



APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Types of Sexual Violence

The term "sexual violence" is an all-encompassing, non-legal term that refers to crimes like sexual assault, rape, and sexual abuse. Many of these crimes are described below. Please note that the legal definition of crimes vary from state to state. There are often other crimes and forms of violence that arise jointly with crimes like sexual assault, and these are described as well.

Sexual Harassment: You should be able to feel comfortable in your place of work or learning. If you are being sexually harassed, you can report it to the authorities at your job, school, or local law enforcement.

Stalking: Learn more about stalking behaviors to help you notice them before they escalate. Be sure and take steps to protect yourself.

Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse: Many perpetrators of sexual abuse are in a position of trust or responsible for the child's care, such as a family member, teacher, clergy member, coach, or other children such as older siblings.

Using Technology to Hurt Others: Some people use technology, such as digital photos, videos, apps, and social media, to engage in harassing, unsolicited, or non-consensual sexual interactions.

Sexual Abuse by Medical Professionals: When you go to the doctor, dentist, hospital or physical therapist, or see other medical professionals, you trust them to treat you with respect as they care for your health.

Sexual Exploitation by Helping Professionals: Sexual exploitation by a helping professional is a serious violation of your trust and, in many cases, the law.

Multiple-Perpetrator Sexual Assault: Multiple-perpetrator sexual assault, sometimes called gang rape, occurs when two or more perpetrators act together to sexually assault the same victim.

Elder Abuse: As the number of older adults in America increases, it will become all the more important to be aware of the warning signs of elder abuse.

Sexual Abuse of People with Disabilities: Consent is crucial when any person engages in sexual activity, but it plays an even bigger, and more complicated role when someone has a disability.

Prisoner Rape: If you're an inmate, a former inmate, or know an inmate who survived sexual assault while in prison, there are resources available to you.

Military Sexual Trauma: Military Sexual Trauma, or MST, is the term used by the Department of Veteran Affairs to describe the effects of sexual violence experienced by a military Service member.

Legal Role of Consent: The legal definitions for terms like rape, sexual assault, and sexual abuse vary from state to state. Consent often plays an important role in determining whether an act is legally considered a crime.

WHAT IS CONSENT?

Consent is an agreement between participants to engage in sexual activity. Consent should be clearly and freely communicated. A verbal and affirmative expression of consent can help both you and your partner to understand and respect each other's boundaries.

Consent cannot be given by individuals who are underage, intoxicated or incapacitated by drugs, alcohol, or by a person asleep or unconscious. If someone agrees to an activity under pressure of intimidation or threat, that isn't considered consent because it was not given freely. Unequal power dynamics, such as engaging in sexual activity with an employee or student, also mean that consent cannot be freely given.

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