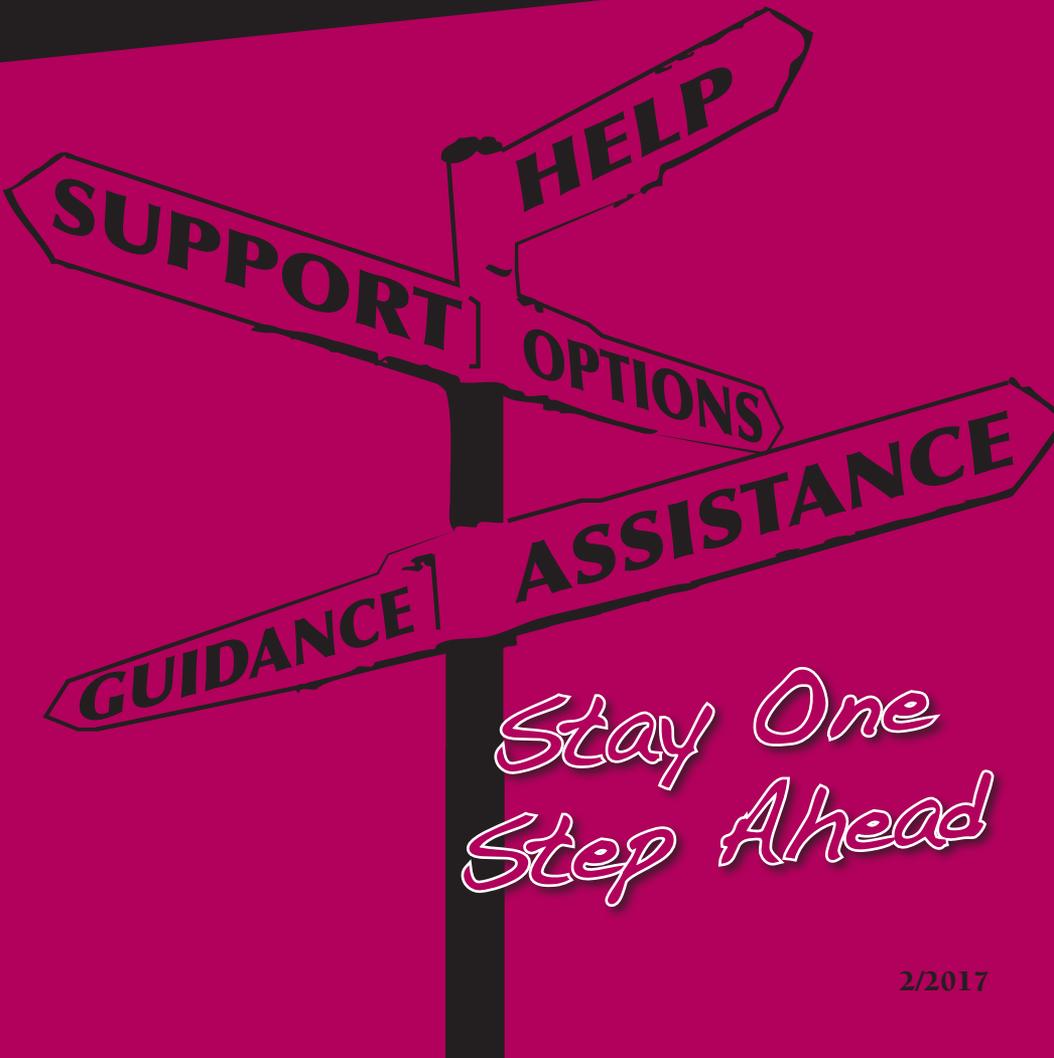


# Sexual Assault Awareness



*Stay One  
Step Ahead*

SUNY Canton has a responsibility to tell you about the risks of sexual assault. You have a responsibility to learn about sexual assault and date rape so you can protect yourself. Read this booklet carefully to learn what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of any unwanted sexual contact.

SUNY Canton is a relatively safe campus and has a very low incidence of sexual assault. Whenever an incident happens, it is taken very seriously. Continuous effort is made to improve our safety procedures and preventive measures.

Each member of this community plays a role in maintaining a safe environment for all. Differences in language, culture, motives, strengths, assertiveness, and goals are just a few of the variables affecting how people interact. On the road to making new friends, good friends, and finding life-long partners, students sometimes find themselves in precarious, unpleasant and threatening situations.

## What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is defined as forced, manipulated, or coerced sexual acts, which include, but are not limited to, unwanted touching of an intimate part of another person such as a sexual organ, buttocks, breast, sodomy, oral copulation, and rape by a foreign object.

Forcible Rape: forcing or coercing someone to have vaginal, penile, oral, or anal penetration/sexual intercourse. Rape may involve the use or threat of force, violence, or immediate and unlawful bodily injury. The perpetrator

does not need to use a weapon or produce physical harm; the threat of force, expressed or implied, is sufficient to categorize the act as rape. Rape also occurs when the victim is incapable of giving legal consent because the victim is less than 17 years of age, mentally incapacitated; physically helpless (including drug or alcohol intoxication); mentally incompetent, or asleep.

Acquaintance Rape/Date Rape is sexual intercourse undertaken by a friend, date, or acquaintance without consent. Acquaintance rape includes sexual intercourse that occurs through force, as a result of threat[s], physical restraint or physical violence, or without consent.

Sexual consent means that both parties agree to have sexual intercourse/contact at the time of the event. There are some limitations as to whether or not someone can give consent. First, a person must be at the age of consent in order to agree to sexual activities. This age may vary from state to state. In New York State the age of consent is 17. Drugs and alcohol can affect people's ability to make decisions, including whether or not they want to be sexual with someone else. This means that if someone is significantly intoxicated by drugs or alcohol, they cannot give consent. Consent has to be given every time there is sexual activity even if the partners have had sex numerous times before. If not, then you could be facing legal ramifications. New York State Penal Law, Article 130 describes sex acts between adults and minors under the age of 17 as being illegal and as a criminal offense. The suspect/defendant could receive a criminal

record, be required to register as a sex offender and/or go to jail or prison. Statutory sexual offenses apply to heterosexual, homosexual and transgender relationships.

## It Can Happen To Anyone!

Men and women can be victims of sexual assault. When an assailant's objective is power over another person, sexual desire is a less important factor — or may not be a factor at all. However, men may hesitate to report a sexual assault for fear of not being believed, and/or being falsely implicated in homosexual activity. Male sexual assault victims can be assured of support from the College's staff.

## What Can You Do To Avoid Sexual Assault?

While you can never completely protect yourself from sexual assault, there are some things you can do to help reduce your risk of being assaulted.

- **Be aware of your surroundings.** Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you to find a way to get out of a bad situation.
- **Try to avoid isolated areas.** It is more difficult to get help if no one is around.
- **Walk with purpose.** Even if you don't know where you are going, act like you do.
- **Trust your instincts.** If a situation or location feels unsafe or uncomfortable, it probably isn't the best place to be.

- **Try not to load yourself down** with packages or bags as this can make you appear more vulnerable.
- **Make sure your cell phone is with you** and charged and that you have taxi money.
- **Don't allow yourself to be isolated** with someone you don't trust or someone you don't know.
- **Avoid putting music headphones/earbuds in both ears** so that you can be more aware of your surroundings, especially if you are walking alone.
- **Lock doors**, including car doors and when in the vicinity of your car have your key ready in your hand.
- **When you go out have a plan including transportation home.** Go with others, arrive together, check in with each other and leave together.
- **Drink Responsibly.** Try not to leave any beverages unattended or accept drinks from someone you don't know or trust.
- **Have a buddy system.** Don't be afraid to let a friend know if something is making you uncomfortable or if you are worried about you or your friend's safety.
- **If someone you don't know or trust asks** you to go somewhere together, let him or her know that you would rather stay with the group.
- **Previous consent doesn't imply current consent** - No Means No.
- **Ask for an I.D. when a repair person** comes to your door (before entering).

- **Be familiar with the campus Blue Lights** which are located throughout the campus. You may find it necessary to contact University Police Department to report an emergency, crime in progress, or a suspicious person or incident. Each emergency phone box is attached to a light pole or building. A blue light, easily seen at night, hangs over each. For more information about blue light locations and a map of the campus go to: [http://www.canton.edu/university\\_police/pdf/blue\\_light.pdf](http://www.canton.edu/university_police/pdf/blue_light.pdf)
- **An escort service is available** by contacting University Police at 315-386-7777.

## What if you are under the influence of Alcohol or Drugs?

- You may make poor choices.
- You may not perceive danger.
- You may compromise your safety.
- You may “come to” and discover you were sexually assaulted.
- You may “come to” and discover you sexually assaulted someone.

***Drugs and alcohol can affect people’s ability to make decisions, including whether or not they want to be sexual with someone else. This means that if someone is significantly intoxicated by drugs or alcohol, they cannot give consent.***

## But What If...

The State University of New York at Canton has programs in place to edu-

cate all members of the SUNY Canton community from sexual assault, including programs for prevention and prosecution of these crimes that occur within the jurisdiction of SUNY Canton University Police. Victims have the right to pursue adjudication of crimes that occur on the SUNY Canton campus through criminal courts and/or through the University’s internal disciplinary process (under the Campus Code of Student Conduct, Rights and Responsibilities).

Where there is probable cause to believe the college’s regulations prohibiting sexual misconduct have been violated, the college will pursue strong disciplinary action through its own channels. This discipline includes the possibility of suspension or dismissal from the college. An individual charged with sexual misconduct will be subject to college disciplinary procedures, whether or not prosecution under New York State Criminal Statutes occurs. For further information, refer to the SUNY Canton **Student Handbook** at: [www.canton.edu/student\\_affairs/pdf/handbook.pdf](http://www.canton.edu/student_affairs/pdf/handbook.pdf) and/or SUNY Canton’s Jeanne Clery Disclosure Act Annual Report/Sexual Assault Prevention: [www.canton.edu/clery\\_act/](http://www.canton.edu/clery_act/).

## Who Can Help?

### COUNSELING

The Personal Counseling Center provides confidential crisis counseling. It’s normal to have strong emotions after an assault. If you have been sexually assaulted (recently or in the past) or a victim of an attempted assault,

the Counseling Center staff is available to talk to you and will help you sort through the important issues. They will listen, offer understanding, and help clarify your immediate and future concerns, link you with a support system, and assist you with legal reporting if you chose. Emotional healing takes time. Counselors will assist you in dealing with the possible long term effects of an assault including anxiety, depression, eating or sleeping problems, and fears.

### What Are the Issues?

- Getting immediate care for physical trauma.
- Gathering medical/legal evidence.
- Prevention/treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- Prevention of pregnancy.
- Linking you with your personal support system of family and friends.
- Legal assistance reporting and prosecuting a rapist.
- Help dealing with any long term effects of assault including anxiety, depression, and fears.

***To stop assaults, we must be willing to talk about these issues, educate the public, and prosecute the offender.***

### HEALTH CENTER

After surviving a sexual assault crime, it is important to obtain medical care not only for physical well-being but also to collect necessary legal evidence. Because the treatment and evidence collection is very specialized, sexual assault victims are encouraged and assisted by College Health Center

or Counseling staff in receiving care at any of the local hospital emergency departments (ED). At the ED, specially trained sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE's) provide a thorough physical exam, lab work, and medical treatment as well as the collection of evidence. Because the victim of a sexual assault has experienced emotional and physical trauma, they may be uncertain whether or not to pursue criminal charges. Therefore, evidence can be collected and saved until the victim decides whether or not to pursue criminal charges. The Health Center medical staff can provide similar care and treatment including testing and prevention for those victims presenting weeks after an incident when evidence collection is not possible. The Health Center will also work with the SANE program to provide follow-up care.

**REMEMBER: For the best evidence collection do not shower, wash, change clothes, comb hair, drink or eat or do anything to alter physical appearance until after a physical exam has been completed.**

### RESIDENCE LIFE

Residence Life staff recognizes the seriousness of sexual assault and takes an active role in educating the students on personal safety and sexual assault awareness. Professional Residence Hall Directors (RD) and student Resident Assistants (RA) live in the residence halls and are available to assist in emergency situations. All staff members have been trained in advocacy-counseling and specific procedures for dealing with victims of sexual assault.

When a sexual assault victim contacts a Residence Life staff member, various steps can be taken such as assisting the victim with obtaining immediate medical care, connecting the victim with University Police, and notifying the Counseling Center depending upon the victim's situation and their needs.

**REMEMBER:**

- Don't let strangers in through locked outside doors.
- Sign in guests and register all overnight visitors with your Residence Hall Director.
- Lock your room door at all times - when you're napping, visiting friends on the floor or in the building, or using the bathroom.
- Don't, under any circumstances, give out your combination to your room door.
- Report lost I.D. cards immediately to your Residence Hall Director and University Police.
- Use your peephole. Don't open the door if you don't know the person.
- Report any suspicious persons or activities to the R.A., Residence Hall Director, or University Police immediately.
- Don't prop outside doors open.
- Hang up on "prank" or obscene phone calls. Should the problem persist, report it to University Police.

**UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Potential criminal actions and other emergencies on campus should be reported to the University Police Department, (315) 386-7777 or 7777 from any campus phone). A thorough inves-

tigation of all reported sexual offenses will be conducted. The investigation will be comprehensive and display the utmost regard for the victim's physical and emotional well-being. University Police Officers have received training in the area of sexual assault crimes concerning the emotions and trauma of the victim and will assist the victim throughout the legal process. Under New York State Law, police and other officials are prohibited from disclosing the names of alleged rape and sex crime victims so confidentiality can be maintained.

University Police officers work with on-campus departments such as Counseling and Health Center as well as victim advocate organizations to provide support for the victim. Offenders of any crime are dealt with in accordance with New York State Penal Law by University Police Officers who are authorized to make criminal arrests. Infractions of the Penal Law for sexual offenses range from misdemeanor to felony penalties, which could result in a term of imprisonment. Student offenders of any crime, including sexual assaults, are also referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary sanctions.

**Community Agencies**

**RENEWAL HOUSE**

Staff, volunteers and interns respond to emergency calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Services include but are not limited to crisis counseling/ intervention, sexual assault counseling and services, safe house advocacy and support groups (315) 379-9845. Collect calls are accepted. Online at [www.slvrenewalhouse.org/](http://www.slvrenewalhouse.org/)

## NYS OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES (OVS)

OVS is a NYS agency that compensates innocent victims of crime for their out-of-pocket expenses. Crime victims can receive help including lost earnings, medical rehabilitation expenses, counseling, transportation, shelter and property loss. Application forms must be completed for compensation. More information and forms can be downloaded at <http://www.ovs.ny.gov> (1-800-247-8035).

## REACHOUT

Reachout provides a comprehensive 24-hour hotline serving all St. Lawrence County residents in crisis intervention and problem solving for a wide range of issues including sexual assault. Reachout also provides referral services. (315) 265-2422.

## Campus Safety

### CAMPUS SAFETY COMMITTEE

This committee works to maintain an overall safe environment conducive to living, studying, and working together through educational programs, safety awareness campaigns, and monitoring compliance to health and safety codes. This committee reviews campus security policies pertaining to criminal activity crime awareness and prevention of sexual assault. Statistics and procedures for reporting incidents are published annually in "Crime Awareness and Campus Security/Sexual Assault Prevention." For more information on the Campus Safety Committee go to: [www.canton.edu/safety](http://www.canton.edu/safety).

## CAMPUS ALERTS

A process is in place to notify the entire campus community of any existing emergency or threat to the campus. This may include a newsletter, radio announcement, electronic message display, or any other method deemed necessary. SUNY Canton can utilize SUNY NY-Alert to inform the campus community for emergency situations. This system enables college officials to send out critical emergency information through email, phone, and text messaging. SUNY NY-Alert is a completely voluntary system, and your information will not be used except in the case of an actual emergency. Students, faculty, and staff can sign up by logging into UCanWeb. For more information, visit: [www.suny.edu/emergencyContact/Q-A.cfm?ph=NO](http://www.suny.edu/emergencyContact/Q-A.cfm?ph=NO).

## Finally....

If you would like more information, please attend any one of the educational programs offered on campus by various departments including Counseling, Health Center, University Police and Residence Life. The following list is an example of the resources you have at SUNY Canton to understand more about sexuality and safety.

- Crime Awareness and Campus Security/Sexual Assault Prevention Report
- **Student Handbook**
- Counseling Center Self-Help Library
- Residence Life Reference manuals

**Campus-wide programming is offered at various times throughout the year which include:**

- Lecture Series
- Residence Hall Programs
- Distribution of Safe Sex Materials
- Discussion Groups/Speakers

***This pamphlet was not written just for women. It was written for both men & women to alert you to protect yourselves.***

- Men and Women need to talk;
- Men and Women need to understand each other;
- Men and Women need to be honest about their intentions;
- Men and Women need to discuss having a sexual relationship.

**REMEMBER: If Sexually Assaulted, DO NOT shower, wash, change clothing, comb hair, drink or eat, or do anything to alter physical appearance until after a physical exam has been completed at a hospital.**



**Important! Read! Save!**

**On-Campus Emergencies**  
*(Dial last 4 numbers from any campus phone. Calling 911 will connect with University Police.)*

- University Police .....315-386-7777
- Any Emergency 24 Hours/7 Days
- Counseling Center.....315-386-7314
- Health Center.....315-386-7333

**Off-Campus Emergencies:**

- Canton Rescue Squad..... 911
- Canton Village Police.....315-386-4561
- Sheriff Dept.....315-379-2222
- New York State Police....315-379-0012

**NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE**

Pursuant to the State University of New York policy, SUNY Canton is committed to fostering a diverse community of outstanding faculty, staff, and students, as well as ensuring equal educational opportunity, employment, and access to services, programs, and activities, without regard to an individual's race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, disability, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, domestic violence victim status, or criminal conviction. Employees, students, applicants, or other members of the campus community (including, but not limited to, vendors, visitors, and guests) may not be subjected to harassment that is prohibited by law or treated adversely or retaliated against based upon a protected characteristic.

The University's policy is in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and harassment. These laws include the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as Amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and the New York State Human Rights Law. These laws prohibit discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX and other laws, regulations, and policies prohibiting discrimination may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, at (315) 386-7688 or at title9@canton.edu. Inquiries may also be directed to the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, 32 Old Slip 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005-2500; Tel. (646) 428-3800; email OCR.NewYork@ed.gov.