

SEXUAL ASSAULT

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SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT

Pratt Institute's mission is to educate men and women to become creative, responsible professionals who will contribute fully to society. The Institute upholds values and standards that support that mission and maintains high expectations regarding the conduct of its students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Therefore, the Institute is committed to providing a learning and working environment in which all interpersonal relationships are based upon respect and dignity and are free from sexual harassment, which includes sexual violence. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), it is the Institute's policy that sexual harassment in any form will not be tolerated. Administrators, staff, faculty, and students are all responsible for taking reasonable and necessary action to prevent and eliminate sexual harassment. This policy applies to all members of the Pratt community, who are encouraged to promptly report conduct that could be in violation of this policy. Persons found in violation of this sexual harassment policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment of employees and suspension or expulsion of students.

In accordance with Title IX, the Institute has designated Mai McDonald Graves the Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator. Her office is located in Willoughby Hall suite 117; the phone number is 718.636.3711; and the email is mcdonald@pratt.edu. The Coordinator is available to assist all members of the Institute community with questions and concerns regarding their rights under Title IX and the Institute's Human Rights and Sexual Harassment policies.

Sexual assault can happen to anyone, male or female, at any time and anywhere. Sexual assault includes any form of sexual contact that is given without effective consent of the receiving party. Sexual assault encompasses acts that range from unwanted touching to rape. Sexual assault occurs when a person does not, or is unable to, consent to sexual activity. Effective consent is defined as informed, freely and actively given, mutually understandable words or actions that indicate a willingness to participate in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Please note, consent may never be given by:

1. Minors to legal adults (statutory rape);
2. Mentally disabled persons; or
3. Physically incapacitated persons.

Note: one who is physically incapacitated as a result of alcohol or other drug consumption (voluntary or involuntary), or who is unconscious, unaware, or otherwise physically helpless, is incapable of giving consent.

GETTING IMMEDIATE SUPPORT

Sexual assault is never the victim's fault. No matter where or how it happens, no one deserves to be raped or assaulted.

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted:

- Get to a safe place as soon as you can. Go to a friends' room, the closest security booth, or an RA's room.
- Consider calling someone — a friend, a family member, an RA, the Pratt Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).
- There are a lot of resources available to help you, both on-campus and off-campus.

INTRODUCTION

In 1990, the New York State Assembly amended the Education Law on campus security, mandating colleges and universities to form advisory committees on campus security and to distribute assault prevention information. Three years prior, in 1987, Pratt had already formed the Security Concerns Committee, tasked with keeping the campus community informed about security matters and to heighten security awareness. In order to address the sexual assault aspect of the Education Law amendment, the Committee formed a subcommittee in 1991 to plan and develop programs that focus more attention on sexual assault awareness and prevention. This pamphlet is one way of informing you about sexual assault—because what you don't know can hurt you.

SOME VITAL STATISTICS

Sexual violence happens to males as well as to females and it happens altogether too often. Studies indicate that, nationwide, one in three females and one in 11 males experience some kind of sexual assault before the age of 18. Rape is the most common sexual offense, occurring most frequently against the 16 to 24 age group by offenders who, most often, are also between the ages of 16 and 24. Given these statistics, one can readily see why rape is the most prevalent sexual assault crime that occurs on college campuses. Since only one in ten rapes is reported, it is difficult to obtain exact figures; however, several research studies indicate that an estimated one in six to one in four women have been raped, while an additional 20 percent to 25 percent have been the victims of attempted rape. Between 15 percent and 50 percent of college women have been the victims of rape or attempted rape. Most rapists are someone the victim knows, not a total stranger. Nationwide, among all age groups, seven out of 10 rapes are acquaintance rapes (this figure rises to between 70 percent and 90 percent among college students). Pratt is not impervious to the problems which beset society at large.

ONGOING SUPPORT

Individuals who have been sexually assaulted experience a variety of feelings with which they have difficulty coping. Feelings such as shame, hurt, guilt, powerlessness, anger and eventually, rage, tend to affect interpersonal relationships as well as the victim's self-esteem. Sometimes the victims are numb immediately following the sexual assault and/or treatment and do not feel that they need further assistance. Many believe that ignoring their feelings, or not thinking about them, will make them go away. This is not the case. Sexual assault is a traumatic event for the victim and significant others. It is in your best interest to seek professional help both on and off campus and in the community, for yourself and the important people in your life.

ON-CAMPUS SUPPORT

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) exists to help victims of sexual assault. The SART is trained to provide victim-centered, compassionate, comprehensive services directly on campus. The SART is composed of the Director, Associate Director, and Case Manager from Health and Counseling Services, the Director and a Supervisor from Security, and a Victim's Advocate. **Please know that extreme care is taken to protect the privacy and confidentiality of victims of sexual assault.**

SART can be contacted through Campus Security or Health and Counseling Services. The most important priority of SART is to help victims get assistance. All options, rights, and services will be explained to individuals reporting a sexual assault. The victim will determine what course of action will be taken.

In addition to SART, counselors are available for short-term counseling in the Office of Health and Counseling Services. Pratt's campus chaplains are also available to offer support to victims of sexual assault.

These individuals and offices provide confidential services and maintain an extensive off-campus referral system — from psychiatrists and psychologists to support groups and advocates.

FILING AN ON-CAMPUS COMPLAINT

If the perpetrator is a member of the Pratt community, you may choose to file an on-campus complaint with the Title IX Coordinator, who will assign your case to a trained investigator. Filing a Title IX complaint does not prevent you from filing a report with the police or replace a police process. An advocate from SART can accompany you to speak with the Title IX Coordinator if you choose.

OFF-CAMPUS SUPPORT

- You may call a Sexual Assault Hotline. Safe Horizon Community Program in Brooklyn is a victim-assistance organization that provides a 24-hour multi-lingual hotline; in-person assistance; criminal justice victim advocacy; and referrals to resources ranging from medical assistance to counseling. Safe Horizon's Crime Victim's Hotline is 866.689.HELP (4357). Safe Horizon's Rape, Sexual Assault, and Incest Hotline is 212.227.3000.

- You may call the Police; while victims are not obligated to report a sexual assault to the police, they are encouraged to do so. Reporting a sexual assault does not necessarily mean that a court appearance will be required.
- Whether or not you choose to notify campus security or the police, you are strongly encouraged to seek medical attention as soon as possible. This action is important if injury or disease are involved, but also because medical exams provide evidence often needed should you decide to report the crime at a later date.
- Whether or not you report the crime and/or receive medical assistance, on-campus or off-campus counseling and victim-advocacy services are available to you. These services are confidential.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO SEEK MEDICAL HELP

If you decide to report an assault you may choose to go to a hospital emergency room for evaluation and treatment. Certain hospitals provide specialized Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Services, which are considered the best approach to acute health care for sexual assault patients.

- If you decide to go to a hospital it is important that you do not bathe, wash, shower, douche, brush your teeth, comb your hair, change clothes or clean up so that no evidence of the attack is destroyed.
- A specially trained nurse or physician will interview you about the circumstances of your assault.
- You will be examined in a private examination room, and no police personnel will be present during the examination.
- A sex crimes evidence collection kit will be used, with your permission, to document the attack and collect evidence.
- You will be offered medications to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and if you are injured your injuries will be treated.
- If you decide to go to the hospital after being sexually assaulted and you don't have health insurance, you do not have to pay for any costs related to the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam. The New York State Office of Victim Services can cover the cost of your medical care.

Please note that you are not obligated to press charges just because you consent to this procedure. However, the use of this kit is important as evidence should you decide to prosecute later.

WHERE DO I GO FOR MEDICAL HELP?

The following is a list of local hospitals that provide Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Services.

Woodhull Medical Center Sexual Assault Response Team

760 Broadway | 718.963.8000

Bellevue Hospital Center

Sexual Assault Response Team SAFE Center

462 1st Avenue | 212.562.3435

Kings County Hospital Center Rape Crisis Center

451 Clarkson Avenue | 718.245.3131

Beth Israel – Petrie Campus Rape Crisis Center

1st Avenue and 16th Street | 212.420.2000

OTHER AREA MEDICAL CENTERS

Brooklyn Hospital

121 DeKalb Avenue | 718.250.8075

Lutheran Medical Center

150 55th Street | 718.630.7185

St. Luke's Hospital

1111 Amsterdam Avenue | 212.523.4000

718.250.8075

Long Island College Hospital

340 Henry Street

718.780.1550

Lutheran Medical Center

150 55th Street

718.630.7185

St. Luke's Hospital

1111 Amsterdam Avenue

212.523.4000

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND ITS PENALTIES

Sexual assault, including acquaintance rape, is a serious crime under the penal code, and a serious offense against Pratt’s Community Standards. When a victim of sexual assault chooses to file a civil or criminal action against the alleged offender, she or he may also file institutional conduct charges. If the perpetrator is a member of the Pratt community, Pratt may initiate proceedings against the offender, which are independent of a civil or criminal action. If a member of the Pratt community is found guilty of a sexual assault through the Institute’s conduct process, sanctions up to and including dismissal from Pratt may be applied.

Offenses against the Human Rights Policy, including sexual harassment, are adjudicated through the human rights procedures. The Institute’s Community Standards appear in the Bulletin and Student Handbook and copies of the conduct procedures are available in several offices, including Human Resources, Student Affairs, and Residential Life.

Penalties: See chart below.

PENALTIES			
ACT	CLASS	PENAL LAW SECTION	MAXIMUM PENALTY
Sexual Misconduct	A-Misdemeanor	130.20	1 year
Forcible Touching	A-Misdemeanor	130.52	1 year
Rape 3rd Degree	E-Felony	130.25	4 years
Rape 2nd Degree	D-Felony	130.30	7 years
Rape 1st Degree	B-Felony	130.35	25 years
Sexual Abuse 3*	B-Misdemeanor	130.55	3 months
Sexual Abuse 2*	A-Misdemeanor	130.60	1 year
Sexual Abuse 1*	D-Felony	130.65	7 years
Aggravated Sexual Abuse 4*	E-Felony	130.65-a	4 years
Aggravated Sexual Abuse 3*	D-Felony	130.66	7 years
Aggravated Sexual Abuse 2*	C-Felony	130.67	15 years
Aggravated Sexual Abuse 1*	B-Felony	130.70	25 years

Definitions

- *Misdemeanor:* An offense (other than a traffic infraction) for which a sentence for a term of imprisonment in excess of 15 days may be imposed, but for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment in excess of one year cannot be imposed.
- *Felony:* An offense for which a sentence for a term of imprisonment in excess of one year may be imposed.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Pratt Campus Pratt Security

Main Gate and Engineering Room 105

718.636.3540/3542

Health and Counseling Services

Willoughby Residence Hall, Suite 117

Monday through Friday

718.399.4542/4546

Pratt Institute Campus Ministry

Chapel Hall

718.636.3749

Brooklyn

Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office Victim Services Unit

718.250.3820

New York City Police Department

Special Victims Report Line

212.267.RAPE

Brooklyn & Manhattan

Safe Horizon Rape Crisis/ Sexual Abuse Hotline

800.621.HOPE (4673)

Manhattan

St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital Crime Victims Treatment Center

212.523.8200

NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault

www.nycagainstrape.org/survivors.html

212.229.0345

Pratt

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