Colleen Farmer

31 Cherry Tree Lane

Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

[Colfarmer29@gmail.com](mailto:Colfarmer29@gmail.com)

518-637-6829

Dear Assistant Secretary Jackson,

Title IX is supposed to be about fair and equal treatment for all. Below is our Student Bill of rights.

Yellow = Rights for All

Pink = Rights for Survivors/Victims specifically

Blue = Rights for Respondents/Accused specifically

**Student Bill of Rights**

XXX College is committed to maintaining a community environment that fosters respect for the dignity and worth of each individual. The dignity of the individual should never be violated in any way, and the College community views with seriousness offenses against any person. XXX College is committed to providing options, support and assistance to victims/survivors of sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking so that they can continue to participate in college-wide and campus programs, activities, and employment. XXX College is committed to addressing reports of sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking in a prompt, fair, equitable, and impartial manner. All victims/survivors of these crimes and violations have the following rights regardless of whether the crime or violation occurs on campus, off campus, or while studying abroad.

Students have the right to:

1. Make a report to local law enforcement and/or state police;
2. Have disclosures of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sexual violence treated seriously;
3. Make decision about whether or not to disclose a crime or violation and participate in the conduct process and/or criminal justice process free from pressure by the institution;
4. Participate in a process that is fair, impartial, and provides adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard;
5. Be treated with dignity and to receive from the institution courteous, fair and respectful health care and counseling services, where available;
6. Be free from any suggestion that the reporting individual is at fault when these crimes and violations are committed, or should have acted in a different manner to avoid such crimes or violations;
7. Describe the incident to as few institution representatives as practicable and not be required to unnecessarily repeat a description of the incident;
8. Be protected from retaliation by the institution, any student, the accused and/or the Respondent, and/or their friends, family and acquaintances within the jurisdiction of the institution;
9. Access to at least one level of appeal of a determination;
10. Be accompanied by an advisor of choice who may assist and advise a reporting individual, accused or Respondent throughout the conduct process including during all meetings and hearings related to such process;
11. Exercise civil rights and practice of religion without interference by the investigative, criminal justice, or conduct process of the institution.
12. Be provided with a written copy of the College’s policy and procedures regarding sexual misconduct.

Options in General:

Victims/survivors have many options that can be pursued simultaneously, including one of the following:

* Receive resources, such as counseling and medical attention on or off campus ;
* Confidentially disclose a crime or violation to a Counselor in the Center for Counseling and

Student Development, Health Services or the College Chaplain. Confidential resources can share options and advice without any obligation to tell anyone, and will not share information without the consent of the victim/survivor.

* Anonymously disclose a crime or violation to the Public Safety anonymous tip line. The College does have a duty to investigate anonymous disclosures to the extent possible, based on the information disclosed.
* Make a report with privacy (Victims/Survivors have the right of privacy when reporting to College officials, to the extent possible under the circumstances. However information must be shared with other members of the community if there is a need to know.) to:
* Any employee with the authority to address complaints, all Faculty, Staff and Administrators, including the Title IX Coordinator, Dean of Students Office, Community Living Staff or a Human Resources employee; and or campus safety.

It appears that Survivors/Victims are provided with rights more than all the others on campus. The DCL has pushed colleges to respond in this way. Our Title IX director told us from the beginning, there is a lot of pressure from the Federal Government. That’s just the way it is. Trust me most of us caught in this web had no idea or understanding of this process until we had to go through it. I don’t blame anyone for not understanding. The amount of material out there that I have been going through is unbelievable. Even our own Senators do not understand what they are supporting. I can totally understand why people don’t understand the issues. In the crusade to eradicate campus Sexual assault schools have rushed to use processes that seem at best indifferent not only to the truth but also facts, evidence and logic. We all should seek the truth! It is not only that I want to see justice for my son but it is equally important that we get this right for victims as well! Please we need to change this!

Thank You for listening Colleen Farmer