



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Tips to Prevent Sexual Violence

To eliminate sexual violence in our community we need to change our attitudes about these crimes and be clear about our own responsibility to ensure that we are engaging in consensual sexual activity with our partners. The tips below apply to everyone at FSU:

Step up!

- ✓ Don't blame victims of sexual violence. It is never a victim's fault that another person decided to commit a crime.
- ✓ Don't try to get someone drunk or high enough to agree to sex with you. If your partner's judgment is significantly impaired by drug or alcohol use, their consent to sex is not valid (no matter what they say). On the flip side, do not accept drinks or drugs from people you do not know.

Talk about it!

- ✓ Don't make any assumptions about sex. Define your limits and make your intentions known to your sexual partners.
- ✓ You don't have a "right" to sexual activity with anyone. If you are interested in proceeding sexually, seek permission and **do not proceed** without an explicit "yes" from your partner.
- ✓ Respect boundaries set by your sexual partners. Consent to one type of sexual activity does not imply consent to any other types of sexual activity.
- ✓ Remember that past sexual activity with someone does not automatically give you permission for future sexual interactions with that person.
- ✓ Consent to sex can be withdrawn at any time, including in the middle of a sexual encounter. Good communication is key!

Pay Attention!

- ✓ If your partner becomes verbally or physically unresponsive, "frozen," passes-out, or falls asleep during sex, **STOP** sexual activity immediately. You need conscious and willing consent to sex to proceed.
- ✓ Take care of yourself. Do not depend on others to look out for you, but do look out for your friends.
- ✓ Be aware that excessive alcohol consumption is often associated with sexual violence. Remember that alcohol and drug use are **not** a green light for sex and never excuse engaging in non-consensual sex with another person.
- ✓ Be aware of your surroundings and trust your instincts about dangerous situations. Avoid being alone or isolated with someone you do not trust.
- ✓ Leave with trusted friends. On the other hand, know that the fact that someone agrees to "go to your place" is **not** the same thing as consenting to any type of sexual activity with you.

Speak up!

- ✓ You have an obligation to your fellow Seminoles to intervene if you see a situation that you feel may lead to sexual victimization. Don't let anyone "get away" with sexual assault.
- ✓ If someone is being sexually aggressive, possessive, or threatening, get help. Alert your friends, the authorities of the establishment, or the police (call 911).
- ✓ Most rapes are acquaintance rape. Acquaintance rapes frequently involve men and women who conform to traditional, rigid gender roles. Questioning and challenging assumptions about gender may be helpful in the prevention of sexual misconduct.
- ✓ Boycott media and challenge assumptions that promote sexual violence.