

# Circle of 6

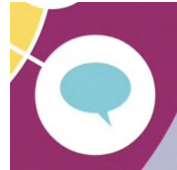
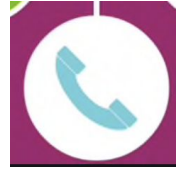
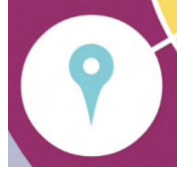
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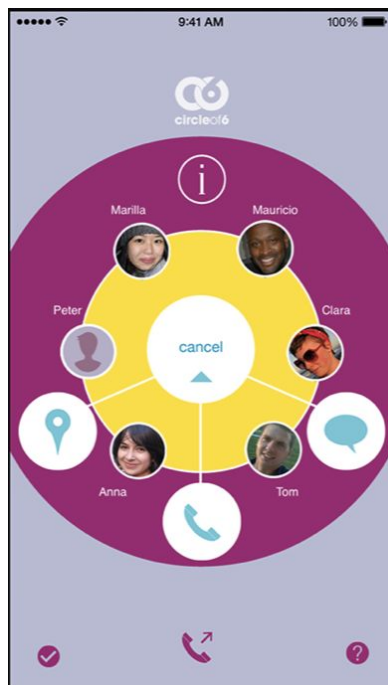
## App Goals:

The platform that I chose to focus on is the app called “Circle of 6.” This is an app that was originally designed for college students to prevent sexual assault, but has grown to help communities create safe, healthy relationships. If someone needs to get home or needs some sort of interruption, with two taps the app will send a notification to 6 pre-chosen people on where you are and how to help [1]. Its main goals are to connect the user with their most trusted friends, stay safe, and prevent violence before it happens [2]. Overall, it is a security app.

## Features [2]:

Feature	Function	Visual
Text	Sends a text, “I need to talk” to user’s circle	
Call	Sends a text that says “call and pretend you need me”	
Location	Sends a text that says “come get me”	

Contacts	Choose up to 6 contacts (minimum is 3)	
Health and safety resources	Links to health and safety resources	
National hotline	Calls national health and safety hotlines, and your customized number	
"I'm okay" message	Sends a text "I'm okay, I got help" to your circle	



*Main Page of App*



### *Process of asking group to come and get you [4]*

#### **Successes:**

The app is very simple and clean. It only has one page so you never have to fuss over making sure you are on the correct page to contact someone. This simple design promotes their goal of making things easy and discreet in order to keep the user safe.

The app lets you send a text message to your newly added group member to notify them of being added to your circle. The text message will send a premade message, but you can also add another part of the message telling them why you are using the app [3]. This feature helps the chosen, trusted friends understand the situation(s) so they can be better informed to help the user.

The "pick me up" feature is great for people who need immediate help right away and they have no wheels. This feature successfully helps users stay safe and helps them get out of dangerous situations.

All of the three buttons that alert your group will send them a pre-written text asking them for a ride or call. The messages are all signed "sent thru Circleof6." This ensures that the friends know it's serious [5]. This makes it easy to text for help; the user doesn't have to spend time typing out a message. This feature meets the app's goal of providing connection between friends and preventing violence.

This app is free on both iOS and Android, therefore is available to everyone.

**Deficiencies:**

The text and call buttons seem confusing. The text button will text your group that you need to talk, while the call button texts your group that you need them to call them and pretend they need them. This seems like it's sort of the same thing; except the only difference is that the call button states why they need the person to call. I assume this is because the app is about sexual assault and frequently you need an excuse. Going along the same line, there is no way to just call one person you want to talk with, you can only send a message to everyone and see which one gets it first. This is good in emergencies, but doesn't allow for flexibility within different, potentially dangerous situations.

The button that lets the group know that you are okay is very small and is at the bottom left corner; it is maybe ½ of my small index finger. It seems like this should be larger because it's important to notify others when you get help so they don't worry. The button should be larger and more accessible; this makes it easier to communicate updates with your chosen circle.

Based on a technology article, they state that they suggest users of this app discuss a plan with their contacts so the circle won't assume another person is helping the user and therefore not do anything [3]. This isn't stated anywhere in the introduction onboarding screens. So, there is no way that a user would know to do that step. Also there is no way for the chosen contacts to talk with each other; they might not even know each other [3]. This can be a problem when they may all come to the rescue or nobody comes because they assume someone else is helping. There should be a feature that allows the chosen members to communicate with each other in order to efficiently help the user get help and stay safe.

**References:**

- [1] "Home." Circle of 6. (2015). Tech for Good. <https://www.circleof6app.com/>
- [2] The Line Campaign, Inc. "Circle of 6." Apple App Store, Version 2.0.5 (2017)
- [3] "Circle of 6." Technology Safety. (n.d) . <https://www.techsafety.org/circleof6>
- [4] "Circle of 6 Campus Safety App: What It is and What It Isn't." Shaping Youth. (March

2017).

<https://shapingyouth.org/circle-of-6-campus-safety-app-what-it-is-and-what-it-isnt/>

[5] Browne, Erin. "Tech Tuesday: Circle of 6 App Review." Surviving College. (August 2013) <https://survivingcollege.com/tech-tuesday-circle-of-6-app-review/>