

Risk Management Case Study: Campus Violence

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Campus Violence

In 2022, the California legislature passed a law prohibiting students or employees who have been suspended or dismissed and certain persons who have been directed to leave a school campus or facility from entering the school campus or facility. The law covered independent as well as state supported institutions of higher education. The law made a violation of these provisions punishable by a fine, by imprisonment in a county jail for a period of not more than 6 months, or by both that fine and imprisonment in all cases, without regard to prior offenses.

At Western College, an independent institution in Los Angeles, a student who had recently been expelled for harassment of a fellow classmate was reported to be on campus. The student grew up in a low-income neighborhood just adjacent to campus and continued to live there with his family. A campus police officer who recognized the student confronted him outside of the main dining hall. The student said he was waiting for a friend. The officer explained that he was in violation of the law and would have to leave campus. The former student protested loudly, pointing to an elderly gentleman who he knew from the neighborhood walking his dog on a campus lawn. Students hearing the commotion from the dining hall gathered and began filming the exchange. Several students posted videos siding with the expelled student and claiming his treatment was discriminatory. Western College president, Sydney Marks, defended the actions of the officer.

Response and Risk Management

Q1 Identify the Problem and First Steps Needed/Triage

Q2 Identify Stakeholders and Response Teams

Q3 Communicate a Plan

Q4 Get Feedback and Assess Results

Q5 Reflect on Preparations

Scenario Changes

1. The next day, the expelled student returned to campus and assaulted the president in an on-campus parking garage. The president suffered bruises but no serious injuries before the assailant fled.
2. On hearing the news of the assault, another group of students hold a rally to denounce violence on campus. A longtime trusted faculty member approaches the president about turning the event into an educational opportunity.
3. You get news from the state police that a strange virus is quickly spreading and turning people into zombies.

Q&A Session



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