

Sexual Assault on Campus FAQ

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What is sexual assault?

Sexual assault is a sexual act attempted or committed without consent, including:

- Inappropriate touching
- Threats of sexual violence
- Vaginal, anal, or oral penetration
- Sexual intercourse that you say "No" to
- Rape or attempted rape
- Child molestation

Sexual assault may occur when you are prevented from saying "No" due to drugs or alcohol. Whether the perpetrator is a stranger or acquaintance does not matter, and being high does not lessen the perpetrator's responsibility for the crime. If you're not sure whether or not you were sexually assaulted, a counselor can discuss with you about the incident in a confidential setting.

What is consent?

Someone can't have sex with you unless they have your **CONSENT**. Consent is an "explicitly communicated, reversible, mutual agreement in which both people are capable

of making a decision.” Silence is not consent. “No” is not consent. Having sex with someone who reasonably believes that there is a threat of force is rape.

Is sexual assault common at City College of San Francisco?

Sexual assaults occur infrequently at City College of San Francisco, but everyone should be alert to their existence. In California, 9,598 forcible rapes were reported in 2004.¹ Only 28% of all sexual assaults, however, are ever reported to law enforcement.² 18% of all women have been raped at some time in their lives.³

Who commits sexual assault?

While anyone can be a rapist, most sexual assaults involve a man acting against a woman’s wishes. People who commit sexual assault are usually acquainted with their victims. Drugs or alcohol is often involved.

I’m a guy and I’m not a rapist. Why do I need to know about sexual assault?

Men are raped as well. Sexual assault affects us all. While the statistics for women are more significant than those for men, sexual assault is not strictly a women’s issue. Assuming you have women in your life – mother, sister, daughter, wife, friend, or grandmother – knowledge about sexual assault helps to make sure that it does not happen to a loved one, or that you do not unknowingly contribute to an atmosphere or situation in which the crime may occur (e.g. you are a member of a fraternity where people are given substances in parties). It is important that you recognize how sexual assault affects a person, and what you can do to help in his or her recovery process.

What can I do if I have been raped?

1. Go to a safe place. This is not the time to be alone. At the very least, you need emotional support. If you’re on the Ocean campus during operating hours, you can go to the Student Health Center (on the corner of Phelan and Judson), the office of the Dean and Student Affairs (Conlan 106), the SFCCD Police Department (Cloud 119)⁴, or any counseling or administrator’s office.

2. If there’s no one to go to, call someone, no matter how late it is. If you’re on campus:

- pick up a yellow emergency phone
- press #1 at any campus pay phone
- push the “CCSF Police” button at any CCSF desk telephone
- or call (415) 239-3200 with your cell phone

¹ Attorney General’s Crime in California Report, 2004

² Bureau Justice Statistics

³ U.S. Department of Justice

⁴ CCSF Campus Police is obligated to write a formal police report when you say that you have been raped. However, if you clearly state to the Police that you wish to get medical services from the San Francisco Trauma Recovery and Rape Treatment Center or Student Health Services, you will have more discretion as to when you want to file a formal report. Campus Police is available 24 hours a day and can assist you with getting to a treatment center, referring you to appropriate resources, and/or providing you with critical information, without making a formal report.

3. Get medical attention. As soon as possible, go to a hospital or the Student Health Center. You need to be examined and treated for injuries. Treatment for HIV prevention must begin within 72 hours, but the sooner the better. You may want to take steps to prevent pregnancy as soon as possible. At the very least, you need to get tested and maybe treated for various sexually transmitted infections

4. Report to the police. Evidence collected soon after the assault will be valuable if you decide to report (even if you don't report, you can still provide medical evidence to a hospital). If you haven't already, don't shower or clean yourself first. If you change, place your clothes in a paper bag. Going to the police doesn't commit you to filing charges. Getting assistance from the police does make filing charges easier at a later date though. When you contact the police, you can take someone with you. You can go the next day, but the sooner the better.

5. Consider whether or not you want to file charges. The process of filing charges can be a long and difficult one. You must decide for yourself based on your own circumstances. Before you decide, you can speak with the police about what will happen. If you need more support, organizations such as the Bay Area Women against Rape (BAWAR) are available to help you consider the pros and cons.

How do I seek medical attention and/or provide physical evidence?

Confidential and sensitive care, examination, and treatment are available 24 hours a day at San Francisco Rape Treatment Center at San Francisco General Hospital, the designated evidence collection site for sexual assaults that occur in San Francisco. An important part of the criminal investigation is the collection of physical evidence. A survivor should go to the hospital as soon as possible after the incident (without showering, or changing, although she (he) should bring a change of clothes, if possible).

Although the Student Health Center is not an evidence collection site, the center will make arrangements for you to go to San Francisco General Hospital, where the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) will collect and preserve specimens as evidence for court proceeding should you want to press charges in the future.

Do I have to report a sexual assault?

You have the right to decide. Only one out of ten people ever reports her (his) sexual assault. Survivors may feel ashamed or think that the pain will go away. They may not be sure if what happened was really sexual assault or may believe they are responsible in some way. The decision to report is totally up to you. For many survivors, having their number counted, at least, is an important step in regaining the power they lost. There are many options to explore; the most important thing is to choose the part that is most comfortable and productive towards your recovery.⁵

Can I seek support services without reporting?

⁵ Smith College sexual assault procedure

You have the right to decide. When you seek support services, you have the option of reporting. A survivor may also report an assault and use support services without pursuing criminal or college disciplinary action. Reporting an incident of sexual assault is a difficult yet important decision. Making a report may help with recovery and prevent the offender from assaulting someone else. You can choose to talk with a counselor or psychologist in a confidential setting. Project SURVIVE has trained professionals available to discuss the incident of sexual assault, help you decide which reporting options are best, and make referrals to the appropriate support services. It is okay to report without filing a complaint.

The Student Health Center has counselors available to provide support services in a confidential setting, and you will not be required to report or pursue action when you go to the center. If you do choose to report or pursue action, the counselor can assist you and help you stay informed through the process.

San Francisco General Hospital has Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) available to give you a physical exam, STD testing and prophylactics and to talk with you regarding any concerns you may have about what happened to your body. While valuable forensic evidence can be gathered in a physical exam, having an exam does not commit you to report or file any charges.

Which community resources are available if I'm sexually assaulted?

San Francisco Police Department, National Rape Crisis Hotline/Nationwide RAINN, San Francisco Trauma Recovery and Rape Treatment Center at San Francisco General Hospital, UCSF Center for Gender Equity Sexual Relationship Program, the S.A.F.E. Place at San Francisco State University, San Francisco Women Against Rape and Bay Area Women against Rape in Oakland.

How do I report a sexual assault?

Go to the Student Health Center (HC100), the Office of Dean of Student Affairs (E106), or SFCCD Police (C109). Or, call the San Francisco Trauma Recovery and Rape Treatment Center (415) 821-3222, the San Francisco Women Against Rape crisis line (415) 647-7273, or the Bay Area Women Against Rape crisis line (510) 845-7273.

What will happen if I seek help from Campus Police after a sexual assault?

A uniformed officer will arrive and insure your safety. The officer, with your permission, will escort you to the Student Health Center or San Francisco General Hospital depending on the nature of your injuries and the hours of the day. The responding officer will ask you for a description of the assailant(s) and other information to keep you safe and for a possible apprehension.

In conducting a thorough investigation, the San Francisco Police Department will assign an officer who has received specialized training in investigating sexual assaults. The officer will ask you many questions and go over the details of the crime. This is necessary because a survivor frequently recalls additional information and details during subsequent interviews. The procedure is not intended to embarrass or intimate the

survivor. The officer will suggest that a counselor and a medical staff be present to reduce the number of times a survivor retells the incident. The officer will let you decide whether you want the assistance of an advocate through the medical examination, evidence collection, and filing of a police report. Reporting an incident of sexual assault does not commit you to going to court and prosecuting. **Decisions about prosecution are made later.** Filing report preserves evidence and documents the incident to protect your rights.

What are my rights as a survivor of sexual assault?

You have the right to...

- Be treated with respect, dignity, courtesy and without prejudice
- Receive emotional and psychological support services and advocacy
- Receive private and confidential medical examination and treatment
- Be informed and ask questions regarding examinations and treatment given
- The strictest possible confidentiality in incident and medical records⁶
- Have the assistance of campus personnel in obtaining and securing evidence
- Receive current information on campus and community resources
- Be informed of the options available through the college and legal systems
- Be considered as credible as a person reporting any other crime
- Be given the choice to prosecute or not to prosecute
- Be asked only those questions which are relevant to law enforcement investigation or medical treatment
- Be informed of the status and outcome of any student or employee disciplinary proceedings or appeal
- Have feasible class schedule adjustments (without academic or financial penalty) as necessary to minimize the potential contact with the alleged assailant or those associated with the alleged assailant.

How does City College handle report of a sexual assault?

SFCCD Police Department, the Department of Student Affairs, Student Health Services, and the SF Police Department will collaborate to assist you. In the report, your anonymity and confidentiality will be honored to the extent permitted by California law and District policy.

How will confidentiality of my identity be maintained?

In the report of a sexual assault, extremely sensitive information is gathered. To maintain your confidentiality, California law allows you the option of reporting as “Jane Doe,” or “John Doe.” Your name and other identifying information will not be shared unless you give prior written permission or unless California or federal law authorizes someone to receive such information.

Is confidentiality absolute?

No. In instances where you or another person’s safety is in imminent danger, confidentiality is waived. For example, in addition to notifying San Francisco Police

⁶ See “Is confidentiality absolute?”

Department, City College may need to alert other employees or students about an issue in specific geographic area if the perpetrator has not been identified and/or remains at large. In such an instance, notification about the time, place and circumstances will be made, but you will not be identified. There are several other exceptions to confidentiality which the Dean of Student Affairs or the Clinical Director of Student Health will explain in more details.

What are the College Judiciary Procedures for sexual assault?

You have the option of filing a code of conduct complaint through the Office of Student Affairs. If you disclose the identity of the perpetrator(s) during a complaint, the staff may be obligated to proceed with judiciary procedures. Visit the office to ask questions about the procedures, but do not mention the name of the perpetrator until you are sure that you're prepared to move forward with the process. It is a good idea to bring an advocate with you to visit the Student Affairs Office. The resources listed below have advocates available.

College officials, including the deans, directors, and area coordinators, will notify SFCCD Police Department if they receive a report of a sexual assault. The report will not reveal your name without your permission. However, City College must comply with federal law in providing statistical information for the community.

What are other considerations if I decide to pursue disciplinary action?

Many survivors become frustrated because everyone is telling them what to do or, conversely, everyone seems unwilling to give an opinion. Only you can decide what to do. Taking action against your perpetrator is a step that takes a great deal of courage. Although the decision to proceed has to be made by you, this does not mean that you have to go through the decision-making process alone. In case of sexual assault there are numerous options for you as a survivor to explore if you decide to take disciplinary action. There are resources on campus and in the San Francisco Bay Area to assist survivors. It is important for you to investigate your alternatives carefully. When deciding which path to follow, consider the following: What outcome is desired? What do you as a survivor of a crime want to see happen next? While it is important to recognize the difficulty of presenting and proving these cases, it is also imperative that you examine all your options and rights.

What might I expect to experience after a sexual assault?

After a trauma such as sexual assault, your response may depend on many factors. These include whether or not the assault was particularly violent and caused physical injuries, whether or not you were acquainted with your assailant, and the level of support and care you received after the assault, including from police officers and hospital workers. Most likely, you would experience what is called an Acute Stress Response in the first several weeks following an incident. Symptoms may include a sense of dissociation, which involves a sense of emotional detachment or numbing, all of which make it difficult to experience pleasure in activities you once found enjoyable. You may have great difficulty in concentration, experiencing the world as rather "unreal" and not being able to complete your usual daily activities. You feel "thrown off balance". You also may

experience fear and helplessness—sometimes to an intense degree. Some individuals find themselves reliving the assault experience (called flashbacks), through recurrent dreams, images, memories, and illusions. You may find yourself avoiding situations which arouse memories of the attack, such as certain activities, places, and people. You may have trouble with your pattern of sleep, feeling easily aroused or startled and experiencing heightened irritability or restlessness. You may find yourself becoming hyper-aware of your surroundings and who and what is going on around you. It may feel hard to ask for help and support, even to the extent of asking family members for assistance. After four weeks, if these symptoms do not diminish, you may be considered to be suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. It is essential that you allow yourself to receive as much help and support as possible in the weeks following the assault, so that you can quickly put your fear behind you and begin to live and feel normally again.

What are effective ways of approaching rape recovery?

It is extremely important to allow yourself to take advantage of all the assistance offered by the Justice System, Women's associations, and groups, family members, friends, counseling groups, medical and psychological treatments, etc. Many excellent techniques for treating stress disorder have evolved in recent years. It is essential that you treat yourself with kindness and respect; blaming yourself and feeling guilty and shame are not appropriate responses when you are the victim of a crime. Do not let ANYONE make you feel that you have somehow done something wrong.

What should I do if a friend or acquaintance has been raped or sexually assaulted?

Your friend should report the crime. San Francisco has an excellent Rape Treatment Center at San Francisco General Hospital, which provides 24 hour crisis counseling and medical services for rape victims. Other resources include San Francisco Women Against Rape and Bay Area Women Against Rape in Oakland. The San Francisco Women's Centers, Women, INC, and the San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium. Your friend can also call the Victim Resource Line at 1 800 842-8467. The San Francisco Police Department has an excellent group of officers who are trained in dealing sensitively with victims of sexual assault. Your friend may also be eligible for a State-run agency called Victims' Assistance Program, which will assign a counselor, help with medical or psychological treatment, and provide funds for reimbursement for time lost from work caused by the assault.

What can I say to someone who has been sexually assaulted?

Sometimes simply listening with compassion is the best response. Ask the individual what she or he may need most from you. Determine ways in which she (he) may still feel physically unsafe. Encourage the person to take advantage of all support services available through the College, the City, and the State. They may find relief in participating in a support group. Encourage the survivor to report the crime. Reporting the incident will help them gain useful knowledge. Your encouragement could make a great deal of difference. Please urge the individual to be a "friend to herself (himself)" rather than "re-victimizing herself (himself)" with guilt and shame. If you detect that there is a sense of guilt or self-blame, please urge the victim/survivor to treat herself (himself) with compassion

What are rape drugs?

A rape drug is any substance that renders you incapable of stating “NO” or asserting yourself when unwanted sexual advances are made. Some of these substances include alcohol, marijuana, ecstasy, sleeping pills, but more commonly illegal drugs such as Rohypnal (roofies, rope, R2 etc), Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate (GHB) or Ketamine Hydrochloride. These substances, especially “roofies,” GHB, and Ketamine, cause temporary blackouts, especially when given in conjunction with alcohol. The victim is rendered unconscious, and may subsequently suffer from amnesia concerning the assault. These drugs are dangerous, and it is a felony to give them to an unaware victim.

What are suggested rape prevention strategies?

Know your new acquaintance or date. Be cautious with respect to alcohol. Remember that when you say “No,” it means just that – NO. It is a crime to have sex without your consent, whether or not you have said “No.” Unwanted sex is rape. Let your friends and family know where you will be when you go on date. Avoid areas or situations in which it may be difficult or impossible for you to escape or defend yourself. Take a class which teaches self-defense methods. Reported incidents are included in an annual report concerning crime reporting-related matters, as required by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistic Acts.

What are the red flag behaviors of a perpetrator of a sexual assault?

Be aware of stereotypical behaviors that may be warning signs. Watch out for people who:

- Don’t listen to you, ignore what you say, talk over you or pretend not to hear you
- Ignore your personal space boundaries
- Push you to drink beyond your tolerance level or wait to make a sexual advance until you are extremely intoxicated
- Use hostile, possessive, or derogatory language about you
- Do what they want regardless of what you want
- Try to make you feel guilty, or accuse you of being “uptight” if you resist their sexual overtures
- Act excessively jealous or possessive
- Have wrong or unrealistic ideas about women
- Drink heavily