

What is Sexual Violence*?

Sexual violence, which includes rape, is any unwanted physical sexual act.* This act is perpetrated against a person's will for the purposes of sexual gratification, humiliation, and/or degradation. Sexual Violence can happen to anyone, regardless of gender.

What is Consent*?

Consent is defined by Southern Methodist University as *voluntary, clear, continuous, mutually understandable permission, given by words or actions, regarding one's willingness to engage in sexual activity*. Past consent between the participants does not imply future consent. Silence or the absence of resistance does not imply consent. Consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not imply consent to engage in sexual activity with another. Consent can be withdrawn at any time. Coercion, force, or threat of either invalidates consent. Someone who is incapacitated cannot give consent. Incapacitation may be due to the use of alcohol and/or other drugs, may be if a person is asleep or unconscious, or may be due to an intellectual or other disability that prevents the student from having the capacity to give consent. *A sexual interaction is considered consensual when individuals willingly and knowingly engage in the interaction.*

What is Relationship Violence?

Relationship violence (also known as, and can include, intimate partner violence, dating violence, and domestic violence) is a pattern of behavior in an intimate relationship used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation. This can be verbal, emotional, and/or physical. Examples include: slapping, name-calling, damaging property, and threats of abuse or physical harm.

What is Stalking?

Stalking is defined as engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's personal safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress.

*Please note that these definitions are contained within the Southern Methodist University's Sexual Misconduct Policy and may not be the same standard applied in law enforcement proceedings.

Resources and Contacts

Important Contacts

Office of Violence Prevention & Support Services
Phone: (214) 768-4512

Title IX Coordinator
Institutional Access & Equity
Phone: (214) 768-3601

Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards
Phone: (214) 768-4563

On Campus

SMU Police Department
Non-Emergency: (214) 768-3388
Emergency: (214) 768-3333
Campus Phone Emergency: 9-1-1

Office of the Dean of Student Life
Phone: (214) 768-4564

Counseling Services
Phone: (214) 768-2277

Health Services Phone: (214) 768-2141

Office of the Chaplain & Religious Life
Phone: (214) 768-4502

Off Campus

University Park Police Department
Phone: (214) 363-3000

Highland Park Police Department
Phone: (214) 521-5000

Dallas Police Department
Phone: (214) 670-6206

For more information, please visit
smu.edu/violenceprevention



How to Support a Student Who Has Been Accused of Sexual Misconduct



Violence Prevention & Support Services.
preventviolence@smu.edu
214.768.4512.
Hughes Trigg Student Center, Suite 302.

If a friend discloses to you that he or she has been *accused* of sexual assault or another form of sexual violence, it may be hard to know what to do next. Here are a few tips to help you navigate the conversation and process.

Recommend that your friend seek counseling.

Your friend may find it helpful to process the emotions and difficulties he or she is experiencing as a result of the allegation. Counseling Services can be of assistance, in a confidential environment, and can be reached at 214-768-2277.

Connect your friend to resources on campus.

Encourage the student to meet with staff in the Office of the Dean of Student Life or a Title IX Coordinator in Institutional Access & Equity. These offices can provide resources to someone who has been accused of sexual misconduct and inform him or her about next steps. Their contact information is on the back of this pamphlet.

Educate yourself on the issue of sexual assault.

Increase your own knowledge of the various types of sexual violence. Some definitions have been printed on the inside flap of this pamphlet for your personal knowledge. You can also familiarize yourself with the Student Code of Conduct and the conduct process by visiting

<http://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentLife/StudentHandbook/ConductCode>

Listen.

Sometimes offering an ear is enough. Provide a safe, non-judgmental space for your friend to explain the situation. Offering support as he or she attempts to navigate this experience might be all your friend needs at this time. Don't push your friend to discuss more than he or she feels comfortable with.

Don't contact the accuser or alleged victim.

If either you or your friend attempts to contact the alleged victim directly or indirectly, it may be seen as retaliation and result in disciplinary action. For more information on the Non-Retaliation Policy, please see the Student Misconduct Policy: <http://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentLife/StudentHandbook/SexualMisconductPolicy>



Practice privacy and confidentiality.

Don't share your friend's story or situation with others unless you are required or given permission to do so. Don't perpetuate rumors or misinformation and definitely don't discuss it on social media. If someone asks you about the situation, just say you aren't at liberty to discuss it.

Don't forget to take care of yourself.

It is important to be mindful of your own needs and make sure you are taking care of yourself. Supporting a friend through any trauma can be difficult and emotionally draining. Recognize this and don't hesitate to ask for help or seek support for yourself when you need it. Consider speaking with Counseling Services yourself. The resources listed on this brochure are available to you, as much as they are available to victims or the accused.

Things To Remember...

- You can help a friend without making judgment as to whether or not a sexual assault occurred. Determining whether or not a violation took place is the responsibility of campus administrators and/or the legal system.
- Violence or retaliation is not the answer to helping your friend. Harassing and threatening behaviors are not helpful and could undermine any court or judicial proceeding taking place.