

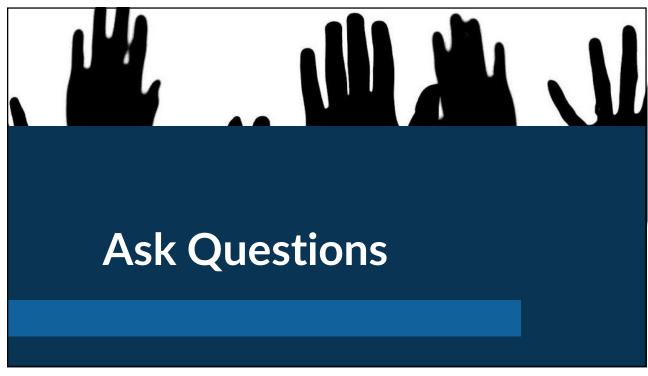


Agenda

- Investigator Responsibilities
- Serving Impartially
- Investigation Requirements & Best Practices
- Sharing Evidence and the Investigative Report
- Understanding "Relevant Evidence"
- Recordkeeping

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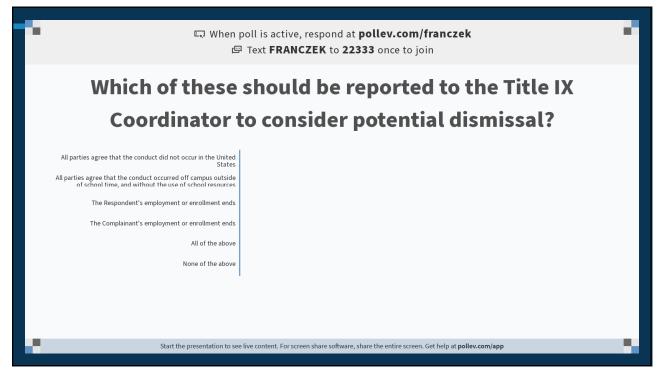












When must a school respond to Title IX sexual harassment?

A school with actual knowledge of [Title IX] sexual harassment in an education program or activity against a person in the United States must respond



Mandatory if conduct alleged:

Not Title IX Sexual Harassment Did not occur in the school's program or activity Did not occur in the United States

**can still address under non-T9 SH policy

Permissive if:

Complainant requests to withdraw in writing Respondent's enrollment or employment ends

Specific circumstances prevent school from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determine (e.g., passage of time, lack of cooperation by complainant)



Title IX Investigator Responsibilities

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Serving Impartially

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Who should investigate?

- Trained
- No: bias, conflict of interest, prejudgment
- Appeal: can be based on improper, biased/conflicted investigator

Standard

- Declined to define "bias," "conflict of interest," "prejudge"
- The Department encourages recipients to apply an objective (whether a reasonable person would believe bias exists), common sense approach to evaluating whether a particular person serving in a Title IX role is biased, exercising caution not to apply generalizations that might unreasonably conclude that bias exists....

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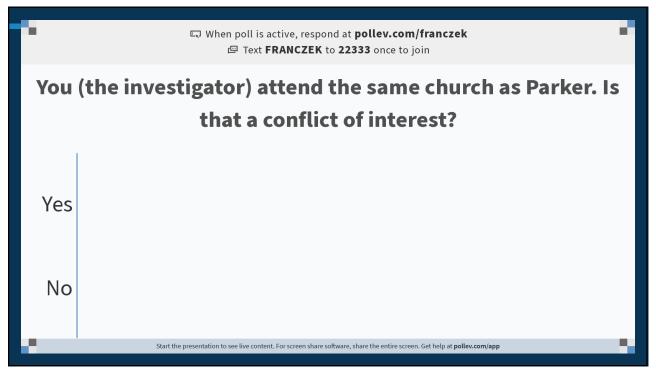
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Cameron's Complaint

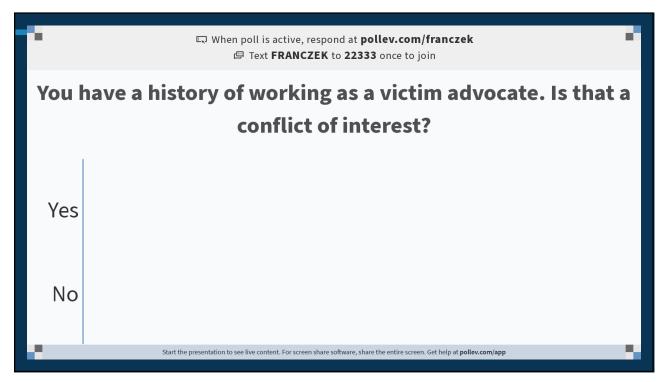
- Cameron, a freshman, claims that another student, a senior, Parker, sexually assaulted Cameron
- Can you serve as the investigator?

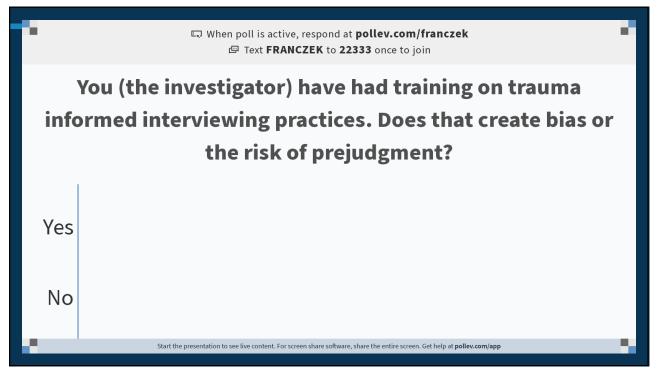


1	☐ When poll is active, respond at pollev.com/franczek ☐ Text FRANCZEK to 22333 once to join
You (the investigator) signed the Formal Complaint as Title IX Coordinator or designee. Is that a conflict of interest?	
Yes	
No	
	Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at pollev.com/app









What Might be Bias, Conflict, Prejudgment?

- Discouraging a party from submitting certain evidence
- Using terms like "victim" and "perpetrator"
- Permitting credibility inferences or conclusions based on party status

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What Might be Bias, Conflict, Prejudgment?

- Using sex stereotypes
- Placing the burden of proof on one party
- Unauthorized interim suspensions or other penalties before conclusion of grievance process

What Likely Is Not...

- Deciding an allegation warrants an investigation
- Being an employee (and even attorney)
- Finding in favor of one party over another

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Investigation: Required Elements

Investigation

- Occurs when there is a "formal complaint"
- Must contain specific elements
- Must treat parties equally for any additional elements

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Step One: Notice of Allegations

- By Title IX Coordinator or Investigator
- Promptly upon receipt of a formal complaint
- To all known parties

Step One: Notice of Allegations

Include

- Notice of grievance process
- Notice of allegations, including sufficient details
- Statement that respondent is presumed not responsible until end of process

With sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview

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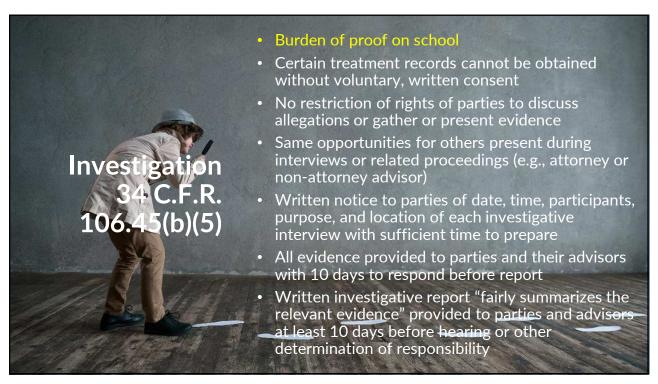
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Step One: Notice of Allegations

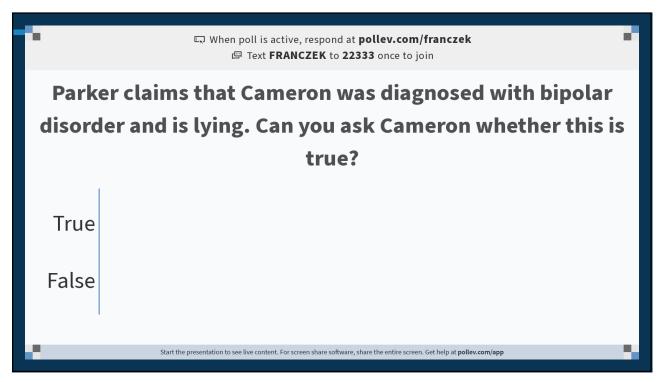
Sufficient details include:

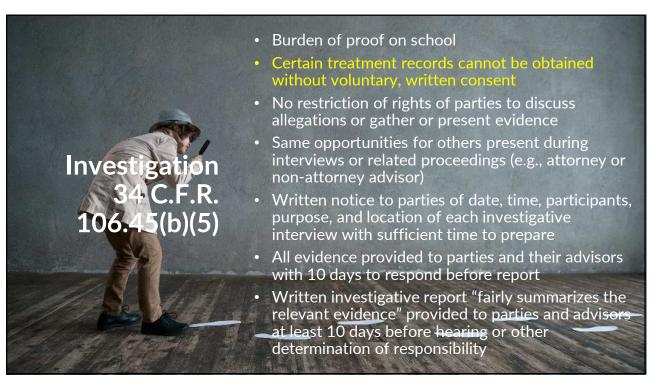
- Identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known
- The conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment under Title IX
- The date and location of the alleged incident, if known











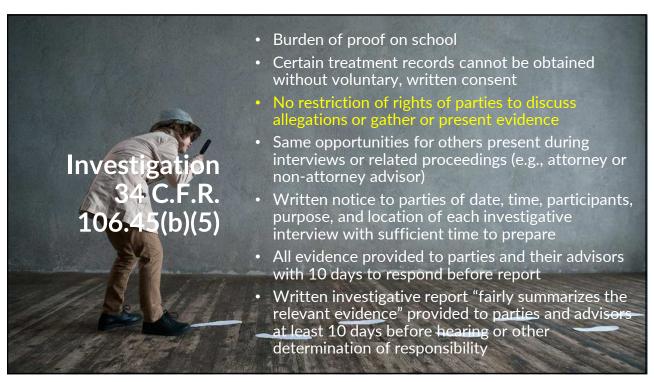
Treatment Records

- Can't access, consider, disclose, or use records
- Made by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional
- Which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment,
- Unless the party gives voluntary, written consent

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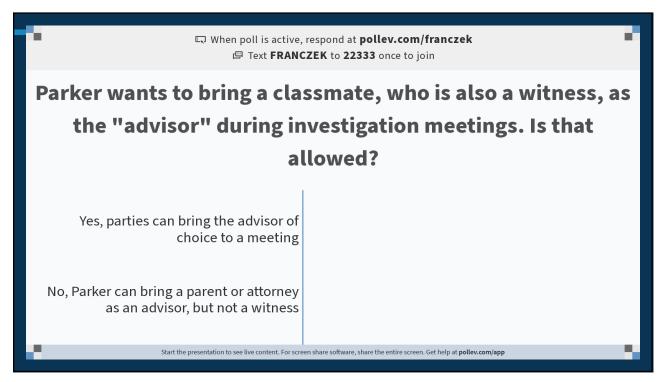


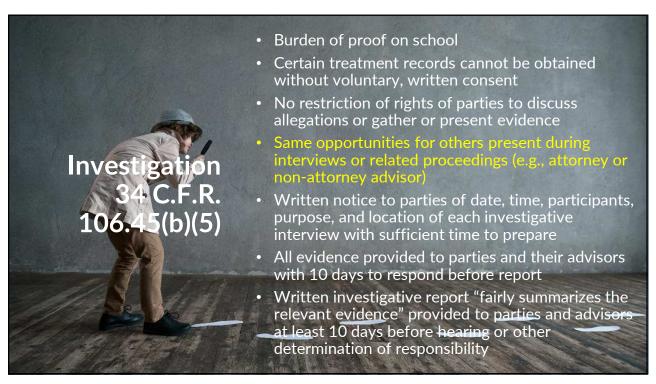


Retaliation and Gag Orders

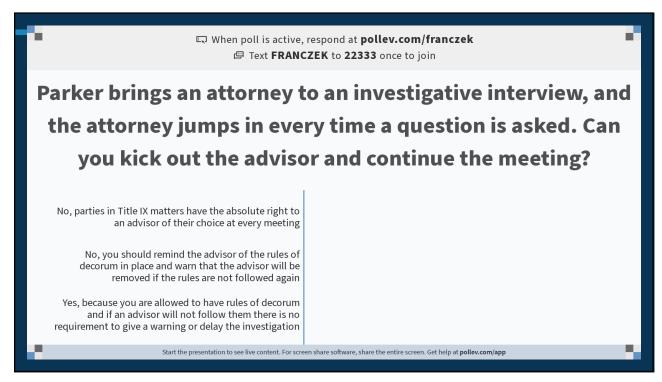
- Gag order not allowed
- Warn of risks from speaking about the complaint
- Notify all parties and witnesses of retaliation rights and encourage follow up





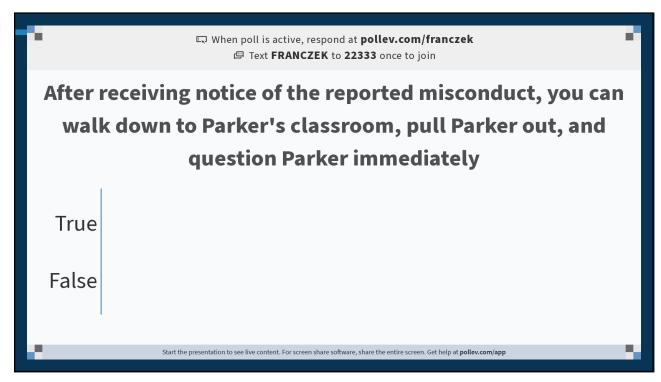


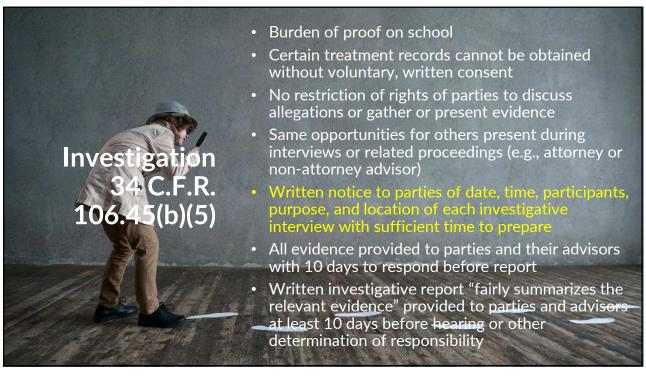












Before Party Interviews

Communicate in Writing:

- Date, time, location, participants, purpose
- With sufficient time to prepare Recommend same for witnesses (not required)

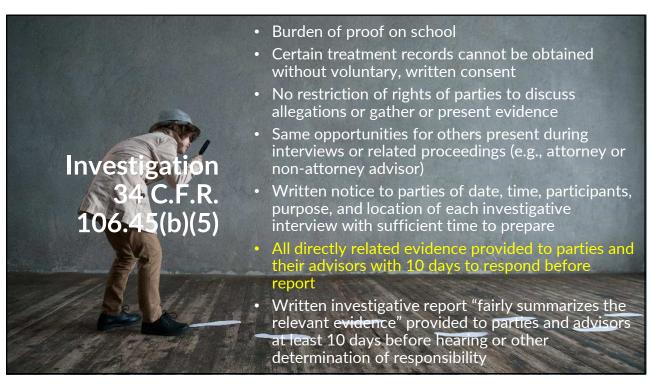
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Forms/Notices Notice of Interview Notice of Title IX Interview or Meeting with Title IX Party (Franczek Notice 6(a)) FRANCZEK Notice of Title IX Interview or Meeting with Non-Party Witness (Franczek Notice 6(b))



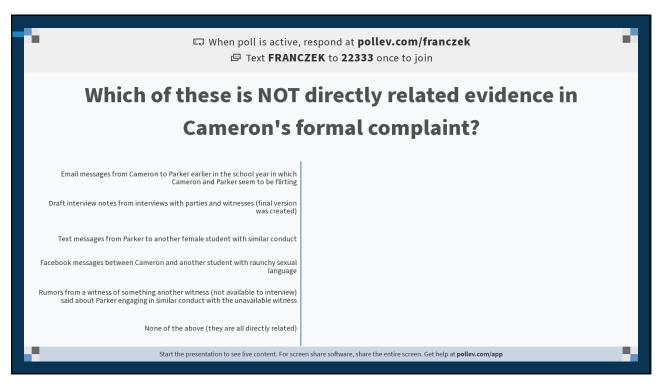


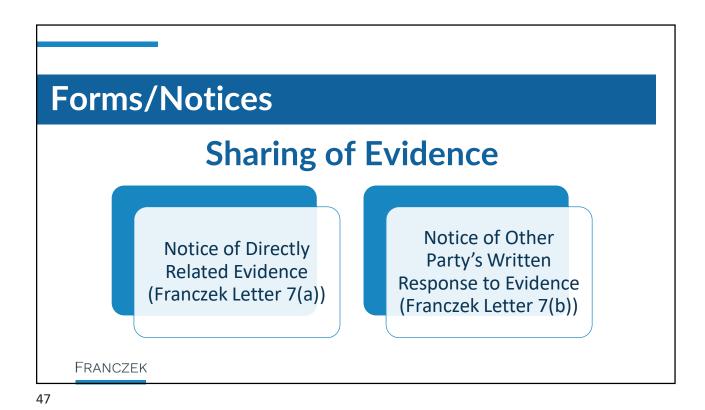


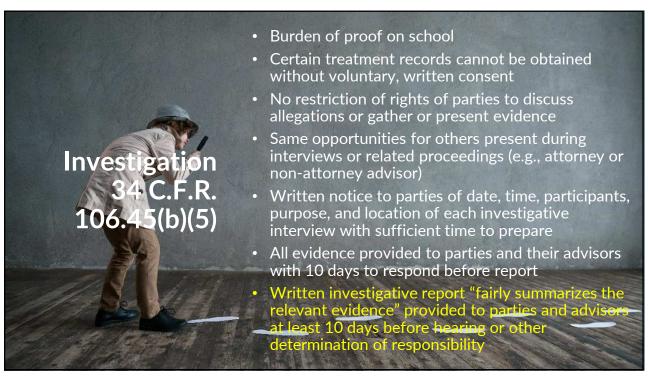
Directly Related Evidence

- Must share evidence directly related to the allegations with both parties and advisors simultaneously with 10 days to respond before writing the report
 - ➤ Review/consider responses
 - ➤ Share responses with the other side

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Investigation Report

- Must fairly summarize all <u>relevant</u> evidence
- Relevant evidence is different from evidence "directly related to the allegations"

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Determining Relevance

- Evidence is generally considered relevant if it has value in proving or disproving a fact at issue
- Exceptions
 - ➤ Sexual behavior of CP (except in limited situations)
 - ➤ Legal privilege
 - >Treatment records

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Rape Shield

- Exclude evidence of Complainant's sexual behavior or predisposition
- Two narrow exceptions
 - ➤ Someone other than RP committed conduct
 - ➤ Past conduct between CP & RP to show consent
- Does not apply to Respondent

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Treatment Records

- Can't access, consider, disclose, or use records
- Made by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional
- Which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment,
- Unless the party gives voluntary, written consent

Legally Privileged Information

- Cannot use questions or evidence that seek disclosure of legally privileged information, unless waived
- Consider:
 - ➤ Attorney-client communication
 - ➤ Privilege against self-incrimination
 - ➤ Confessions to a clergy member or religious figure
 - ➤ Spousal privilege

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Investigation Report

- Applicable policies and procedures
- Timeline of investigation
- Description of allegations
- Unbiased summary of relevant evidence gathered, including interviews
- Credibility determination(s)

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Forms/Notices Investigative Report Transmittal Cover Notice of Other Party's Title IX Investigative Notice of Investigative Letter to Decision-Report Template Report (Franczek Written Response maker at Conclusion of (Franczek Form B) Notice 8(a)) (Franczek Notice 8(b)) Investigation (Franczek Letter 8(c)) **FRANCZEK**

Investigation: Techniques & Best Practices

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Cameron's Formal Complaint

- Cameron reports that the sexual assault occurred after a party. Bobbie and Ali (students) were at the party.
- After the party, Cameron told Robin, Cameron's roommate, what happened. Cameron also talked to a teacher, Mr. Smith.
- Cameron submitted to a police interview and SANE exam shortly after the incident.

Concurrent Law Enforcement

- Only "temporary" or "limited" allowed
 - ➤ Not "more than briefly" beyond timeframes
 - Not required
- Reasons: Impact on police fact gathering; RP self incrimination privilege; police plan to release evidence that is material to investigation on a specific timeframe

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Party Interview Tips

- Describe allegations
- Avoid discussing theories or assessment of evidence
- Obtain account of events in detail (within reason)

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Prefaces for Witnesses

- Your Identity and
 Role of Advisor (if Role as a Neutral
- Notes and Records Confidentiality
- Allegations (if necessary)
- allowed)
- Retaliation
 - Rapport Building

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Questions

- Relationships
- **Details of Conduct** Between the Parties •
- Effect of Alleged Conduct on the **Parties**
- Outcry/Reports
- Identities of Parties Other Responses of **Parties**
 - Documentary and Other Evidence
 - Identities of Witnesses

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Avoid

- Discussing theories or assessment of the evidence
- Suggesting agreement or outcome
- Pressuring for more information on irrelevant incidents
- Body language or words suggesting judgement

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Closing

- Anything else?
- Any questions?
- Advisor questions (if allowed)
- Encourage follow-up
- Process (again for parties)

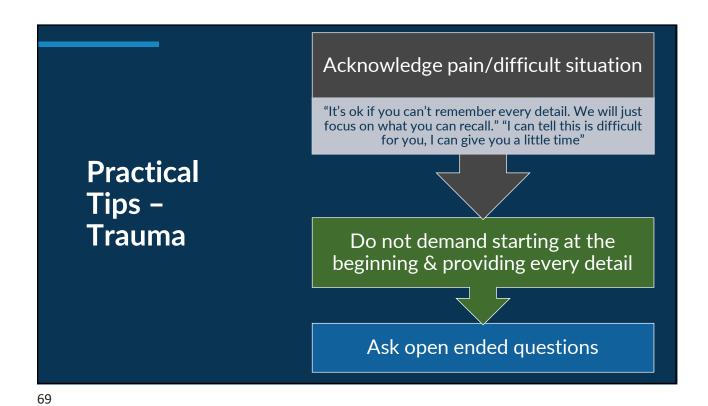
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Potential Trauma for CP and RP



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Emotions

- Silence is ok
- Sympathy is ok (within reason/neutral) "I can tell this is hard" "I'm sorry this is difficult"
- Allow breaks
- Remember equality not equity is goal for processes

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Cardinal Sins of Interviewing

- Questions that are evaluative
- Long, confusing questions
- Sticking blindly to a script
- Using undefined terms (witness can define)
- Interrupting and rushing

In your own words, what happened?

What did you witness?

Did you respond? If so, how?

For all: where, when, who present?

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How did the conduct affect you?

What would you like to see as an outcome? (avoid making any promises)

Consider whether appropriate to ask for more incidents than offered

Perhaps instead, focus on repeating "Is there anything else you'd like to tell me or for me to look into?"

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Retaliation

IN EVERY INTERVIEW, warn about retaliation and explain that a complaint can be filed if someone retaliates.

Watch for different treatment

Actions by staff in avoiding complainant

Harassment by the Respondent or their friends



After Interviews

- Follow up in writing to summarize any points that might need confirmation
- Clean up notes
- Document less formal interactions
- Send links/copies to policies if relevant
- REASSESS allegations, investigation plan, and supportive measures

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Scope of the Investigation

Must be "thorough," but not required to review all potential sources of evidence parties or witnesses identify





Recordkeeping

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Interview Notes

- Include: Facts + Statements (consider quotes)
- Don't Include: Conclusions + Judgments
- Label: Name of Witness, Date, Time, Interviewer, Location, Method, Those Present

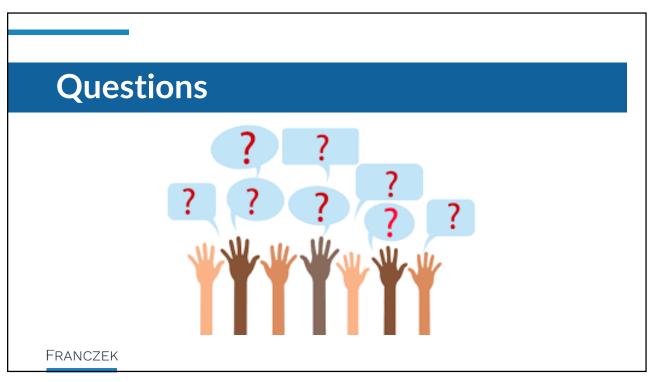
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Recordkeeping Essentials

- Overview of Required Recordkeeping
- File Checklist





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