opinions about specific facts without first conducting an investigation, we are happy to provide key information on how Title IX applies generally in this context.

Title IX requires that schools adopt and publish grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints of sex discrimination, including sexual violence. If an investigation reveals that sexual violence created a hostile environment, the school must then take prompt and effective steps reasonably calculated to end the sexual violence, eliminate the hostile environment, prevent its recurrence, and, as appropriate, remedy its effects. Title IX requires schools to protect the complainant and ensure his or her safety as necessary, including taking interim steps before the final outcome of any investigation. Schools should take these steps promptly once they have notice of a sexual violence allegation. The specific interim measures implemented and the process for implementing those measures will vary depending on the facts of each case. As such, we are unable to opine on the general practice of automatically issuing mutual no-contact orders. Additional policy guidance about interim measures and remedies can be found in Parts G and H of OCR's April 2014 [Questions and Answers on Title IX and Sexual Violence](#).

