College Sexual Offenses

Introduction:

With offices in West Chester and Phoenixville, Unruh Turner Burke & Frees understands the challenges that college students may encounter when facing sexual-based criminal offenses. In this article, we'll explore the common types of such offenses—such as sexual assault, rape, and hazing—and shed light on their legal consequences. Additionally, we'll discuss the crucial role of retaining a skilled lawyer, emphasizing how our law firm can provide the necessary support and defense.

Understanding Sexual Offenses in Pennsylvania:

Sexual Assault: Sexual assault involves non-consensual sexual contact, ranging from unwanted touching to more severe forms of misconduct. College campuses often have strict policies regarding sexual assault, and charges can lead to both criminal and academic consequences.

Rape: Rape is a more severe form of sexual assault involving penetration without consent. In Pennsylvania, it is a felony offense carrying severe penalties, including imprisonment and mandatory registration as a sex offender. College students accused of rape must navigate a complex legal process, making legal representation crucial.

Hazing Offenses: Hazing, while not always explicitly sexual, can involve sexually inappropriate activities that lead to criminal charges. College students engaging in hazing practices that result in harm or sexual misconduct may face criminal charges, academic penalties, and even expulsion.

Legal Consequences:

1. Criminal Penalties: Convictions for sexual offenses carry substantial criminal penalties, including imprisonment, fines, and probation. The severity of the penalties varies based on the nature and degree of the offense.

2. Academic Consequences: In addition to criminal charges, colleges and universities may impose their own disciplinary actions, such as suspension or expulsion. These consequences can have a lasting impact on a student's academic and professional future.

The Importance of Legal Representation:

Facing sexual offense charges without proper legal representation can be overwhelming. Hiring a knowledgeable criminal defense attorney is crucial to building a strong defense and navigating the legal complexities.