The Jeanne Clery Act

The Clery Act is named in honor of Jeanne Clery, a 19-year-old Lehigh University student who was raped and murdered in her residence hall room by another student whom she did not know. Alarmed by the lack of information provided to students and the public about crime and violence on campus, Jeanne’s parents, Connie and Howard Clery, lobbied Congress, which eventually approved the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act in 1990.

The Basics

- The Clery Act is the landmark federal law that requires colleges and universities across the US to disclose information about crime on and around their campuses.
- It applies to most institutions of higher education (public and private), specifically any institution receiving federal assistance through Title IV of the Higher Education Act.
- The Act is enforced by the United States Department of Education.

The Clery Act requires colleges and universities to:

1.) Publish an **Annual Security Report** (ASR) by October 1 every year, disclosing 3 years’ worth of select crime statistics, as well as information on the institution’s campus safety and security policies and procedures.
2.) Have a **public crime log**, updated within 2 business days of any incident, documenting the “nature, date, time, and general location of each crime and its disposition, if known.”
3.) **Disclose crime statistics** for Clery Act-specific crimes that occur on-campus, on public property within or immediately adjacent to the campus, and at certain non-campus locations, such as remote classrooms or Greek housing.
4.) Issue **timely warnings** about Clery Act crimes that pose a serious or on-going threat to students and employees.
5.) Have and disclose **emergency response and evacuation procedures** in response to a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an imminent threat the health or safety of students and employees occurring on campus.
6.) Compile and report **fire data** to the federal government and publish an annual fire safety report if the institution has on-campus housing.
7.) Enact policies and procedures to handle reports of **missing students**.

In addition, the **campus sexual assault victims’ bill of rights** and **amendments within the 2013 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act** require colleges and universities to afford specific rights to campus victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. For this reason, it is important that the individuals required to report crimes under the Clery Act (also known as campus security authorities) are aware of their roles and know how to share the appropriate information within the reporting structure of the college or university.
What crimes are reported under the Clery Act?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Category</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal homicide</td>
<td>Sex offenses, Aggravated Assault, Burglary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>Arson, Arrests &amp; referrals for drug law violations, liquor law violations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hate crimes</td>
<td>Recent amendments included within the VAWA amendments to Clery also added dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking to the list of crimes that must be reported.</td>
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Who reports under the Clery Act?

Institutions must collect crime statistics for Clery Act crimes that occur within their own Clery Act geography. This includes collecting statistics from local law enforcement agencies as well as the institution’s **campus security authorities**, a Clery-specific term that includes the following individuals:

- A dean of students who oversees student housing, a student center, or student extracurricular activities
- A director of athletics, a team coach, or a faculty advisor to a student group
- A student resident advisor or assistant or a student who monitors access to dormitories
- A coordinator of Greek affairs

**Examples of CSAS (p. 75 of the Handbook for Campus Safety and Security Reporting)**

- A campus police or campus security department
- Officials with significant responsibility for student or campus activities
- Individuals that have responsibility for campus security
- Individuals or offices designated to receive crime reports

Questions to Consider

- Am I a campus security authority?
- If someone discloses a crime to me, how do I support that person? What resources are available in our community?
- Who do I need to share the report with? What information do I need to share?