



Lambda 10 Project

Case Studies on Campus Transgender Issues

CASE STUDY #1: Lucy, a female student at your college who identifies as genderqueer and often dresses in a traditionally masculine manner, is assaulted but not seriously injured by three unidentified men in an anti-transgender hate crime the previous evening. The attack occurs on campus and the perpetrators are thought to be other students. Seeing that you have a “Safe Space” placard on your office door, ze (Lucy’s preferred pronoun to “she”) comes to you first for support. What steps might you take to help hir (Lucy’s preferred pronoun to “her”)? How might Lucy’s needs be different from a non-transgender student who has been assaulted?

CASE STUDY #2: Charlie, a cross-dressing male student who lives in one of the residence halls at your small college, has experienced constant harassment ever since his roommate discovered him in traditionally female clothing and told others. Now it seems that everyone on campus knows that he cross-dresses in private. He has heard others in his building make negative comments about “that faggot” and, at one point, anti-gay epithets were scrawled on the dry erase board of his door. His roommate has been so hostile that Charlie does not feel safe in the room. Charlie would like to continue to live on campus, but cannot afford a single room. How do you serve his needs? How might you advocate on Charlie’s behalf if he asks for your support?

CASE STUDY #3: Your university’s health plan has a clause specifically excluding “transsexual surgery or any treatment leading to or in connection with transsexual surgery.” The campus health center is using this clause to deny hormones to transsexual students, some of whom are protesting the policy as an act of anti-transgender discrimination. How would you address their complaint? How would you make a case to administrators on behalf of the students?

CASE STUDY #4: Linus, a male-presenting transsexual student, wants to change the female name and gender status on his records. However, he is told by the school’s registrar’s office that they won’t alter his records unless he receives a court-ordered name change and brings in a letter from his doctor indicating that he has completed gender reassignment surgery. Linus states that he cannot afford these procedures and hasn’t decided for sure that he even wants surgery. Thinking that you might be supportive, Linus comes to you. How do you intervene in this situation?

CASE STUDY #5: A female staff member in Student Affairs is upset that a transsexual woman who also works in the department is using the women’s restrooms in their building. She complains to you about being made uncomfortable by “that man in the bathroom.” How do you respond to her and address this conflict?



Lambda 10 Project

More information online at www.lambda10.org/transgender