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LGBTQ Center Training on Sexual Assault and Dating Violence

Keith Labelle
University of Rhode Island, klabelle@uri.edu

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LGBTQ CENTER RESOURCES

Sexual Assault and Dating Violence

What Constitutes Sexual Assault in RI:

Age of Consent is 16

- First Degree: Sexual penetration of any part of the victim's body by any part of the offender's body or by an object
  - Gender Neutral
  - No statute of limitations
  - No spousal exemption since 1987
- Second Degree: Sexual contact without penetration for sexual gratification
  - Three-year statue of limitations
- Third Degree: One party over the age of 18 engages in sexual penetration with person between the ages of 14 and 16
  - Consent of younger party not a defense
  - Three-year statute of limitations

Examples of Abuse

- Telling you what to do, where you can go, whom you can talk to, etc.
- Punching things, throwing things, etc. to scare you.
- Making you feel responsible for everything (bad moods, things going wrong, etc.).
- Threats
- Physical or sexual assaults & activities against your will.

Dating Abuse is a *pattern* of coercive behaviors, including emotional, physical and sexual attacks that people use against their dating partners to maintain *power & control* in the relationship.

Stalking

- Harassing, threatening or obscene phone calls, e-mails, IM's, Facebook messages, texts, etc.
- Following or being there before the victim arrives
- Vandalism/damage to personal property
- Unwanted gifts or objects

Stalking is strongly linked to domestic violence

Possible Signs of Dating Violence:

Psychological	**Physical**
Guilt/Self-Blame	Depression
Shame	Sleep Disorders
Fear	Eating Disorders
Anger	Sexual Behavior Changes
Betrayal	Increased use of drugs and alcohol
Denial	

What Can You Do:

- Listen – you may be the first person ze has told. Your role is not to blame hir – just to be nonjudgmental & supportive.
- Provide info. – it may be hard for hir to reach out to anyone else. Give resource numbers, fliers, and anything else that's useful. (VPAS 874-5222 or 874-9131)
- Respect hir fears – don't assume ze is overreacting and don't promise full protection. Get professionals involved if there is danger
- Discuss the situation with your hall director, RA, supervisor, Peer Advocate, etc.
- Tell hir often that: *IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT*

Hypothetical Convo:

- Listen and support – ask how you can help.
- Tell hir that you're sorry and it wasn't hir fault.
- Refer hir to their RA and/or the Counseling Center for help.
- Be patient – ze may not yet be ready to end the relationship. Don't tell hir that it's wrong or give up- it will further isolate hir. Tell hir you are there to support hir whenever ze is ready, but that you worry about hir safety.