



## WHAT ARE SEXUAL VIOLENCE, DATING/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND STALKING?

1. *Sexual Violence* includes any physical sexual act perpetrated against a person's will or where the person is incapable of giving consent (e.g. due to the person's use of drugs or alcohol, being a minor, or having an intellectual or other disability that prevents them from having the capacity to understand the situation and give consent). Types of sexual violence include: **rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse and sexual coercion.**
2. *Domestic Violence* includes violent misdemeanor or felony offenses against a current or former spouse or cohabitant, or a person who would otherwise be protected under domestic or family violence laws.
3. *Dating Violence* includes violence against a person who has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the person, which is gauged by the relationship's length, type, and frequency of interaction.
4. *Stalking* is defined as conduct that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their or another's safety, or behavior that causes substantial emotional distress.
5. *Sexual Harassment* is defined as conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the education program, or to create a hostile or abusive educational environment.

### Sexual Violence Facts v. Myths

**Myth:** Women are raped by strangers, outside, in dark alleyways.

**Reality:** 90% of college women know their rapist.

**Myth:** Women who get drunk or take drugs shouldn't be surprised if they are sexually assaulted.

**Reality:** Women have the right to consume alcohol just like men. A woman is **not able** to consent/agree to sex if she is drunk.

**Myth:** If two people are in a relationship and have had sex before then it can't be rape.

**Reality:** Previously agreeing to sex does not mean any sex thereafter is consensual. Consent must be obtained before each and every sexual encounter.

**Myth:** If a person doesn't struggle, wasn't forced or hurt, or didn't report it immediately then it wasn't rape.

**Reality:** People react differently to stressful or traumatic situations. Some people fear being seriously harmed, some people become paralyzed by fear, some people go into shock. All these things can prevent them from fighting back.

**Myth:** If sexual violence occurs between two females or two males then it is not really sexual violence.

**Reality:** The gender of the people involved does not matter. Sexual violence can occur between people of the same sex.

## What Can You Do?

- ▶ **Believe!** The most important thing to do is believe the survivor.
- ▶ **Validate** the survivor's feelings and **LISTEN**.
- ▶ Be clear that the abuse, rape or other form of harassment was **NOT** the survivor's fault.
- ▶ Encourage the survivor to get **support and to seek medical attention**.

### **How Not To Help!**

- **Don't** blame the victim, especially for choices they may have made leading up to the assault or ask "why" questions. - *This can convey judgment and blame.*
- **Don't** pressure the survivor to recount all details.
- **Don't** tell him or her to "get over it" or "just forget about it."
- **Don't** take charge of the healing process or force them to make quick decisions; let them be in control. Be patient and supportive.

### **THERE ARE OPTIONS!**

The options listed below will initiate a response process.

**Report Assault – Campus Police (Main, ECGB, ECMW) – 817-771-3535**

**Report Assault – WCWC Campus Police – 817-757-2292**

**Report Assault – Campus Counselor – 817-629-9407**

**Report Assault – Title IX Coordinator – 817-598-6427**

**Report Assault – Title IX Deputy Coordinator – 817-598-8831**

**Off campus – Report Assault – Weatherford Police Department – 817-598-4328**

### **UNDERSTANDING CONSENT**

Consent is knowing, voluntary, and active permission to engage in sexual activity. It must be given by clear words or actions **prior to each** and every sexual encounter. **Silence or inaction can NEVER constitute consent.** If you are not sure if someone wants sex, ask!



#### **Verbal Cues**

- Saying "NO"
- Not right now...
- I'm tired...
- I don't feel well...
- I'm not sure...

#### **Non-Verbal Cues**

- Pushing away
- Looking uncomfortable
- Walking away
- Passing out or falling asleep
- Freezing, sudden stop of participation in intimacy