

Campus Safety After Virginia Tech

On April 16, 2007, Seung-Hui Cho, a student at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, opened fire killing 32 people before taking his own life, marking the deadliest school shooting in United States history.

The incident was covered by the media around the world and sparked criticism of certain American laws. The tragedy initiated discussions and debates on campuses regarding violence, campus safety, privacy, gaps in treating students with mental health issues and the responsibilities of college administrators.

In light of this tragedy, what are the basic tenets of privacy for students at a college or university? What issues arise regarding medical and other student records, as well as public safety? How should a college or university balance individual privacy with the need to protect members of the campus community? Be sure to address FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) in your essay.