

Sexual Violence/Harassment Information:

Stalking

Stalking refers to harassing or threatening behavior that an individual engages in repeatedly such as following a person, appearing at a person's home or place of business, making harassing phone calls, leaving written messages or objects, or vandalizing a person's property.

Stalking is not a one-time event, but rather a series of threatening incidents that, if not responded to, may end in violence. Stalking often causes pervasive, intense fear and can be extremely disruptive for the victim.

Online stalkers (cyberstalkers) can easily disguise themselves by adopting several false identities and then harass the target through unsolicited emails, disturbing private or public messages on bulletin boards or in chat rooms, and communiqués or actual threats of harm. In addition, stalkers may pose as the victim online in order to incite others to harass and threaten the victim. Online stalking may lead to other forms of stalking.

These behaviors are a violation of the Spartanburg Community College (SCC) Student Code and such charges could range from sexual violence to disorderly conduct or harassment, according to the Student Code and according to the State of South Carolina.

What You Can Do

- Once you have communicated your disinterest, cut off all interaction and document any attempted contact.
- Change your schedule and habits to avoid being alone. Avoid being alone until the stalking ends, especially at night and when going from one place to another. Let others in your life know what is going on.
- Contact campus police and local authorities.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence refers to any sexual activity where consent is not obtained or freely given. Anyone can experience or perpetrate sexual violence. Most victims of sexual violence are female. Perpetrators are usually someone known to the

victim and can be a friend, intimate partner, coworker, neighbor, or family member of the victim.

There are many types of sexual violence. It includes physical acts, such as unwanted touching and unwanted sexual penetration. Sexual violence also includes acts that do not involve physical contact between the victim and the perpetrator – for example, sexual harassment, threats, and peeping.

Sexual Misconduct

According to SCC's Student Code, sexual misconduct will not be tolerated. Sexual misconduct can occur in many relationships and may involve sexual violence, sexual harassment, relationship violence, and stalking. This behavior interferes with the educational mission by:

- Endangering the physical and emotional safety of community members
- Damaging trust in the community
- Offending the dignity and violating the autonomy of community members
- Disrupting the academic progress of victims or survivors during their recovery

Setting the Stage

Alcohol and drugs can:

- Inhibit clear thinking
- Make talking and listening more difficult
- Increase one's risk or vulnerability to sexual violence
- Decrease an individual's ability to provide consent to sexual activity

Alcohol and other drugs are not the cause of sexual violence; aggression and power are at the root of it. However, alcohol and other drugs increase your vulnerability for sexual violence to occur because of the reasons listed above.

Healthy sexual activity is based on clear, conscious verbal and nonverbal communication in which both parties assume sex will not take place until consent is given. Alcohol and other drugs cloud the ability of both parties to provide this form of communication. In many states, laws require that someone must be

sober in order to give true consent. Also, being drunk or high is never a justification for sexual violence.

During unhealthy sexual activity, a person assumes “I have access to sex until my partner says no or pushes me away.” Alcohol and other drugs can impede your ability to say no or physically resist and may result in unwanted sexual activity.

During illegal sex, a person assumes, “I have access to sex no matter what.” Alcohol and other drugs are often used to avoid the possibility that an individual will resist sex, therefore making access to sex easy.

Drug Facilitated Sexual Violence

Alcohol is the most common substance used in sexual assault. However, certain drugs like Rohypnol, GHB (Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate), and Ketamine are sometimes mixed in drinks (alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages) and given to an individual without her/his knowledge. Most of these substances are tasteless, colorless, and odorless. They generate extreme drowsiness, sudden fatigue, confusion, and, in the case of Rohypnol, memory loss. Someone under the influence of alcohol or other drugs is at increased risk for sexual violence because of her/his inability to fight back.

Ways to Stay Safe

- At a party or bar, accept drinks only from a bartender/server; do not leave drinks unattended; and do not accept container drinks from anyone.
- If you or a friend feel intoxicated or disoriented after only a few sips of your drink, go immediately to a safe place with someone you trust.
- Make a pact with a friend that you will not leave each other. Make sure you keep an eye on each other all night.

Domestic and Relationship Violence

Relationship violence is directed toward a current or former partner or spouse. Relationship violence is a cycle of behavior that repeats over and over again and without intervention tends to escalate and become more serious. These controlling behaviors are a violation of the SCC Student Code and the SC Code of Laws.

Relationship violence, for the purpose of this description and related procedures, may include but is not limited to:

- Emotional/psychological abuse (e.g. harassment, name calling, manipulation) that creates and maintains a degrading environment; and
- Physical abuse (e.g., slapping, pulling hair, punching)
- Sexual abuse (e.g., forced sexual conduct and/or any behavior that meets the definition of sexual violence).
- Threats of abuse (e.g., threatening to hit, harm or use of a weapon on another or self, or other forms of verbal abuse)

Domestic violence is NOT the victim's fault and is NOT caused or excused by:

- Alcohol and drugs – perpetrators may blame their abuse on the effects of drugs and alcohol, and many victims believe that drugs and alcohol cause the abuse. However, the fact is that the majority of the time, abuse also occurs at times other than when the perpetrator is not using drugs and alcohol. The two behaviors may be linked, but they are two separate problems which need separate interventions.
- Anger
- Behavior of the victim or problems in the relationship
- Genetics
- Mental illness (personality disorders, mental illness, or poor impulse control)
- Stress

Domestic violence involves choices by a perpetrator. Abusers often strongly defend their actions by denying, minimizing, justifying, or rationalizing their behavior.

Categories and Forms

Perpetrators may use many tactics to dominate, shame, or control their victims. These coercive and violent tactics are used without regard to the victim's emotional or physical wellbeing. These tactics frequently escalate in severity and frequency over time. While domestic violence can take many forms, there are four main categories:

- **Destruction of Property or Pets** – no contact with victim’s body, but these assaults are still meant to hurt victim.
 - Destroying objects during arguments; breaking victim’s favorite property; attacking victim’s pets
- **Physical** - a wide range of aggressive behaviors which cause harm to the victim’s body
 - Pushing, hitting, kicking, squeezing, choking, pinching, poking, hair pulling, spitting, burning, clubbing, stabbing, or shooting
- **Psychological** – mental or verbal assaults on the victim. Psychological violence does not involve bodily harm to the victim. Weapons are used rather than violent attacks.
 - Threats of violence on the victim or the victim’s loved ones, deportation, custody, suicide forcing victim to do degrading things; controlling victim’s activities such as sleep, eating habits, social relationships, access to money; or attacking the victim’s self-esteem.
- **Sexual** – any unwanted sexual contact
 - Unwelcomed contact with the victim’s breast, buttocks, or genitals; using coercion or manipulation to try to get to your partner in sexual activity of any kind; sexual activity accompanied by physical assaults; using drugs or alcohol to get sex; forced sexual activity; or forcing sexual activity with a third person.

Causes

- A need to have power and control over an intimate partner. Fear is part of an effective strategy for creating and maintaining power and control.
- It is embedded in our social customs and institutions. Some men believe they are entitled to use physical or sexual violence.
- It is learned behavior that comes from observing one’s community, peer group, and family. Abusive behavior is maintained by a pattern of reinforcement.

Guide For a Student Experiencing Relationship Violence

- Contact Campus Police or the local police. Make arrangements for alternate housing.

- Make a plan for safety. Once violence occurs, it may occur again, especially if the perpetrator believes that he/she is losing control.
- Talk to a trusted person because relationship violence is traumatic, and feelings can be overwhelming.
- Utilize the confidential professional local and on-campus resources available.

Help a Friend/Bystander Information:

Signs and/or Symptoms

- Frequent absenteeism due to medical problems or concerns about children
- Does not feel confident making any decisions without abuser
- Has bruising patterns such as rings, fingerprints, or fists
- Has new bruises on top of old bruises
- Is secretive about home life
- Makes excuses about abuser's behavior
- Minimizes injury (victims may say "It's not that bad..." or "It's just a scratch")
- Volunteers explanation that is inconsistent with appearance of injury
- Will not make appointment without abuser

Suggestions to Say to the Victim

- "I am afraid for your safety."
- "I am here for you when you are ready to leave."
- "You do not deserve to be abused."

What You Can Do

- Obtain literature about domestic violence to give to a person when he/she is away from the abuser.
- Provide the victim with information about local shelter and services.
- Realize that this is a very difficult time for the victim. They feel responsible, afraid, and ashamed.

Resources and Links

On-campus

- Campus Police promotes and preserves a safe and secure campus environment by delivering quality and community safety service in a professional and sensitive manner. Campus Police can be reached by phone at (864) 592-4911.
- Student Affairs – Vice President of Student Affairs Office oversees the judicial system and is responsible for holding students and student groups accountable to the rules and regulations of the College as defined in the Student Code. The office of Student Affairs can be reached by phone at (864) 592-4806.
- Student Planner/Handbook – on page 180 of the handbook, you will find the Student Code information. It explains the following: Right and Responsibilities of Students, Authority and Responsibility, Application of Laws On and Off Campus, Prohibited Conduct, Student Academic Misconduct, Disciplinary Process, Hearing Decisions, Disciplinary Sanctions, Appeals

Resources and Links

Off campus

7th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office (864) 596-2575

24-HOUR Crisis Hotline – Safe Homes Rape Crisis Coalition (800) 273-5066

Mary Black Health System – (864) 573-3000

Spartanburg Regional Medical Center - (864) 560-6000

Cherokee Police Department – (864) 489-4722

Spartanburg Police Department – (864) 596-2035

Union Police Department – (864) 429-1612

Sexual Assault Resource Center - (803) 327-7558 or (800) 436-7273

Spartanburg County Health Department – (864) 596-3337

Spartanburg County Sheriff's Department – The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office exists to serve and protect the citizens of Spartanburg County. The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office can be reached at (864) 503-4500.

SC Sex Offender Registry – The SC Sex Offender Registry can be reached by phone at (803) 896-2601.

Spartanburg County Sex Offender Registry – The Spartanburg County Sex Offender Registry can be reached by phone at (864) 503-4643.

Confidentiality

Students reporting incidents of sexual violence are often concerned for their privacy and have questions about confidentiality. At SCC, there is a difference between privileged reporting and limited confidential reporting.

Anonymous Reporting

SC law guarantees that a victim may receive services while choosing not to report to law enforcement. The information that is acquired through the medical examination performed by the SANE nurse is provided anonymously to law enforcement and given a number rather than a name. The evidence will be retained for up to one year, should a victim decide to press charges. If law enforcement is notified, the report is no longer anonymous. If the person committing the sexual assault is a legal spouse, the evidence will be retained for 30 days.

Limited Confidential Reporting

Limited confidential reporting relates to all other individuals who may be a part of the response team. It simply means that they will not disseminate information shared without the consent of the victim except on a need-to-know basis to enlist services needed for the student.

Examples of Designated Limited Confidential Reporting Resources:

- Faculty or staff
- Student Affairs
- Campus Security

Parent/Legal Guardian/Partner Notification

When and if parents and/or legal guardians are contacted is a decision the victim should make, unless there are extenuating circumstances. A member of the sexual violence response team such as the Vice President of Student Affairs can assist a student with notification. In some instances, when there is a significant health or safety concern, the College may need to notify the parents, guardian, or partner of the individual involved in the sexual assault. In making this determination, the College will consider the wishes of those involved, their personal safety, and the safety of the campus community.

Privileged Reporting

Privileged reporting consists of those communications that legally cannot be disclose without the reporter's consent to any other person except under very limited circumstances (e.g. imminent threat of danger to self or others).

10 Things You Need To Know About SEXUAL ASSAULT

For Men

1. Know that the definition of sexual assault includes any unwanted sexual contact, from touching to rape.
2. Be aware that alcohol and drugs can impair your ability to make clear decisions as well as lower sexual inhibitions.
3. Don't assume that your date wants to have sex even if you have before.
4. Be sure you and your potential partner clearly communicate your intentions to each other.
5. Know that "consent" means agreeing to an action freely, voluntarily, and with knowledge of the nature of the act.
6. Realize that consent to one form of sexual activity is not permission to partake in every type of sexual activity.
7. Understand that "No" means "No" no matter what.
8. Stop what you're doing if you're receiving unclear or conflicting messages.
9. Remember that date rape is a crime that has serious consequences.
10. Be aware that men can be victims of sexual assault. If you are, seek help immediately.

10 Things You Need To Know About SEXUAL ASSAULT

For Women

1. Go with a group of friends or to a public place if on a first or blind date.
2. Make sure your cell phone is charged and you have money for a taxi.
3. Understand that alcohol and drugs can impair your ability to make clear decisions as well as lower sexual inhibitions.
4. Keep your drink with you at all times at a bar or party.
5. Don't accept drinks from people you don't know well or trust.
6. Be aware of your sexual limits. Communicate them firmly and directly.
7. Know that you have a right to say "No" no matter what.
8. Leave immediately and go to a safe place if a situation seems suspicious or dangerous.
9. Let friends know if you plan on going somewhere with someone, where you're going, and when you'll be back.
10. If you're sexually assaulted, report it right away. If you've been raped, don't clean up, change clothes, or tamper with evidence. Call 911 and go to the emergency room immediately.

