

Sexual Assault

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual assault is any unwanted, coerced, or forced sexual contact or intercourse or sexual contact or intercourse with someone who is not able to give consent (e.g. incapacitated by alcohol or drugs or asleep). Sexual assault can involve the sexual penetration of any body orifice, but also includes other unwanted sexual contact including Statutory Rape (minor under 16 in Massachusetts). Victims can be either women or men. Most victims/survivors know the perpetrators who may be the victim's/survivor's friend, lover, partner, date, family member, neighbor, teacher, employer, doctor or classmate. The perpetrator can be a husband, wife, boyfriend or girlfriend. Sexual assault can occur between members of the opposite sex or same sex. Alcohol, date rape drugs, or other substances may be involved.

WHAT IF THIS HAPPENS TO ME?

If you are sexually assaulted, you are encouraged to:

- Find a safe place
- Call a friend
- Call for assistance
- Contact your local police or Dean of Students or Campus Safety (Gordon Police)
- Seek medical treatment (and preserve evidence)
 - Beverly Hospital, 85 Herrick Street, Beverly, MA (anytime)
 - Addison Gilbert Hospital, 298 Washington Street, Gloucester, MA (anytime)
 - North Shore Medical Center, Union Hospital, 500 Lynnfield St, Lynn, MA (anytime)
 - North Shore Medical Center, Salem Hospital, 81 Highland Ave, Salem, MA (anytime)

***PRESERVING EVIDENCE: THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO MAKE DECISIONS**

It is very difficult to know in the immediate aftermath of sexual assault whether or not you might eventually wish to pursue legal charges. Having evidence collected does not commit you to reporting or prosecuting the assault; the evidence can be sent to the crime lab anonymously and held for six months. Evidence can usually be collected up to five days after the assault, though the likelihood of capturing evidence decreases with time. Showering, urinating and brushing your teeth may destroy evidence. Your clothing or bedding may contain evidence; take these with you to the ER in a PAPER BAG (not plastic). You may stop the exam at any time, and you may have someone with you during the exam. The drugs used in drug-

facilitated sexual assault leave the body very quickly. If you suspect that you may have been drugged and need to urinate before arriving at the ER, try to collect the urine in a clean container and take it with you.

Relationship – Intimate Partner Violence

WHAT IS RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE or INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE?

Relationship violence is defined as intentional violent or controlling behavior by a person who is currently or was previously in a relationship with the victim. Relationship violence includes actual or threatened physical injury, sexual assault, psychological abuse, economic control and/or progressive social isolation. Relationship violence occurs in heterosexual and same sex relationships.

This information is focused on romantic relationships. The same resources can be used for interpersonal violence between roommates.

HOW DO I KNOW IT IS INTIMATE PARTNER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE or DATING VIOLENCE?

Does your partner exhibit a pattern of controlling behavior:

- Acting jealous much of the time
- Criticizing your behavior and with whom you spend time
- Using looks, actions or gestures that make you afraid
- Expecting you to ask permission
- Threatening to 'out' you
- Yelling at you, humiliating you or putting you down
- Checking up on you, playing mind games or making you feel as if you are crazy
- Insisting on making all the decisions

Has your partner ever:

- Insisted on having sex or pressured you to do something sexual when you didn't want to
- Pushed, slapped, bit, kicked or choked you
- Threatened to kill you or anyone dear to you
- Threatened to commit suicide

Do you feel:

- Like you are walking on eggshells
- That you have to call your friends in secret

- That you must dress a certain way to keep your partner from getting upset

For example:

- *My partner yelled at me for being late for lunch. It was so humiliating. My partner grabbed my arm, and we left the dining hall. I was really upset. Later we made up and my partner was so sorry for embarrassing me. Things are OK now though I wonder when it will happen again.*
- *My partner hates it when I spend time with my friends. I feel like I have to sneak around. The other day, my partner got angry about seeing me with a good friend and wouldn't speak to me for several days. When I apologized for seeing my friends without permission, we made up. We have a really good time together as long as I don't hang out with my friends.*

Remember, if you are a victim of relationship violence, it is not your fault.

Do any of these examples describe your relationship? Or that of a friend? Do you feel like your relationship might be unhealthy or unsafe? Uncertainty about the health of your relationship can be confusing and feel overwhelming. You might want to talk to someone about your concerns.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Talk to family and friends who can offer support
- Talk to professionals who can help you decide what options will work best for your situation

IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT LEAVING YOUR RELATIONSHIP:

- Most people find it increases their safety to talk to someone about their plans for ending a relationship before they actually take steps to end it
- Identify friends or family who live nearby with whom you can stay
- Think about obtaining a restraining order with support from Hamilton Police or with an advocate from an off-campus organization like Healing Abuse Working for Change (HAWC), 24-hour hotline: 800-547-1649.
- Students, staff and faculty may turn to the Dean of Students our Title IX Coordinator, Campus Safety (Gordon Police) or Human Resources (available to receive reports of sexual assault, sexual harassment and discrimination, including stalking) for help in dealing with incidents of sexual assault, harassment or stalking.

Talk with one of the on-campus resources listed below about the possibility of relocating to other seminary housing or obtaining an on-campus no contact order.

- Campus Safety
- Student Life Services, Dean of Students
- Human Resources (faculty/staff)

IF IN DANGER, CALL THE POLICE:

***Gordon Police
978-867-4444
Hamilton Police
Dial 911***

They can help with the following:

- transportation to the hospital
- officially reporting the sexual assault if you wish to do so and,
- obtaining a no contact or restraining order.

HELPING A FRIEND IN AN UNSAFE RELATIONSHIP

- Let the person know you support and care about them
- Tell them they do not deserve to be abused
- Share your concern for their safety
- Inform them about available resources
- Encourage them to utilize the resources
- Take advantage of these resources yourself to increase your knowledge about ways to be helpful

Stalking

SEMINARY POLICY ON STALKING

Stalking and cyber stalking are behaviors prohibited by the seminary and Massachusetts law.

In Massachusetts such conduct are felonies. M.G.L. c. 265 § 43 (Stalking). Stalking includes a willful and malicious knowing pattern of conduct or acts over a period of time directed at a specific person which seriously alarms or annoys the person and which causes a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress and makes a threat with the intent to place the person in imminent fear of death or bodily injury. Stalking can be accomplished by mail, telephone, electronic mail, internet communications and facsimile. Conduct which does not include a threat of death or bodily injury is also illegal and considered harassment by the seminary and Massachusetts law. M.G.L. c. 265 § 43A (Criminal Harassment).

WHAT IS STALKING?

- Stalking is defined as **threats**, along with **repeated harassing** behavior, such as:
- Following a person
- Appearing at a person's home, class or work
- Making harassing phone calls and emails
- Leaving written messages or objects
- Vandalizing a person's property
- It can include the use of regular mail, email, instant messaging, text messages, posting on social websites and/or faxes.

WHO ARE VICTIMS OF STALKING?

Anyone can be stalked, including students from any economic, ethnic or religious group. A few victims are picked at random by their stalker, but most stalking victims know their stalker, usually having had some type of present or past relationship. The perpetrator can be an intimate partner or former partner, classmate, roommate or other acquaintance. A victim can be stalked for several days or for many years. The stalker's actions can also affect family, friends and coworkers. Stalking and criminal harassment can be difficult to distinguish.

HOW DO I KNOW IT IS STALKING?

Every time I went to my class, this guy would sit next to me. He kept trying to talk to me even though I told him I wasn't interested. Then he started showing up everywhere outside my residence hall, in the Great Room, even in the library, and threatening me if I don't go out with him. Am I being paranoid?

I dated this woman a couple of times but then wasn't interested in seeing her again. She said someone would get hurt if I broke up with her. "If I can't have you, no one else can," she told me. We weren't in contact for a while, but now she keeps sending me emails. Sometimes I don't answer her. I changed my address, but she found out what the new one was. I wish she would stop.

Two weeks ago someone left me an anonymous "secret admirer" note in the library in one of my books while I was studying. Last week I was studying in the Great Room and got up to stretch. When I came back, I found a cup of coffee with a note, "I am always watching you." This morning there were flowers outside my room. My friends don't know who is doing this and it feels creepy!

If you or someone you know is experiencing a similar situation, please get help by contacting any of the resources listed more information.

If you feel frightened or uncomfortable about someone's specific behavior, pay

attention to your instincts! Seek help.

WHAT CAN A STALKING VICTIM DO?

- Talk to one of the resources listed.
- Report the stalking to Dean of Students, Campus Safety (Gordon Police) or the Hamilton police, and follow their advice.
- Inform others close to you (family, friends, residential life staff, coworkers) about the stalking.
- Do your best to safely avoid all contact with the stalker.
- Keep a journal or log of all incidents connected to the stalking
- Keep any letters, packages, taped telephone messages or emails received from the stalker.
- Provide police with photographs of the suspect, a description and other information.
- Inform the Office of the Dean of Students to explore a Stay Away Request, safe housing, and privacy requests.

Follow Basic Safety Tips

- Try not to walk alone
- Know your surroundings and locations of emergency phones
- Lock your car and house doors when alone
- Use different routes to drive or walk to class or other routine places
- Park your vehicle in well-lit areas
- Check your vehicle including front and rear passenger seat areas before getting in
- Change locks to your home and car

RESTRAINING ORDERS

- There are several types of restraining orders that can be obtained through the police.
- **A restraining order (209A)** is a court order issued by a judge that requires your past or present boyfriend, girlfriend, roommate or blood relative to stop abusing you or face criminal penalties. There are a number of requirements that need to be met in order for a victim to apply for a criminal restraining order.
- **A civil stay away order** is a type of restraining order, available to someone who is being abused or stalked by a non-partner/roommate/relative.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates federal and state laws

and seminary policy. Although sexual harassment is not criminal conduct, except in instances of assault, and therefore not a matter handled by the police, sexual harassment is prohibited at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Therefore, the seminary provides several resources where victims of sexual harassment can report the prohibited conduct. Such conduct can be reported to the Dean of Students (Title IX Coordinator), Campus Safety (Gordon Police) or Human Resources for faculty and staff. For more information and resources concerning sexual harassment, see the seminary Sexual Harassment Policy in the catalog and online.