

Campus Security Authorities:

In 1990, Congress enacted the *Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990* (Title II of Public Law 101-542), which amended the *Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA)*. This act required all postsecondary institutions participating in HEA's Title IV student financial assistance programs to disclose campus crime statistics and security information. The act was amended in 1992, 1998 and 2000. The 1998 amendments renamed the law the *Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act* in memory of a student who was slain in her dorm room in 1986. It is generally referred to as the "*Clery Act*".

Although every institution wants its campus community to report criminal incidents to law enforcement, we know that this doesn't always happen. Even at institutions with a police department on campus, a student who is the victim of a crime may be more inclined to report it to someone other than the campus police. For example, a victim of a sexual offense may turn to a resident advisor for assistance, or a student whose car was stolen may report the theft to the school's director. For this reason, the *Clery Act* requires all institutions to collect crime reports from a variety of individuals and organizations that Clery considers to be "Campus Security Authorities." One of the requirements of the Clery Act is that all institutions appoint and train specific faculty and/or staff members to be Campus Security Authorities.

Under Clery, a crime is "reported" when it is brought to the attention of a Campus Security Authority or local law enforcement personnel by a victim, witness, other third party or even the offender. It doesn't matter whether or not the individuals involved in the crime, or reporting the crime, are associated with the institution. If a Campus Security Authority receives the crime information and believes it was provided in good faith, he or she should document it as a crime report. In "good faith" means there is a reasonable basis for believing that the information is not simply rumor or hearsay. That is, there is little or no reason to doubt the validity of the information. It is not the responsibility of a Campus Security Authority to determine whether or not the crime did occur, or if the crime is reportable. Nor is it the responsibility of a Campus Security Authority to determine the criminal classification of the crime being reported. Not all Motlow faculty or staff members are designated as Campus Security Authorities.



In addition to reporting crimes to local law enforcement, a crime may be reported to any institutional campus security authority (CSA). The Campus Security Authorities for Motlow State Community College are listed below:

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Smyrna Campus

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