

What is acquaintance rape?

Acquaintance rape is the most prevalent form of rape on college campuses. Over 90 percent of campus rapes are committed by dates, friends, acquaintances or friends of friends. Regardless of the relationship, if a person uses coercion or force to accomplish a sexual act, it is rape. The same criminal laws and penalties apply in cases of acquaintance rape as in cases of stranger rape. Many victims mistakenly believe they are to blame because they agreed to meet their assailant at a party, accept a ride, stop for a casual conversation or allow the assailant into their residence. Rape is never an excusable behavior. It is important to remember that regardless of the relationship, the rapist, not the victim, is responsible.

Myths and misconceptions that contribute to acquaintance rape.

- All Furman students are nice.
- Rape cannot happen to me.
- “No” really means “Yes.”
- Forcing someone to have sex is OK if the date has spent a lot of money.
- Victims invite rape by their behavior or by the way they dress.
- Victims could prevent rape if they really wanted to.
- It is useless to report rape.

Sexual violence policy and definition of consent.

Furman University is an academic community committed to the goal of educating men and women to become responsible citizens and leaders in the human community. The university aims to develop individual excellence and to prepare students for life after college. Therefore, Furman University is committed to having a campus environment which will neither tolerate nor condone sexual violence, defined as follows:

Sexual Violence is any form of unwanted sexual contact obtained without consent and/or obtained through the use of force, threat of force, intimidation, or coercion by a man or a woman upon a man or a woman. This includes, but is not limited to, physical contact with the groin, genital area, inner thighs, buttocks and/or breasts; penetration that involves sexual, anal, or oral intercourse; or placing any object in the genital or anal opening. Premeditation is not required for one to be found guilty of sexual violence.

Consent involves freely given mutual agreement about sexual activity, with a shared understanding of the act to which all parties are consenting.

Consent is **invalid** under the following circumstances:

- When it is obtained through the use of fraud or coercion—whether physical force, threats, or intimidation.
- When it involves:
 - Minors under the age of consent, as defined by South Carolina state law
 - Persons whose mental disabilities prohibit sound judgment about actions and their consequences,
 - Persons physically incapacitated as a result of alcohol or other drug consumption, whether voluntary or involuntary
 - Individuals who are unconscious, unaware, or otherwise physically helpless.
- When it is assumed because of the following:
 - Previous sexual relationships and/or a current relationship

- Attire
- Spending of money on a date.

The following behaviors should also be interpreted as lack of consent:

- Silence
- Non-verbal actions or expressions indicating resistance

Consent may be withdrawn at any time.

Any student charged with sexual assault on or off campus can be prosecuted under criminal statutes and disciplined under the campus code of student conduct. Even if the criminal justice authorities choose not to prosecute, the university reserves the right to pursue disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action will follow current university policy on due process. Refer to the Individual Conduct Regulation on Sexual Violence as listed in *THE HELMSMAN* for penalties.

Limited immunity

The university considers reporting assaults to be of paramount importance. Therefore, the university will extend limited immunity from sanctioning in the case of illegal alcohol use to victims and to those reporting or assisting victims of incidents of sexual misconduct. Limited immunity means that depending on the nature of the victim's or the reporting student's violation, it will still be adjudicated by the university through education or counseling, if possible.

Some advice about consent.

Consent in a judicial hearing is an issue to be decided on a case by case basis. It is likely that two different versions of the same incident will be presented. There is no clear boundary line, except at the extremes, to determine where impairment from alcohol and/or drugs makes a victim incapacitated or physically helpless and thus unlikely to be able to give consent. It is important to remember that the University Discipline Committee panel is called upon to gather all available evidence and to determine whether victim incapacity or consent existed. The Committee panel will decide if The University policy was violated, not if South Carolina law was violated.

What you should know to avoid acquaintance rape.

- Set sexual limits and communicate them clearly.
- Trust your instincts. It's your right!
- Exercise control over your environment.
- Consider the possible consequences of your behavior.
- Avoid excessive use of alcohol and/or drugs.
- "No" means "No." Accept the decision.
- Dating does not give you the right to abuse or violate another person.
- Don't assume that previous permission for sexual contact applies to the current situation.
- Rape is never an excusable behavior, regardless of your relationship. If your date says "No" and you coerce or force someone to have intercourse, you are a rapist.

What to do if you've been raped.

- **Get help.** Inform the university police (294-2111), the counseling center (294-3031), the infirmary (294-2180), student services (294-2202) or call Greenville's rape hotline at 467-3363. (Program the number in your cell phone in case of an emergency)
- **Seek medical attention and preserve the evidence.** It is crucial to seek medical attention as soon as possible to determine the possibilities of physical injury, to prevent or treat sexually transmitted diseases (such as HIV) and to prevent pregnancy. Also, if tested shortly after consumption, a urine drug screen may be able to detect the presence of sedative drugs such as Rohypnol or GHB ("date rape drugs"). Avoid bathing or using the restroom. Write down as many details as possible.

- **Know your options.** Victims can seek help from the police or the university without pursuing charges and reporting provides a way to regain a sense of personal power and control. Prosecution may be initiated through the university discipline system and/or through the criminal justice system. University officials will assist in any way possible. Seeking assistance does not obligate the victim to take further action.
- **Seek counseling.** Support through a trained counselor can help the victim understand and work through the trauma of the rape. The counselor may assist with changes in academic and living situations. Counselors can also help others who are related or friends with the victim.

Resources

Chaplains	294-2138
Counseling Center	294-3031
Health Services	294-2180 Or 271-2181
Greenville Police Department	911 Or 271-5333
Division of Student Services	
Vice President	294-2202
Student Services Coordinator	294-2203
Director of Housing and Area Coordinators	294-2092
University Police Department	294-2111
Rape Crisis	467-3633



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This brochure is published by
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Acquaintance Rape is

