

Oliver is a sophomore college student who has an obsessive crush on his resident advisor, Emma. He continually engages with her even after she has asked him to stop. Oliver often follows her around campus and says odd things to her. One example was telling her, “You remind me of someone who ruined my life before.” He waits for her in the dining hall and only leaves her alone when she gets so angry that she has to yell at him to leave her alone. Emma has begun the process with Title IX to request that Oliver be moved to another hall on campus and that a no-contact order be initiated.

Oliver comes across as socially odd and eccentric to other students around him. He often wears robes like the kind in Harry Potter and is very involved in the role-playing and gaming club on campus. He is teased by other students frequently because of his dress, gullibility, and lack of insight into his behavior. He has had difficulty in class following instructions and often engages in off-topic conversations and tangents. He was written up through the Title IX and student conduct process for unwanted contact by his orientation leader due to (1) his lack the ability to understand the verbal and non-verbal cues given to him from female students and (2) willfully refusing to adjust his behavior considering requests for him to do so. He was asked to meet with a counselor to work on these issues as a condition to stay enrolled.

Emma started dating another student on campus and Oliver became increasingly depressed. He talks about wanting to “end it all” and posts on social media that he would do this using gasoline and a match, igniting himself instead of his love. This post caused Emma’s new boyfriend (Roger) to get angry and he went to Oliver’s dorm room and grabbed him when he opened the door. He shook him saying, “If you don’t leave Emma alone, I’m going to beat the hell out of you.” He then threw Oliver to the floor.



Questions to Consider

1. Is there a value in talking with Oliver’s counselor about his progress? How might this be organized?
2. Would the case benefit from a parental notification? How might you go about handling that process? Is there a benefit to talking with other parents related to the case? Emma’s? Roger’s?
3. How would the BIT/CARE team handle the threat and physical violence by Roger to Oliver?
4. What other questions or information would you need to know in order to proceed?

Details available upon questioning

- Oliver had been involved in a conduct violation involving drinking a water bottle filled with vodka during his freshman orientation. His parents were called into the meeting and the event was tearful and upsetting. He said, “I don’t even like vodka. I just wanted people to like me.”
- Emma’s Resident Advisor Incident Report: “Oliver is making it impossible for me. Last night he was walking on the Conrad Hall brick wall downstairs (near all the bushes and whatnot) and I had to tell him to get down. And naturally, he didn’t listen. Literally – EVERY TIME I SEE HIM I HAVE TO DOCUMENT HIM and I am at my wits end with that guy. Please give me some guidance because I am just frustrated and I needed to vent. Sorry if this email was too long, but I had to let you know.”
- The role-playing and gaming club does not care for Oliver at all, and he has been asked to leave several of the more recent gatherings. At first, they put up with him because they wanted to be friendly, but he co-opts the conversations, ties everything back to Harry Potter and generally annoys the other members.
- When campus safety investigated the assault by Roger, they found several odd items on Oliver’s desk including rose petals, several peppermint candies, a small pile of rose thorns, two quail eggs, and a pearl necklace that had been broken, with several pearls smashed into a fine powder with a mortar and pestle. When asked about this, Oliver said they were ingredients for a potion. When police asked who the potion was for, Oliver got quiet and wouldn’t respond.
- Oliver’s roommate said that Oliver wasn’t sleeping or going to class over the last week since Emma started to date Roger. He was angry and barely left the room.