



Security On Campus, Inc.
<http://www.securityoncampus.org/>

Campus Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights

The United States Congress enacted the "Campus Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights" in 1992 as a part of the Higher Education Amendments of 1992 (Public Law: 102-325, section 486(c)). It was signed into law by President George Bush in July of 1992. The legislation which was originally introduced in May of 1991 by Congressman Jim Ramstad (a Minnesota Republican) has also been referred to as the "Ramstad Act" although this is not an official title.

This law requires that all colleges and universities (both public and private) participating in federal student aid programs afford sexual assault victims certain basic rights. It also requires the school to notify victims of their option to report their assault to the proper law enforcement authorities. Schools found to have violated this law can be fined up to \$27,500 or lose their eligibility to participate in federal student aid programs. Complaints about schools that have failed to comply with this law should be made with the U.S. Department of Education.

- **Accuser and accused must have the same opportunity to have others present.**
- **Both parties shall be informed of the outcome of any disciplinary proceeding.**
- **Survivors shall be informed of their options to notify law enforcement.**
- **Survivors shall be notified of counseling services.**
- **Survivors shall be notified of options for changing academic and living situations.**

The "Campus Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights" exists as a part of the campus security reporting requirements, commonly known as the Jeanne Clery Act, of the federal law that establishes all student aid programs, the Higher Education Act of 1965. It has not been amended since its enactment, except for a citation change to accommodate 1998 amendments to other requirements found in the campus security section.

The late Frank Carrington, then counsel to Security On Campus, Inc., developed this legislation to combat the re-victimization of rape survivors at college campuses across the country who found that many image conscious schools were more concerned about protecting their image than seeing justice done. The legislation was also supported by nearly 200 members of the House of Representatives from both political parties led by Rep. Susan Molinari (R-NY) and many student and victims' rights groups.

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