A Media Resource Guide to Reporting Sexual Assault

A thesis submitted to the Miami University Honors Program in partial fulfillment of the requirements for University Honors with Distinction

by

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ABSTRACT

A MEDIA GUIDE TO REPORTING SEXUAL ASSAULT

BY SARAH ANN MARCUS

The lack of sensitivity and understanding that is reflected by the way sexual assault has sometimes been reported by the media is detrimental to societal attitudes and maintains the oppression of victims of sexual assault and women. The purpose of this resource is to encourage compassion and sensitivity towards victims when reporting sexual assault. Creating a resource guide is one step towards eradicating the misrepresentation of sexual assault. Sexual assault has continued to be viewed as insignificant when, in reality, sexual violence has deeply impacted our communities and our denial of this fact perpetuates cycles of victim persecution as well as an acceptance of the culture of violence against women.

Unfortunately, most of the time sexual assault is not considered to be a “real crime” unless it is especially brutal, fatal or almost fatal. What people don’t realize is that the majority of sexual assaults are “acquaintance rapes.” This is when rape and/or other sexual violence is committed by someone the victim knows personally. Contrary to common belief, sexual assault is less likely to be perpetrated by a stranger. We must reframe our conceptions of sexual assault and reexamine who we accept as perpetrators of sexual violence. We often believe that kind, “good”, intelligent people are incapable of rape. They are not.

Too often, newspapers, magazines, television and radio programs unknowingly glorify sexual assault by presenting incidents of sexual assault in a biased manner. Societal attitudes demonstrate that the connotations of victim evoke disbelief, judgment, pity, and/or disgust. Instead of reinforcing negative behaviors, let us face the uncomfortable truths. How can we be bystanders to sexual crimes that impact so many people in our communities? Silence and denial fosters more silence and denial. The more negative our attitude towards victims, the less sexual assaults are reported, resulting in inaccurate statistics and insufficient information. Sexual assault, according to the FBI, is the most underreported crime in the nation. “A Media Resource Guide to Reporting Sexual Assault,” provides useful, current information, facts, and suggestions for media consultation for reporting sexual assault. Not only is the media persuasive and powerful, they should be our most important allies and educators. This guide promotes a sense of social responsibility when reporting sexual assault.
A Media Guide to Reporting Sexual Assault

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Thank you for your wisdom, guidance, strength and encouragement.
Introduction

The most common question I am asked about my thesis is “Why focus on sexual assault?” I am not a Women’s Studies, Psychology, Sociology, or Family Studies major. So why do I care, or more importantly, why should I care? I am a Creative Writing major, a Middle East and Islamic Studies minor, and an Honors Student, but above all of these titles, I am a community member and a woman. Sexual assault is an issue that affects my friends, family, and community. Any community where sexual violence is accepted and exists without consequence to perpetrators is a dangerous place for every one and unfortunately, sexual violence exists in almost every community. It is time to confront sexual violence.

As a volunteer for Butler County’s Rape Crisis Program, being a Victim Advocate has become an enormous part of who I am and what I stand for. I believe in change, in breaking the silence about sexual violence, and in facing this issue head-on. Sexual violence is no longer an issue that can be ignored, denied, and neglected. Only through education can sexual violence be understood and eliminated. I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work and consult with such devoted and compassionate people. These are the men and women who have committed their lives to eradicating sexual violence through victim support services, education, and other community and individual resources.

The idea for my thesis arose as I began to notice that something felt “off” in our community. As the publicity around sexual assaults on our campus increased, I became more aware of the negative attitudes towards victims and survivors of sexual violence. These attitudes are held by many students, faculty, staff, and administrators on Miami
University’s campus. I listened closely to jokes about sexual assault that were being made, the inappropriate statements and personal biases that were nonchalantly introduced during classes, and the newspaper/magazine articles and television reports that did not present a fair or accurate picture of the sexual assaults they were reporting on. I became even more disturbed as I learned of our University’s neglect of the Campus Security Act, among other related offenses and fines. The community that has given me so much hope and opportunity was failing to extend the same support to victims and survivors. Not only did I deeply feel that this was wrong, but I was shocked at the lack of effort to remedy these attitudes of avoidance, denial, and insensitivity.

How does a community rise above the accepted culture of violence against women and victims? Some programs through Miami University have made several attempts at confronting this issue through councils and forums to promote open dialogue. This was a positive first step. However, to my knowledge, nothing concrete has come from these efforts. The “TIPP Report” that can be found at Miami University Women’s Center shows that the majority of students surveyed had little idea what campus policies were in regard to sexual assault. I believe that change must start from the top down. We are in need of stronger policy and enforcement of policy. We need to extend support to victims and make sexual violence unacceptable on this campus and in our community.

The essence of this thesis stemmed from the disappointment I felt when reading articles pertaining to the very public “Jason Landis Case.” Every time I read an article that was insensitive I thought, “There has to be a better way.” My concern led to further research that uncovered more disturbing reportings. The articles I read included retraumatizing and irrelevant information as well as perpetuated several rape and rapist
myths. I do not believe that journalists or the media have malicious intentions, or that some of the time, they are even aware of the damage caused by what I have deemed, “questionable reporting.” That is why I feel this media resource guide will be just one way to educate, guide, and aid the media. One of our community’s main sources of socialization and education: media shapes our environment. The lack of sensitivity and understanding that is reflected by the way media sometimes reports sexual assault is detrimental to societal attitudes and maintains the oppression of victims of sexual assault and women. By no means is creating a media resource guide dealing with sexual assault a new idea. In fact, I came upon this idea by reading other media resources created by influential committees and social service providers. However, I have not come across a resource for Southern Ohio.

I am convinced that our community, local and greater will benefit from a concise, straight forward guidance resource. Weak policy and gender inequality only confirm that our community is insufficiently educated on the realities of sexual assault. Most of us have formed our own opinions without considering the facts. It is my hope that this guide provides helpful facts and thoroughly explains why statistical data may be misleading, especially when it is estimated that only ten percent of sexual assaults are reported. This guide intends to serve as a step forward in striving for long-term change in shaping and reframing the education of sexual violence. This guide is comprised of information and suggestions on how to report accurately and sensitively on sexual assault to avoid the retraumatization of victims or propagate a culture of accepted violence. This information has been framed within the contextualization of sexually violent acts in the United States’ culture of violence against women. Our community needs a resource such as the one I
created for the following reasons: 1) There is an accepted culture of violence against women within our community. 2) There have been several examples of insensitive reporting (locally and greater). 3) We only have access to inaccurate statistics. 4) There are community members, students, faculty, administrators, and staff that hold negative attitudes towards victims of sexual assault. 5) There is a general lack of education on the subject of sexual assault. 6) I have a personal responsibility to my community as a Victim Advocate.

I began addressing these concerns by collecting data from service providers including crisis centers and victim services; some who have published their own “Media Resource Guides.” The most challenging aspect of this process was the collection and interpretation of statistical data. I spent many frustrating days gathering and attempting to analyze statistics from the Oxford Police Department, Miami University Campus Police, Miami University’s Women’s Center, and National Studies such as FBI and State Department. I compared all of the data with opposing studies which gave much higher or lower statistics. I discovered that depending on the type of methodology used, exceedingly different types of results were yielded. I inflated the number of incidents to reflect what would be the actual number of incidents. I sought out these more realistic numbers due to the fact that about 90 percent of rapes and sexual assaults go unreported to authorities. The true number of victimizations would be overwhelming and astonishing. I came to the conclusion that statistical data in regards to sexual assault is misleading and arbitrary given the reality of the severe underreporting of these crimes.

The topics that are included in the final resource guide are: the importance of mass media in constructing an accurate public view of sexual assault, different definitions and
types of assault and violence (including the Ohio Revised Code,) issues surrounding drug and alcohol abuse and sexual assault (including date-rape and date-rape drugs,) the importance of dispelling rape and rapist myths, issues of misleading statistics, why rape is underreported, media’s retraumatization of the victim, victim rights, media and ethics, accuracy and blaming, examples of questionable journalism, things not to say to a victim, the accepted cultural violence against women, media’s road to recovery, and a brief list of additional resources. One hundred hard copies of this resource have been widely distributed on Miami University’s campus and within the local and greater community of Southern Ohio. This guide can also be found on the web and through e-mail by request. This resource will be made available to rape crisis service providers, newspapers, police departments, religious organizations, and other media providers. My hope in creating this guide is to raise awareness about, draw attention to, and promote education on our social responsibility to accurately portray sexual assault. It is time to stand up for victim advocacy and to punish the perpetrators of these crimes rather than their victims and survivors. Sexual assault is a catastrophic problem which requires our immediate attention. This guide is a commitment to educate our main educators.
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Media Advocacy

Among the most important people to reach out to when attempting to educate and change attitudes about sexual assault are the ones who work in media. Media shapes our environment. The lack of sensitivity and understanding that is reflected by the way sexual assault has sometimes been reported is detrimental to societal attitudes and maintains the oppression of victims of sexual assault and women. The purpose of this resource is to encourage compassion and sensitivity towards victims when reporting sexual assault. I came upon this idea by reading media resources created by influential committees and social service providers. However, I have not seen a resource intended for media use in Southern Ohio.

University policies on assault and gender inequality only confirm that our community is insufficiently educated on the consequences of sexual assault. Most of us have preconceived ideas about sexual assault without considering the facts. The media is powerful, playing a key role in influencing our beliefs. In many cases it is our main education resource and socialization. This is why change can start with the media. This project is one step in striving for a long-term change in shaping and reframing education on sexual assault and the dangers of victimization.

Sexual assault, by the Ohio Criminal Code, includes Rape, Sexual Battery, Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a Minor, Gross Sexual Imposition, Importuning, Voyeurism, and Public Indecency. It is important to understand that Sexual assault “is a crime that hurts people from all kinds of backgrounds. Victims of sexual assault include: men and women; old and young; rich and poor; heterosexuals and homosexuals; persons with disabilities; persons from all racial or ethnic backgrounds; and persons who are homeless or in hospitals, institutions, or prisons.”1 Rape is a crime of violence and power. Rape is not sexual.

Given the above information, this particular resource guide is directed specifically towards the victimization of and violence towards women. While I recognize the existence of male victims of sexual assault, I have framed this resource within the context of an even greater problem: the United States’ accepted culture of violence against women. I believe that it is important to understand as much context as possible surrounding sexual assault within the environment in which it occurs. Due to the immense influence the media has on

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shaping public opinion, media has the potential to become an important tool for the prevention of sexual violence.

This Guide Focuses On:

- The importance of mass media in constructing an accurate public view of sexual assault
- Definitions and types of sexual assault and violence (including the Ohio Revised Code)
- Issues surrounding drug/alcohol abuse and sexual assault (including date-rape and the drugs involved)
- Rape and rapist myths
- Issues around statistics and reporting rape and other sexual assaults
- Retraumatization or “second rape” of the victim
- Victim rights
- Ethics, accuracy, and blaming
- Examples of questionable reporting
- Things not to say to a victim
- Cultural violence against women
- Media’s road to recovery
Defining Sexual Assault

There are many types of sexual assault. In “Coping with Sexual Assault: A Guide to Resolution, Healing and Recovery,” sexual assault is defined as a range of victimizations on a continuum. This guide reminds us that “Rape is not the only type of sexual assault. Sexual assault occurs any time a person is forced into a sexual act. Sexual assaults include any type of sexual conduct or sexual contact that is nonconsensual, forced, or coerced.” Sexual violence also includes offenses such as obscene phone calls, stalking, or being used in pornography without your consent.

There are several resources for victims following the trauma of sexual assault. The following terms are reprinted with permission from Reporting Sexual Assault: A Guide for Journalists, 2004, published by the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Okemos, MI

Sexual Assault Terms:

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) — A specially-trained and certified registered nurse or nurse practitioner who conducts the forensic exam or evidence collection of a sexual assault victim.

SANE Program — A free standing program or project of a clinic, hospital or rape crisis center specifically established for the purpose of conducting forensic medical exams (evidence collection) in sexual assault cases.

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) — A community approach to provide a comprehensive response to sexual assault survivors. A SART usually consists of a SANE program, an advocate from a local rape crisis center and a law enforcement officer. Each member of the SART has a specific role in the response and works closely with the other team members.

Sexual Assault Program or Rape Crisis Center — A program established to provide confidential, emergency and ongoing support and assistance to victims of sexual assault at no charge, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, physical or mental ability, and political or philosophical beliefs.

Victim — Used to describe the individual who was assaulted. This word is most commonly used in the criminal justice system, in news stories and by general public. (Also see definition for survivor)


**Sexual Assault Terminology**

**Sexual Assault** — Sexual acts—which may or may not include penetration—that are conducted against someone’s will by force or threat of force or in situations in which an individual is unable to give consent.

**Sexual Harassment** — Unwanted and unwelcome sexual behavior that interferes with an individual’s life, work or education. This behavior can include verbal or physical acts as well as acts that create a hostile environment.

**Rape** — Criminal sexual conduct involving penetration.

**Drug Facilitated Rape or Substance-Related Rape** — Sexual assault committed by a perpetrator who uses alcohol, drugs, or other substances to create additional vulnerability in his victim.

**Consent** — To give permission or approval to do something.

**Defendant** — The person accused in either a civil or criminal case of criminal sexual conduct. This person is also referred to as rapist or assailant.

**Perpetrator** — Used to describe the person who committed criminal sexual conduct. Is also referred to as rapist or assailant.

**Acquaintance Rape** — An umbrella term used to describe sexual assaults in which the survivor and the perpetrator know each other. The perpetrator may be a passing acquaintance or someone the survivor knows intimately, such as a partner, husband, ex-partner, coworker, family friend or neighbor.

**Civil Case** — A lawsuit seeking recovery in the form of monetary or non-monetary damages for injuries sustained by the plaintiff. Defendants are not incarcerated as a result of a civil case.

**Recidivism** — A return to offending behavior after a period of abstinence or being offense-free. The tendency to relapse into a certain mode of behavior.

**Survivor** — For purposes of this manual, used to describe the individual who was assaulted. This term is largely used by advocacy groups to acknowledge the strength of an individual who endures trauma such as a sexual assault. Not every individual refers to herself or himself as a survivor and when interviewing survivors, reporters are encouraged to use the term preferred by the individual. (Also see definition for victim)
Types of Sexual Violence


The different types of sexual violence

**Invasions of space and privacy**
Stalking (targeting, watching and constantly following someone’s activities).

Voyeurism (watching someone undress, have sex or use the bathroom).

Flashing (exposing one’s genitals in public to shock or surprise the victim).

Masturbating in public (to shock or surprise the victim)

Sexual jokes, degrading sexual remarks, sexual name calling.

Obscene phone calls, e-mailing messages or faxes.

**Other unwanted sexual or physical contact**
Grabbing or touching the breasts, vagina, penis, or buttocks over the clothes or brushing or rubbing against another person with their genitals.

**Unwanted sexual touching without penetration**
Touching breast, vagina, penis or rectum with an object or with a part of the body.

**Rape**
Forced or coerced oral, anal or vaginal penetration with an object or body part.

**Ritual abuse**
Any abusive behavior by an individual or a group as a part of a cult or ritual activity. This may include any type of sexual assault or other types of violence.

**Sexual mutilation**
Cutting, burning, piercing or any injury to the breasts, vagina, penis or rectum.

**Murder**
Death involving any type of sexual violation, such as rape.
Ohio Revised Code

Ohio Code is subject to change and revision. The Ohio Code printed here is from Spring 2007. These are relevant selections from the entire document found at: onlinedocs.andersonpublishing.com/revisedcode/

2907.01

Sexual Conduct - vaginal intercourse between a male and female; anal intercourse, fellatio, and cunnilingus between persons regardless of sex; and, without privilege to do so, the insertion, however slight, of any part of the body or any instrument, apparatus, or other object into the vaginal or anal opening of another. Penetration, however slight, is sufficient to complete vaginal or anal intercourse.

Sexual Contact means any touching of an erogenous zone of another, including without limitation the thigh, genitals, buttock, pubic region, or, if the person is a female, a breast, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying either person.

Sexual Activity means sexual conduct or sexual contact, or both.

2907.02

Rape (A) (1) No person shall engage in sexual conduct with another who is not the spouse of the offender or who is the spouse of the offender but is living separate and apart from the offender, when any of the following applies:

(a) For the purpose of preventing resistance, the offender substantially impairs the other person's judgment or control by administering any drug, intoxicant, or controlled substance to the other person surreptitiously or by force, threat of force, or deception.

(b) The other person is less than thirteen years of age, whether or not the offender knows the age of the other person.

(c) The other person's ability to resist or consent is substantially impaired because of a mental or physical condition or because of advanced age, and the offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the other person's ability to resist or consent is substantially impaired because of a mental or physical condition or because of advanced age.

(2) No person shall engage in sexual conduct with another when the offender purposely compels the other person to submit by force or threat of force.

(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of rape, a felony of the first degree. If the offender under division (A)(1)(a) of this section substantially impairs the other person's judgment or control by administering any controlled substance described in section 3719.41 of the Revised Code to the other person surreptitiously or by force, threat of force, or deception, the
Ohio Revised Code

prison term imposed upon the offender shall be one of the prison terms prescribed for a fel-ony of the first degree in section 2929.14 of the Revised Code that is not less than five years. If the offender under division (A)(1)(b) of this section purposely compels the victim to submit by force or threat of force or if the victim under division (A)(1)(b) of this section is less than ten years of age, whoever violates division (A)(1)(b) of this section shall be imprisoned for life. If the offender under division (A)(1)(b) of this section previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to violating division (A)(1)(b) of this section or to violating a law of another state or the United States that is substantially similar to division (A)(1)(b) of this section or if the offender during or immediately after the commission of the offense caused serious physical harm to the victim, whoever violates division (A)(1)(b) of this section shall be imprisoned for life or life without parole.

(C) A victim need not prove physical resistance to the offender in prosecutions under this section.

(D) Evidence of specific instances of the victim's sexual activity, opinion evidence of the victim's sexual activity, and reputation evidence of the victim's sexual activity shall not be admitted under this section unless it involves evidence of the origin of semen, pregnancy, or disease, or the victim's past sexual activity with the offender, and only to the extent that the court finds that the evidence is material to a fact at issue in the case and that its inflammatory or prejudicial nature does not outweigh its probative value.

Evidence of specific instances of the defendant's sexual activity, opinion evidence of the defendant's sexual activity, and reputation evidence of the defendant's sexual activity shall not be admitted under this section unless it involves evidence of the origin of semen, pregnancy, or disease, the defendant's past sexual activity with the victim, or is admissible against the defendant under section 2945.59 of the Revised Code, and only to the extent that the court finds that the evidence is material to a fact at issue in the case and that its inflammatory or prejudicial nature does not outweigh its probative value.

(E) Prior to taking testimony or receiving evidence of any sexual activity of the victim or the defendant in a proceeding under this section, the court shall resolve the admissibility of the proposed evidence in a hearing in chambers, which shall be held at or before preliminary hearing and not less than three days before trial, or for good cause shown during the trial.

(F) Upon approval by the court, the victim may be represented by counsel in any hearing in chambers or other proceeding to resolve the admissibility of evidence. If the victim is indigent or otherwise is unable to obtain the services of counsel, the court, upon request, may appoint counsel to represent the victim without cost to the victim.

(G) It is not a defense to a charge under division (A)(2) of this section that the offender and the victim were married or were cohabiting at the time of the commission of the offense.
Ohio Revised Code

1974 Committee Comment to H 511

This section includes the traditional concept of rape as sexual intercourse with a female by force, but expands upon the offense in four important respects.

First, the acts contemplated include anal intercourse, cunnilingus, and fellatio in addition to vaginal intercourse, because any of such acts can result in serious physical or psychic harm to the victim when committed under circumstances amounting to rape.

Second, the section does away with distinctions of sex between offenders and victims, for the reason that homosexual and lesbian assaults can be as dangerous to victims as heterosexual assaults.

Third, the section explicitly provides for rape by purposely drugging the victim or rendering the victim intoxicated. In this context, the section does not include the situation where a person plies his intended partner with drink or drugs in the hope that lowered inhibitions might lead to a liaison, since when the alcohol or drugs are voluntarily taken in the absence of force or deception, the consent of the "victim" can fairly be inferred.

Fourth, the section designates as rape sexual conduct with a pre-puberty victim, regardless of whether force or drugs are used, and regardless of whether the offender has actual knowledge of the victim's age. The rationale for this is that the physical immaturity of a pre-puberty victim is not easily mistaken, and engaging in sexual conduct with such a person indicates vicious behavior on the part of the offender.

Rape is a felony of the first degree, except that forcible rape of a victim under age 13 carries a penalty of life imprisonment.

2907.03 Sexual battery
(A) No person shall engage in sexual conduct with another, not the spouse of the offender, when any of the following apply:

(1) The offender knowingly coerces the other person to submit by any means that would prevent resistance by a person of ordinary resolution.

(2) The offender knows that the other person's ability to appraise the nature of or control the other person's own conduct is substantially impaired.

(3) The offender knows that the other person submits because the other person is unaware that the act is being committed.
Ohio Revised Code

(4) The offender knows that the other person submits because the other person mistakenly identifies the offender as the other person's spouse.

(5) The offender is the other person's natural or adoptive parent, or a stepparent, or guardian, custodian, or person in loco parentis of the other person.

(6) The other person is in custody of law or a patient in a hospital or other institution, and the offender has supervisory or disciplinary authority over the other person.

(7) The offender is a teacher, administrator, coach, or other person in authority employed by or serving in a school for which the state board of education prescribes minimum standards pursuant to division (D) of section 3301.07 of the Revised Code, the other person is enrolled in or attends that school, and the offender is not enrolled in and does not attend that school.

(8) The other person is a minor, the offender is a teacher, administrator, coach, or other person in authority employed by or serving in an institution of higher education, and the other person is enrolled in or attends that institution.

(9) The other person is a minor, and the offender is the other person's athletic or other type of coach, is the other person's instructor, is the leader of a scouting troop of which the other person is a member, or is a person with temporary or occasional disciplinary control over the other person.

(10) The offender is a mental health professional, the other person is a mental health client or patient of the offender, and the offender induces the other person to submit by falsely representing to the other person that the sexual conduct is necessary for mental health treatment purposes.

(11) The other person is confined in a detention facility, and the offender is an employee of that detention facility.

(12) The other person is a minor, the offender is a cleric, and the other person is a member of, or attends, the church or congregation served by the cleric.

(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of sexual battery. Except as otherwise provided in this division, sexual battery is a felony of the third degree. If the other person is less than thirteen years of age, sexual battery is a felony of the second degree, and the court shall impose upon the offender a mandatory prison term equal to one of the prison terms prescribed in section 2929.14 of the Revised Code for a felony of the second degree.
Ohio Revised Code

2907.04 Unlawful sexual conduct with minor
(A) No person who is eighteen years of age or older shall engage in sexual conduct with another, who is not the spouse of the offender, when the offender knows the other person is thirteen years of age or older but less than sixteen years of age, or the offender is reckless in that regard.

(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in divisions (B)(2), (3), and (4) of this section, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor is a felony of the fourth degree.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(4) of this section, if the offender is less than four years older than the other person, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(4) of this section, if the offender is ten or more years older than the other person, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor is a felony of the third degree.

(4) If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of section 2907.02, 2907.03, or 2907.04 of the Revised Code or a violation of former section 2907.12 of the Revised Code, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor is a felony of the second degree.

1974 Committee Comment to H 511

This section prohibits sexual conduct when the offender is age 18 or over and knows his or her partner is age 13 to 15.

The rationale for this is that the risk of physical harm from sexual conduct is less for the early adolescent than for the pre-puberty victim, though the risk of psychic harm remains great. Moreover, sexual conduct with an early adolescent is often viewed as more serious when the offender is substantially older than the victim, because under such circumstances the offender's conduct suggests highly amoral behavior. Accordingly, the offense is a felony when committed by a person who is 4 or more years older than the victim, and a misdemeanor when the offender is less than 4 years older than the victim. When both partners are juveniles, there is no offense under the section, although the actors would be liable to being adjudged unruly children in a juvenile proceeding. See, section 2151.022 of the Revised Code.

Under former law, consensual sexual intercourse by a male age 18 with a female under 16 was a felony, regardless of the age difference between the partners.
Corruption of a minor is a felony of the third degree, unless the offender is less than 4 years older than the victim, in which case the offense is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

2907.05 Gross sexual imposition
(A) No person shall have sexual contact with another, not the spouse of the offender; cause another, not the spouse of the offender, to have sexual contact with the offender; or cause two or more other persons to have sexual contact when any of the following applies:

(1) The offender purposely compels the other person, or one of the other persons, to submit by force or threat of force.

(2) For the purpose of preventing resistance, the offender substantially impairs the judgment or control of the other person or of one of the other persons by administering any drug, intoxicant, or controlled substance to the other person surreptitiously or by force, threat of force, or deception.

(3) The offender knows that the judgment or control of the other person or of one of the other persons is substantially impaired as a result of the influence of any drug or intoxicant administered to the other person with the other person's consent for the purpose of any kind of medical or dental examination, treatment, or surgery.

(4) The other person, or one of the other persons, is less than thirteen years of age, whether or not the offender knows the age of that person.

(5) The ability of the other person to resist or consent or the ability of one of the other persons to resist or consent is substantially impaired because of a mental or physical condition or because of advanced age, and the offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the ability to resist or consent of the other person or of one of the other persons is substantially impaired because of a mental or physical condition or because of advanced age.

(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of gross sexual imposition.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, gross sexual imposition committed in violation of division (A)(1), (2), (3), or (5) of this section is a felony of the fourth degree. If the offender under division (A)(2) of this section substantially impairs the judgment or control of the other person or one of the other persons by administering any controlled substance described in section 3719.41 of the Revised Code to the person surreptitiously or by force, threat of force, or deception, gross sexual imposition committed in violation of division (A) (2) of this section is a felony of the third degree.
Ohio Revised Code

(2) Gross sexual imposition committed in violation of division (A)(4) of this section is a felony of the third degree. Except as otherwise provided in this division, for gross sexual imposition committed in violation of division (A)(4) of this section there is a presumption that a prison term shall be imposed for the offense. The court shall impose on an offender convicted of gross sexual imposition in violation of division (A)(4) of this section a mandatory prison term equal to one of the prison terms prescribed in section 2929.14 of the Revised Code for a felony of the third degree if either of the following applies:

(a) Evidence other than the testimony of the victim was admitted in the case corroborating the violation;

(b) The offender previously was convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of this section, rape, the former offense of felonious sexual penetration, or sexual battery, and the victim of the previous offense was under thirteen years of age.

(C) A victim need not prove physical resistance to the offender in prosecutions under this section.

(D) Evidence of specific instances of the victim's sexual activity, opinion evidence of the victim's sexual activity, and reputation evidence of the victim's sexual activity shall not be admitted under this section unless it involves evidence of the origin of semen, pregnancy, or disease, or the victim's past sexual activity with the offender, and only to the extent that the court finds that the evidence is material to a fact at issue in the case and that its inflammatory or prejudicial nature does not outweigh its probative value.

Evidence of specific instances of the defendant's sexual activity, opinion evidence of the defendant's sexual activity, and reputation evidence of the defendant's sexual activity shall not be admitted under this section unless it involves evidence of the origin of semen, pregnancy, or disease, the defendant's past sexual activity with the victim, or is admissible against the defendant under section 2945.59 of the Revised Code, and only to the extent that the court finds that the evidence is material to a fact at issue in the case and that its inflammatory or prejudicial nature does not outweigh its probative value.

(E) Prior to taking testimony or receiving evidence of any sexual activity of the victim or the defendant in a proceeding under this section, the court shall resolve the admissibility of the proposed evidence in a hearing in chambers, which shall be held at or before preliminary hearing and not less than three days before trial, or for good cause shown during the trial.

(F) Upon approval by the court, the victim may be represented by counsel in any hearing in chambers or other proceeding to resolve the admissibility of evidence. If the victim is indigent or otherwise is unable to obtain the services of counsel, the court, upon request, may appoint counsel to represent the victim without cost to the victim.
Ohio Revised Code

1974 Committee Comment to H 511

This section defines an offense analogous to rape, though less serious. Its elements are identical to those of rape, except that the type of sexual activity involved is sexual contact, rather than sexual conduct. See section 2907.02.

Gross sexual imposition is a felony of the fourth degree when the sexual contact is committed by force or threat or with the use of drugs or intoxicants. When the victim of the offense is under age 13, regardless of the means used to commit the offense, gross sexual imposition is a felony of the third degree.

2907.06 Sexual imposition

A) No person shall have sexual contact with another, not the spouse of the offender; cause another, not the spouse of the offender, to have sexual contact with the offender; or cause two or more other persons to have sexual contact when any of the following applies:

1. The offender knows that the sexual contact is offensive to the other person, or one of the other persons, or is reckless in that regard.

2. The offender knows that the other person's, or one of the other person's, ability to appraise the nature of or control the offender's or touching person's conduct is substantially impaired.

3. The offender knows that the other person, or one of the other persons, submits because of being unaware of the sexual contact.

4. The other person, or one of the other persons, is thirteen years of age or older but less than sixteen years of age, whether or not the offender knows the age of such person, and the offender is at least eighteen years of age and four or more years older than such other person.

5. The offender is a mental health professional, the other person or one of the other persons is a mental health client or patient of the offender, and the offender induces the other person who is the client or patient to submit by falsely representing to the other person who is the client or patient that the sexual contact is necessary for mental health treatment purposes.

B) No person shall be convicted of a violation of this section solely upon the victim's testimony unsupported by other evidence.

C) Whoever violates this section is guilty of sexual imposition, a misdemeanor of the third degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of this section or of sections 2907.02, 2907.03, 2907.04, 2907.05, or 2907.12A of the Revised Code, a violation of
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this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

1974 Committee Comment to H511

This section defines an offense analogous to certain types of sexual battery and corruption of a minor, except that it involves sexual contact rather than sexual conduct.

The offense includes a sexual touching when the offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe the touching is offensive. In this regard, if the person engaging in sexual contact has no reasonable grounds to believe his conduct is offensive to the object of his attentions, or if the person touched is not in fact offended, there is no offense. The section also prohibits sexual contact when the victim's judgment is obviously impaired, or when the victim is unaware of the touching. Further, the section forbids sexual contact when the victim is in early adolescence and the offender is age 18 or over and 4 or more years older than the victim.

Since the offense is of a type which may be particularly susceptible to abuse in prosecution, the section specifically provides that there can be no conviction based solely on the uncorroborated testimony of the victim.

Sexual imposition is a misdemeanor of the third degree.

2907.07 Importuning

(A) No person shall solicit a person who is less than thirteen years of age to engage in sexual activity with the offender, whether or not the offender knows the age of such person.

(B) No person shall solicit another, not the spouse of the offender, to engage in sexual conduct with the offender, when the offender is eighteen years of age or older and four or more years older than the other person, and the other person is thirteen years of age or older but less than sixteen years of age, whether or not the offender knows the age of the other person.

(C) No person shall solicit another by means of a telecommunications device, as defined in section 2913.01 of the Revised Code, to engage in sexual activity with the offender when the offender is eighteen years of age or older and either of the following applies:

(1) The other person is less than thirteen years of age, and the offender knows that the other person is less than thirteen years of age or is reckless in that regard.

(2) The other person is a law enforcement officer posing as a person who is less than thirteen years of age, and the offender believes that the other person is less than thirteen years of
Ohio Revised Code

(1) The other person is thirteen years of age or older but less than sixteen years of age, the offender knows that the other person is thirteen years of age or older but less than sixteen years of age or is reckless in that regard, and the offender is four or more years older than the other person.

(2) The other person is a law enforcement officer posing as a person who is thirteen years of age or older but less than sixteen years of age, the offender believes that the other person is thirteen years of age or older but less than sixteen years of age or is reckless in that regard, and the offender is four or more years older than the age the law enforcement officer assumes in posing as the person who is thirteen years of age or older but less than sixteen years of age.

(E) Divisions (C) and (D) of this section apply to any solicitation that is contained in a transmission via a telecommunications device that either originates in this state or is received in this state.

(F) Whoever violates this section is guilty of importuning. A violation of division (A) or (C) of this section is a felony of the fourth degree on a first offense and a felony of the third degree on each subsequent offense. A violation of division (B) or (D) of this section is a felony of the fifth degree on a first offense and a felony of the fourth degree on each subsequent offense. A violation of division (B) or (D) of this section is a felony of the fifth degree on a first offense and a felony of the fourth degree on each subsequent offense.

1974 Committee Comment to H 511

This section prohibits soliciting a person under 13 to engage in sexual activity, or soliciting a person age 13 to 15 to engage in sexual conduct when the solicitor is age 18 or over and 4 or more years older than the person solicited. The solicitation of homosexual or lesbian activity is also prohibited, when the solicitor knows or has reasonable cause to believe the solicitation is offensive to the person solicited.

The section represents an exception to the general rule that "just asking" is not a criminal offense. In the case of underage victims, the rationale for the offense is that mere solicitation carries a significant potential for harm because of the immature judgment of adolescents and the risk of adverse consequences from their engaging in sexual activity. The rationale for
prohibiting indiscreet solicitation of deviate conduct is that the solicitation in itself can be highly repugnant to the person solicited, and there is a risk that it may provoke a violent re-
sponse.

Importuning is a misdemeanor of the first degree when it involves solicitation of a person under age 13 or solicitation of homosexual or lesbian conduct, and a misdemeanor of the fourth degree when it involves solicitation of an early adolescent.

2907.08 Voyeurism
(A) No person, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the person's self, shall commit trespass or otherwise surreptitiously invade the privacy of another, to spy or eaves-
drop upon another.

(B) No person, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the person's self, shall commit trespass or otherwise surreptitiously invade the privacy of another to videotape, film, photograph, or otherwise record the other person in a state of nudity.

(C) No person, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the person's self, shall commit trespass or otherwise surreptitiously invade the privacy of another to videotape, film, photograph, or otherwise record the other person in a state of nudity if the other person is a minor.

(D) No person, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the person's self, shall commit trespass or otherwise surreptitiously invade the privacy of another to videotape, film, photograph, or otherwise record the other person in a state of nudity if the other person is a minor and any of the following applies:

(1) The offender is the minor's natural or adoptive parent, stepparent, guardian, or custodian, or person in loco parentis of the minor.

(2) The minor is in custody of law or is a patient in a hospital or other institution, and the of-
fender has supervisory or disciplinary authority over the minor.

(3) The offender is a teacher, administrator, coach, or other person in authority employed by or serving in a school for which the state board of education prescribes minimum standards pursuant to division (D) of section 3301.07 of the Revised Code, the minor is enrolled in or attends that school, and the offender is not enrolled in and does not attend that school.

(4) The offender is a teacher, administrator, coach, or other person in authority employed by or serving in an institution of higher education, and the minor is enrolled in or attends that institution.
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(5) The offender is a caregiver, administrator, or other person in authority employed by or serving in a child day-care center, type A family day-care home, or type B family day-care home, and the minor is enrolled in or attends that center or home.

(6) The offender is the minor's athletic or other type of coach, is the minor's instructor, is the leader of a scouting troop of which the minor is a member, provides babysitting care for the minor, or is a person with temporary or occasional disciplinary control over the minor.

(E) No person shall secretly or surreptitiously videotape, film, photograph, or otherwise record another person under or through the clothing being worn by that other person for the purpose of viewing the body of, or the undergarments worn by, that other person.

(F) (1) Whoever violates this section is guilty of voyeurism.

(2) A violation of division (A) of this section is a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(3) A violation of division (B) of this section is a misdemeanor of the second degree.

(4) A violation of division (C) or (E) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(5) A violation of division (D) of this section is a felony of the fifth degree.

(G) As used in this section:

(1) "Institution of higher education" means a state institution of higher education as defined in section 3345.031 [3345.03.1] of the Revised Code, a private nonprofit college or university located in this state that possesses a certificate of authorization issued by the Ohio board of regents pursuant to Chapter 1713. of the Revised Code, or a school certified under Chapter 3332. of the Revised Code.

(2) "Child day-care center," "type A family day-care home," and "type B family day-care home" have the same meanings as in section 5104.01 of the Revised Code.

(3) "Babysitting care" means care provided for a child while the parents, guardian, or legal custodian of the child is temporarily away.
Drug and Alcohol Use

The issue of drug and alcohol use and sexual assault can be confusing in the arena of public opinion. However, Ohio law is very clear: “A person who is passed out from drugs or alcohol or is under anesthesia cannot consent to sex.”1 Someone under the influence is unable to consent to sex because of impaired judgment and possible blackouts. Ohio law requires sobriety for consent. Although being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol puts someone at a greater risk and vulnerability to be sexually assaulted, it does not mean that the person deserved to be sexually assaulted or that it was the victim’s fault. Being under the influence does not mean that the victim wanted to have sex and “offenders often look for this opportunity to victimize someone.”2

It is important to remember that people, not alcohol, cause sexual assault. “Although alcohol consumption and sexual assault frequently co-occur, this phenomenon does not prove that alcohol use causes sexual assault. Thus, in some cases, the desire to commit a sexual assault may actually cause alcohol consumption (e.g., when a man drinks alcohol before committing a sexual assault in order to justify his behavior). Moreover, certain factors may lead to both alcohol consumption and sexual assault. For example, some fraternities encourage both heavy drinking and sexual exploitation of women (Abbey et al. 1996b). In fact, many pathways can prompt a man to commit sexual assault, and not all perpetrators are motivated by the same factors (Seto and Barbaree 1997).”3 Drinking is not an excuse for socially unacceptable behavior nor does it make women more sexually available. The perpetrator is morally responsible for his own actions.

Another problem that has become increasingly prevalent is the use of “date-rape drugs” in sexual assaults. The name they have been given “date-rape” does not mean the victim is on a date, or even knows the perpetrator. These drugs may be administered in a variety of situations. If a victim is given a date-rape drug, they may not know they were drugged and may not clearly remember what happened. These drugs may be tasteless and odorless, making them virtually undetectable and extremely dangerous. If a victim wants to find out whether they were drugged, they must have a lab test done at a hospital 12 to 72 hours after ingestion. Some of the most common types of these drugs include:

- Benadryl (in food)
- Rohypnol (roofies)
- Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate (GHB, clear liquid)
- Ketamine (Special K, Bump)

As mentioned earlier, rape is not a sexual crime. Rape is a crime about displaying power and dominance. Sexual offenses are never sexual rather, they assert political and patriarchal domination:

“Feminist analysts such as Susan Griffin, Andrea Dworkin, Diana Russell, and Susan Brownmiller have demonstrated what is perhaps the most paradigmatic expression of such patriarchal force—rape—is not, as the common mythology insists, a crime of desire, passion, frustrated attraction, victim provocation or uncontrollable biological urges. Rather, rape is a social expression of sexual politics, an institutionalized and ritual enactment of male domination, a form of terror which functions to maintain the same quo.” (Caputi, Jane. The Age of Sex Crime. Bowling Green, OH: Bowling Green University Popular Press, 1987.)

In Dr. Helen Moffett’s article “Stemming the Tide: Countering the Public Narratives of Sexual Violence (2003),” she examines the inherent messages that result from media coverage of sexual violence. Rus Ervin Funk’s synopsis of her article makes clear these pertinent ideas:

- There are several myths and distortions about sexual violence that flow from the denial about sexual violence.
- The “rapist himself is erased from the equation, rape becomes not so much a crime, as an act of fate”:

Example: “a woman was raped,” “women are raped,” “one and three women are raped in their lifetime.” There is no mention of the rapist or that something horrible was done. These statements have become “matter of fact” and something that “just happens.”

- “the underlying message is that [women] are somehow responsible for the bad things that happen to [their] bodies, and that even if [they] are extremely careful, bad things could still happen to [them].”
- The way statements are written effects the way statements are read and where the responsibility of the rape is placed.

Example:
- A woman was raped this weekend. [passive voice, subject has fallen away]
- A woman was raped by a man this weekend. [passive voice]
- A man raped a woman this weekend. [active voice]
Myth and Denial

Another myth that arises from the denial about sexual violence is perpetuated by how men who rape are described. “When faced with actual situations in which the actor cannot be ignored, public discourse resorts to describing rapists as a monster, or some form of psychopath that is ‘out there’ – i.e. not like the rest of us. In most cases, these descriptions are tainted with the worst of racist and classist stereotypes. This process effectively pushes men who rape to the outer edges of society, thus ensuring that they aren’t recognized as one of us.” This “monster narrative” is not an accurate portrayal of rapists considering that most rapes that occur are acquaintance rapes. This means that the victims knows the perpetrator. This perpetrator could be a boyfriend, friend, family member, community figure, neighbor, etc. These people are not typically described as monstrous, or psychopathic and therefore it is difficult for the public to accept these men as potential rapists. These men appear to be “just like the rest of us.” Moffett writes: “This [“monster narrative”] has enormously problematic consequences for society. If we only accept a certain picture of rapists, then we are greatly constrained as to which rape scenarios we can establish as valid.”

- the message from the “monster narrative” is that “normal men don’t rape.” This is a false and dangerous statement.

- The “monster narrative” reinforces an “otherness” or an “us vs. them” paradigm. This happens especially when referring to rape as a war crime. Since these are easy images to accept because they do not feel “close to home,” people believe that when rape “really happens” it is perpetrated outside the realm of normal everyday life.

Funk summarizes the myths that Moffett points out in her article as:

In relation to the “monster narratives”:
- There is no rapist, rape is something bad that happens to women;
- If there is a rapist, he is a monster, a stranger, a brute or a hardened criminal—not like us;
- Rape, when it “really happens” occurs in war or genocidal situations—far away from here.

These myths imply:
- Rape is a woman’s problem—it has nothing to do with men
- Women aren’t raped by someone “respectable” or that they know or like
- Rape can’t and doesn’t happen in “nice”, safe or secure communities.

Funk references the following as other important myths:

- The rapist may be aberrant, but rape itself is a biologically normal act which is only made criminal by the victim’s lack of consent. When rape is described as if it is some kind of sexual pressure that got out of control, undermines the ways rape is about power
Myth and Denial

and control.

- The female body is “rapable” suggesting that rape is not necessarily violent. The vagina is often described and seen as an empty “penis-sized” space – suggesting that it is incomplete without a penis to fill this space. This depiction reinforces the myth that women want sex but aren’t able to ask for it thus fueling the belief in false-reporting.

*The above information on Dr. Helen Moffett’s “Stemming the Tide: Countering the Public Narratives of Sexual Violence,” was found at http://www.ncdsv.org/images/Stemming_the_Tide.pdf thanks to the National Center of Domestic and Sexual Violence. The above ideas are those of Rus Ervin Funk.

David Lisak’s “The Undetected Rapist” affirms many of Moffett’s previous sentiments, while focusing on the differences between incarcerated rapists and undetected rapists. He writes:

“False stereotypes and misconceptions about who rapists are and how rapists behave continue to hamper the criminal justice system. These stereotypes and misconceptions stem from decades of social science research and media coverage that have focused on the tiny handful of rapists whose crimes are reported by victims and who are then subsequently successfully prosecuted. These incarcerated rapists have been extensively studied. Many of them committed acts of grievous violence, inflicting gratuitous injuries on victims. In many cases, their victims were total strangers, and often these cases received considerable media coverage. As a result, there is a widespread belief that rapists typically attack strangers, use weapons, and inflict extensive physical injuries. Thus, when a rape case arises in which the rapist does not appear to fit this stereotype, many people find it hard to view the assault as a ‘real rape.’”

“However, twenty years of research on so-called “undetected” rapists – men who commit rapes but who are either not reported or not prosecuted for their crimes – has clearly demonstrated that the old stereotypes about rapists are false. These undetected rapists represent the vast majority of rapists, and account for the vast majority of rapes. These men tend to be far more in control of their anger than their incarcerated counterparts, and therefore far less likely to inflict gratuitous injuries on their victims. However, their crimes are characterized by extensive planning and premeditation, the frequent use of alcohol and other drugs to render their victims vulnerable, and the use of sufficient force and threats to terrify their victims into submission. Further, a majority of these rapists are serial offenders, and a majority commit other forms of violence, such as battery and child abuse.”

Myth and Denial

Lisak’s Uncomfortable Truths about Campus Rapists:

“They [undetected rapists] tend to be willing research subjects, because like many in our society, they believe that a rapist wears a ski mask, carries a knife and attacks strangers from dark corners. Since they don't fit that profile, they don't see what they do as rape, and they don't label themselves as rapists. As a result, they can be easily coaxed into talking about their sexual behaviors.”

“Here is what we know about them: They come from all racial and ethnic groups; they are sophisticated sexual predators who plan their attacks exhaustively and with astonishing cunning. Most of them are serial rapists and a significant percentage of them are violent in multiple contexts. As a group, they are responsible for a wildly disproportionate amount of the sexual violence in their communities—whether college campuses or otherwise.”


Why Men Rape

I have chosen to include the following information so that rape can be understood in a larger context. This hate crime is too often blamed on the victim. The following will reveal illogical stereotyping and commonly accepted societal excuses that must be dispelled. Diana Scully and Joseph Marolla’s article “Convicted Rapists’ Vocabulary of Motive: Excuses and Justifications,” provides incarcerated rapists’ justifications and excuses for why they rape:

Justifications
1. women as seductresses (lured them and led them to expect sex)
2. women mean “yes” when they say “no” (“she semi-struggled but deep down inside I think she felt it was a fantasy come true.” “It was like she was saying ‘rape me.’”)
3. most women eventually relax and enjoy it (several men suggested that they had fulfilled their victims’ dreams.)
4. nice girls don’t get raped (They claimed that the victim was known to have been a prostitute, or a “loose” woman, or to have had a lot of affairs, or to have given birth to a child out of wedlock.)
5. guilty of a minor wrongdoing

“Men who claimed to have been unaware that they were raping viewed sexual aggression as a man’s prerogative at the time of the rape. Thus they regarded their act as a little more than a minor wrongdoing even though most possessed or used a weapon. As long as the victim survived without major physical injury, from their perspective, a rape had not taken place.
Why Men Rape

Indeed, even U.S. courts have often taken the position that physical injury is a necessary ingredient for a rape conviction."

A troublesome stereotype is that women provoke rape by the way they dress: “Typically, these descriptions [of seductively attired women] were used to substantiate their [rapists] claims about the victim’s reputation.”

- “Not only did she wear short skirts, but she ‘spread her legs while getting out of cars.’”
- “She was a waitress and you know how they are.”
- “She was a ‘legitimate’ victim who got what she deserved.”

The majority of prosecuted rapes get pleaded down to a lesser, more acceptable charge: “[Rapists] accepted being over-sexed, accused of poor judgment or trickery, even some violence, or guilty of adultery or contributing to delinquency of a minor, charges that are hardly the equivalent of rape.”

Excusing Rape
1. the use of alcohol and drugs (Rapists use alcohol both as an excuse for their behavior and to discredit the victim and make her more responsible.)
2. emotional problems
3. nice guy image

In further explanation of these excuses Scully and Marolla give the following examples:
- “Typically, deniers [convicted rapists] argued that the alcohol and drugs had sexually aroused their victim or rendered her out of control.”
- “Frequently [rape resulted from an] upsetting event [that] was related to a rigid and unrealistic double standard for sexual conduct and virtue which they applied to ‘their’ women but which they didn’t expect from men, didn’t apply to themselves, and, obviously, didn’t honor in other women.”
- “One rapist [who raped his victims at gunpoint] attempting to convey that he was still a ‘good guy’ stated: ‘Physically they enjoyed the sex [rape]. Once they got involved it would be difficult to resist. I was always gentle and kind until I started to kill them. And the killing was sudden, so they didn’t know it was coming.”

There are no excuses or justifications for rape and we have a responsibility to reinforce that truth at every possible opportunity.

Why Rape is Severely Underreported

The problem of rape myths and the devastating underreporting of sex crimes are highly correlated. Kaethe Morris Hoffer’s “The Monster Myth: A Barrier in the Fight Against Rape,” frames the “monster myth/narrative” in the context of how public denial isolates and prevents victims from coming forward. I have chosen important highlights from her essay as explanations of the societal pressures and persecution that are placed upon victims of rape and sexual assault. She writes:

“As women mostly seek out well-regarded men, and avoid those who are clearly identifiable as rapists and batters, it is absurd to posit that being liked or respected is evidence that a man would not or did not violate a woman in private. In other words, the intimate harming of every fourth woman in America is not being done by a tiny subset of particularly unlikable, obviously violent men. To suggest that you will only find rape where you can clearly see a monster, is to obscure the extent and problem of intimate violence in our country, and drive victims deeper into their silences.”

“The attractive qualities of men who rape don't just confound the ability of bystanders to believe that rape has occurred when it is reported. Rather, their positive attributes—the ways in which they are kind, funny, generous, or loving—also cause enormous difficulties for the women they harm. Rape survivors, no less than anyone else, are likely to have believed that only "horrible" men are capable of rape, and being confronted with the lie of that myth through forced sex does not immediately make them able to say that men can be attractive and funny and kind and generous and engage in rape. "I can't believe he would rape anyone" is not just a sentence victims fear hearing from other people—it is a sentiment they know intimately. Frequently, rape survivors endure an agonizing battle with self-doubt, as the conflict between their experience, and their belief that "he wouldn't rape anyone" leads them to wonder if what happened actually did happen.”

“The internal pressure on survivors to re-characterize what was done to them is increased when a survivor works or shares a social circle with her rapist. In such circumstances, victims frequently fear that rape allegations will throw their entire community into upheaval, and will jeopardize everything they value and depend on, from friendships to paychecks. Additionally, when a rapist commands affection and respect, or doesn't fit common (frequently racist) stereotypes about rapists, hostile incredulity is the common response to women who say they have been raped.”

“The myth that victims of "real" rape quickly and fearlessly report their rape to the criminal justice system [is false]. In reality, it takes a great deal of effort and a significant amount of time for most rape survivors to come to terms with what was done to them, let alone to consider going public with their rape by contacting the police. And more acutely than all of us, rape victims know that delay in reporting is used to
Why Rape is Severely Underreported
discredit survivors. Thus a myth turns reality on its head, and plays a key role in keeping women silent long after their struggle to admit they were raped.”

“By accepting so blindly the myth that rape is engaged in by men who are obviously monsters, as well as the myth that true rape victims go to the police quickly, our society does enormous harm to women who are raped. We also do no favors to men in our society, the majority of whom, it should be remembered, never force sex on the women they are intimate with. Indeed, by supporting the myths about rape that blind us to its realities, we give men who commit rape no incentive to change their behaviors. And perhaps more importantly, the ways in which rapists are truly different from the majority of men continue to be obscured and undervalued.”

The Monster Myth: A Barrier in the Fight Against Rape
©Kaethe Morris Hoffer, 2005

Some important facts to consider:
- “The vast majority of rapists don’t go to jail. About 85 percent of rapes go unreported, and only a tiny fraction of reported rapes result in prosecution.”

- “ninety-eight percent of all rapists go free.”

- “Each time a high profile rape case makes the news, it spawns widespread speculation by the public about the truth of the allegations. Generally, the public believes that false reporting of sexual assault is rampant. While many accept that statistics for false reporting are no higher than for any other crime, there is some disagreement as to whether this statistic reflects false allegations, reports that are unfounded, or both. There is a significant difference between a sexual assault being unfounded and a false allegation. Law enforcement officers may decide not to prosecute a case of sexual assault for many reasons, such as lack of corroborating evidence. An unfounded case does not mean that a crime was not committed. This a dangerous assumption that contributes to the stigma associated with reporting sexual assault. Journalists have an opportunity to educate the public through follow-up news stories on the outcome of a sexual assault case, or a general news story on this issue. Sexual assault reporting statistics vary based on the source. Generally, it is estimated that between 64% and 96% of all rapes are never reported to criminal justice authorities.”
Why They Didn’t Report Being Raped to the Police

80% Embarrassed about what happened
61% Felt partly responsible
59% Not enough evidence; case would not be pursued
54% Did not realize they had been raped at time happened
46% Did not think police would be able to make an arrest
45% Too upset
43% Afraid attacker would get angry and rape them again
43% Afraid police would not believe them
43% Did not want media to find out their name
41% At the time, felt society expected women to remain silent
40% Afraid they would have to testify in court
36% Too young at the time it happened
32% Did not want to get assailant in trouble
27% Did not think it was important
24% Did not want significant other to find out
19% Drunk or high when it happened
15% Someone close to them did not want them to report it
14% Attacker threatened to hurt family or friends
13% Significant other did not want them to report it

— Rape. Tulsa: Women Speak Out, Tulsa Police Department, 1983
Misleading Statistics

When it comes to rape and sexual assault, statistics become arbitrary. Rape and sexual assaults are difficult to quantify because it is estimated that less than 10% of assaults are reported. This means that about 90% of rapes go unreported. The real problem of rape is much greater than any of the statistics indicate. For example:

“Experts estimate that only 10 percent of sexual assaults are brought to the police (U.S. House 1990). Interpolating the above data [16 rapes are attempted and ten women are raped every hour] , this means that sexual assault is occurring to 100 women an hour, or once every 36 seconds. Sexual assault is attempted on 160 women an hour, or once every 22.5 seconds.”


Knowing the Scope of Sexual Assault:
- Most college-aged victims DO NOT REPORT incident
- College reporting rates at or below 5% (Fisher, Koss studies)
- FBI: “Most underreported violent crime in the nation”
- Low reporting rates create false sense of security

*Found in U.S. Airforce Sexual Assault Presentation with Lisak*

Statistics from the City of Oxford Police Department (01/01/2005– 12/31/2006):

- Gross Sexual Imposition: 4 reports
- Public Indecency: 10 reports
- Rape: 25 reports
- Sexual Battery: 20 reports
- Sexual Imposition: 7 reports
- Corruption of Minor: 1 report
- Voyeurism: 1 report

So if we take the statistic that only 10% of sexual assaults are reported, here is what the actual number of assaults would reflect:

- Gross Sexual Imposition: 40 incidents
- Public Indecency: 100 incidents
- Rape: 250 incidents
- Sexual Battery: 200 incidents
- Sexual Imposition: 70 incidents
- Corruption of Minor: 10 incidents
- Voyeurism: 10 incidents
Misleading Statistics

January-December 2006 Butler County S.A.N.E. (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) Statistics:

Total number of victims: 153

Estimated Actual Totals: 1,530
If everyone in Butler County who was assaulted in 2006 was seen by a S.A.N.E.:

Total by Hospital:
Fort Hamilton: 53 = 35% 530
Middletown Regional: 46 = 30% 460
Mercy Fairfield: 34 = 22% 340
McCullough-Hyde: 20 = 13% 200

Total by Month:
January: 15
February: 8
March: 11
April: 19
May: 7
June: 13
July: 12
August: 12
September: 13
October: 16
November: 14
December: 13

Miami University Oxford Campus Report (crimes reported to Oxford Police Department and Miami University Police Department, 2004 and 2005):
Sex Offenses-Forcible
2004: 22
2005: 34

Miami University Campus Security Act Reporting, 2003-2005: (Sex Offenses-Forcible)
Campus (residence halls only)
2003: 4
2004: 4
2005: 7

Campus (not including residence halls)
2003: 2
2004: 1
2005: 2
Misleading Statistics

Campus Total
2003: 6
2004: 5
2005: 9

Non-Campus a
2003: 0
2004: 6
2005: 2

Public Property b
2003: 29
2004: 0
2005: 5

Non–Verified c
2003: 4
2004: 4
2005: 1

**OPE Campus Security Statistics (aggregated campus variables) Ohio Campuses:** (On Campus)

**Sex Offences-Forcible**
2002: 110
2003: 113
2004: 131

**Sex Offenses-Non-forcible (incest and statutory rape only)**
2002: 7
2003: 7
2004: 0

**Public Property:**

**Sex Offences-Forcible**
2002: 128
2003: 165
2004: 36

**Sex Offenses-Non-forcible (incest and statutory rape only)**
2002: 11
2003: 3
2004: 0
Misleading Statistics

“Estimates tell us that one in four females and one in seven males will be sexually victimized in their lifetimes.”

“Alcohol and Rape:
90% of all violence on college campuses is alcohol related
80% of date rape offenders are drunk/have been drinking when assault occurs
55% of date rape victims are drunk/have been drinking when assault occurs”

(Miami University’s Women’s Center “TIPP Reports and Research”)

The research report “The Sexual Victimization of College Women,” points out why many studies done are inaccurate and flawed. The following reasons were given:

- The failure to use randomly selected, national sample of college women.
- The failure to assess the various ways in which women can be victimized.
- The failure to use question wording or sufficiently detailed measures that prevent biases that might cause researches to underestimate or overestimate the extent of sexual victimization.
- The failure to collect detailed information on what occurred during the victimization incident
- The failure to explore systematically the factors that place female students at risk for sexual victimization.
- The failure to study whether women have been stalked—a victimization that, until recently, had not received systematic research.

The way this study differed from the flaws mentioned above:

- Employing a nationally representative sample of college women.
- Assessing a range of sexual victimizations, including stalking.
- Measuring sexual victimization using a two-stage process starting with “behaviorally specific” screen questions that attempted to cue respondents to recall and report to the interviewer different types of sexual victimization experiences they may have had. Those who reported a victimization were then asked a series of questions, called an incident report, to verify what type of sexual victimization, if any, had occurred.
- Acquiring detailed information on each victimization incident, including the type of penetration(s) or unwanted sexual contact experienced and the means of coercion, if any, used by the offender.
- Examining how the risk of being sexually victimized was affected by a variety of variables, including demographic characteristics, lifestyles, prior victimization, and the characteristics of the college or university attended.
- In addition, the research project contained a comparison component designed to assess how rape estimates that use the two-stage process (behaviorally specific questions and
Misleading Statistics

incident reports) compared with rape estimates drawn from a sample of college women who completed a survey based on the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).

“Most victims knew the person who sexually victimized them. For both completed and attempted rapes, about 9 in 10 offenders were known to the victim. Most often, a boyfriend, ex-boyfriend, classmate, friend, acquaintance, or coworker sexually victimized the women. College professors were not identified as committing any rapes or sexual coercions, but they were cited as the offender in a low percentage of cases involving unwanted sexual contact.”

“Few incidents of sexual victimization were reported to law enforcement officials. Thus, fewer than 5 percent of completed and attempted rapes were reported to law enforcement officials. In about two-thirds of the rape incidents, however, the victim did tell another person about the incidents. Most often this person was a friend, not a family member or college official. Victims gave a number of reasons for not reporting their victimizations to law enforcement officials. Some reasons indicated that they did not see the incidents as harmful or important enough to bring in the authorities. Thus, the common answers included that the incident was not serious enough to report and that it was not clear that a crime was committed. Other reasons, however, suggested that there were barriers to reporting. Such answers included not wanting family or other people to know about the incident, lack of proof the incident happened, fear of reprisal by the assailant, fear of being treated with hostility by the police, and anticipation that the police would not believe the incident was serious enough and/or would not want to be bothered with the incident.”

“The sexual victimization of college students has emerged as a controversial issue, pitting feminist scholars who claim that the sexual victimization of women is a serious problem against conservative commentators who claim that such victimization is rare and mostly a fictitious creation of ideologically tainted research.” (The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Statistics put out a research report in December 2000 by Bonnie S. Fisher, Francis T. Cullen, and Michael G. Turner called “The Sexual Victimization of College Women.”)

FBI:
- There were an estimated 93,934 forcible rapes reported to law enforcement in 2005
- The rate of forcible rapes in 2005 was estimated at 62.5 offenses per 100,000 female inhabitants

Sexual victimization is far from fictitious and due to faulty methodological collection of data, the fact that most women (about 90%) do not report or tell anyone about their rape, and the societal pressure and stereotyping of victims one can conclude that statistics are indeed a poor way to determine the severity of the sexual assault problem. Local and national statistics all differ because of lack of reporting, record keeping, and differing community (not legal) definitions of rape.
Retraumatization of Victims

The following commonly heard phrases, “she wanted it,” “provoked it,” “she liked it,” and “she got what she deserved” do unspeakable emotional damage to victims of sexual assault. It is important that the media and communities work together in order to not retraumatize victims of sexual assault while covering the situation honestly and fairly. The following quotes are examples of some of the issues that need to be carefully reexamined:

“Feminists call the trial the ‘second rape.’ Now, thanks to The New York Times and NBC News, both of which identified by name the victim in the William Kennedy Smith rape trial, there will be a third rape—by the media.”

“Newspapers and rapists tend to find the same facts compelling.”


Benefits and Risks:

“The media can provide a forum for survivors to break their silence, and be heard by the public and other survivors, thereby reducing isolation and fostering empowerment. It also has the potential to re-victimize survivors and add to the intensity of their trauma through intrusive or insensitive reporting, or through the broadcast of hearsay or inaccurate facts.”

“As advocates, we have a duty to help educate survivors about their rights, as well as the risks and benefits of speaking publicly. The following issues should be discussed with a survivor and be considered before an interview is granted. Once fully informed, the final decision to speak with a reporter should always rest with the survivor.”

Possible Risks to the Survivor

• “Coverage of aspects of the victim’s life that have no bearing on the crime
• Public identification placing physical and emotional well-being at risk
• Repeat victimization (emotionally or physically)
• Oversimplification, stereotypes, glamorization, sensationalism
• Compromising the criminal investigation and/or trial

Possible Benefits to the Survivor

• Empowerment
• Control
• Validation
• Potential for more sensitive and accurate coverage
• Holding perpetrator and/or systems accountable
• Encouragement of community support for victims or issue”

“Working With the Media: A Toolkit for Service Providers” published by the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Okemos, MI
Retraumatization of Victims

Lee Madison and Nancy C. Gamble, in their book *The Second Rape: Society's Continued Betrayal of the Victim*, point out how victims are retraumatized and the disservice to women that results from continued victimizing experiences:

“There is a new, more disturbing twist to rape if one becomes aware that women who report a rape are again raped by a system composed of well-intentioned people who are nevertheless blinded by the myths of centuries.”

“The “second rape” is the act of violation, alienation, and disparagement a survivor receives when she turns to others for help and support.”

“Our naïve attitudes toward the police begin with the assumption that all police personnel are equally knowledgeable about and experienced with rape.”

“Despite recent laws that you cannot bring out a survivor’s past sexual history and morals, cannot polygraph her, and cannot suggest a psychological evaluation, these matters of her character and mental state can be addressed in a court of law more covertly. A public defender told us, ‘You can bring up a victim’s morals only if she’s lying. However, you can bring up her poor judgment always—like the way she was dressed or whether she was using alcohol or drugs.’”

“Men and women everywhere need to view rape as a political issue. For the most part, the experience of seeking justice is a form of political punishment designed to keep women in their place, ashamed of their sexuality and afraid to be themselves, The second rape is still a witch-hunt. In fact, it works, it deters women from reporting a rape or following through on a report. Thus far, this tactic has been very successful.”


Where and by Who the Retraumatization or the Second Rape Occurs:

- The Police
- Medical Personal
- The Media
- The Criminal Justice System (courts)
- Mental Health Personnel
- Public Opinion
- Family and Friends
**Ethics**

The following ideas were found in The Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence’s “*Working with the Media: A Toolkit for Service Providers.*”

There are several things to consider when deciding what to use and what not to use when covering a story. Hopefully, with the right facts and resources, a sensitive and honest story will be the result. Here are some things to keep in mind:

1) Evaluating goal of the story. (Does that goal include respect and sensitivity to the victim and their family?)

2) Victims of rape as well as the victim referred to as a part of potential audience (How would the victim(s) feel if they came across this story?)

3) Keeping updated on facts and statistics (Education is the key to eradicating negative attitudes)

4) Effective but sensitive reporting (Is their privacy protection for the victim. Are there any unnecessary references to the victim’s private or public life?)

5) Being aware of the cost of irrelevant information about the victim’s life (Consider implications of these details for family and friends as well)

6) Is the victim put in danger? (Is the story making them more vulnerable to retaliation/re-victimization both physical and emotional? Victims may have a fear of being publicly identified.)

7) Is stereotyping, sensationalism, or oversimplification used to build-up the story and make it more marketable? These kinds of portrayals reaffirm harmful myths)

8) Is the story in danger of compromising an investigation or trial?

9) Does the story reinforce the negative connotations of “victim” or does it move towards validation and empowerment?

10) Does the story hold perpetrators and communities responsible? (Does it foster encouragement and support for the victim?)

Helen Benedict writes: “Unfortunately, the aspects of sexual assault that have traditionally been found to be newsworthy are not representative of the most common scenarios. Studies have shown that the following elements will drive how and when sexual assault is covered by the media:
Ethics

- Especially brutal or unusual assaults
- Patterned or serial rapes
- Sexual assaults where the victim was either very old or very young
- Sexual assaults that included other criminal aspects, such as kidnapping or murder

*Source: Virgin or Vamp, Helen Benedict, Oxford University Press, 1992.*

It is important that the above representations are not the only representations of sexual assault. Reports on the undetected rapist and other common sexual assaults will balance the image of the “other” or “monster myth” and present a much more realistic view on the issue. The media is so powerful that if certain images aren’t presented through the media, the general public does not believe them to exist.

The following questions were written by Bob Steele and found at http://www.poynter.org/content/content_view.asp?id=4346:

**Ask These 10 Questions to Make Good Ethical Decisions**

1. What do I know? What do I need to know?

2. What is my journalistic purpose?

3. What are my ethical concerns?

4. What organizational policies and professional guidelines should I consider?

5. How can I include other people, with different perspectives and diverse ideas, in the decision-making process?

6. Who are the stakeholders -- those affected by my decision? What are their motivations? Which are legitimate?

7. What if the roles were reversed? How would I feel if I were in the shoes of one of the stakeholders?

8. What are the possible consequences of my actions? Short term? Long term?

9. What are my alternatives to maximize my truth-telling responsibility and minimize harm?

10. Can I clearly and fully justify my thinking and my decision? To my colleagues? To the stakeholders? To the public?
Ethics

Luckily most news organizations have internal policies that protect the identities of sexual assault victims. However there are ways that the media can reveal who a victim is without disclosing their name by naming family members or other related peoples to the crime. There are also several websites that disclose information that most journalists try to keep private.

“Sixty percent of rape victims say they fear being identified in the media if they report their crimes, according to the National Women’s Survey, a study conducted by the National Institute on Drug abuse. Yet, rape victims are rarely identified by name in news reports. When they are, we should explain why.” (More Smart Coverage: the challenge to explain ourselves now that the charges have been filed by Kelly McBride found at Poynteronline)

We all know the results of the case discussed below. However, the following is an important discussion to consider when reporting high profile cases:

“The justification for anonymity resides in the hopes and fears of millions of rape victims out there who must decide if they will pursue justice. Naming this woman now would ‘compound what has already been an unmitigated disaster for rape victims,’ says Dean Kilpatrick, director of the National Violence Against Women Prevention and Research Center. He's spent his career gathering data about sexual assault. One of the most interesting discrepancies he notes is that rape victims tell researchers they are terrified at the thought of public disclosure. They fear it more than sexually transmitted diseases. That fear is pervasive and paralyzing, despite the fact that newsrooms almost never publish such names unless the victim consents. That fear is fueled by high-profile cases and reinforced by what turns out to be the exception to the rule. Victims of a rapist who seems powerful or prominent stand to lose the most. In an e-mail, Kilpatrick wrote that, based on the treatment Bryant's accuser has received from the media and the courts, "a woman would be a fool to report a rape involving a high-profile defendant." He added: "Publishing her name would complete the job of totally trashing her." Even if Bryant is acquitted, even if the charges are dropped, the justifications for naming his accuser are thin. They achieve little justice or journalistic purpose. Yet the harm, particularly when we examine the impact on current and future victims of rape, is immense.” (Naming the Accuser: Discuss Your Verdict Now: Don’t let developments in the Bryant case force decisions on a deadline that would be better weighed in advance by Kelly McBride found at Poynteronline)

“I believe we have a professional obligation to assess, the best we can, the vulnerability of individuals as we write stories about the most painful and difficult elements of their lives. As journalists, we generally write a story and move on. Those we write about will be forever connected to that story. We have a duty to show great care and concern.” (Naming Rape Victims by Bob Steele found at Poynteronline)
Perpetuating “The Blame Game”

“It is never the victim’s fault that the assault happened. You may choose to leave your window open on a summer night, go for a walk alone, get drunk at a party, go home with someone you just met, or say no to your spouse, partner or date about sex. None of these actions gives anyone the right to violate you.”


The above quote gives many examples of unnecessary information that is often involved in media reports on sexual assaults. It is not only unnecessary, but also harmful to mention whether the victim left their window open, if they were walking alone (avoiding the dark alley stranger rape scenario), if they were drunk or using drugs, if they went home with someone they had just met, or what the victim was wearing. All of these aspects place unnecessary blame on the victim by giving the public possible justifications for the assault.

“Myth: If a woman dresses sexy, she is asking for “it”
Fact: Once again, people believe this myth so that they do not have to admit that they could become a victim. The thought process being, “I do not dress sexy, so I will not be raped.” The fact is that a woman has the right to dress anyway she chooses. Her choice of clothing in NO WAY grants permission or invites rape. This thought process can also be applied to other myths, such as “She was raped because of the places she goes, the people she hangs out with, or the amount of make-up that she wears.” No victim has ever asked to be raped.”

(“Survivor Support Manual” ©Terri Heckman, former YWCA Rape Crisis Program Director, 1994)

- Avoiding this information does not take away from accurate reporting and should not be considered as incomplete coverage, but as sensitive and respectful ways to breakdown negative attitudes towards survivors.

- Another aspect of blaming the victim comes into play when journalists take and use inaccurate and misinformed quotes. It is important to consider if there should be a moral obligation to avoid using such misinformation.

- Avoiding blame means using sensitive and effective language. Refer to page 21 “Rape and Rapist Myths” of this guide to review Moffett’s take on active vs. passive voice and word choice.
Questionable Reporting

Questionable Reporting: the following are some quotes that may be interpreted negatively by a reader. The reporter hears a significant amount of dialogue, which is then filtered through their own biases. It is important to choose balanced, even-handed quotes by not merely relying on biased testimony. It is not new news that the defense goes out of its way to discredit the victim.

1. “The attack, Hedric said, was so brutal that the victim underwent two hours of surgery to repair injuries from the rape, but there was no sign she had been beaten.” (She was brutally raped and held down by her throat. By stating that she was “not beaten” the severity of the victim’s case is lessened.)

2. “Lennen alleged Monday that the woman had been taking a prescription mind-altering drug. But an emergency room nurse who testified Monday noted that the drug, called Adderall, was prescribed for attention deficit disorder.” (This is unnecessary information that discredits the victim and her private life. This has no connection to the rape. Comments such as these lead people to think that they know what happened. When the public will not receive that information until testimony. None of us were there.)

3. “The evidence shows it was consensual. There was not a mark on her except for the vaginal cavity, and there were no marks on him. The evidence does not support her story,” Lennen told the jury.” (Is this an even-handed quote?)

4. “The 26-year-old body builder maintained that he had met the woman for the first time in person the day before when they went for a short walk, although they had sent computer messages back and forth for about one month.” (This statement suggests that the perpetrator is good looking (hard to say no to) and it does not matter that they spoke over the internet. That should have no bearing on whether a rape took place. It was also a case of stalking over Instant Messenger, not flirting.)

5. “‘You met this girl for the first time the day before, and the first thing you do is hop in bed?” assistant prosecutor Craig Hedric asked Landis Wednesday.” “That's what we said we were going to do on Instant Messenger, and that's what we did,” Landis answered.” (This is an obvious choice of biased testimony.)

6. “Prosecutors have alleged that Landis became overly aggressive because he was using anabolic steroids and that the woman was injured because of Landis' use of the male enhancement drug Viagra.” (Drugs do not rape people, people rape people. It also suggests that the Viagra, rather then his penis, was responsible for the injury.)

Realizing that most of these quotes are reporters quoting sources, it comes down to the choice one makes on what to and not to include. Do we have a moral obligation to paint a balanced picture, one that is sensitive to the victim?

"In its rush to be the first with the news, the media can often inflict a "second victimization" upon crime victims or survivors. Common complaints that victims have include: interviewing survivors at inappropriate times; filming and photographing gruesome scenes; searching for the "dirt" about the victim; seeking interviews with friends or neighbors', interviewing or photographing child victims; printing victims' names, addresses or places of employment; and scrutinizing victims' past.

A recent study shows that television news directors agree in principle that crime victims have privacy rights and the individual's right to privacy is not outweighed by the public's desire to know. However, directors are less likely to adhere to this principle if they know a competitor is going to break the story.

While victims have rights when dealing with the media, many yield to media pressures and answer questions that they would not consider answering under other circumstances. In most cases, there are no legal remedies if his or her rights are violated.” (found at http://www.ibiblio.org/rcip/mediaandrashandle.html)
Things Not to Say to a Victim

Please don't...

1. Ask if we liked it.
   No one likes being physically overpowered.

2. Tell us "it's just sex".
   Rape is a crime of power, control, and extreme violence where sex is used
   as a weapon against someone weaker. It is not sex.

3. Tell us how we could have avoided it.
   Believe me, if we could have prevented it we would have.

4. Make fun of us.
   We have faced an attacker who sometimes is willing to kill and have
   survived. What's there to make fun of?

5. Tell us it would never happen to you and why.
   We didn't think we would become statistics either.

6. There's no need to avoid us.
   We're still the same person you've come to care about or learned to care
   about. We've just been unspeakably hurt. We're not contagious.

7. Please don't treat us like we have the plague.
   Chances are we don't. Do you?

8. God isn't punishing us for some misdeed by allowing this to happen.
   God helps us heal. He doesn't send someone to hurt His people.

9. Don't tell us it was God's will we were raped.
   Do tell us it was God's will that we survived!

10. Don't disbelieve us.
    According to survey respondents being disbelieved is a survivor's greatest fear
Things Not to Say to a Victim

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11. Don't tell us that survivors make up tales for attention.
According to The National Coalition Against Sexual Assault false rape
reports only happen 2% of the time. That's a 98% chance that no matter how
strange it sounds to you the rape isn't being fabricated.

12. Don't tell me not to talk about it.
Yes it upsets me to talk about it but that is the only way
that I can sort through it.

13. Don't say, 'it happened on a date, that's common'.
When you say that it belittles me and my feelings about the assault.
It's not common because it happened to me and I'm not a statistic.

14. Don't say "other people have it worse off than you".
I'm not "other people". I'm me.

Some other suggestions for Partners of Survivors that may help:

12. Don't feel you need to retaliate against our attacker.
We know the perpetrator is capable of violence. Please don't make us worry
about you being hurt. We'll feel more secure knowing you'll remain in one
piece.

It's not our fault.

14. Don't tell us to "get over it".
We would if we could and we are trying our best. Support us as we struggle
to find our way again.

15. Don't tell us to put what happened out of our minds.
It's not that simple.

16. Don't tell us "it's no big deal".
Rape is an enormous challenge to heal from. It haunts even our dreams.
17. Try to understand our need to feel safe.
If we disagree about safety issues in the future please realize that
what may sounds strange to you may help us feel safe.

18. Don't say something like, "Well, it's been six months (a year, 5 years
e tc.) and ask if we're "over it" yet. Chances are that we may not be ready to go back to life as
it was. We may never be ready and may have to create a new life for ourselves as we learn
to be safe again.

19. Don't tell us we are weak because it impacts our life.
We are stronger than words can describe.

20. Don't ask us what you are supposed to do to get past what happened to
us.
We aren't sure what we're going to do.

21. Don't ask us if we did anything on purpose that led to the rape.
We didn't do anything except survive.

22. Don't ask us if we couldn't have done something differently during the
attack.
We made the best choices we could to survive. We got away without being
killed didn't we? That's proof our instincts were right. Please help us learn to realize that our-

selves.

23. Don't tell us that it's not rape because we knew the attacker.
Numerous studies tell us that our perpetrators are more likely to be known
to us than unknown.

24. If you give us a hug and we pull away please know that chances are
we're not rejecting you, we're just uncomfortable.
We may have a hard time being able to respond right now.

25. If we do pull away from you please don't get mad. Tell us you care.
Chances are you'll get that hug after all!
26. If you're together and the survivor has a flashback try not to be mad at the survivor. We hate the darned things too! Flashbacks are always rough. It's difficult to know what to do. It's got to be difficult to watch. Any anger should go the one who caused the rape and not the survivor who has to put her life together.

27. Don't be afraid to talk to us if we're upset. Knowing you are there may be just what we need.

28. If we become suicidal please don't take that as a sign of weakness. Take that as a sign we're overwhelmed, trying to cope, and need help.

29. Don't pretend rape doesn't happen to people you know. It does. Thank you for reading this to learn about it.

30. Don't get the idea rape just happens to "those" kinds of people. This crime happens to as many as 1 woman in 4. It crosses ethnic, racial, economic and social boundaries.

31. Don't be afraid of a person who was raped. I promise as a survivor, the rape will effect you but won't rub off on you. The person you love is still the same person as before.

32. Don't deny your feelings after finding out a friend was raped. Call a rape crisis center's hotline and find out what support is available for you.

33. Do not tell us we should take it as a compliment. Rape isn’t about lust or attractiveness, its an act of power and force.

34. Do not tell us "Oh yeah, I know a bunch of girls who've been raped". (We realize we aren't the only ones but by saying that it belittles how it hurts by making it just another number.)

35. Do not tell a survivor "Its no big deal." (We know otherwise.)

36. Please don't tell us "Oh well, you'll have other dates that will go better." What happened wasn't a bad date, it was a crime.
Victim Rights

“Victims have the right to be free of harassment or intimidation and to be treated with as much credibility as victims of any other crime”


It is crucial to treat victims of sexual assault with gentleness and sensitivity. Coming forward is something to be commended and not shunned.

**Article I, Section 10a. of the Constitution of Ohio**

Victims of criminal offenses shall be accorded fairness, dignity, and respect in the criminal justice process, and as the General Assembly shall define and provide by law, shall be accorded rights to reasonable and appropriate notice, information, access, and protection and to a meaningful role in the criminal justice process. This section does not confer upon any person a right to appeal or modify any decision in a criminal proceeding, does not abridge any other right guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States or this Constitution, and does not create any cause of action for compensation or damages against the state, any political subdivision of the state, any officer, employee, or agent of the state or any political subdivision, or any officer of the court.

- Right to be free of harassment and intimidation
- Right to request HIV testing of the perpetrator
- Right to reimbursement for economic losses (for example: hospital/medical)
- Right to receive information about crime victim rights
- Right to appoint a representative
- Right to receive current information about the criminal investigation
- Right to be notified when the offender is arrested or released before trial
- Right to reasonable return of property
- Right to information from, and meaningful discussions with, the prosecutor
- Right to meaningful participation during the trial
- Right to make a statement at sentencing about the impact of the crime
- Right to participate in criminal proceedings without jeopardizing employment status
- Right to receive notice if violent offender escapes custody before trial or sentencing
- Right to receive information after sentencing
- Right to information and input about adult defendant’s incarceration and parole status

*It is the victim’s responsibility to keep the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction informed of any changes in address or telephone number in order to continue receiving notification.*

** Rights after being victimized by a Juvenile offender are different than those by an adult defendant. Please refer to: (“Picking Up the Pieces: Your Rights and Responsibilities As a Crime Victim,” a resource created by Jim Petro, Attorney General, State of Ohio)
Victim Rights

“Picking Up the Pieces: Your Rights and Responsibilities As a Crime Victim,” a resource created by Jim Petro, Attorney General, State of Ohio has a comprehensive list of legal terms helpful to both victims and the media:

**DEFINITION OF TERMS**

You may not be familiar with some of the terms used in the criminal justice system or in this booklet. The following definitions will hopefully assist you:

**Acquit** - to find a defendant not guilty in a criminal trial.

**Affirm** - the assertion of an appellate court that the judgement of the court below is correct and should stand.

**Agent** - a person authorized to act for another.

**Alleged Juvenile Offender** - a juvenile named in a police report or complaint who is suspected of committing a delinquent act.

**Appeal** - the process by which the convicted person asks for a review of a conviction by a higher court.

**Arraignment** - the initial court appearance of the accused, to inform the accused of the charges and to take a plea of guilty, not guilty, or no contest to the charge.

**Bail** - an amount of money determined by the judge and posted with the court clerk as security to ensure the defendant’s appearance in court at a specific time.

**Charge** - formal accusation of having committed a criminal offense.

**Civil Action** - a lawsuit to enforce private rights, to obtain compensation for a violation of those rights, or to recover monetary damages. A civil action is brought directly by the person who is complaining, usually with the help of a private attorney. Civil actions are all types of actions that are not criminal proceedings.

**Commutation** - the substitution by the governor of a lesser punishment than the original sentence imposed by the court.

**Complaint** - 1. (criminal) Formal written charge alleging that a person has committed a criminal offense. 2. (civil) Initial document entered by the plaintiff that states the claims against the defendant.

**Contempt of Court** - any act that embarrasses, hinders, or obstructs the court in administering justice, or that lessens its authority or its dignity.

**Costs** - an allowance for expenses in prosecuting or defending a case in court, not including attorney fees.

**Court** - Includes a court of common pleas, juvenile court, municipal court, or county court.

**Criminal Proceeding** - a criminal action brought by a governmental body, such as a city or state. In a criminal proceeding, the prosecutor represents the governmental body that is bringing the action against the defendant.
Judicial Terminology

**Custodial Agency** - the agency that has custody of an offender who is incarcerated or under detention after adjudicated delinquent, or after a finding of incompetence to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity.

**Defendant** - the person who is being prosecuted.

**Delinquent Child** - a minor who has violated criminal laws or who engages in disobedient, indecent, or immoral conduct and is in need of treatment, rehabilitation, or supervision.

**Delinquency Proceeding** - any proceedings in a juvenile court that relates to a case against an alleged juvenile offender.

**Delinquent Act** - an act committed by a juvenile that would be considered a crime if committed by an adult.

**Evidence** - any form of proof legally presented at a trial usually through witnesses, records, or documents.

**Felony** - a crime of a more serious nature than a misdemeanor.

**Grand Jury** - a group of persons whose duty is to receive complaints and accusations in criminal cases, hear the prosecutor’s evidence, and decide whether that evidence is sufficient to issue an indictment.

**Guardian** - any person, association, or corporation appointed by probate court to have the care and management of the person and/or estate of an incompetent person or minor.

**Habitual Sexual Offender** - any person who is convicted two or more times, in separate criminal actions, of any of a list of specified sex offenses.

**Hearing** - an in-court proceeding before a judge, generally open to the public.

**Hung Jury** - a jury whose members cannot agree on a verdict.

**Indictment** - a written accusation issued by the grand jury that a particular person has committed a certain crime.

**Judgment** - the official decision of the court; the final decision of the court resolving legal questions, which can involve a finding of guilt or acquittal of the accused and the severity of the sentence.

**Judicial Release** - process by which an eligible offender meeting certain requirements may be released from incarceration by the sentencing judge.

**Jurisdiction** - authority of a court to exercise judicial power.

**Mental Distress** - any mental illness or condition that involves some temporary substantial incapacity or mental illness or condition that would normally require psychiatric treatment. Mental distress is an element of the menacing by stalking crime.

**Misdemeanor** - an offense less serious than a felony with a maximum punishment of six months in jail and a $1,000 fine.
Judicial Terminology

**Mistrial** - erroneous or invalid trial. Usually declared because of prejudicial error in the proceedings or when there was a hung jury. The defendant can face trial again after a mistrial.

**Motion** - an oral or written request made to a court or judge for the purpose of obtaining a ruling or order directing some act to be done.

**Notices** - information, advice, or written warning intended to apprise persons of some proceeding in which his/her interests are involved, or to inform them of some fact that they have a right to know. Victims of crime in Ohio are entitled to certain notices without request. Other notices are “triggered” by the request of the victim.

**Oath** - written or oral pledge by a person to keep a promise or speak the truth.

**Offender** - a person accused of committing a criminal or delinquent act. The offender becomes known as the defendant after official criminal charges are filed with a court. The offender becomes known as an alleged juvenile offender after delinquency charges are filed in juvenile court.

**Offenses** - criminal or delinquent acts that include felonies and misdemeanors, including violations of state law or city and village ordinances.

**Pardon** - an act of the governor releasing a prisoner from serving the remainder of a sentence.

**Parole** - a supervised release from jail or prison, after the offender actually serves part of the sentence. May also be referred to as post-conviction control.

**Plea** - a defendant’s official statement of “guilty,” “not guilty,” or “no contest” to the charges. If the defendant enters a “guilty” or “no contest” plea, there will be no need for a trial.

**Preliminary Hearing** - a hearing sometimes held in felony cases after the arrest of the offender and before an indictment. At the hearing, the prosecutor must produce evidence that a crime probably has been committed, and that the offender probably committed it.

**Presentence Investigation** - investigation of the relevant background of a convicted offender, usually conducted by a probation officer, and given to the judge for use during sentencing. An impact statement by the victim is usually incorporated into this report.

**Pretrial** - a meeting, before trial, between the prosecutor and the defense attorney to discuss the merits of the case, exchange information about witnesses, and attempt to negotiate an appropriate resolution of the case. Many cases are finalized at pre-trial.

**Pretrial Diversion** - allows the offender of certain offenses, prior to trial, to be referred to community agencies to complete certain things such as drug counseling and community service. If the offender responds successfully, the charges will usually be dismissed by the court.

**Probable Cause** - reasonable cause; having more evidence for than against; a reasonable belief that a crime has or is being committed; the basis for all lawful searches, seizures, and arrests.
Judicial Terminology

**Probation** - a period during which the defendant’s jail time or fine is suspended. During this time, the defendant is under court supervision and must obey certain rules. If the defendant breaks any of these rules while on probation, the court can then order him or her to serve the jail time. May also be referred to as post-conviction control.

**Prosecution** - 1. act of pursuing a lawsuit or criminal trial; 2. the government attorney who initiates and attempts to prove a criminal case in court.

**Prosecutor** - a public officer including the prosecuting attorney or assistant prosecuting attorney, village solicitor, or city law director who is designated to appear for the prosecution of a given case.

**Reasonable Doubt** - an accused person is entitled to acquittal if, in the minds of the jury, guilt has not been proven beyond a “reasonable doubt;” that state of mind of the jury in which they cannot say they feel an abiding conviction as to the truth of the charge.

**Restitution** - an order by a court that requires the offender to pay for monetary loss, damage, or injury.

**Search Warrant** - a written order, issued by a judge or magistrate, directing an officer to search a specified house or other place for evidence.

**Sentencing** - the judgment of a court concerning the offender’s punishment, ranging from death, imprisonment, or fine to probation, restitution, and community service.

**Sexual Predator** - a person who has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to committing a sexually-oriented offense and is likely to engage in one or more sexually-oriented offenses in the future.

**Speedy Trial** - right of a defendant to have a trial within a period of time defined by law.

**Subpoena** - a written command to appear at a certain time to give testimony or produce documentary evidence. Failure to comply with a subpoena can lead to an arrest or contempt of court proceeding.

**Summons** - document or writ directing the sheriff or other officer to give notice that an action has been commenced against a person in court and that an appearance is required by a certain day, to answer the complaint.

**Testimony** - any statement made by a witness under oath in a legal proceeding.

**Verdict** - formal decision made by a judge or jury.

**Victim** - a person who has suffered an injury resulting from the commission of a crime or delinquent act.

**Victim Advocate** - a person who provides support and assistance for a victim of crime during court proceedings.

**Victim Impact Statement** - a written or oral statement regarding the impact of the crime on the victim — including the financial, physical, and emotional consequences.

**Victim Representative** - a member of the victim’s family or another person who exercises the rights of a victim.
Culture of Violence Against Women

One of the largest obstacles in combating sexual violence and retraumatization in the media is the accepted culture of violence against women that continues to persist. The definition of “violence against women” that I am using is:

**Violence Against Women** — Violence committed on the basis of gender. This term is used to encompass all forms of violence perpetrated against women and girls including sexual assault, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, trafficking, and abuse in later life, among other crimes. (Reprinted with permission from *Reporting Sexual Assault: A Guide for Journalists*, 2004, published by the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Okemos, MI)

Until we as a society are ready to speak out and stand up against gender violence, sexual assault will continue to be a deeply engrained part of everyday life. Dworkin writes: “But we have to change our focus: we have to stop it from happening. Otherwise we accept as our condition that the rape of women and brutality toward women are normal, and the question is how to regulate it, how to reduce it.”

I believe this will come about through education. Education through media, schools, families, communities, and religious institutions. Violence against women is perpetuated by the violent images we are exposed to. Violent sex in pornography has been widely accepted, detrimental to society’s view on rape myths, and devastatingly abusive to women:

“With Catherine A. MacKinnon, I drafted the first civil law against pornography. It holds pornographers accountable for what they do: they traffic in women (contravening the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women); they sexualize inequality in a way that materially promotes rape, battery, maiming, and bondage; they make a product that they know dehumanizes, degrades, and exploits women; they hurt women to make the pornography and then consumers use the pornography in assaults both verbal and physical.” (Dworkin, Andrea. *Life and Death: Unapologetic Writings on the Continuing War Against Women*. New York, NY: THE FREE PRESS A Division of Simon and Schister Inc., 1997.)

Our attitudes about the domestification of women, keeping women “in there proper place” promotes oppression and violence as well as the objectification and commercialization of women’s bodies. Sex and violence sells, so it is no wonder that the sexualization of women in the main stream media results in the systematic punishment of women in society. Another barrier to eradicating sexual assault is “tradition.” Men are seen as protectors which translates into ownership and female dependence. These ideas of masculinity, that men should be dominant, strong, and aggressive are societal manacles. These images are replayed over and over until we are desensitized to violence and violent images. This unfortunately results in the blurring of the difference between forcible sex (rape) and a consensual sexual relationship. Women who become victims remain unique individuals versus community
Culture of Violence Against Women

Members. They are isolated rather than being assimilated into a supportive community structure. Whether we are conscious of this fact, or not, it is true that all men benefit from one man raping. This means that the patriarchal system is perpetuated because in this structure women need “good” men to protect them from the “bad” men. It reinforces males as dominant protectors. I also believe that patriarchal anger and the negative connotations towards and of feminists hinders the possibility of a unified effort in fighting sexual violence and violence against women. These arbitrary divides divert us all from the primary goal: supporting survivors and holding rapists accountable.

David Lisak (March, 2002), comments on sexually violent subcultures and hypermasculinity:

**Sexually Violent Subcultures**
“A consistent finding in the recent research on ‘undetected’ sexually violent men is that most of this violence emerges either directly or indirectly from what have been termed ‘sexually violent subcultures.’ Examples of such subcultures include fraternities and delinquent gangs. These subcultures are powerful forces that both reflect the rapist’s views about women and sexual conquest, and also help to shape them. For example, at certain college fraternities the use of violent pornography is a frequent form of ‘entertainment,’ providing explicit images of rape as being acceptable, noncriminal, and the sign of male virility. Within these subcultures, ‘sexual conquest’ – having sex with as many women as possible – becomes a critical measure of how men view themselves and each other. The greater the number of such conquests, the more manly is he viewed. The use of coercion and violence to secure these conquests is normalized in the subculture and becomes simply another part of the man’s ‘sexual arsenal.’”

**Hypermasculinity**
“Consistent with their stereotyped and rigid views about the ‘proper’ roles of men and women in society, undetected rapists tend to adopt highly ‘gendered’ identities; that is, they see themselves as hyper-masculine, they strive to always behave in rigidly and stereotypically masculine ways, they are always on the alert for any perceived slight to their masculine identities, and they are made very anxious by any situation that might cast doubt on their perceived masculinity. Thus, while in general aggression and violence are perceived to be more masculine than feminine traits, the rapist tends to view aggression and violence as crucial markers of his adequacy as a male. They prove to him that he is a ‘real man.’ When such deeply held beliefs are combined with the effects of sexually violent subcultures, as described above, the mixture often becomes dangerous. The ‘power’ motivation that underlies the constant striving for sexual conquests mixes with the rapist’s underlying hostility toward women and his hypermasculine identity. When a woman resists his coercive sexual pressure, he is very likely to perceive this as a challenge and affront to his masculinity and to react with anger and aggression, behaviors which restore his sense of adequacy.”
Factors Associated with Men Committing Rape

The following has been Adapted from Guidelines for Medico-legal Care for Victims of Sexual Violence: World Health Organization, 2003. Produced and distributed by: the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

There are four separate but interconnected spheres that categorize the factors associated with men committing rape. They include:

1. Society
2. Community
3. Relationship
4. Individual Perpetrator

Society:
- “Norms granting men control over female behavior
- Acceptance of violence as a way to resolve conflict
- Notion of masculinity linked to dominance, honor, or aggression
- Norms supportive of sexual violence
- Norms supportive of male superiority and sexual entitlement
- Weak laws and policies related to sexual violence and gender equality
- High levels of crime and other forms of violence”

Community:
- “Poverty, low socioeconomic status, unemployment
- Associating with sexually aggressive or delinquent peers
- Lack of institutional support from police and judicial system
- General tolerance of sexual assault within the community
- Weak community sanctions against perpetrators of sexual violence”

Relationship:
- “Associates with sexually aggressive or delinquent peers
- Family environment is characterized by physical violence and few resources
- Strongly patriarchal relationship or family environment
- Emotionally unsupportive family environment
- Family honor considered more important than the health and safety of the victim”

Individual Perpetrator
- “Alcohol and drug use
- Coercive sexual fantasies; attitudes supportive of sexual violence
- Impulsive and antisocial tendencies
- Preference for impersonal sex
- Hostility towards women
- History of sexual abuse as a child
- Witnessed family violence as a child”
The Road to Recovery

“Just as commonly, sex-and-violence is said to be the staple ingredient of the American mass media; as Penthouse magazine put it, ‘our national pie a la mode.’ If sexual violence rests at the core of mass and even ‘family’ entertainments, it could also be argued that sex-and-violence is the central dynamic in much of nuclear family life itself.”


I hope to move away from this image and to come together as a community who is dedicated to progressing human rights in our society. This guide is intended to easily provide information and to shed light on the growing concern over sexual violence in the United States as well as in our local communities in Southern Ohio. Being a college student and a victim advocate, I have witnessed first hand the denial from large institutions and the pain of personal victims. It is time to admit that sexual violence is a problem and that it is unacceptable.

“Sexual violence remains as much a dirty secret on our campuses as it is in the larger society. It flourishes because to confront it, an institution must be willing to shine a bright light on aspects of itself that are both ugly and painful. One of the most important steps that must be taken is a comprehensive, led-from-the-top campaign to change the community climate such that victims of sexual violence feel comfortable to report attacks to authorities. Paradoxically then, the first indication that an institution is courageously moving to end sexual violence is almost inevitably an increase in the official tally of that violence. This is not the kind of publicity that most college administrators strive to create.”


An example of media’s unintentional perpetuation of victim persecution is the inordinate amount of coverage that “false” reporting makes up. Only two percent of all reported rapes have been found to be false. Unfortunately, these instances are the most widely covered. An example of which would be the Duke Lacrosse case. This kind of negative press distorts peoples notions of false reporting, resulting in society’s disbelief of the victim. There must be a partnership between advocates and the media and a commitment to education, open-mindedness, and compassion. We must foster an environment of physical and emotional safety while at the same time refusing to be bystanders of sexual assault and sexually aggressive behaviors. It is especially important to double check facts. Even when you believe you know the facts, there is always human error and when reporting such a sensitive subject matter one must be aware of the effects such a mistake may have on the public. When there is sensitive reporting, more survivors feel safe to come forward and report
The Road to Recovery

sexual crimes. The more sexual crimes reported, the higher the chances of bringing survivors justice, and the more improved victim care and response will become. Like Lisak suggests, if there is more encouragement to report sexual violence and more institutions are willing to reevaluate their roles in fostering this, statistically, sexual violence will appear to get worse as we begin to confront this problem head-on.

I would like to thank you for reading this guide and encourage you to use and share it with others. They are many great resources out there and only a few were covered in this guide. Another important place to look to when uncertain about facts, or appropriate wording, would be your local rape crisis center where there will be people who can accurately answer questions. I hope to continue to bridge the gap between support services and media. Please join me in continuing the effort to eradicate sexual violence and survivor persecution.
Other Resources

The Office of Victim Services
Ohio Department of
Rehabilitation and Correction
1050 Freeway Dr. North, Ste. 302
Columbus, OH 43229
(888) 842-8464
(614) 728-9947
Fax (614) 728-1980
TTY (614) 728-0633

The Office of Victim Services
Ohio Department of Youth Services
51 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (800) 872-3132
Fax: (614) 995-0289

The RAINN line (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network) is a national resource that connects callers to the nearest rape crisis center in their area. The toll-free number is 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) and the website is http://www.rainn.org.


Ohio:
Victims’ Compensation: 614-466-5610
Toll-free Victims’ Compensation: 877-5VICTIM

FBI Victim Specialist
500 S. Front St., Suite 1050
Columbus, OH 43215
614-744-2123

Butler County Rape Crisis Hotline
513-523-4146

Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO)
24-hour rape Helpline number: (614) 267-7020.
http://www.ohiohealth.com/body.cfm?id=980

S.A.R.A. Sexual Assault Resource Agency (VA)
http://www.sexualassaultreresources.org/cap.html
Office: 434-295-7273 Hotline: 434- 977-7273
