
The Clery Act

Campus crime statistics and reporting

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EDLF 7132 | Legal Aspects of Higher Education

University of Virginia





≈260

UVA Police incident responses in March 2025

556

Clery Act-specific crimes reported on Grounds in 2023



“It means her life was not in vain”



Jeanne Clery

A **19-year old** student at Lehigh University who was brutally assaulted and **murdered** in her **dorm** in 1986



The Clery Act

Jeanne's **parents** campaigned tirelessly; act **signed into law** by President George H.W. Bush in 1990

“The power of voluntarism and a just cause. . .”



Crime reporting and statistics

Original law **amended** the **Higher Education Act (HEA)** of 1965

Handling sexual assault cases

Required **investigations** and public **reporting**

Fire safety

Detail all **incidents, injuries,** and **property damage**

“Unless we have legislation, the colleges will never do anything. . .”

On campus crimes that must be reported annually by Oct 1

- Homicide
- Sexual assault and incest
- Robbery
- Aggravated assault
- Motor vehicle theft
- Arson
- Hate crimes (including all crimes above)
- Violence against women (domestic violence, stalking, etc.)
- Underage drinking
- Drug-related violations
- Weapons possession
- Burglary

What exactly *is* a campus?

Safety Advisory - Burglary

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Timothy Longo, Associate Vice President for Safety and Security and Chief of Police<timelywarning@massmail.virginia.edu>

To: @ Upshaw, Dierre D (mwn7nf)

Sat 4/5

Off Grounds Burglary 1900 Block of Arlington Boulevard April 5, 2025

Date & Time of Incident: 4/5/2025 at 8:50 PM

Incident Number: CP2025-10975

Incident Summary: A burglary was reported on April 5, 2025, at 8:50 PM. The reported incident occurred on April 5, 2025, at 8:50 PM, at the 1900 Block of Arlington Boulevard.

On April 5, 2025, at approximately 8:50 PM, the Charlottesville Police responded to the 1900 block of Arlington Boulevard for a burglary of a business. Officers observed that the front door of the business was shattered, and upon entering the building, they found multiple areas with significant damage. If you have any information related to this case, please contact the Charlottesville Police at (434) 970-3280.

Suspect Description: A description of the suspect was not provided.

The UVA Police Division would like to remind the University community:

- No action or inaction by a survivor of a crime makes that person responsible for another person's criminal conduct



1. Residence halls;
2. Any property owned or controlled by the university;
3. Any building or property within reasonable distance of #2 that is frequented by students.

Government oversight and penalties



Stricter state guidelines

E.g., publicly available daily crime logs, mandatory disclosure to prospective students, release names of the accused

Updates to Clery

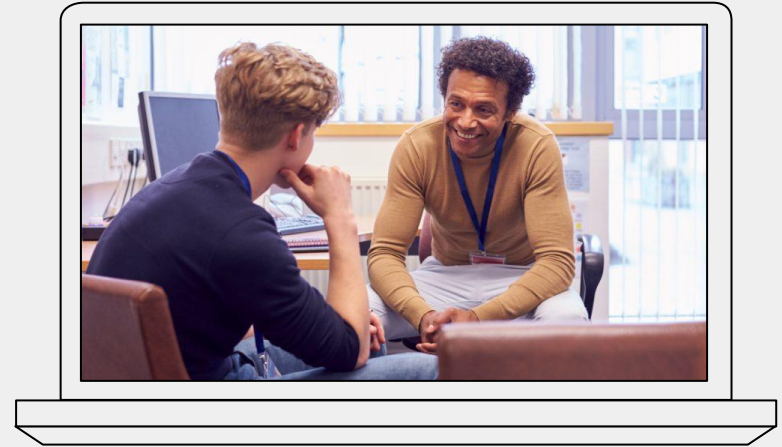
Protections for whistleblowers, Dealing with employees and students who are registered sex offenders (and due process)

Penalties

\$69,733 max per violation ; Liberty Univ (\$14M), Michigan State (\$4.5M), Penn State, and UNC fines

What to consider as a university employee

- Director of Campus Safety
- Local law enforcement
- Report and incident collection
- Maintain up-to-date records of all properties and buildings operated by your office
- Keep record of any time you call emergency services on campus
- Understand campus and community resources available to victims
- Familiarize yourself with trainings and prevention initiatives



Future changes and challenges

- Department of Education and its duty to levy fines
- *Jarkesy* case and the right to a jury trial for imposed fines on private colleges
- Hazing reports
- Inaccurate and underreported crimes
- Due process for the accused (*Doe v. Baum*)
- Geographical reporting ambiguities
- Cost and oversight



Making Jeanne's life count

“The best education in the world is useless if a student doesn't survive with a healthy body and mind.”

–Connie Clery

Thank you for your time
What do *you* think?



Howard and Connie Clery with
President Bush in April 1990