



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NVRDC Welcomes the U.S. Department of Education's Release of its Proposed Title IX Rule on the 50th Anniversary of Title IX

WASHINGTON, DC (June 23, 2022) - Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) joins survivors and fellow advocacy organizations in welcoming the Department of Education (DOE)'s release of its proposed Title IX rule. Changes to the rules and guidance over the years, and through different administrations, have significantly altered the landscape of Title IX and directly impacted survivors of campus-based sexual violence in many ways. It is fitting that on the 50th anniversary of the federal law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex that the Department has presented a proposed rule that advances the rights and protections of student-survivors of sexual harassment and of LGBTQI+ students.

NVRDC particularly welcomes the Department's embrace of informal resolutions for survivors. As one of the few nonprofits that provide free legal and advocacy services for student-survivors in [Title IX & Clery cases](#), we have long advocated for the availability of flexible and alternative forms of resolution in the Title IX space based on our experience in assisting over 500 clients since our founding in 2012. This experience is further supported by a survey we conducted with student-survivors, where many found informal resolution to be more empowering and less intimidating than hearing panel models found on many campuses. "NVRDC believes in survivor-defined justice, meaning that there is no 'right' or 'wrong' way to respond to a victimization," said Bridgette Stumpf, NVRDC's Executive Director. "Every survivor brings their own unique life experience and identities, which then shapes how they perceive notions of accountability. Exploring alternative forms of dispute resolution allows campuses to empower survivors to choose a process that feels right for them, instead of pressuring them into a one-size-fits-all approach."

NVRDC will release further comments as we continue reading through the Department's proposed rule and will continue to provide support to our community to understand these changes and the impact they may have on campuses and survivors.

The full proposed rule is available [here](#).

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About NVRDC: Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) provides free, holistic, and comprehensive advocacy, case management, and legal services to victims of all types of crime in the District. NVRDC has provided these services to District residents since 2012, regardless of income, and NVRDC has represented thousands of survivors during that time. As an original member of the District's Sexual Assault Crisis Response project and given the concentration of colleges and universities in the District - NVRDC has represented hundreds of survivors of campus-based sexual and power-based violence. These survivors frequently have advocacy and legal needs that can only be addressed specifically in the context of their college or university, and so NVRDC's representation often includes assisting survivors under the color of school policy, Title IX, and the Clery Act. Whether assisting survivors seek supportive measures or when representing survivors through the Title IX contested hearing process - mastery over the Title IX rules, applicable guidance letters, and the various school's interpretations of the same has been a core-pillar of NVRDC's legal program for over a decade.