

Sexual Misconduct*

*unwanted sexual behavior

What La Salle University Students Need to Know
if it* happens to you
or someone you know

- * Rape
- * Sexual Assault
- * Sexual Harassment
- * Sexual Exploitation

“Association is inspired by a spirit, which
consists in pursuit of closer relations with others, governed by respect for the individual.”

Lasallian Themes: Volume 3

Brothers of the Christian Schools 1997

La Salle University is committed to the development of a safe community free from sexual violence, intimidation, and exploitation. Any form of sexual activity without effective consent will not be tolerated.

This pamphlet provides information about:

- * Definitions of sexual misconduct
- * Reporting sexual misconduct
- * What to do after a sexual assault
- * Your rights as a survivor
- * How to help a friend who has experienced sexual misconduct
- * Resources related to sexual misconduct

Sexual Misconduct involves any sexual contact or act imposed on another person without the person’s effective consent. It can be by a person you know or by a stranger. Sexual misconduct includes situations in which a person is not able to consent to a sexual act, for example when

drinking and drugs are involved or when forced threats, intimidation, or coercion are utilized. Sexual misconduct is never the victim’s fault! No one has the right to violate another person. Rape, Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Exploitation are all considered

sexual misconduct as they are expressions and abuses of power; they are not sex.

Sexual Misconduct: Definitions of terms

Rape/ Date Rape/ Acquaintance Rape: Sexual intercourse or penetration with an object (vaginal, oral, or anal) without the person’s effective consent.

Sexual Assault: Forced or coerced sexual acts imposed on another person without the person's effective consent.

Sexual Harassment: Unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed towards a person's sexuality or sexual identity, or that create an intimidating environment.

Sexual Exploitation: Any act involving sexual behavior which places another person in a degrading, exploitative or humiliating situation (example: placing photographs of a sexual nature involving a sexual partner on the Internet).

Reporting Sexual Misconduct

If you have experienced sexual misconduct you will need to decide whether or not to report the behavior! This is and will be a difficult time for you. You may be overwhelmed with reactions and feelings. Remember that many of the behaviors on the continuum of sexual misconduct are considered crimes so it is best to keep your options open. **YOU ARE NOT AT FAULT.** The person who forced or exploited you is the person at fault. Reporting the behavior does not mean you have to press charges, but can be a step toward regaining a sense of power and control in your life.

To report sexual misconduct, you can do the following:

On Campus:

- Safety and Security (215 951 2111) can put you in touch with the Philadelphia Police.
- The Resident Director on duty can help you decide what to do next. (Call Safety and Security (215 951 2111) to have the R.D. paged.)
- The Dean of Students (215 951 1017) or Associate Dean of Students (215 951 1916) can explain the "on-campus" judicial options to you and make sure you get the proper support. Additional details about the judicial process can be found in the Student Handbook.

Off Campus:

- Philadelphia Police (911). An officer will ask you questions but it is up to you what you want to disclose. Reporting the assault to the police does not mean you are committed to prosecuting your assailant. You can decide this later.

What to do if you have been raped or sexually assaulted:

What do I do first?

- 3 Recognize that it is not your fault.
- 3 Get to a safe place – this includes physical and emotional safety.
- 3 Contact someone you trust: a friend, family member, your resident or community assistant, so they can help and support you.
- 3 Preserve the physical evidence by NOT showering or douching and by storing clothes in a paper bag (do NOT use a plastic bag)!

Who else can I contact?

On Campus:

- The Counseling Center can provide confidential emotional support (215 951 1355).
- The Student Health Center can offer medical advice and support (215 951 1565).
- Safety and Security can help you with transportation to the Rape Crisis Center at either Jefferson or Episcopal Hospitals and provide additional assistance (215 951 2111).

Off Campus:

- Women Organized Against Rape can assist you with the next steps and provide support (215 985 3333).

What do I do next?

It is important to seek immediate MEDICAL CARE so you can be treated for any injuries and to be tested for pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases. You may choose to go to either of the Rape Crisis Centers: Jefferson or Episcopal Hospitals. They have staff who are specially trained to provide medical attention in cases of sexual assault. Medical evidence needs to be collected within 72 hours of an assault in case you later decide to press charges.

You can also go to your private doctor or to La Salle's Student Health Center. Both of these options will provide valuable medical care for you but cannot collect evidence should you later decide to prosecute.

Would it help for me to get emotional support?

It is important to take care of yourself. Being sexually assaulted, raped, exploited, or harassed is a trauma. Counseling is helpful in assisting you in sorting out your feelings, taking back control of your life, and helping you with future decisions.

Survivor's Rights:

- To be treated without prejudice regarding race, class, lifestyle, sex, age, occupation, or religious beliefs
- To receive private and confidential treatment, and be examined for personal injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, and pregnancy
- To receive the same credibility as a person reporting any other crime
- To prosecute or not to prosecute; to have the option at any time to withdraw from any legal proceeding
- To answer only those questions relevant to the crime

How you can help a friend who has been assaulted or experienced other sexual misconduct:

What will my friend be feeling?

Your friend may experience a variety of emotions including (but not limited to) fear, anger, guilt, shame, anxiety, depression, and/or helplessness. Your friend may feel "dirty" or "ruined". There is no "right" or "wrong" way to feel or react; sometimes a 'survivor' may just feel numb.

How should I respond to these feelings?

Listen. Listen. Listen. Your friend will have many feelings to talk about. Do not judge how s/he handled the situation or her/himself. No matter what the circumstances, no one gives a person a right to force sex onto another person.

A survivor needs support. Sexual misconduct is a traumatic experience. Therefore ...

- Believe them!
- Suggest to them to get medical attention and counseling!
- Let your friend make the decisions. All of their control has just been stripped. Make sure to empower your friend as much as possible by allowing them to decide what to do next and whom to tell. Don't decide for them.
- Remain calm! You may not be calm on the inside but survivors need to feel those supporting them are in control.

What if I don't think I can handle hearing about the assault?

It is completely normal and understandable that you might feel overwhelmed yourself. You might want your friend to "forget" what s/he went through and have things go back to "normal." However, it is important for a survivor to talk about the assault as a way of regaining control.

Listening can be stressful on you. Do not ignore your own feelings. Seek support for yourself.

My friend won't talk about it. What should I do?

Sometimes the survivor will not be able to talk about the assault right away. Be patient and give them time. Let them know that you are there for them when they need or want to talk.

Recognize your own limitations. As a friend, you can listen and give support but the survivor may need professional counseling and information. Utilize outside resources (such as the ones listed at the end of this brochure) for assistance.

RESOURCES

On-Campus Emergency: Safety and Security x 2111

Off-Campus Emergency: Police emergency 911

Understanding Your Options:

Resident Director on Duty

(page by calling Safety and Security) x 2111

Associate Dean of Students x 1916

Dean of Students x 1017

Medical Care for Sexual Assault:

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital:

Rape Crisis Center (215) 955-6840

Episcopal Hospital:

Rape Crisis Center (215) 427-7287

La Salle's Student Health Center (215) 951-1565

24 Hour Hotlines:

Women Organized Against Rape (215) 985-3333

Women Against Abuse (215) 386-7777
RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest
National Network) (800) 656-4673
Emotional Support (On-Campus):
La Salle University's Counseling Center (215) 951-1355
S.A.V.E. (Sexual Assault and Violence Ends –
a La Salle student organization) SAVE_leaders@yahoo.com
(e-mail for confidential information, support, and resources)
University Ministry and Service (215) 951-1048
Sexual Harassment:
Women's Law Project(215) 928-9801
Philadelphia Commission (215) 686-4692
on Human Relations
Spanish/Bilingual Services:
Congreso de Latinos Unidos: (24-hour (215) 291-8742
bilingual domestic violence hotline)
(Sexual Assault): (215) 763-8870 x1300
Bilingual Domestic Violence Project (215) 235-9992
(en español)
Services for Lesbian and Bisexual Women:
Women in Transition Hotline (battered lesbians) (215) 751-1111
Gynecology/Health Concerns:
AIDS Hotline (215) 985-AIDS
Choice (215) 985-3300
Prosecution:
Police Sex Crimes Unit (215) 685-1180/81/82
Rape Prosecution Unit (215) 686-8083
Resources for Abusers/Perpetrators:
Men's Resource Center (610) 971-9310
Menergy (215) 242-2235