

# Important Information about Sexual Assault, Gender-Based Violence, Domestic or Dating Violence, and Stalking

The University does not tolerate Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, or harm or misconduct due to your sex or gender. This includes domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT



### What is sexual assault?

*A sexual assault is any actual or attempted non-consensual physical sexual act including, but not limited to, intercourse, penetration using a body part or object, fondling, groping or sexual contact. Sexual assault includes but is not limited to non-consensual sexual intercourse.*

*Sexual assault occurs where:*

- There is no affirmative, conscious and voluntary consent, or consent is not freely given;
- Physical force, threats, coercion or intimidation is used to overpower or control another, or the person assaulted fears that he or she, or another person, will be injured or otherwise harmed if he or she does not submit; or
- There is no ability to give or withhold consent due to incapacitation, whether due to the influence of alcohol or other drugs, age or mental incapacity, or unconsciousness.

## What to Do If...

### ...you have been the victim of a sexual assault?

- **Go to a safe location.**
- **Get medical care as soon as possible.** If you wish to get help from a rape treatment center, contact the Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center or the USC Violence Intervention Program. More information about both is centers is at [sarc.usc.edu](http://sarc.usc.edu)
- **Preserve all physical evidence of the assault, even if you are unsure whether you want to report the crime.** Do not shower, bathe, douche, eat, drink, wash your hands or brush your teeth until after you have had a medical examination. Save all clothing that you were wearing at the time of the assault and bring them and any other potential evidence to the medical exam. Place each item of clothing in a separate paper bag. Do not use plastic bags. Do not clean or disturb the area of your body where the assault occurred. A forensic examination is one way to preserve evidence, but it is not the only way.
- **Preserving Other Evidence:** You can easily take some important steps to preserve evidence by saving all text messages, emails, social media postings (taking screenshots can be helpful) or anything

else that might relate to the assault, or that might be helpful later in reconstructing a timeline of events. Write down the names of people who might have seen you immediately before or after, as it's easy to forget names or locations. Even if you do not want to participate in the investigative process now, you might later change your mind, so it's helpful to preserve as much information as possible.

- **Call a trusted friend, family member or someone else who can provide emotional support.** The Center for Work and Family Life can provide confidential support and information, 24/7. (213) 821-0800.
- **Reporting:** Any victim of a sexual assault is encouraged to make a report to the Department of Public Safety and to local law enforcement, but is not required to do so. Note that any information given to DPS will be shared with LAPD if DPS determines that there is evidence of criminal conduct.
- **Contact the Title IX Coordinator (213.740.5086) in the Office of Equity and Diversity** to get additional information about options and next steps.

### ... someone tells you about a sexual assault?

- **Listen to what he/she/zed tells you.** Sometimes assault victims need to talk about the attack. Don't interrogate.
- **Don't blame** - this is not the time to question their decisions.
- Allow your friend or the student making the disclosure the freedom to choose when, where and how to talk about her or his experience.
- **Be sensitive.** Understand that she or he is in distress, and will be dealing with a wide array of strong, and sometimes overwhelming, feelings.
- **Respect your friend's confidentiality and don't share information about his or her experience with other friends.**
- **Be patient.** Recovery from sexual assault can be slow. Your friend sets the pace.
- **Realize that you may also have strong feelings about the trauma.** If needed, seek support for yourself. The USC Center for Work and Family Life offers one-on-one counseling and discussion groups for friends.
- **Remember that whatever your friend did to survive an attack was exactly what he or she needed to do.** Your friend did not cause the attack and is not at fault.

If the victim of a sexual assault is a student, you may also wish to walk him or her over to the Center for Women and Men, or Student Counseling Center, in Engemann Student Health Center, or help the student to call them. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. It's never too late to seek emotional support.

## DOMESTIC / INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Domestic violence or dating violence means abuse committed against a person who is a spouse or former spouse, a cohabitant or former cohabitant, a person with whom he or she has a child, or with whom he or she has, or had, a dating or engagement relationship.

Intimate partner violence means violence by a person who is or has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the victim.

Domestic violence, or dating or intimate partner violence, can happen to anyone. It affects people of all genders, races, and socioeconomic levels.

**If you or a friend or colleague is a victim of domestic violence, know that help is available at the Center for Women and Men.**

Domestic Violence, or intimate partner violence is also a crime in California. You may also wish to contact local law enforcement.

Forms of domestic violence may include Physical, Sexual, Psychological, Emotional, or Economic harm.

## STALKING

Stalking is experienced by women and men of all races, ethnicities, religions, ages, abilities and sexual orientations. It can affect every aspect of a victim's life. It often begins with phone calls, emails, text messages or letters and may escalate to include physical violence.



### What is stalking?

*Stalking is a non-consensual course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress.*

**"Course of conduct"** means behavior composed of two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, engages in any of the following: **monitoring, following, observing, threatening, surveilling, or communicating to or about a person, or interfering with a person's property.**

Stalking is also a crime in California. You may also wish to contact local law enforcement.

## What to Do If...

### ...you are being, or have been, stalked?

- *If you feel you are in danger, immediately call the USC Department of Public Safety (DPS) at (213) 740-4321.* If you are off campus, contact local law enforcement.
- **Contact support services** such as the USC Center for Work and Family Life, at 213-821-0800. Staff there can help develop a safety plan, provide advice on seeking a temporary restraining order or other no-contact orders, and provide counseling.
- **Try to retain documentation** of the stalking incidents such as messages, texts, and/or other items.
- **Keep a log of the dates and ways** that the other person contacted you or attempted to contact you.

### Reminders

If you or someone you know here at USC has been the victim of sexual or gender-based violence, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, or intimate partner violence – here are a few key points to remember:

1. Get to a **safe location**, and get **medical care**
2. You are encouraged to **make a report to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and/or local law enforcement**, but no one is required to do so. Also, information shared with DPS about possible violent crimes will be forwarded to the Los Angeles Police Department, but you have a right to ask that your name be withheld.
3. To get help accessing resources, or to have **CONFIDENTIAL** conversations, the following are confidential resources:
  - >> Center for Women and Men or Student Counseling Center
  - >> *Off-campus:* Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center, or USC Violence Intervention Program

## On-Campus Resources

### Confidential

#### USC Center for Women and Men

Engemann Student Health Center, Suite 356

24-hour crisis counseling available by telephone: (213) 740-4900

#### USC Engemann Student Health Center

Student Counseling Services: (213) 740-7711

Medical services, pregnancy testing, and emergency contraception

### Non-Confidential

#### USC Department of Public Safety (DPS)

University Park Campus

Emergency: (213) 740-4321 / Non-Emergency: (213) 740-6000

Health Sciences Campus

Emergency: (323) 442-1000 / Non-Emergency (323) 442-1200

#### Office of the Title IX Coordinator

3720 S. Flower Street, 2nd Floor, (213)740-5086

titleix@usc.edu

## Off-Campus Resources

#### Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center

24-hour help: (310) 319-4000.

Nationally recognized for its comprehensive, free treatment for sexual assault victims, including 24-hour emergency medical care.

#### Sex Assault Center, VIP Urgent Care at LAC+USC Medical Center

2010 Zonal Avenue, Los Angeles (Health Sciences Campus)

24-hour help: (323) 226-3961

Provides comprehensive, free treatment for sexual assault victims under the direction of the nationally-renown Dr. Astrid Heger.

If you see that a member of our community is becoming too aggressive, or is vulnerable to a sexual assault, you can help.

## Top 10 Bystander Tips

- 1. Stay safe** – only intervene if it feels safe to do so
- 2. Watch out for your friends who might be in an unsafe situation.**
- 3. Watch out for your friends who are making bad choices**, like flirting with someone who's too drunk.
- 4.** If you aren't comfortable intervening, **ask someone else for help**. Sometimes a group intervention is most effective. Or their friends might help, if you don't know the person too well.
- 5. Say something to distract:** *Do you have the time? Do you know if there are other parties near here? Hey, can I talk to you? This party is dead, don't you think – let's go somewhere else.*
- 6.** If you say something, remember – **you do not have to be aggressive, and do not use violence.**
- 7. You can intervene:** *"Sorry, she's with me," or "I promised to get him home before midnight so, sorry, he has to go now."*
- 8. Disapprove:** *"I wouldn't do that if I were you"*
- 9.** If you don't want to say anything, **can you simply let your presence be helpful?**
- 10. Call for help** – DPS: (213) 740-4321 / Police: 911