

# AWARENESS

# YOU NEED TO KNOW

## SEXUAL ASSAULT

**Fiction:** Sexual assaults happen only in dark, isolated places.

**Fact:** Almost 60% of sexual assaults on college campuses happen in residence halls. (FBI statistic)

**Fiction:** Rape victims are always women.

**Fact:** Men can be raped. One in six men will experience a sexual assault in their lifetime (National Institute of Justice statistic). Even so, more than 90% of reported sexual assaults are committed by men against women.

**Fiction:** By going to someone's room or house, you assume the risk of sexual assault.

**Fact:** No you don't. The responsibility for sexual assault rests with the offender. Even if you voluntarily enter someone's room, and even if you consent to some sexual activity, you have not, by extension, consented to all sexual activity.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT DEFINED

Any non-consensual physical contact of a sexual nature, whether by an acquaintance or by a stranger, is a sexual assault. Physical resistance need not occur to fulfill the definition of sexual assault. Consent CAN NEVER be given under the age of sixteen. Sexual assault includes, but is not limited to the following:

- rape
- acquaintance rape
- incest
- sexual assault with an object
- forcible sodomy
- forcible oral sex
- forcible fondling

**Consent** is the equal approval, given freely, willingly, and knowingly of each participant to desired sexual involvement. Consent is an affirmative, conscious decision - indicated clearly by words or actions - to engage in mutually accepted sexual contact. A person forced to engage in sexual contact by force, threat of force, or coercion has not consented to contact.

*"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."  
-Eleanor Roosevelt*

## Facts and Stats

90% of college women who are victims of rape or attempted rape know their assailant. The perpetrator is usually a classmate, friend, boyfriend, or ex-boyfriend.

College women are most vulnerable to rape during the first few weeks of their first and second year.

75% of male students and 55% of female students involved in acquaintance rape have been using drugs or drinking.

Alcohol is the number one substance used in drug-facilitated sexual assaults.

## EMPOWERMENT

The following list of precautions could help reduce your risk, although nothing can completely eliminate the risk of sexual assault. No matter what, sexual assault is not your fault.

**It's your right** You have every right to initiate or refuse sex, to set limits on sex, to say "no" at any time, and to change your mind about sex, including with previous partners. Just because you have had sex with someone before does not mean you have to have sex with them again. If you do not consent to sexual activity and the other person does not respect your decision, that is sexual assault.

**Trust your instincts** If you feel vaguely uncomfortable, or unsafe, trust your feelings. Get out of the situation, no matter how foolish you think you might look. Intuition is pretty accurate, and if you're wrong, so what!

**Be Confident** Always know where you are, where you're going and who's around you. Be alert and walk with purpose. Report concerning behavior to the Case Police and Security Services immediately.

**With an intimate partner** If you feel awkward talking about an intimate act, are you really ready for it? Speak your mind. Remember that no means no. When you say "yes," understand what you are agreeing to. Persuading a partner to engage in sex may be taking away their choice. Understand that silence does not equal consent.

## At the Spot/RRR/Jolly Scholar, at a party, or out on the town

- Go to parties with friends, and leave with friends.
- Keep an eye on your drink and get your own refills.
- Don't accept pre-mixed drinks (Date rape drugs are odorless and colorless).
- Intervene if you're worried about your friend.
- At the end of the night, take a shuttle or call security for an escort.

**In university housing** Always lock your door. Don't prop room or hall doors open. Insist that all unaccompanied guests use outside phones to gain access.

## Even if you have followed these precautions and something happens IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

## OPTIONS

### What To Do After a Sexual Assault

1. **Go to a safe place.**
2. **Call** a friend.
3. **Contact** a reporting source of your choice.
4. **Remember** this was not your fault.
5. **Try to preserve evidence** of the assault. Don't wash your hands, shower, change your clothes, use the bathroom, or brush your teeth.
6. **Seek medical attention** at the nearest emergency room. If you are considering pressing charges, evidence should be collected as soon as possible within 96 hours. Bring a change of clothes - yours may be collected as evidence. Having evidence collected does not obligate you to proceed with legal action.

## RESPONSE

### University Response

The university strongly encourages anyone who has been sexually assaulted to seek assistance and explore support options. Some reporting options are limited by their level of confidentiality.

When conducting the investigation, the university's primary focus will be on addressing the sexual assault and not on other university policy violations that may be discovered or disclosed.

In every situation of sexual assault it is **never** the victim's fault, no matter where they go, how they dress, or what they post online. Nobody asks to be sexually assaulted and **nobody** deserves to be sexually assaulted.

*"I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it."  
- Maya Angelou*

## 24-7 HELP

ON CAMPUS  
Case Police and Security Services  
(216) 368-3333  
University Counseling Services  
(216) 368-5872  
University Health Services  
(216) 368-2450

OFF-CAMPUS  
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center  
(216) 619-6192  
University Hospitals of Cleveland  
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner  
(216) 844-1111  
Huron Hospital Emergency Department  
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Unit  
(216) 761-4242

## 8:30 TO 5:00 HELP

ON CAMPUS  
Flora Stone Mather Center for Women  
(216) 368-0985  
(Ask for the Health Advocate)  
Residence Life & Greek Life Staff Member  
(216) 368-3780  
University Counseling Services  
(216) 368-5872  
Student Affairs  
(216) 368-2020  
University Health Service  
(216) 368-2450

OFF-CAMPUS  
Domestic Violence Center 24-hour Helpline  
(216) 391-HELP

## REPORTING

### Privileged vs. Limited Confidential

**Before** choosing a support resource you may want to consider the legal distinction between a privileged and limited confidential resource.

**Privileged Reporting** consists of those communications that legally cannot be disclosed, without the reporter's consent, to any other person, except under very limited circumstances such as imminent threat of danger to self or others.

Such examples include:

- University Counseling Services
- University Health Services
- Flora Stone Mather Center for Women
- Inter-Religious Center
- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center

### Limited Confidential Reporting

consists of those communications that will not be disseminated to others except on a need-to-know basis. A limited confidential reporting source has the obligation to enlist designated campus resources to ensure that necessary steps are taken to protect the community as a whole and that appropriate disciplinary measures are considered and imposed.

Such examples include:

- Case Police and Security Services
- The University Office of Student Affairs
- Housing, Residence Life & Greek Life Staff
- Hospital Emergency Room

## SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE

Individuals impacted by sexual assault and relationship violence report that seeking support and utilizing resources has assisted in managing academics, work, and personal well-being.

Refer to the website below for the following accommodations:

- Academic
- Housing
- Work
- Counseling

## ACT

### How to Help a Friend

**Believe** them.

**Listen** to them. Don't ask "why" questions or overwhelm them with your concerns.

**Reassure** your friend that they are not alone, and it is not their fault.

**Support** them in their choices—empower them to control decisions like reporting, prosecuting, and counseling.

**Refer** your friend to on and off-campus resources.

*"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."  
-Anonymous*

**Watch your language.** Understand the meaning and consequences of degrading language.

**Speak up** when you witness degrading behaviors that promote rape. Make it clear you don't agree.

**Support survivors** so everyone feels safer speaking out against rape.

**Contribute your time.** Join an organization that works to prevent violence against women.

**Talk** to women and men about violence against women and their role in prevention.

**Organize** Create your own organization to stop sexual violence. Write to elected officials. Tell them you care, and so should they.

**Acknowledge** how sexism, homophobia, racism, classism, and religious discrimination are connected.

Source: Georgia Tech Sexual Violence Prevention and Advocacy Initiative

## OTHER LINKS

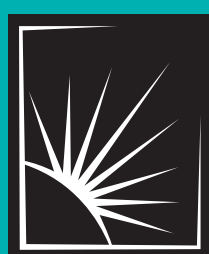
<http://www.case.edu/provost/centerforwomen>  
<http://studentaffairs.case.edu/health/sexual/female/assault.html>  
<http://www.case.edu/stuaff/ucs/>

## Want to get involved in sexual assault prevention?

Call the Health Advocate at the FSM Center for Women at 368-0985.

Source: Sampson, Rana. Acquaintance Rape of College Students, Problem-oriented Guides for Police; Problem Specific Guides Series No. 17, August 7, 2003 (www.cops.usdoj.gov).

For more information: [www.case.edu/provost/sexualconduct](http://www.case.edu/provost/sexualconduct)



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