

# LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

## INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

### **Title IX Requirements for IRB Approved Research Studies**

#### **REQUIREMENTS**

Responsible Employees are not required to report information disclosed under the following circumstances:

- (1) At public awareness events or other public forums in which students may disclose incidents of Prohibited Conduct; collectively, “Public Awareness Events”
- (2) During a student’s participation as a subject in an Institutional Review Board-approved human subject research protocol (“IRB Research”).

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS & GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCHERS**

For research on campus-based *sexual assault and other forms of interpersonal violence*:

- Liberty University has developed a procedure exempting an academic employee, *when in the researcher role*, from Title IX mandatory reporting. This is only a narrow exemption for certain types of research, and this exemption emanates from the fact that students would not expect faculty conducting this type of research (research on *sexual assault and other forms of interpersonal violence*) to have a duty to report disclosures to other university officials.
- The exemption also does not apply to other instances of state law/s that might intersect with this issue, for instance state mandatory reporting laws of child abuse and/or neglect.
- The exemption only applies when the employee is acting in his or her capacity as a researcher. It does not apply to instances of disclosure that occur when academic employees are speaking with students during office hours or in other academic roles (e.g., teachers, advisors, administrators).
- The exemption does not apply to students under the age of 18 (who have permission to participate in the research) or when students over 18 disclose violence involving a minor as researchers are mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse and/or neglect.
- The IRB requires trauma-centered training for researchers who may or will have contact with sexual violence survivors to ensure that they can help support victims.
- The consent form, signed by research participants, must explicitly outline the difference pertaining to Title IX mandatory reporting requirements in the academic employee’s role when acting as a researcher.
- Researchers give participants a resource sheet that, in addition to common inclusion of detailing local, state, and national resources, also provides participants with referral information about the university Title IX office.