

Terms Associated with Sexual Violence

Abuse (emotional/physical/psychological/sexual):

The various forms of harm that often occur in acts of interpersonal violence.

Acquaintance/Non-Stranger Rape: Non-consensual sexual penetration between persons who know one another. This group includes classmates, romantic partners, co-workers, teammates, friends, neighbors, work colleagues and relatives. The incident may involve threats, intimidation, coercion, physical force and/or substances to create memory loss.

Alcohol-Facilitated Sexual Assault: A nonconsensual sexual act that occurs under the influence of alcohol. Either the victim or the perpetrator, or both, may have voluntarily or involuntarily ingested alcohol. At times, intoxication of the victim is encouraged by the perpetrator to facilitate the sexual assault. Use of alcohol to facilitate a sexual assault enhances the chance that the victim will lose memory and be unable to give complete details of the event when a report is made. Sex between persons who are legally intoxicated may be considered a sexual assault.

While drinking alcohol is a risk factor for perpetration, a sexual assault that incurs under these conditions is never the fault of the victim.

Assault and battery: The intentional striking/hitting of a person causing injury. Aggravated assault involves serious bodily injury.

Bias Crime/Hate Crime: When a crime is committed with the intent of harming a person due to his or her specific religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, national origin or disability. Hate crimes must be reported under the Clery Act by specific category of prejudice.

Bullying: A term to describe the infliction of emotional and/or physical, or sexual, harm to another person, usually during a span of time, with the intent to overpower the individual. Often, emotional distress and/or depression occurs as a result of intense bullying over a period of time. Bullying may be illegal in

some states; these acts may be considered illegal even if there is no specific law because the elements of the acts fit other crimes.

Cyber-bullying: A term that includes bullying through the use of the internet or other technologies. Examples include the sending of pornographic pictures via internet or cell phone, as well as sending veiled threats or other messages that are meant to cause harm to the receiver.

Date Rape: An act of nonconsensual sexual penetration that occurs during an event that would be termed a date, which includes a broad range of social interactions. Date rape can occur whether there has been consensual sex on previous dates between the two persons. The term non-stranger rape is the preferred term.

Dating Violence: An act of violence that is committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; when injury or harm is inflicted on one partner during the course of a dating relationship that does not involve living together. This violence may or may not begin as verbal and emotional abuse and escalate to physical and/or sexual abuse. It is often unreported to authorities due to shame and/or confusion, and threats made by the abusive partner.

Domestic Violence: Violence occurring within a relationship in which the persons involved are or have been married, are or were co-habiting partners but are not married, and/or have a child in common. A pattern of behavior in which one person attempts to control or hurt another through actions or threats that can include physical, sexual, verbal or psychological abuse. People of all ages, income levels, faiths, sexual orientations, genders and education levels can experience domestic violence. In most states, this form of abuse requires the presence of specific elements.

Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault: A nonconsensual sexual act that occurs under the influence of prescription, over-the-counter or illegal drugs. Either the victim or the perpetrator, or both, may have voluntarily or involuntarily ingested drugs and alcohol. Well-known drugs used for this purpose include Rohypnol, GHB, ketamine and, notably, alcohol. The use of such drugs enhances the chance the victim will lose memory of the event and not be able to make a complete report of the incident.

The following definitions are of terms commonly used to refer to acts of sexual assault or interpersonal violence. These are current, common-usage definitions. When there is federal law that provides a definition, it is so noted.

Forcible Sex Offenses: Acts that include forced penile-vaginal intercourse, forced oral or anal sodomy, forced digital or inanimate penetration of a sexual orifice (these are now all known as rape due to a recent FBI re-definition), sexual battery (molestation) and indecent exposure, among others, as well as attempts to perpetrate any of the above.

Gender-Based Violence: Violence that is directed against a person on the basis of gender. It constitutes a breach of the fundamental right to life, liberty, security, dignity, equality between women and men, non-discrimination and physical and mental integrity.

Harassment: An act in which one uses power and privilege to denigrate another individual with the intent to subdue actions and/or cause enough duress to lower the target's self-esteem.

Hate Crime: A legal term used in both federal and state law to define a crime motivated by racial, sexual or other prejudice, typically one involving violence. See Bias Crime.

Hazing: Any action taken or any situation created intentionally that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule, and risks emotional and/or physical harm to members of a group or team, whether new or not, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. A hallmark of hazing is the power differential between those in a group and those who want to join a group, or between senior and junior members of a group. Hazing can be noncriminal, but usually violates the rules of an institution, athletics department or sorority or fraternity organization.

Inappropriate, Unwelcome Touch: Touching a person who has not given permission to do so.

Interpersonal Violence: Violence that is predominantly caused due to the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

Intimate Partner Violence: Violence between two persons who are or were intimately involved, or have children together, regardless of their relationship status and whether they live/lived together. This term is sometimes used interchangeably with dating violence or domestic violence.

Murder/Attempted Murder/Manslaughter: The killing of another person, whether premeditated.

Non-Consensual Sexual Acts: See Sexual Assault.

Non-Forcible Sex Offenses: Sex acts that include incest and statutory rape, as defined in the Clery Act.

Rape: The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus by any body part or object, or the oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. Individuals of any gender can be victims of rape.

Relationship Violence: A general term often used to include either domestic violence or dating violence.

Sexual Assault: A general term used to include both forcible and nonforcible sex offenses.

Sexual Harassment: Harassing conduct that is sexual in nature, is unwelcome and denies or limits a student's ability to participate in, or benefit from, a school's education program. Such behavior can range from creating a hostile environment to rape or other sexual assault, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education.

Sexual Misconduct: An umbrella term currently used by institutions of higher education to include sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

Sexual Violence: A general term used to include both forcible and nonforcible sex offenses. See Sexual Assault.

Stalking: Engaging in a 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 distress. A course of conduct is two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly or through third parties by any action or method, follows, monitors, threatens, or otherwise interferes with, the target/victim or with a person's property. These actions also can be carried out through social media.