



DATE ACQUAINTANCE RAPE

WHAT IS DATE AND ACQUAINTANCE RAPE?

Acquaintance rape is forced sexual intercourse with someone the victim knows. While some students may not think of forced sexual relations as rape, the action nevertheless is considered to be. Rape is a serious crime—a felony. And whenever a man uses force to have sex, he is committing a crime called rape, even if he knows the woman, and even if he has had sex with her before.

WHAT CAN COLLEGE MEN DO ABOUT DATE RAPE?

- Respect the rights of women as you would your own rights. You don't have the right to pressure or force a woman for sex or even to expect sex in any situation. Just because you've previously had sex with a woman does not give you the right to have sex with her again. If the woman changes her mind, you must respect her wishes.
- Be explicit in your intentions and recognize that a woman has the right to say "no."
- If you are receiving both "yes" and "no" messages from your date, state your confusion, cease your action and discuss your concerns.
- Men can help to eliminate the stereotypical attitude that women are sex objects and that men have the right to take whatever they please, especially in a dating situation. If you encounter such attitudes among friends, confront them. Recognized and help your friends recognize that these attitudes are demeaning.
- Don't take advantage of women unable to give consent regarding sexual activity because of alcohol or any condition, and don't let other men do so either. Obviously, if a woman is intoxicated and passed out, she cannot give her consent regarding sexual activity.

WHAT CAN COLLEGE MEN DO ABOUT DATE RAPE?

- Know that you have the right to set sexual limits. It is your body and nobody else has the right to force you to do something you don't want to do. Learn to feel comfortable with this right. If you accept this right, it will be easy for you to follow the next suggestion.
- Make your expectations clear in a forceful manner for example, "**Take your hands off me... don't touch me... if you don't respect my wishes I'm leaving!**" Be assertive. A man may interpret passivity as permission. Thus when someone does something to you that you don't like and you ignore it, he may continue. Learn to act immediately with responses that communicate clearly and directly that you will not accept his pressure. Remember it is important to be direct and firm with someone who is sexually pressuring you, even if it hurts his feelings and particularly if he is not paying attention to your feelings.
- If you convey mixed messages to your date, you leave yourself vulnerable to misunderstandings about your wishes. When your personal expectations about physical intimacy are confused, say so, cease your action, and discuss your concerns.

REPORT YOUR CONCERNS

If you are concerned about the behavior displayed by a member of the VUL community, don't keep quiet. There are several ways to inform us of individuals and situations of concern. Submit your concerns through Vul.edu. For anonymous crime reporting go to the campus security section of Vul.edu and click on "report a crime." To report an individual of concern, click VULBIT concerns on the campus security page.

The important thing is not to keep quiet. You could be saving your life or someone else's.

The information that follows is an expression of Virginia University of Lynchburg's concern about a problem with serious implications for a safe and secure academic environment. This information is presented in a candid and direct manner in the hopes that it will stimulate a discussion about the way that men and women treat each other. You are asked to read this material carefully and act in a responsible manner to ensure your safety and the safety of other members of our university community.

THE PROBLEM:

- FBI statistics indicate more than 89,000 rapes were committed in 2008 in the United States.
- In 2016 there were 33 rapes reported in Lynchburg.
- Over 73% of reported rapes are perpetrated by dates or acquaintances.
- The problem may be even worse than presented here. It has been estimated that 60% of rapes are never reported.
- Unfortunately, VUL is not immune to this problem. To date, VUL has not had a reported case of rape...**don't be the first.**

Remember that sexual aggression does happen. And it can happen to you. If it does, know that there are people on this campus whose business it is to provide help and support. Listed are places you can go for help on this campus. Please use them. They are there for you. SAY "NO" WHEN YOU MEAN "NO."

DATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Dating under the influence of drugs or alcohol- as is driving- is very dangerous. The use of alcohol and drugs can and does compromise your ability to make responsible decisions and is often related to incidents of acquaintance rape.

ROHYPNOL AND GHB

Rohypnol or "roofies" and GHB are powerful fast acting sedatives that are showing up at parties, clubs and social events. Nicknamed "date rape drugs", there are reports of people "dosing" other people without their knowledge by dropping Rohypnol or pouring GHB into their drinks. Rohypnol and GHB can cause drowsiness, confusion, impaired judgement, disinhibition, and reduced levels of consciousness. A person "dosed" may look and act like someone who is drunk. Their speech may be slurred and may have difficulty walking.

One of the most disturbing effects of Rohypnol and GHB is that they can produce complete or partial loss of memory of the events that took place after ingestion. When Rohypnol and GHB are mixed with alcohol or other drugs, the consequences may be life threatening. The combination may produce extremely low blood pressure, respiratory depression, coma, or even death.

WHAT IF IT HAPPENS TO YOU?

- Get to a safe place.
- Get help immediately.
- Call the police.
- Go to a hospital emergency department as soon as possible for an examination and evidence collection.
- If you suspect you may have been drugged, request that the hospital take a urine sample for drug toxicology testing by the police department's crime lab.
- Do not shower, bathe, douche or throw away clothing you were wearing during the incident. If possible save any other materials that might provide evidence, such as the glass that held your drink.
- Call a rape crisis center for information and support.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK OUT VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY OF
LYNCHBURG'S WEBSITE BELOW.**

<https://www.vul.edu>

or call

434.528.5276