

Sexual Assault and Sexual Violence

What is it?

What to do?

How to help a friend

Policy and Procedures

Resources

A Villanova University Guide for
Our Community



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Villanova University Policy

Villanova University seeks to foster and maintain a community of mutual respect and concern for all its members. There can be no greater violation of the terms of the community, or of the essential dignity of any member in it, than an act of sexual violence. Thus, the University will not tolerate sexual violence in any form. Rape, attempted rape and other violent sexual crimes constitute the deepest affront to University standards and will be treated accordingly. A student accused of sexual violence can be prosecuted under the Pennsylvania Criminal Code and/or disciplined by Villanova University under the Code of Student Conduct contained in the Student Handbook (the Blue Book) available to all students at www.villanova.edu/studentlife/dean or in hard copy at the Dean of Students Office (610-519-4200). Even if governmental authorities choose not to prosecute, the University can pursue strong disciplinary action through its own channels, whether the sexual violence allegedly occurred on or off campus. Violations of this policy will normally result in suspensions or expulsions from the University. This conduct also constitutes sexual discrimination and sexual harassment in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. For information on the federal law governing campus safety and the Public Safety Department's responsibility to report crime, refer to <http://publicsafety.villanova.edu/crimestats.html>.

Sexual Violence Is:

1. Any physical sexual contact (intercourse, penetration of the genitals or indecent contact) that involves the use of threat, force or violence or any other form of coercion or intimidation.
2. Any sexual physical contact/indecent contact with another person without that person's consent, or any such contact with a person who is unable to consent due to unconsciousness, incapacity or impairment, mental or physical. Incapacity or impairment can include, but is not limited to, being under the influence of alcohol or drugs to a degree which renders the person incapable of consent.

For a full definition of sexual violence, see the Blue Book, www.villanova.edu/studentlife/dean.

Consent:

Consent is based on choice.

Consent is active, not passive.

Consent is possible only when there is equal power.

Giving in because of fear is not consent.

In consent, both parties must be equally free to act.

In consent, both parties must be fully conscious and have clearly communicated their intentions.

If you cannot say "NO" comfortably, then a "YES" has no meaning.

What one man can do:

- **Believe** a person when he or she says no. Don't see it as a challenge.
- **Never force** someone to have sex with you, no matter what he or she has done in the past.
- **Don't overpower** someone if you are physically stronger. The person may stop fighting back or resisting, but still be unwilling to have sex. Having sex under these circumstances is rape.
- If you witness sexual violence, call Public Safety. You may save a life.
- If you pay for a date, **do not expect** your date to owe you sex.
- Recognize that **intoxication is no excuse**: 90% of all campus sexual violence involves the use of alcohol.
- **Do not assume** you know what someone wants. **ASK**. Then believe.
- **Always communicate**.

What one woman can do:

- **Communicate your boundaries** and intentions clearly. If you feel that you are not being heard, leave or call for help. This is not a time to be "polite" and accommodating.
- **Trust your intuition**. If you feel uncomfortable, you may be in danger. Leave or call for help.
- Go on a **date in a public place** where other people are around.
- **Use the buddy system** when going out. Look out for each other.
- **Remain in control**. Set your own limits and communicate them.
- **Make noise**. If you feel uncomfortable, scream, yell, etc.
- **Be prepared**. Always have a plan for how you will get home. Always carry cab fare.
- **Know that alcohol and drugs can influence decisions and communication**. Many rapists see an intoxicated person as an easy target. In reported cases, 75% of the men and 55% of the women have been under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

What men and women can do:

- **Respect each other's feelings**. You do not need to agree on everything, but you do need to respect each other's opinions and decisions. If one person says no—then listen and act accordingly.
- **Say what you mean**. Say what it is you **DO** want and what you **DO NOT** want to happen. Sex without discussion does not allow consent or respect to occur.

How to help a friend who has been sexually assaulted:

- Listen and offer support.
- Believe your friend.
- Let them know what has happened is not their fault.
- Put aside your feelings and deal with them elsewhere.
- Encourage contacting the Holloway Counseling Center, Student Health Center and Public Safety.
- Respect their privacy.
- Accept their choice of solution to the assault.
- Be dependable and available when they need you.
- Be patient.

What to do if you or a friend is sexually assaulted:

- Remain calm and alert.
- Get to a safe place: your home, residence hall or the residence of a trusted friend.
- Because preservation of physical evidence is of the utmost importance, you should:
 - NOT** change your clothing or shower. If you change your clothes, it is important that they are kept in a paper bag to preserve evidence. **NOT** apply medication to any injuries that have been sustained unless absolutely necessary.
 - NOT** disturb anything in the area where the assault occurred. **NOT** drink or chew gum.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible to make sure that you are physically healthy. Contact the Student Health Center at 610-519-4070 or visit its office on the third floor of the Health Services Building. Medical professionals are available 24 hours a day. Medical attention at the local hospital is required in order to preserve valuable evidence should you decide to seek prosecution through the criminal justice system. It is important to know if you go to the hospital the local police will be contacted.
- Bryn Mawr Hospital provides professional medical services to anyone who is sexually assaulted. The Villanova Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator or VEMS is available for transport to the hospital.
- If you suspect that you may have been given a predatory drug like Rohypnol or GHB, please let the Student Health Center or Bryn Mawr Hospital medical staff know. A urine sample can be collected within 72 hours of a sexual assault for predatory drug testing.
- Seek free, confidential counseling at the Holloway Counseling Center. Call 610-519-4050 or stop by 206 Health Services Building. Help is available for the person assaulted and for a person's friends who are concerned about her/him.
- Rape Trauma Syndrome may occur several weeks, months and even years following the incident. Seek counseling at any time to help you or your friend.
- Call Public Safety at 610-519-6670 to speak with the Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator.
- Speak with a POWER peer educator. POWER peer educators are trained to serve as a resource for their fellow students on the issue of sexual assault and can help direct you to the appropriate resources on campus. You may identify a POWER peer educator by calling 610-519-7407, by asking your RA or by visiting Health Promotion, located on the first floor of the Health Services Building.

Learn about normal emotional reactions to sexual violence by reading the Sexual Assault topic sheet on the Holloway Counseling Center Web site at: www.studentlife.villanova.edu/counselingcenter/psychtopics/sexualassault.html. Encourage your friends to read it, too.

Myths and Realities:

Myth: The greatest danger of being sexually assaulted is from a stranger.

Reality: Most sexual assaults are committed by someone the assaulted person knows.

Myth: People who are victims of sexual violence deserve it, especially if they agreed to go to someone's house or ride in their car.

Reality: No one deserves it. Being in a person's house or car does not mean someone has agreed to have sex.

Myth: People who don't fight back aren't victims of sexual violence.

Reality: You are a victim of sexual violence when you are forced to have sex against your will, whether you fight back or not.

Myth: If a person allows someone to buy them dinner or pay for a movie or drinks, he/she really means "yes."

Reality: No one owes sex as a payment to anyone else, no matter how expensive the date.

Myth: When a person says no, they really mean yes.

Reality: No means NO! Without consent, it's SEXUAL VIOLENCE!

Myth: Women often lie about being victims of sexual violence.

Reality: False reports of sexual violence are 2-4%, the same rate as other reported crimes.

Myth: Men who commit sexual assault on other males (including boys) are homosexuals.

Reality: Most males who rape other males are heterosexuals.

Myth: There is nothing any one man can do to stop sexual violence.

Reality: Every day there are opportunities for men to change behaviors that ENCOURAGE sexual violence.

Myth: There is nothing that can be done if I have been drugged.

Reality: If you suspect that you were given a predatory drug such as Rohypnol or GHB, the Student Health Center can take a urine sample to test for these drugs. It is important to have this test done as soon as possible as predatory drugs remain in the system for only a short time span.

Statistics:

- Both men and women are sexually assaulted.
- 1 in 4 college women are survivors of attempted or completed sexual assault.
- 1 in 7 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime.
- Fewer than 1% of acquaintance rapes are reported on college campuses.
- Alcohol is the #1 predatory drug.
- 1 in 12 high school-aged men and college-aged men admit to behaviors that meet the legal definition of sexual assault.

Sexual Violence is an act of control, using sex as a weapon. It is not motivated by sexual desire, but by the desire to overpower and dominate another person.

Fisher BS, Cullen FT, Turner MG. 2000. The sexual victimization of college women. Washington: Department of Justice (US), National Institute of Justice; Publication No. NCJ 182369.

What to expect when reporting an incident of sexual violence at Villanova:

- You will be treated with care and support.
- You will not be forced to take any action that you are not comfortable taking.
- You will be advised of both medical and counseling services that are available to you, both on and off campus.
- You will be encouraged to talk to the Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator (SARC), a Public Safety investigator and the University's Deputy Title IX Coordinator. The SARC will discuss your options (on-campus disciplinary action, off-campus police involvement, etc.). The SARC will present options to you but will not tell you what to do. You will be able to decide later what, if any, action you want to pursue.
- In general, it will be up to you to decide whether you wish to pursue an investigation through Public Safety, local police, or both. In some cases, such as when the incident suggests an ongoing threat to the University community, an investigation of the incident may still occur. Working through the SARC, you will be encouraged to cooperate with Public Safety should an investigation occur.
- If you decide to be treated at a local hospital, you will have the option to contact the SARC. Be aware that the hospital is obligated to contact the local police.
- Timely reporting is of critical importance, since proof of criminal offense requires that local police collect and preserve evidence immediately after an assault. Ideally, you should not wash, douche, use the toilet or change your clothing prior to a medical exam.

For more detailed information, see www.villanova.edu/publicsafety/policies/university_sexual_assault_protocol.htm



Office of Health Promotion

Education can lead to prevention:

Health Promotion on Villanova's campus provides educational materials and resources to the campus community on many topics such as sexual assault. To assist with these educational endeavors, Health Promotion trains students each year to be POWER peer educators. Peers Offering Wellness Education & Resources (POWER) provides presentations in the residence halls, classrooms and in the community; sponsors awareness months and campaigns; distributes educational materials around campus and refers students to the appropriate resources. If you would like more information on POWER, please call 610-519-7407 or go to: www.villanova.edu/healthpromotion/power. In an effort to provide preventative programming with regard to sexual violence, general safety and self defense education, the Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator is also available to provide programming to students, staff and faculty. To schedule a R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) class or discuss other program opportunities through Public Safety, please call 610-519-6670.

Resources

On Campus:

* Student Health Center	610-519-4070
Holloway Counseling Center.....	610-519-4050
Health Promotion.....	610-519-7407
* Public Safety for Emergencies.....	610-519-4444
Villanova Emergency Medical Services	610-519-4444
Dean of Students	610-519-4200
Campus Ministry	610-519-4080
Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator (Deputy Title IX Coordinator)	610-519-6670
Title IX Coordinator.....	610-519-4237

* Open 24 hours, seven days a week

Off Campus:

Women Against Rape.....	610-566-4342
Domestic Abuse	610-565-6272
Delaware County District Attorney.....	610-891-4000
Radnor Police Department Business	610-688-0503
Emergency.....	911
Bryn Mawr Hospital.....	484-337-3000
PA Coalition Against Rape	www.pcar.org
Rape, Abuse & Incest.....	www.rainn.org
Family Violence & Sexual Assault.....	www.fvsai.org



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