

Residential High School Case Study For Title IX Coordinator Training

Taylor was elated when she got her residential high school acceptance letter. For about a month, she called her parents twice a week and shared stories about her great school and cool roommate. Three months later, her parents noticed that she quickly dismissed conversations about her roommate, and she started asking to come home on weekends. While home, they noticed she seldom left her bedroom. Additionally, she did not want to return to school Sunday evenings. Instead, she asked to be taken back Monday mornings before class. Her parents were concerned and asked if there was anything upsetting her at school? They reminded her of how much they love her and that there was nothing she could not discuss with them. She started crying uncontrollably and told her parents that her roommate had been purposely brushing up against her breasts when she walked out of the bathroom after showers, constantly invade her personal space, shared sexually explicit stories of relationships with other girls, constantly propositioned her, and told stories of how she had physically hurt others who had tattled on her. Being shy and introverted, Taylor was afraid to say anything to her roommate. Instead, Taylor chose to avoid her as much as she could until her roommate made it impossible for her to feel safe. For two-month Taylor lived in fear.

Taylor's parents were furious, immediately contacted the school, threatened to remove their daughter, and demanded the removal and arrest of Taylor's roommate.

As Title IX Coordinators, be prepared to discuss the following:

- Is this sexual harassment under Title IX?
- Should the school move forward with a complaint, if complainant does not want to submit a formal complaint?
- Does the school have jurisdiction?
- Is emergency removal appropriate?
- What rights do the perpetrator have?
- What should be done if complaint cannot be proven or validated?
- If the bullying is proven, how should it be addressed?
- What should be done if complainant was found to have lied about ordeal?