DATE & ACQUAINTANCE RAPE

WHAT IS DATE AND ACQUAINTANCE RAPE?

Acquaintance rape is forced sexual intercourse with someone the victim knows.

While some students may not think of forced sexual relations as rape, the action nevertheless is considered to be. Rape is a serious crime—a felony. And whenever a man uses force to have sex, he is committing a crime called rape, even if he knows the woman, and even if he has had sex with her before.

WHAT CAN COLLEGE MEN DO ABOUT DATE RAPE?

Respect the rights of women as you would your own rights. You don’t have the right to pressure or force a woman for sex or even to expect sex in any situation. Just because you’ve previously had sex with a woman does not give you the right to have sex with her again. If the woman changes her mind, you must respect her wishes.

Be explicit in your intentions and recognize that a woman has the right to say “no.” If you are receiving both “yes” and “no” messages from your date, state your confusion, cease your action and discuss your concerns.

Men can help to eliminate the stereotypical attitude that women are sex objects and that men have the right to take whatever they please, especially in a dating situation. If you encounter such attitudes among friends, confront them. Recognized and help your friends recognize that these attitudes are demeaning.

Don’t take advantage of women unable to give consent regarding sexual activity because of alcohol or any condition, and don’t let other men do so either. Obviously, if a woman is intoxicated and passed out, she cannot give her consent regarding sexual activity.

It is never okay to force yourself on a woman, even if you have heard that women say “no” but mean “yes.” Remember that “no” means “no.”

WHAT CAN WOMEN DO ABOUT DATE RAPE?

Know that you have the right to set sexual limits. It is your body and nobody else has the right to force you to do something you don’t want to do. Learn to feel comfortable with this right. If you accept this right, it will be easy for you to follow the next suggestion.

Make your expectations clear in a forceful manner. For example, “Take your hands off me... don’t touch me... if you don’t respect my wishes I’m leaving!” Be assertive. A man may interpret passivity as permission. Thus when someone does something to you that you don’t like and you ignore it, he may continue. Learn to act immediately with responses that communicate clearly and directly that you will not accept his pressure. Remember, it is important to be direct and firm with someone who is sexually pressuring you, even if it hurts his feelings and particularly if he is not paying attention to your feelings.

If you convey mixed messages to your date, you leave yourself vulnerable to misunderstandings about your wishes. When your personal expectations about physical intimacy are confused, say so, cease your action, and discuss your concerns.

REPORT YOUR CONCERNS

If you are concerned about the behavior displayed by a member of the Regent community, don’t keep quiet. There are several ways to inform us of individuals and situations of concern. Besides calling the numbers listed on this flyer you can also submit your concerns through Regent.edu. For anonymous crime reporting go to the campus police section of Regent.edu and click on “report a crime.” To report an individual of concern, click RUPD/Concerns on the campus police page.

The important thing is not to keep quiet. You could be saving your life or someone else’s.