

Institutions Must Consult The Revised Campus Safety and Security Handbook When Preparing Their Annual Security Report for 2016

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In June 2016, the Department of Education released the first revised version of the Handbook for Campus Safety and Security Reporting ("Handbook") in five years. The Handbook provides institutions with direction and information necessary to comply with the requirements of the Clery Act, including the development and distribution of the Annual Security Report ("ASR"). See the Handbook at the Department of Education's website.

In addition to providing useful guidance with respect to existing obligations, the Handbook includes information and direction for compliance with new requirements for the classification and reporting of offenses established under the Violence Against Women Reauthorization of 2013, as well as policies, procedures and practices institutions must have in place for preventing and responding to incidents of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The Department of Education has made clear that information provided in the Handbook does apply to the ASR due this month. Further, the Department has also stated that, going forward, it will use the Handbook as a standard when conducting compliance reviews.

Client Tip: *Institutions should review their ASRs to ensure that the new requirements included in the Handbook are accounted for and addressed appropriately.*

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