

MODEL CODE PROJECT

A Developmental Framework for A Code of Student Conduct: TNG Model Code Project

This project was borne from intense internal debate within TNG about the merits of model codes, as a concept. We were torn. We've written more than 75 codes of conduct for various college and university clients. All are different, and were custom crafted in a collaborative process of identifying goals, needs, and the unique qualities of each campus culture. One size-fits-all was not the NCHERM way.

Yet it was clear to us that previous model codes had contributed immensely to the progress of the field of student conduct. Campus conduct systems would not have evolved as effectively as they have without models to show the way. However, we also recognized that model codes fostered conformity rather than reflecting the nuanced differences between campuses. Some campuses took short cuts, and did not adapt the models to fit their campus cultures and climate, despite the warnings of previous model code authors. Model codes gave premature momentum to ideas that weren't fully explored, such as high standards of proof. And, model codes unintentionally contributed to the quickening pace of creeping legalism in the field, a trend that began prior to the publication of the first model codes.

We decided to write a model code to help shape the future evolution of the field because model codes have become the primary conduit for doing so. But, our work rests on the foundations laid by Gary Pavela, Ed Stoner and John Wesley Lowery, and the work their model codes began. We could not offer ours if they had not offered theirs, and we are in their debt.

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