

## Case 16: Would You Go to College With a Sexual Assault History?

Casey is a senior in High School who's deciding where to go to college. They have already applied to and been accepted to Michigan State University, as well as a number of less prestigious schools. Casey's parents are graduates of MSU, which is the cheapest and most prestigious school on their list of options, and their parents want them to go. They too, until very recently, have always considered MSU as their Number one option and structured their life around this fact.

Nevertheless, a recently unearthed scandal has made Casey hesitant to accept MSU's offer of admission. Ever since the nineties, an athletic coach and physician by the name of Larry Nassar has been systematically sexually assaulting the girls on the USA Gymnastics team. More than 150 women have testified against Nassar, and many more have been expected to have been victim to his actions. Multiple women reported assault under the guise of treatment to MSU and other staff members did nothing to stop it. An investigation into Nassar's actions was conducted in 2014 by the University's Title IX office, which cleared Nassar of any misconduct. MSU coaches, therapists, and administrators, and police all told the girls not to worry, and that what they received was actual "medical treatment," allowing the assaults to go on until 2016, as MSU continued to allow Nassar to work for them. The administration chose to ignore all reports and attempted to silence the victims by offering settlements of money instead of pursuing any type of formal legal action.

Casey's parents disapproved of the thought of passing up a great opportunity to get a decent education and potentially further Casey's success in life, but Casey can't help but feel that going to MSU would be supporting the actions of the coach and the administration that covered it up. At the same time, they remain a little bit entranced by MSU and all it has to offer since they feel as though it would seriously benefit their future to attend. What should they do?

### **Study Questions:**

1. Should Casey attend MSU?
2. If a random person were making this choice, how would gender affect their decision?
3. Should Casey's stance change if the college were an Ivy League (an even more prestigious university)? Should Casey attend if it did great things for their future?
4. If Casey chooses to go to MSU, are they supporting the actions of the coach?
5. Assume that sexual assault cases like this one seriously violate Casey's morals. If Casey was already a student at MSU at the time the scandal was made public, would they have an ethical obligation to transfer to another school?

### **Sources:**

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