

# 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



VILLANOVA  
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## Resources

### On Campus:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| * Student Health Center .....                | 610-519-4070 |
| Holloway Counseling Center.....              | 610-519-4050 |
| * Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator.....   | 484-343-6028 |
| * Public Safety for Emergencies.....         | 610-519-4444 |
| * Villanova Emergency Medical Services ..... | 610-519-4444 |
| Dean of Students .....                       | 610-519-4200 |
| Health Promotion .....                       | 610-519-7407 |
| Campus Ministry .....                        | 610-519-4080 |
| Title IX Coordinator.....                    | 610-519-4237 |

*\* 24 hours, seven days a week*

### Off Campus:

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| Women Against Rape.....                              | 610-566-4342                                     |
| Domestic Abuse .....                                 | 610-565-4590                                     |
| Delaware County District Attorney .....              | 610-891-4162                                     |
| Local Law Enforcement.....                           | 911  |
| Radnor.....  | 610-688-0503                                     |
| Lower Merion.....                                    | 610-649-1000                                     |
| Conshohocken .....                                   | 610-828-4032/4033                                |
| Upper Merion.....                                    | 610-265-3232                                     |
| Tredyffrin.....                                      | 610-647-1440                                     |
| Bryn Mawr Hospital .....                             | 484-337-3000                                     |
| Lankenau Medical Center.....                         | 484-476-2000                                     |
| Philadelphia Sexual Assault<br>Response Center ..... | 215-425-1625                                     |
| PA Coalition Against Rape .....                      | <a href="http://www.pcar.org">www.pcar.org</a>   |
| Rape, Abuse & Incest.....                            | <a href="http://www.rainn.org">www.rainn.org</a> |
| Family Violence & Sexual Assault .....               | <a href="http://www.fvsai.org">www.fvsai.org</a> |



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# Villanova University Policy

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*Villanova University seeks to foster and maintain a community of mutual respect and concern for all of its members. There can be no greater violation of the terms of that community, or of the essential dignity of any member of it, than an act of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or other sexual misconduct. These acts constitute the deepest affront to University standards and will not be tolerated in any form. Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct are forms of sexual harassment and are prohibited. Any person found responsible for such violations will face disciplinary actions up to and including dismissal or expulsion from the University. Acts of sexual assault or sexual misconduct may also be prosecuted under the Pennsylvania Criminal Code. This Policy applies to all on-campus conduct, as well as any off-campus conduct that has an adverse impact on any member of the University community or the University.*

**Sexual Assault Is:** Having or attempting to have sexual intercourse or sexual contact with another individual without consent. This includes sexual intercourse or sexual contact achieved by the use or threat of force or coercion, where an individual does not consent to the sexual act, or where an individual is incapacitated. Sexual assault includes the following acts:

- 1. Attempted or Actual Penetrations:** Having or attempting to have non-consensual vaginal, anal, or oral penetration, however slight, with any object or body part, with another person.
- 2. All Other Forms of Non-Consensual Sexual Contact:** Having or attempting to have any non-consensual, non-accidental touching of a sexual nature. This touching can include, but is not limited to, kissing or touching the private parts of another, or causing the other to touch the harasser's private parts.

## **Other Forms Of Sexual Misconduct Prohibited By Villanova Policy Include:**

**1. Intimate partner violence.** Intimate partner violence is also sometimes known as dating violence, domestic violence, or relationship violence. The University recognizes that sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, stalking, and retaliation may all be forms of intimate partner violence when committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the Complainant. In general, intimate partner violence includes physically, sexually, and/or psychologically abusive behavior that arises in the form of a direct violent act, or indirectly as acts that expressly or implicitly threaten violence. Intimate partner violence also occurs when one partner attempts to maintain power and control over the other through one or more forms of abuse, including sexual, physical, verbal, or emotional abuse.

**2. Stalking.** Stalking is a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety, or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress. This includes cyber-stalking, a particular form of stalking in which electronic media such as the Internet, social networks, blogs, cell phones, texts, or other similar devices or forms of contact are used to pursue, harass, or make unwelcome contact with another person.

*Prohibited sexual misconduct also includes sexual exploitation and intimate partner violence. For a full definition of prohibited sexual misconduct, see the Blue Book, [www.villanova.edu/studentlife/dean](http://www.villanova.edu/studentlife/dean).*

## **Consent is:**

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- Based on choice
- Active, not passive
- Given without force or threat of force
- Possible only when there is equal power
- Given under sober conditions
- Reversible and can be withdrawn at any time

If, at any time, it is reasonably apparent that either party is hesitant, confused, or unsure, both parties should stop and obtain verbal consent before continuing any sexual activity.

## 3D's of Intervention

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Many times people want to help but they either don't know what to do (knowledge) in a particular situation or how to do it (skills). In most situations, there is more than one way to take action. Each situation is unique, and each person will have different strengths when it comes to intervention. Think about the 3D's of intervention:

**DIRECT:** these strategies involve approaching one of the key people involved in the situation and attempting to prevent the situation from escalating further. For example, if you feel that a friend is drinking too much, a direct intervention would be to tell him/her that you're concerned and suggest that he/she take a break or bring him/her a non-alcoholic drink.

**DELEGATE:** in some situations, it is best if you involve other people to prevent the situation from worsening and to keep yourself safe. For example, this could mean recruiting friends of the student about whom you are concerned or calling Public Safety directly. You are taking action by asking others to help.

**DISTRACT:** by creating a distraction, you can alter the flow of the situation and potentially prevent a situation from worsening. For example, you might spill a drink or enter a conversation with a couple to try to interrupt the situation and shift it in another direction.

**When considering your options, it is most important to make the safest choice available to you that somehow interrupts or intervenes in a potentially dangerous situation.**

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## Effective Intervention is Prevention

### Remember that:

- Most problems begin in group settings.
- Friends are usually in the best position to do something.
- You will be in a situation in which you can help in the future.
- We all have a responsibility to look out for each other.

***"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."***  
***- Edmund Burke***

## How to help a friend who has been sexually assaulted:

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- 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.
- Help connect your friend to campus and community resources.
- Respect their privacy.
- Support their choice of solution to the assault.
- Be dependable and available when they need you.
- Be patient.
- 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.

*Learn about normal emotional reactions to sexual violence by reading the Sexual Assault topic sheet on the Holloway Counseling Center Web site at: <http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/counselingcenter/infosheets/sexualassault.html>. Encourage your friends to read it, too.*

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

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- 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.
- Call Public Safety to report the assault at 610-519-4444.
- Call the local police to report the assault (911).
- Call the on-call Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator (SARC) at 484-343-6028. The SARC is available for support and to explain all of the options available to a survivor of sexual assault.
- 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. Villanova's on-call Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator or VEMS are available for transport to the hospital.
- If you suspect that you have been given a predatory drug, like Rohypnol or GHB, please let the Student Health Center know. A urine sample can be collected within 72 hours of a sexual assault for predatory drug testing, and all testing at the Student Health Center is FREE for survivors of sexual assault.
- 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.

## Myths and Realities:

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

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

**Myth:** People who are sexually assaulted deserve it, especially if they agreed to go to someone's room or accepted a ride.

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

**Myth:** People who don't fight back have not been sexually assaulted.

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

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

**Myth:** Women often lie about being sexually assaulted.

**Reality:** False reports of sexual violence are less than 4%, the same rate as other reported crimes.

**Myth:** Men who sexually assault other men are homosexual.

**Reality:** Most males who rape other males are heterosexual.

**Myth:** Sexual assault is a women's issue.

**Reality:** Every day there are opportunities for men and women to prevent sexual assault by discouraging pro-violent language, intervening in situations where someone might be in trouble, getting trained in effective bystander intervention strategies, and getting involved in organizations like POWER. We are all part of the solution!

**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 (24-72 hours).

## Statistics:

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- 1 in 5 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.

**Sexual assault 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.*

## How to report:

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A student does not need to decide whether or not to request any specific action by the University at the time a report is made, nor is there a time limit on reporting. Villanova is committed to supporting the rights of a person reporting an incident of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or other sexual misconduct to make an informed choice among options and services available, including on-campus reporting options, reporting to local law enforcement, and the right to not report at all. Additionally, Public Safety facilitates no contact orders, restraining orders, and orders of protection on behalf of the person reporting, if he/she chooses to pursue them. The following are the reporting options available.

Public Safety, 610-519-4444

Local law enforcement, 911

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

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- You will be treated with care and support.
- You will be encouraged to talk to the on-call Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator (SARC).
- 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 with a SARC, you will be encouraged to cooperate with Public Safety should an investigation occur.
- If you decide to seek treatment at a local hospital, be aware that the hospital is obligated to contact the local police. You may choose whether or not to talk with the 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.

## What to expect when pursuing disciplinary action at Villanova:

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Villanova's procedures for student disciplinary action are set forth in the Student Handbook which can be found at [www.villanova.edu/studentlife/dean/publications](http://www.villanova.edu/studentlife/dean/publications). These are also the procedures under Title IX for addressing claims of sexual assault, sexual harassment and sexual misconduct where the Respondent is a student. These procedures are designed to provide a prompt and impartial response for the resolution of such complaints for the reporting person in the event an incident of sexual assault, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct is determined to have occurred.

- Individuals responsible for adjudication of the complaint will participate in training to review policy, procedures, and the issues of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct on college campuses.
- The Complainant and Respondent are entitled to the same opportunities to present relevant statements and witnesses during a campus disciplinary proceeding.
- The Complainant and Respondent may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice.
- Both the Complainant and Respondent are informed in writing of the final results of the campus disciplinary process.
- Responsibility for alleged violations of the Code of Student Conduct will be determined by a preponderance of the evidence.
- Should a student be found responsible for violating the University's policy on sexual assault, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct, he/she is subject to the full range of sanctions provided in the Student Handbook up to and including expulsion.

*For more detailed information see <http://www.villanova.edu/sexualassault>*