

Penn Violence Prevention

RESOURCE GUIDE

Policies, Procedures, and Resources



THIS GUIDE IS

intended to provide information about relationship violence, stalking, sexual harassment, and sexual violence, and the resources available to students. It also gives an overview of the reporting options for students who experience interpersonal violence.

Relationship violence, stalking, sexual harassment, and sexual violence in any form, including sexual assault and rape, are prohibited by University policy. The definitions in this guide are adapted from the Penn Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, and Stalking Policy and the Sexual Harassment Policy. These policies can be found on the Penn Violence Prevention website at <https://pvp.vpul.upenn.edu>.

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RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE,

also commonly known as dating violence or domestic violence, is defined as an act or a pattern of abuse committed by a person involved in a social, sexual or romantic relationship, past or present, with the victim. Relationship violence can encompass a broad range of behaviors that may include physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence and economic violence.

EXAMPLES OF ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR INCLUDE:

Using threats or insults

Hitting, pushing, strangling

Stealing money

Isolating from family & friends

Restricting access to birth control

NO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE NEEDS TO OCCUR IN ORDER FOR A RELATIONSHIP TO BE ABUSIVE.

HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE OFTEN ESCALATE TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN TIME.

WOMEN AGED **16-24** EXPERIENCE THE HIGHEST RATE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

STALKING

means engaging in a course of conduct directed at specific person(s) that would cause a reasonable person to (a) fear for his or her safety or the safety of others, or (b) suffer substantial emotional distress.

People are most often stalked by someone they know such as an acquaintance or an ex-partner, but you can also be stalked by a stranger. Stalking behavior is often mistaken for unwanted romantic attention and may not be taken seriously. However, if not interrupted, stalking can cause a victim to live in fear and alter their routine.

18-24

YEAR OLDS EXPERIENCE
THE HIGHEST RATES OF STALKING

EXAMPLES OF STALKING BEHAVIOR:

- FOLLOWING OR SPYING
• ON SOMEONE
 - REPEATEDLY SENDING
• UNWANTED E-MAILS, LETTERS,
• FACEBOOK MESSAGES, TEXT
• MESSAGES, ETC
 - THREATENING SOMEONE OR
• THEIR FRIENDS & FAMILY
 - LEAVING UNWANTED GIFTS
• OR ITEMS
 - DESTROYING SOMEONE'S
• PROPERTY
-

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

For the purposes of University policy, the term “sexual harassment” refers to any unwanted conduct that is based on an individual’s sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression and that:

- Conditions an educational or employment benefit on participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- A reasonable person would determine is so severe, pervasive, and/or objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to an educational or employment program or activity.

Sexual harassment can be exhibited using **verbal, non-verbal behaviors and gestures, and physical contact.**

ACCORDING TO
A NATIONAL SURVEY,

47%

**OF UNDERGRADUATE
AND GRADUATE
STUDENTS
INDICATED
EXPERIENCING
SEXUAL
HARASSMENT**

EXAMPLES OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT MAY INCLUDE:

- SEEKING SEXUAL FAVORS IN RETURN FOR
- THE PROMISE OF A FAVORABLE GRADE
- CONTINUOUS AND PERSISTENT
- SEXUAL SLURS
- MAKING OFFENSIVE COMMENTS ABOUT
- SOMEONE’S SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR
- GENDER IDENTITY
- TEXTING SEXUAL IMAGES OR MESSAGES

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

90%



OF COLLEGE SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVIVORS
KNOW THEIR ATTACKER

includes a range of behaviors in which an act of a sexual nature is taken against another person without the individual's consent or when the individual is unable to consent. Sexual assault (including but not limited to rape) is defined as someone having committed any of the following acts:

- Any physical sexual contact that involves the use or threat of force or violence or any other form of coercion or intimidation;
- Any physical sexual contact with a person who is unable to consent due to incapacity or impairment, mental or physical. "Incapacity" or "impairment" includes but is not limited to being under the influence of alcohol or drugs or being too young to consent.

WHAT IS CONSENT?

an affirmative decision to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity

.....
given by clear words or actions

.....
cannot be given by a person who because of youth, disability, intoxication or other condition is unable to lawfully give his or her consent

consent to one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to other forms of sexual activity

.....
may not be inferred from silence, passivity, or lack of resistance alone

.....
the existence of a current or previous relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent

Below is a brief outline of the recommended steps for Penn students to take immediately after experiencing sexual or relationship violence:

1

If possible, **FIND A SAFE PLACE** away from the perpetrator or from any other potential danger.

2

CONTACT THE PENN POLICE AT 215.573.3333.

The Penn Police are specially trained to respond to incidents of interpersonal violence and will connect students with an advocate from Special Services. These advocates will discuss medical and reporting options such as receiving a Protection From Abuse Order and/or receiving a medical exam.

3

SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION as soon as possible.

The Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center (PSARC) is designated to provide forensic rape examinations to victims of sexual assault. It is recommended that students who wish to pursue legal action, or may want to pursue legal action in the future, receive this examination, which includes a collection of evidence. During this examination victims can receive treatment for injuries and sexually transmitted infections as well as emergency contraception. An advocate from Special Services can provide transportation and accompaniment to PSARC.

4

SPEAK WITH A RESOURCE, some of which are listed on page 6. These resources offer a range of services such as counseling, advocacy, safety planning, assistance with making a report, and housing and academic support.

CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT RESOURCES

There are many resource offices available at Penn to assist members of the Penn community who have experienced sexual violence, sexual harassment, relationship violence or stalking. The following are resource offices that are confidential, which means that the information shared with them generally will be held in confidence, consistent with the University's obligation to address these complaints, unless the person sharing the information gives their consent to the disclosure of that information. Confidential resources are not obligated to share identifying information with the Title IX Coordinator.

**Additional confidential resources are available.
Visit <https://pvp.vpul.upenn.edu> for a full list.**

Special Services, Division of Public Safety (DPS) 4040 Chestnut St, 215.898.6600

Special Services offers comprehensive support for any member of the Penn community who has experienced interpersonal violence. Special Services advocates can discuss reporting options, provide hospital and court accompaniment, and assist with implementing any necessary safety measures. They can also connect victim/survivors to resources across campus for academic, community, social, emotional and psychological support.

Penn Women's Center (PWC) 3643 Locust Walk, 215.898.8611

The Penn Women's Center provides education, advocacy, and crisis counseling, and co-facilitates a support group for survivors. PWC staff can assist victims in navigating the different resources at both Penn and in the broader community. PWC supports all students regardless of gender identity.

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) 3624 Market St, 215.898.7021

CAPS offers a range of services including consultation, group and individual counseling, and medication reviews. CAPS also has the Sexual Trauma Treatment Outreach and Prevention (ST-TOP) Team, a group of clinicians dedicated to providing confidential care, support, and advocacy to students who have experienced interpersonal violence.

Student Health Service (SHS) 3535 Market St, Suite 100, 215.746.3535

The Student Health Service (SHS) can provide evaluation and treatment to victims of all forms of interpersonal violence. SHS providers can perform examinations, provide testing and treatment of sexually transmissible infections, provide emergency contraception, and arrange for referrals. Office visits are covered in full by the Clinical Fee and the Penn Student Insurance Plan (PSIP). Charges for lab tests related to a sexual assault are waived.

REPORTING OPTIONS

A student who would like to report an incident of sexual violence, relationship violence or stalking has the right to pursue criminal charges through local law enforcement and/or to make an internal complaint through the University of Pennsylvania. Students may choose to pursue both these options, one of them, or neither.

IT'S HELPFUL TO KNOW THAT

An internal University investigation and a criminal investigation are separate processes.

Potential consequences for a person found guilty in the criminal system include prison and placement on the sex offender registry.

Potential consequences for a Penn student found responsible through an internal disciplinary process include probation, suspension, and expulsion from the University.

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH CRIMINAL REPORTS OR PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ORDERS



SPECIAL SERVICES, DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY

TO FILE INTERNAL REPORTS AGAINST STUDENTS, FACULTY, OR STAFF



AVP/TITLE IX OFFICER

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE AVP/TITLE IX OFFICER:
Email: titleixofficer@upenn.edu Website: titleixoffice.upenn.edu

RESOURCES IN THE PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY

Mazzoni Health Center **215.985.3300**

Provides medical care, counseling, and case management services for the LGBT community.
www.mazzonicenter.org

Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center (PSARC) **215.685.3251**

Provides forensic medical exams and treatment for sexual assault. You are not required to make an official report but the police will still need to escort you to the center for the exam.

Menergy **215 242 2235**

Counseling and re-education program for people who are physically or emotionally abusive to their partners.
www.menergy.org

Women Against Abuse Legal Center **215 686 7082**

Provides legal assistance and representation for victims/survivors of domestic violence.
www.womenagainstabuse.org

Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline **866 723 3041**

Provides 24-hour crisis response. Is a collaboration between Philadelphia's Domestic violence agencies and can connect callers with shelter access, counseling services, etc.

WOAR Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Violence **215 985 3333**

Provides crisis counseling, court and hospital accompaniments, as well as long term counseling and support groups for victims/survivors of sexual assault.
www.woar.org

Penn Violence Prevention (PVP) engages the Penn community in the prevention of sexual violence, relationship violence, and stalking on campus. We foster collaborative relationships across campus to ensure a survivor-centered, multi-faceted approach to support services and primary prevention.

GET EDUCATED

Attend trainings such as the Penn Anti-Violence Educators (PAVE) workshop or Supporting Survivors. Request a presentation for your group or organization on the PVP website. Follow @penn_pvp or the University Life calendar for upcoming engagements and events.

GET INVOLVED

Join a student group like PAVE, ASAP, or V-Day and engage your peers. Consult with PVP staff about how to engage your organization.

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