

This article reviews the interplay between campus safety and student privacy and confidentiality and demonstrates that current law does not create any obstacle to effective and timely communications on campus regarding distressed or threatening students. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the privacy of student records but permits disclosures about students when appropriate to address health or safety emergencies. It permits consultation with campus personnel regarding student issues and also permits the notification of families and other appropriate persons of troubling or dangerous student behavior. Many campuses have developed consultative models to address distressed and distressing students, facilitating appropriate communications within these models without violating student privacy rights or laws relating to confidentiality.