

Date/Acquaintance Rape



What is date rape or acquaintance rape?

- Acquaintance rape or sexual assault happens when a person is forced to be sexual with someone they know such as a friend, co-worker, neighbour, or classmate.
- Date rape or sexual assault happens when a person is forced to be sexual with someone they date or go out with. The difference between sex and rape is consent. Consensual sex is when both people have agreed to be sexual with each other. Informed consent is when you agree to sex and are capable of knowing all the consequences of the act.
- It is never okay for someone to force you to be sexual. Even if you flirt or initiate a relationship, you do not owe sex. You never owe sex. You have the right to decide to not have sex.
- Rape is an act of violence. It is one form of sexual assault. Sexual Assault is against the law.

What do I do now? *There is no easy way to cope; every sexual assault is different.*

Right after the assault:

- Try to leave the situation
- Try to get to a safe place
- Once you are safe: It's important to tell someone
- It is important to see a doctor for possible injury, pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases
- Decide whether you want to tell the police. If you decide to report, take any evidence you may have
- Continue to get support while you deal with the effects of the assault
- Remember – it was not your fault

Legal Action - When the attacker is someone you know and felt you could trust, it may be very difficult to report to the police. It's your choice to report to the police. If you decide you want to report the assault, there are some steps you should take. (*See our publication "After A Sexual Assault: Reporting to Police"*)

Later on:

- Call **PEIRSAC** (*PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre*) for support and information at **902-368-8055**
- Call **Victim Services**. They can support and help you through the court process in Charlottetown: **902-368-4582** or Summerside: **902-888-8217**
- Call **CLIA**, (*Community Legal Information Association*) for information about the legal process at **902-892-0853** or toll free at **1-800-240-9798**