

# TRAINING MATERIALS Facilitating Fair and Effective Informal Resolution Processes

Under Title IX

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Facilitating Fair and Effective Informal Resolution Processes Under Title IX Module 1: Introduction and Overview

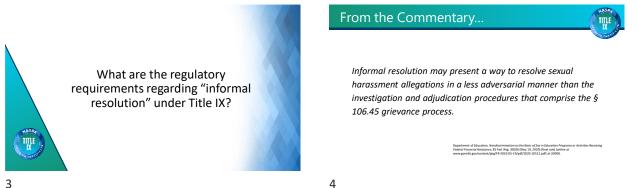
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From the commentary...

The Department believes an explicit definition of "informal resolution" in the final regulations is unnecessary. Informal resolution may encompass a broad range of conflict resolution strategies, including, but not limited to, arbitration, mediation, or restorative justice. Defining this concept may have the unintended effect of limiting parties' freedom to choose the resolution option that is best for them, and recipient flexibility to craft resolution processes that serve the unique educational needs of their communities.

Id. at 30401.

# § 106.45(b)(9) Informal resolution.

A recipient may not require as a condition of enrollment or continuing enrollment, or employment or continuing employment, or enjoyment of any other right, waiver of the right to an investigation and adjudication of formal complaints of sexual harassment consistent with this section.

[A] recipient may not require the parties to participate in an informal resolution process under this section and <u>may not offer</u> <u>an informal resolution process unless a formal complaint is</u> <u>filed.</u>

(emphasis added)



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(emphasis added)

### Points on Informal Resolution

- The new regulations don't require it, but informal resolution is allowed.
- A formal complaint must be filed before any informal resolution process can begin.
- Both parties must <u>voluntarily</u> agree to informal resolution (written consent required). [No coercion or undue influence.]
- No "informed" consent standard as such, other than information required by regulations.
- Parties do not have to be in the same room...often, they are not.
- · Equitable implementation by trained personnel

#### Points on Informal Resolution

- Should you offer it?
  - Pros/Cons
     Increased completion
  - Increased complainant autonomy
    Training of personnel is required under the new regulations
- Who should implement?
- What type of training is needed?
- Mediation? Arbitration? Restorative justice?
  When can't we use informal resolution?
- →When the allegation is that an employee sexually harassed a student.
- Does this option provide for more opportunities for "educational" interventions?
- What does this look like in practice?



What types of informal resolution exist? What are the range of options available to institutions?

# Informal Resolution Options

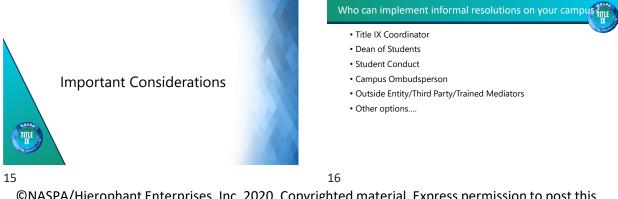
- Educational Conferences
- Mediation (Neutral, Facilitative, Collaborative)
- Med-Arb (Mediation and Arbitration, Non-Binding Arbitration)
- Restorative Justice
- Collaborative Law Model

[Each of these will be discussed more in-depth in the next module.]

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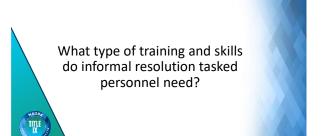
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When is it inappropriate to use informal resolution processes?

§ 106.45(b)(9)(iii) [N] ot offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

# Important Questions

- Who are "impacted Individuals" under Title IX?
- How do informal processes support culture and climate work on campus?
- How do informal processes relate to other, more formalized processes such as bias and incident response processes?
- Budget impacts/size and nature of an institution?
- What are the intersections among advisors, investigators and decisionmakers?



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Training Mandates Specific to the New Regulations

"Schools must ensure that Title IX personnel [Title IX Coordinator. anv investigato any decision-maker, and any person who facilities an informal resolution (such as mediation)] receive training as follows

- On Title IX's definition of "sexual harassment" 0
- o On the scope of the school's education program or activity
- On how to conduct an investigation and grievance process o On how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue
- · On how to avoid conflicts of interest and bias
- Decision-makers must receive training on any technology to be used at a live hearing, and on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and and on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about a complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not
- o Investigators must receive training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence

U.S. Dept. of Educ, Office for Civil Rights, Blog (May 18, 2020) https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/

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# Posting Training Materials to Your Website

"All materials used to train Title IX personnel:

- Must not rely on sex stereotypes
- · Must promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of sexual harassment. Must be maintained by the school for at least 7 years,
- o Must be publicly available on the school's website; if the school does not maintain a
- website the school must make the training materials available upon request for inspection by members of the public."

"Schools must publish training materials that are up to date and reflect the latest training provided to Title IX personnel

"If a school's current training materials are copyrighted or otherwise protected as proprietary business information (for example, by an outside consultant), the school still must comply with the Tite IX Rule. This may mean that the school has to secure permission from the copyright holder to publish the training materials on the school's website

Title IX's definition of "sexual harassment" [Three-Prong Test] Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following: (1) An employee of the recipient conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the recipient on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; (2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient's education program or activity; or (3) "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

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§106.44(a) General response to sexual harassment. TIŢĻE A recipient with actual knowledge of sexual harassment in an education program or activity of the recipient against a person in the United States, must respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. "education program or activity" includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the recipient exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs, and also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by a

> What does your campus policy state specifically regarding the scope of "education programs or activities?

> > (emphasis added)

# Example of "Scope" in a Policy

This policy applies to ABC University students, employees, and third-parties located within the United States both on and off campus, as well as in the digital realm. Off-campus coverage of this policy is limited to incidents that occur on employee-led trips, at internship or service learning sites, and college-owned properties (including buildings operated by Registered Student Organizations), or in any context where the University exercised substantial control over both alleged harassers and the context in which the alleged harassment occurred.

Scope will be specific to an institution.

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postsecondary institution.

#### Desirable skills and knowledge bases



- Active listening skills (e.g. paying attention, withholding judgment, reflecting, clarifying paraphrasing, and summarizing.)
- Legal training
- Prior ADR experience
- Operational knowledge and experience in higher education
- Comfortable with TIX subject matter
- Bias/Implicit bias training
- Knowledge regarding campus policies/cultures
- Understanding of relevant objective standards

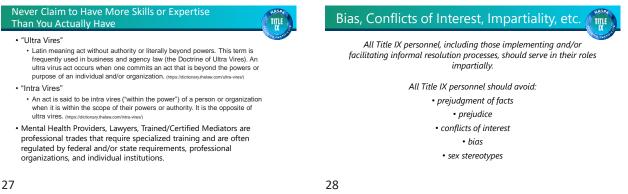
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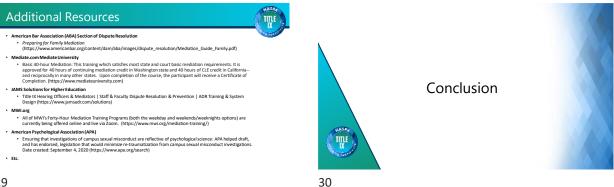
# Cross-training

- Cross-train with other disciplines
- Build credentials
- Other NASPA training programs
- Education Credentials
- Training in ADR in other contexts (e.g. Family Court)
- Other civil rights metrics
- Read, read, and read some more

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# Final thoughts...

- Flexibility
- "Tuning"
- · Stay within skill set
- · How "formal" is your "informal" process?
- · Language/What will you call your process?
- What are some lessons learned from analogous fields?

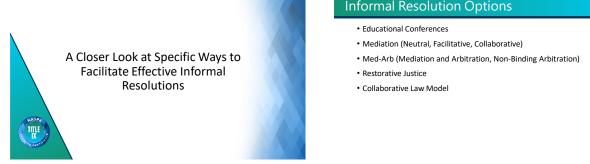
Thank you! Assessment to follow ... 32

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# **Educational Conferences**



- Concept in Beyond Discipline (2009)
- · Can be called by a student, RSO, staff or faculty member
- · Opportunity to have a conversation about anything
- How could ed conferences be adapted for Title IX?
- · How campuses utilize educational conferences: Two examples

# Univ. of Central Missouri

"Conduct Educators" and "Educational Conferences'

"The primary tool of the Conduct Educator is the opportunity for an "Educational Conference" with the student. When the University becomes aware of a student who may not be meeting the expectations of good decision-making (usually through an academic alert from faculty, public safety report, or housing report), then the student will be contacted (generally by email) to schedule an Educational Conference."

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Univ. of Central Missouri, UCM Student Handbook: Your Guide to Good Decision-Making, at 9.

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# Univ. of Central Missouri Cont'd

"An Educational Conference might also be required if university personnel identify a pattern of behaviors or decisions that illustrate poor decision-making or potential risk. A student may also request an Educational Conference if there is a concern they would like to discuss. An Educational Conference may also be required in order to help UCM staff prevent a foreseeable negative event. For example, if staff become aware that students have planned a large and potentially risky party, those students might be required to meet with a Conduct Educator to discuss how they plan to manage that event and minimize the risk to attendees.

The Educational Conference should be viewed as an opportunity for a student to clarify their decision-making process and, in the case of poor judgment, take responsibility for correcting that error. The Educational Conference is designed to be a civil but critical examination of the student's decision-making process and direct discussion of choices the student has made. This process is only effective if a student participates openly, respectfully and honestly. Deception and incivility reduce the ability of the Conduct Educator to assist the student in evaluating the educational purposefulness of their choices and will not be tolerated."

Univ. of Central Missouri, UCM Student Handbook: Your Guide to Good Decision-Making, at 10

Tulane University "The educational conference is an important instructional tool at Tulane University, and students and student organizations should expect to participate in this process. When the University becomes aware of a student who may not be meeting the core values and expectations of a Tulane University student and/or may have violated Tulane Code Rules (excluding sexual assault), the Office of Student Conduct or their designee, often Residence Life or Campus Life, can choose to resolve this concern through an educational conference instead of the more formal resolution process. The educational conference is an opportunity for a student or organization to discuss critical decisions and options or to take responsibility for correcting any error in judgment. The educational conference may feature critical examination of a student's or organization's decision-making and a discussion of choices the student about worrisome patterns of behavior or to prevent foreseable negative outcomes, like discussions of risk management for events. It can also be an opportunity for

students to share concern for other members of the community, to discover

resources, to seek mentorship and guidance, and so on.

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### Tulane University Cont'd

"There are many potential outcomes in an educational conference. In some situations, a student or organization may be asked to agree to a learning action plan. A learning action plan may feature some of the consequences outlined in the section of this Code designated "Consequences," other than suspension or expulsion or revocation of recognition of a group. It is the responsibility of the student to complete this learning action plan in the manner and timeframe determined by the conduct officer.

Sometimes during an educational conference it becomes clear that a situation would be better addressed through a more formal process, such as an administrative hearing, student hearing panel or investigation. The conduct officer has the discretion to end the educational conference in lieu of these other processes."

Tulane Univ., Code of Student Conduct, at 9.

### What is arbitration?

- The submission of a dispute to an unbiased third person designated by the
  parties to the controversy, who agree in advance to comply with the awarda decision to be issues after a hearing at which both parties have an
  opportunity to be heard.
- Arbitration is a well-established and widely used means to end disputes. It is one of several kinds of Alternative Dispute Resolution which provide parties to a controversy with a choice other than litigation. Unlike litigation, arbitration takes place out of court: the two sides select an impartial third party, known as an arbitrator; agree in advance to comply with the arbitrator's award; and then participate in a hearing at which both sides can present evidence and testimory. The arbitrator's decision is usually final and courts rarely reexamine it.
- Arbitration can be voluntary or required. [Except on a college campus, for Title IX purposes, informal resolution cannot be required.]

https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/arbitration

Tulane Univ., Code of Student Conduct, at 8 – 9.

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# What is mediation?

Mediation, as used in law, is a form of alternative dispute resolution resolving disputes between two or more parties with concrete effects. Typically, a third party, the mediator, assists the parties to negotiate a settlement. Disputants may mediate disputes in a variety of domains, such as commercial, legal, diplomatic, workplace, community, and family matters.

"Neutrals" Campus "Ombudsperson"?

#### https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediation

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What is mediation? Cont'd

Mediation is a dynamic, structured, interactive process where an impartial third party assists disputing parties in resolving conflict through the use of specialized communication and negotiation techniques. All participants in mediation are encouraged to actively participate in the process. Mediation is a "party-centered" process in that it is focused primarily upon the needs, rights, and interests of the parties.

#### https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediation

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What is mediation? Cont'd	What is mediation? Cont'd
The mediator uses a wide variety of techniques to guide the process in a constructive direction and to help the parties find their optimal solution. A mediator is facilitative in that she/he manages the interaction between parties and facilitates open communication. Mediation is also evaluative in that the mediator analyzes issues and relevant norms ("reality-testing"), while refraining from providing prescriptive advice to the parties (e.g., "You should do").	The term "mediation" broadly refers to any instance in which a third party helps others reach an agreement. More specifically, mediation has a structure, timetable, and dynamics that "ordinary" negotiation lacks. The process is private and confidential, possibly enforced by law. Participation is typically voluntary. The mediator acts as a neutral third party and facilitates rather than directs the process. Mediation is becoming a more peaceful and internationally accepted solution to end the conflict. Mediation can be used to resolve disputes of any magnitude.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediation	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediation
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What is mediation? Cont'd	What is med-arb?
Mediators use various techniques to open, or improve, dialogue and empathy between disputants, aiming to help the parties reach an agreement. Much depends on the mediator's skill and training. As the practice gained popularity, training programs, certifications, and licensing followed, which produced trained and professional mediators committed to the discipline.	A form of arbitration in which the arbitrators starts as a mediator but in the event of a failure of mediation, the arbitrator imposes a binding
JAMS     American Arbitration Association (AAA)	decision.
American Bar Association, ADR Section     Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR)     CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution	Duhaime's Law Dictionary. Med-Arb Definition; <u>http://www.duhaime.org/i.egalDictionary/M/MedArb.asp</u> u.
National Association for Community Mediation	
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediation	
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## Med-arb Cont'd

"[T]he essence of med-arb is to allow a softer mediation process to occur fir thus taking every opportunity of achieving a resolution to a dispute which is not imposed and to which each party to the dispute subscribes voluntarily. In this initial phase, the presiding neutral third-party acts as a mediator and coaches or encourages the parties towards a settlement taking into account the information received from both at a mediation hearing.

Med/arb motivates the participants at the mediation given the shadow of the hammer of med/arb: the transformation, if mediation fails, of the process to arbitration. At that point, the presiding officer, now sitting as an arbitrator and no longer as a mediator, is enabled to proceed as if the hearing was one of arbitration and to impose a resolution, a final and binding award. generally relying on the information presented during the mediation hearing." Duhaime's Law Dictionary, Med-Arb Definition, http://www.duhaime.org/LegalDictionary/M/MedArb.as

What is restorative justice?

A restorative justice program aims to get offenders to take responsibility for their actions, to understand the harm they have caused, to give them an opportunity to redeem themselve and to discourage them from causing further harm. For victims, its goal is to give them an active role in the process and to reduce feelings of anxiety and powerlessness. Restorative justice is founded on an alternative theory to the traditional methods of justice, which often focus on retribution. However, restorative justice programs can complement traditional methods.

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Academic assessment of restorative justice is positive. Most studies suggest it makes Academic basessainen toi result-andre fostade is koj kaloniter: musa submes subgesa in intenes offenders less likely to reolfend. A 2007 study also found that thad the highest rate of victim satisfaction and offender accountability of any method spitation. Its use has seen worldwide growth since the 1990s. Restorative justice inspited and is part of the wider study of restorative practices. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Restorative\_justice

How can it be used in Title IX/sexual misconduct? Koss MP, Wilgus JK, Williamsen KM. Campus Sexual Misconduct: Restorative Justice Approaches to Enhance Compliance With Title IX Guidance. *Trauma Violence Abuse*. 2014;15(3):242-257. doi:10.1177/1524838014521500

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Restorative Justice	From the commentary accompanying the new Title IX regulations
<image/> <list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item>	With respect to the implications of restorative justice and the recipient reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the Department acknowledges that generally a critical feature of restorative justice is that the respondent admits responsibility at the start of the process. However, this admission of responsibility does not necessarily mean the recipient has also reached that determination, and participation in restorative justice as a type of informal resolution must be a voluntary decision on the part of the respondent.
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From the commentary accompanying the new Title IX regulations	From the commentary accompanying the new Title IX regulations
Therefore, the language limiting the availability of an informal resolution process only to a time period before there is a determination of responsibility does not prevent a recipient from using the process of restorative justice under § 106.45(b)(9), and a recipient has discretion under this provision to specify the circumstances under which a respondent's admission of responsibility while participating in a restorative justice model would, or would not, be used in an adjudication if either party withdraws from the informal process and resumes the formal grievance process.	Similarly, a recipient could use a restorative justice model after a determination of responsibility finds a respondent responsible; nothing in the final regulations dictates the form of disciplinary sanction a recipient may or must impose on a respondent.
/d. at 30406 (emphasis added).	

# Restorative Justice Resources Cited in the Commentary to the New Title IX Regulations



Clare McGlynn et al., "I just wanted him to hear me": Sexual violence and th possibilities of restorative justice, 39 Journal of L. & Society 2 (2012). Katherine Mangan. Why More Colleges Are Trving Restorative Justice in Sex

Assault Cases, Chronicle of Higher Education (Sept. 17, 2018).

Kerry Cardoza, Students Push for Restorative Approaches to Campus Sexual Assault, Truthout (Jun. 30, 2018).

Howard Zehr, The Little Book of Restorative Justice (Good Books 2002). David R. Karp et al., Campus Prism: A Report On Promoting Restorative Initiatives For Sexual Misconduct On College Campuses, Skidmore College Project on Restorative Justice (2016).

Margo Kaplan, Restorative Justice and Campus Sexual Misconduct, 89 emp. L. Rev. 701, 715 (2017).

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Restorative Justice vs. Mediation

#### Mediation

- Dispute doesn't necessarily have to cause a harm, can be just a disagreement
- One party doesn't have to admit wrongdoing/ parties are treated as moral equals
- Focuses on coming to an
- agreement
- settlement-driven
- Not necessarily focused on emotional needs of the parties

Collaborative Law Model Cont'd

maximizes agreement potential

 The Collaborative Attorney: represents the client's interests, taking into account the other party's interests as a whole; Refrains from using adversarial

process, client behavior, and emotions; Provides expert advice on the

psychology of the circumstances; Identifies and reinforces effective

their unique expertise (e.g. well-trained public safety liaison, trauma specialist/counselor, academic support specialist, etc.)

techniques; Educates the client about legal issues; Works effectively with the other attorney and coach/facilitator to create a structure and environment that

The Collaborative Coach / Facilitator: Serves as a neutral focused on managing

communication between parties; Intervenes to contain and manage conflict; Educates the attorneys about the parties' communication dynamics

Other Professionals: During the Collaborative process, the parties may choose

to engage other neutral professionals to assist with specific areas that require

#### Restorative Justice

- A party has been harmed/ victimization has occurred
- The offending party must admit to wrongdoing before the process begins
- Focuses on reparations and looks to improve future behavior
- dialogue-driven
- Very focused on the emotional needs of the victim/victim empowerment

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Collaborative Law Model (A Team Approach)

 According to Black's Law Dictionary, collaborative law is a disputeresolution method by which parties and their attorneys settle disputes using nonadversarial techniques to reach a binding agreement.

- Collaborative law is a method well-suited for settling highly emotional cases such as business partnership dissolutions, wrongful discharge claims, and family law cases.
- In a Collaborative case, clients work with a team of collaboratively trained professionals with the goal of reaching an out-of-court agreement. The team includes two attorneys, a coach/facilitator, and as needed, a financial neutral, child specialist and other professional experts. Each of these team members has a role in the Collaborative process which is described further below:

https://massclc.org/collaborativepros

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# What are the goals and desirable outcomes associated with your informal process(es)?



- Should an institution even have a goal or desirable outcome pure v. perfect procedural justice?
- Long term/short term goals/outcomes
- More durable resolution
- Satisfy stakeholder interests
- Non-participating stakeholders/shapeholders
- Transparency?

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### What forms of informal resolution will you choose?

- Institutional choice...how will this occur and when?
- The choice of one vs. multiple modalities
- Resources, training and being realistic
- Setting measurable institutional goals/ objective evaluation of selection
- · Ask counsel: legal implications for specific campus
- Never utilize trial by ordeal; beware of toxic positivity and forced facilitation

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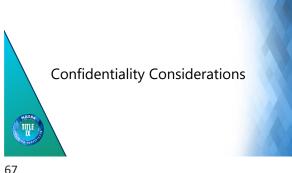
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# Confidentiality & Informal Processes (DO

The Department appreciates the concerns raised by some commenters that the confidential nature of informal resolutions may mean that the broader educational community is unaware of the risks posed by a perpetrator; however, the final regulations impose robust disclosure requirements on recipients to ensure that parties are fully aware of the consequences of choosing informal resolution, including the records that will be maintained or that could or could not be shared, and the possibility of confidentiality requirements as a condition of entering a final agreement.

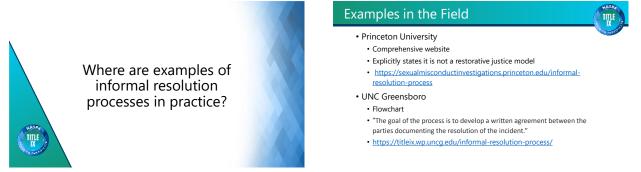
Id. at 30404 (emphasis added)

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#### Confidentiality & DOE (Cont'd) Confidentiality & DOE (Cont'd) We believe as a fundamental principle that parties and individual The recipient's determination about the confidentiality of inform recipients are in the best position to determine the conflict resolution resolutions may be influenced by the model(s) of informal process that works for them; for example, a recipient may determine resolution a recipient chooses to offer; for example, a mediation that confidentiality restrictions promote mutually beneficial model may result in a mutually agreed upon resolution to the resolutions between parties and encourage complainants to report, situation without the respondent admitting responsibility, while a or may determine that the benefits of keeping informal resolution restorative justice model may reach a mutual resolution that outcomes confidential are outweighed by the need for the involves the respondent admitting responsibility. The final educational community to have information about the number or regulations permit recipients to consider such aspects of informal type of sexual harassment incidents being resolved. resolution processes and decide to offer, or not offer, such processes, but require the recipient to inform the parties of the nature and Id. at 30404 (internal citation omitted, emphasis added). consequences of any such informal resolution processes. Id. at 30404 (emphasis added) 70

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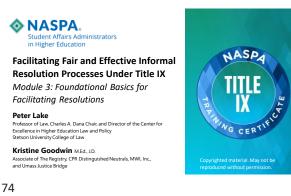




Thank you!

Assessment to follow ...

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The A.D.R. Continuum	Dispute Resolution
Negotiation     Mediation     Neutral	Whether for mediation, collaborative model, or restorative justice process, ALL based on helping the parties NEGOTIATE.
<ul> <li>Facilitative</li> <li>Conciliator</li> <li>Med-Arb</li> <li>Formal Process or Litigation.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>To what end? An agreement.</li> <li>Avoids a winner/loser outcome</li> <li>Parties are generally more satisfied with outcomes and process</li> <li>Addresses the reality that the parties remain in proximity, at least to some extent, of each other</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>So what does effective negotiation look like and how can we help parties get there?</li> </ul>
77	78

# Negotiation

"Negotiation can be defined as back-and-forth communication designed to reach an agreement between two or more parties with some interests that are shared and others that may conflict or simply be different."

ut Giving In (2nd ed.), R. Fisher, W. Uri, and B. Patte

• "A party's basic needs, wants, and motivations are commonly referred to as **interests**.... People negotiate because they are hoping to satisfy their interests better through an agreement than they could otherwise"

m. M. Moffitt & R. Bordone (2005) Chapter Eighteen: Negotiation. B. Patton

# Negotiation (continued)

 "Interests are not the same as the **positions** or **demands** that people typically stake out and argue for in negotiation." (Id.)

- There are underlying interests to every position and demand!
- We can:
  - · Cautiously Use Root Cause Analysis (Asking 3, 5 or More Whys)
  - · Understand and Respond to Parties' Conflict Styles
  - Remind Parties' of Their B.A.T.N.A.s
  - Facilitate the Conversation & Guide the Process

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#### Conflict Styles

Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument (TKI)

TKI assessment identifies a person's preferred conflict-handling style and provides detailed information about how they can use the five different modes effectively. (1) Avoiding, (2) Accommodating, (3) Compromising, (4) Collaborating, and (5) Competing.

The TKI model demonstrates that these differing behaviors are just different modes of communicating.

(1) Avoiding: "Leaving Well Enough Alone

(2) Accommodating: "Closure Through Self-Sacrifice"
 (3) Compromising: "Splitting the Difference"
 (4) Collaborating: "Two Heads Are Better Than One"
 (5) Competing: "I Know Best"

https://www.usgs.gov/about/organization/science-support/human-capital/thomas-kilmann-conflict-modeinstrument-tk

(1) Avoiding: Appropriate when the issue is trivial, the relationship is not important, time is short. Inappropriate ip is important, negative feelings will linger, parties w confrontation.

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(4) Collaborating: Appropriate when issues, relationship, and a mutually beneficial outcome is important and parties are reasonable about their hopes. Inappropriate when time is short, issues are unimportant, the goals of one party are unjustifiable, and the relationship is of secondary or no importance.

(5) Competing: Appropriate when an emergency looms or a party is actually right. Inappropriate when collaboration has not yet been attempted, buy-in from others is important, and long-term gains are a priority.

<sup>(2)</sup> Accommodating: Appropriate when a party doesn't care much about the issue, seeking harmony or credit, and a party realizes they are wrong. Inappropriate when a party is likely to harbor resentment and th opportunity to collaborate.

<sup>(3)</sup> Compromising: Appropriate when cooperation is important but time is limited, finding a solution is better than stalemate, and efforts to collaborate are not met with reciprocal effort Inappropriate when finding a mo creative solution

## **Mediation Requirements**



· Mediation as problem-solving requires three things:

 A willingness on the part of all the relevant stakeholders to work together to resolve the problem or deal with the situation;

 The availability of a trusted "neutral" with sufficient knowledge and skill to manage difficult conversations; and

 An agreement on procedural ground rules (i.e., confidentiality, timetable, agenda, good faith effort, etc.).

https://www.pon.harvard.edu/daily/mediation/mediation-as-problem-solving/

# How Mediation Works

#### Planning and the Preliminary Meetings

 Before mediation begins, the mediator helps the parties decide when and where to meet, for how long, and who will be there. The mediator also conducts a preliminary meeting with each party separately.

Mediator's Introduction

- With the parties gathered together in the same room, the mediator introduces the participants, outlines the mediation process, lays out the ground rules, answers questions, and emphasizes the goal for the mediation—to reach an agreement.
- · Opening Remarks by Parties

 Following the mediator's introduction, each side is given an opportunity to present its view of the dispute without interruption. In addition, they may also take time to vent their feelings.

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# How Mediation Works Cont'd

- Joint Discussion
- After each side presents its opening remarks, the mediator and the parties are free to ask questions with the goal of arriving at a better understanding of each party's needs and concerns.
- Caucuses

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- If emotions run high during a joint session, the mediator might split the sides into separate rooms for private meetings.
- Facilitated Negotiation
- At this point, it's time to begin formulating ideas and proposals that meet each party's core interests.
- Closing and Follow Up
- If the parties reach consensus, the mediator will outline the terms and may write up a draft agreement.

https://www.pon.harvard.edu/daily/mediation/how-does-mediation-work/

# Important Steps

- Preparation
- Understanding the conflict(s)
- Defining points of agreement and dispute
- Identifying objective standards and interests
- Creating options
- Developing a resolution, including an agreement

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# Planning and the Preliminary Meetings

 In most cases, the mediator will meet with the parties and/or their representatives prior to the joint mediation session.

- The initial meeting provides:
  - An explanation of the mediation process;
  - An opportunity to build rapport with the parties by encouraging them to discuss issues, which might affect the likelihood of reaching an agreement;
  - An appropriate time for parties to discuss concerns they have and to ask the mediator questions.
  - (E.g. What are you hoping for in this mediation? What are your interests and how do they rank in importance? What do you think are the other party's interests? What questions do you have? Concerns?)

https://www.jamsadr.com/mediation-guide

# Mediator's Introduction

- Welcome
- Overview of the Process and Role of the Mediator
- Voluntariness of Mediation
- Confidentiality of Mediation
- Neutrality and Impartiality of Mediation
- Structure of this Mediation Session
- Answer Questions and Confirm Participation

www.mwi.org (adapted)

# **Opening Remarks by Parties**



- Each party is given an opportunity to present their view of the dispute without interruption. In addition, they may also take time to vent their feelings.
- The mediator may need to help a party present what they view to be the facts and the desired outcome.
- The mediator may need to instruct parties to not interrupt, reassure parties that they will be given a chance to speak without interruption, and remind parties that there will be time to ask questions of each other in the next phase of the mediation process.

https://www.pon.harvard.edu/daily/mediation/how-does-mediation-work/ https://www.pon.harvard.edu/daily/mediation/navigating-the-mediation-proce

## Joint Discussion

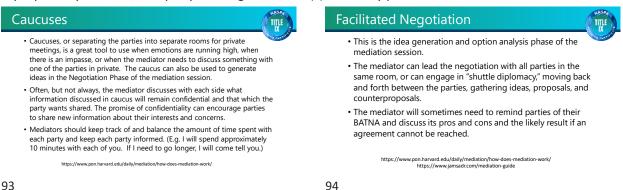
 Because disputing sides often have difficulty listening to each other, mediators act like translators, repeating back what they have heard and asking for clarification when necessary. τητιε

- If parties reach an impasse, mediators diagnose the obstacles that lie in their path and work to get the discussion back on track.
- A mediator helps the parties by facilitating communication, promoting understanding, and guiding parties away from positions, and even options, until interests are fully communicated and ideally heard.
- Mediators should be patient in this phase of the mediation. The goal is for the parties to understand each others' interests before moving into idea generation and option analysis.

https://www.pon.harvard.edu/daily/mediation/how-does-mediation-work/ https://www.jamsadr.com/mediation-guide

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# Closing and Follow Up

• If the parties reach consensus, the mediator will outline the terms and may write up a draft agreement.

 If the parties do not reach an agreement, the mediator will sum up where the session left off and engage in a discussion about alternatives (e.g. another session or an alternative form of dispute resolution).

https://www.pon.harvard.edu/daily/mediation/how-does-mediation-work,



# Planning for Problems



- When self help is an appropriate response?
- When you need assistance, but it can wait?
- When immediate assistance is necessary?
- Returning to the mediation table?
- When a formal process may be your BATNA (best alternative to a negotiated agreement)?
- What about:
- Confidentiality?
- Mediator ethics?Dealing with difficult behaviors?
- Dealing with difficult behav

# Managing "new" information—warnings and other related issues inter-• Actual notice or violations in transit • Signs of coercion • Being "worked • Good faith

- The clown handkerchief problem
- Intersectionality//transposing one issue into another
- Smoking gun revelations

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# Mediation & Confidentiality: State Statutes and Campus Policies



Consider state medical privacy laws and educational record rules consult counsel Be aware of mandatory and permissive disclosure rules—example Texas reporting laws or Sandusky laws Confidentiality vs. Testimonial Privileges Records and record keeping—need to know? Implementation and confidentiality Drafting of agreements=advice of counsel Penalties for disclosure? Tuning and respecting campus policy "The coconut telegraph"=Jimmy Buffett

# Mediator Ethics Guidelines

- Ensure that all parties are informed about the mediator's role, the nature of the mediation process, and the terms of the agreement—if one is reached.
- (2) Protect the voluntary participation of each party
- (3) Be competent to mediate the particular matter
- (4) Maintain neutrality and the perception of neutrality, and conduct the process impartially.

 (5) Refrain from providing legal advice or guaranteeing results.
 (6) Withdraw under certain circumstances (e.g. lack of informed consent, conflict of interest, use of mediation for inappropriate purpose, procedural or substantive unfairness) https://www.iamsdc.com/mediation-wide





TITLE

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- Managing no-contact orders/agreements
- Case management functions, if any
- Options for self-help, reporting and/or enforcement
- Returning to informal resolution

# Return to the A.D.R. Continuum

#### Med-Arb

A hybrid mediation-arbitration approach called *med-arb* combines the benefits of both techniques. Parties first attempt to collaborate on an agreement with the help of a mediator. If the mediation ends in impasse, or if issues remain unresolved, the parties can then move to arbitration. The mediator can assume the role of arbitrator (if qualified) and render a binding decision, or an arbitrator can take over the case after consulting with the mediator.

w.pon.harvard.edu/daily/mediation/deciding-on-arbitration-vs-mediatio

# About Our Upcoming Live Session

- · Practice, Practice, Practice
- · Shadow and be shadowed
- · Co-facilitation / Co-mediation
- · Register for a 40-Hour training
- Consider who else can mediate...
- · See you soon!



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# What we hope to accomplish today...

- · Brief Review of Issues Discussed in the Modules with Q&A
- Highlight of Select Issues
- Mediator Introduction and Scenario #1 Demonstration
- Scenarios #2 #4 in Breakout Groups
- · Open Time for Questions and Answers



# Points on Informal Resolution

required). [No coercion or undue influence.]

· Equitable implementation by trained personnel.

processes that work for them.

can begin.

by regulations.

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· A formal complaint must be filed before any informal resolution process

· Both parties must voluntarily agree to informal resolution (written consent

· No "informed" consent standard as such, other than information required

· Parties do not have to be in the same room...often, they are not.

· Dept. of Education gives flexibility for institutions to create informal



#### From the commentary accompanying the new Title IX regulations.

The Department believes an explicit definition of "informal resolution" in the final regulations is unnecessary. Informal resolution may encompass a broad range of conflict resolution strategies, including, but not limited to, arbitration, mediation, or restorative justice. Defining this concept may have the unintended effect of limiting parties' freedom to choose the resolution option that is best for them, and recipient flexibility to craft resolution processes that serve the unique educational needs of their communities.

Department of Education, Nendscrimination on the Bosis of Sex in Education Programs on Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, 85 Fed. Reg. 30026 (May 19, 2020) (final rule) (onl programs periods and constantials RR 2020 05 10/06/2020 D513 z edu. 2020) (see Share)

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Best Alternative To a Negotiated Agreement RATNA

 Parties end up "... better through an agreement than they could otherwise." The Handbook of Dispute Resolution, M. Moffitt & R. Bordone (2005) Chap

· BATNAs are the parties' "walkaway" alternatives.

· We should remind parties why we are here, why they chose to participate-to try and find a better outcome than they could otherwise find through an alternative process.





Special Issue Highlight: Informal Resolution and Possible Impact of the 2020 Election on **Title IX Regulations** 

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#### 2020 Election: Potential Impacts on Informal Resolution

- · Will new DOE favor or disfavor informal resolution? Forms of informal resolution? Transparency and fairness issues....
- · Regulations: the law until they are not. But what of commentary and the return of guidance?
- · How might court cases influence the future of informal resolution?
- · Priorities and timing of new administration

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Special Issue Highlight: What Types of Disputes Can You Address?

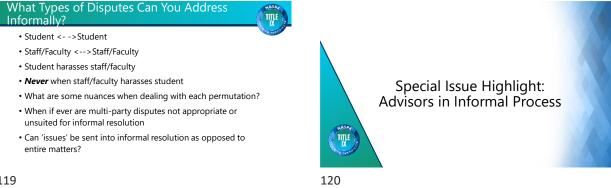
What Types of Disputes Can You Address Informally?	TITLE

#### REMEMBER ...

- · A formal complaint must be filed before offering informal resolution.
- · A recipient cannot require parties to participate in informal resolution-participation must be voluntary.
- · A recipient should use "good judgment" to ensure informal resolution is appropriate in each situation.

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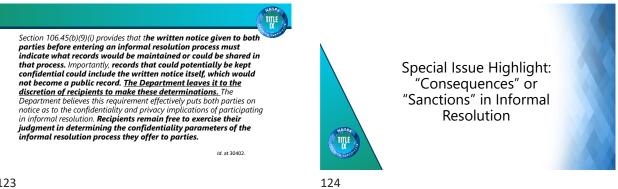
# The Role of Advisors in Informal Processe

- Will advisors participate in informal process? Only certain types of "advisors"? Prohibition on attorneys?
- If advisors can participate, how?
- [W]e decline to mandate that the parties confer with an advisor before entering an informal resolution process, or to mandate that recipients provide the parties with advisors before entering an informal resolution process. Id. at 30402.
- · Remember: the Department of Education gives flexibility to institutions to create informal processes that serve their needs.



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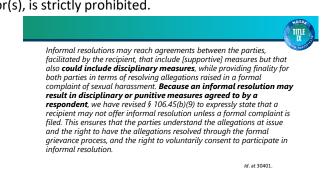


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[A]n informal resolution process, in which the parties voluntarily participate, may end in an agreement under which the respondent agrees to a disciplinary sanction or other adverse consequence, without the recipient completing a grievance process, under § 106.45(b)(9).

Id. at 30059 n.286





#### Mediation does not bar imposition of penalties.

E.g., Rajib Chanda, Mediating University Sexual Assault Cases, 6 Harv. Negotiation L. Rev. 265, 301 (2001) (defining mediation as "a process through which two or more disputing parties negotiate a voluntary settlement with the help of a 'third party' (the mediator) who typically has no stake in the outcome" and stressing that this "does not impose a 'win-win' requirement, nor does it bar penalties. A party can 'lose' or be penalized; mediation only requires that the loss or penalty is agreed to by both parties—in a sexual assault case, 'agreements... may include reconciliation, restitution for the victim, rehabilitation for whoever needs it, and the acceptance of responsibility by the offender.") Met a 3006n 1519 (membasis added).

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#### Princeton University Example

Do respondents face discipline as a result of the informal resolution process? Can a respondent's participation in the informal resolution process be considered in future disciplinary proceedings?

Under this process, there will be no disciplinary action taken against a respondent, and the resolution will not appear on the respondent's disciplinary record. In addition, if a formal complaint is filed against the respondent in as subsequent matter under the Title IX Sexual Harassment policy or the University Sexual Misconduct policy, the respondent's participation in a prior informal resolution process will not be considered relevant and will not be taken into account in the resolution of the subsequent complaint.

# Agreements = Contracts

What can be an outcome?

What is discipline and what is not?

· Continuation of supportive measures?

"Disciplinary sanction"

be on student record?

"Consequence"

Counseling?

· Consult counsel

"Outcome"

The Department <u>expects informal resolution</u> <u>agreements to be treated as contracts</u>; the parties remain free to negotiate the terms of the agreement and, once entered into, it may become binding according to its terms.

· Due process? Informal resolution consequences will be/will not

Id. at 30405.

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What part does the institution play?	Expulsion as a Result of Informal Process?
None?     Institution (Title IX coordinator or decision-maker or designee)     signs off on agreement parameters?	The Department believes that the robust disclosure requirements of § 106.45(b)(9), the requirement that both parties provide voluntary written consent to informal resolution, and the explicit right of either party to withdraw from the informal resolution process at any time prior to
<ul> <li>Institution manages "contract" agreed to under informal resolution processes?</li> </ul>	agreeing to the resolution (which may or may not include expulsion of the respondent), will adequately protect the respondent's interest in a fair process before the sanction of expulsion is imposed. Accordinaly, <b>the</b>
<ul> <li>Institution "enforces" agreement?</li> </ul>	Department believes that prohibiting recipients from using
<ul> <li>Institution implements sanctions?</li> </ul>	informal resolution where it results in expulsion is unnecessary; if expulsion is the sanction proposed as part of an informal
Mediators act on behalf of the institution?	resolution process, that result can only occur if both parties agree to the resolution.
	<i>ld</i> . at 30407.

# **Expulsion Cont'd**

If a respondent, for example, does not believe that expulsion is appropriate then the respondent can withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the formal grievance process under which the recipient must complete a fair investigation and adjudication, render a determination regarding responsibility, and only then decide on any disciplinary sanction.



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Id. at 30407



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Remember, you have no "side" other than the integrity of the process.

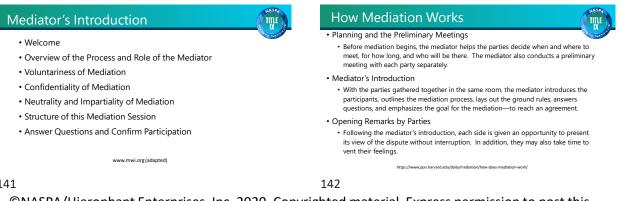
Mediator's Introduction and Scenario #1 Demonstration

WE NEED 4 VOLUNTEERS!

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# How Mediation Works Cont'd

Joint Discussion

After each side presents its opening remarks, the mediator and the parties are free to ask questions with the goal of arriving at a better understanding of each party's needs and concerns.

Caucuses

- If emotions run high during a joint session, the mediator might split the sides into separate rooms for private meetings.
- Facilitated Negotiation
- · At this point, it's time to begin formulating ideas and proposals that meet each party's core interests
- Closing and Follow Up
  - If the parties reach consensus, the mediator will outline the terms and may write up a draft agreement.



## **Breakout Groups**



- We're going to take a 15-minute break before starting the scenarios in the breakout groups.
  - Please jot down some words regarding your mediator's introduction.
  - Please review the scenarios if you have not already.
- You will be placed into a random breakout group with about 4-6 other people.
- Please make sure you are unmuted and video is on.

# Scenarios #2 - #4

 Take about 75 minutes in your group to work through Scenarios 2–4. You can do them in any order.

TITLE

- Remember:
  - Group of 4—Two Co-Mediators, One Complainant, One Respondent
  - Group of 5—One Mediator, One Complainant, One Respondent, One Complainant Advisor, One Respondent Advisor
  - Group of 6—Two Co-Mediators, One Complainant, One Respondent, One Complainant Advisor, One Respondent Advisor
- · Mediators should practice their introductions.
- Please rotate positions so everyone has a chance to play all the roles.
- If you don't have enough time to work through all the scenarios, that's okay.

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