

### Definition of Sexual Violence:

This term is broad. It includes sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, and those behaviors commonly called “rape” or “sexual assault.” Sexually violent behavior can be physical, emotional, verbal, or a combination; without the consent of the victim.

### Important Things To Remember:

Lack of saying "no" is not the same as granting consent; silence does not equal consent.

Consent cannot be granted if victim is:

- Drunk
- Unconscious
- Mentally or physically incapacitated
- Underage(chronically, emotionally, or intellectually)
- In a prohibited relationship(e.g. incest, adultery, or in a professional relationship such as therapist/client, coach/player, etc.)

### What to Do If You (Or Someone You Know) Has Been Sexually Assaulted:

- Get to a safe place
- If you are injured, call 911 for immediate help
- Contact on-campus or off-campus resources. Ask to talk with someone about your options to help you make an informed decision as to what to do next.
- Deciding whether or not to report the crime to police may be very difficult for you. It is strongly recommended that you visit an emergency room within 24 hours for a rape evidence examination to preserve evidence.
- Until you decide whether or not to have evidence collected, DO NOT shower or brush your teeth, if at all possible DO NOT use the restroom. DO NOT drink or smoke. DO NOT change your clothes, or underwear. If you have removed this clothing, bring it with you to the hospital in a paper bag. This may preserve a lot of evidence.
- If you decide to go to the hospital, hospital staff may alert the police of your arrival. It is up to you if you would like to file a police report or to talk to a police officer.
- If possible, take a trusted friend or relative with you to the hospital to provide additional support.
- **Remember** – being raped is not your fault. It is the fault of the person who raped you.
- **Remember** – rape is a very traumatic crime with many short-term and longer-term adverse emotional and physical effects.
- **Remember** – to take care of yourself. Seek aftercare. You deserve understanding support.

- **Remember** – There are many services on and off campus available to help you. Call one of the on-campus or off-campus numbers listed on the Crime Definitions and Resource site for help.

[http://www.belmont.edu/ocs/crime\\_definitions\\_and\\_resource\\_information.html](http://www.belmont.edu/ocs/crime_definitions_and_resource_information.html)