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*Educating People for Success*

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# Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence & Stalking on Campus

**Prevention, Awareness & How the  
Violence Against Women Act Protects You.**



The Violence Against Women Act protects people  
of *all* genders.

## Risk Reduction

To protect yourself and your friends from incidents of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, there are preventive measures you can take to reduce risk.

- Trust your instincts. If you're uncomfortable, don't worry about offending someone—just get out of there.
- Make your limits known as early as possible.
- Say "NO" clearly and firmly.
- Notice when your boundaries aren't being respected and assert your right to have them respected.
- Be "situationally aware" by taking note of your surroundings and who is present.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help in situations where you don't feel safe.
- Be responsible regarding alcohol and drugs. These substances can lower your inhibitions and make you vulnerable.
- Walk with others.
- Lock doors and windows in your car and living space.
- Look out for your friends and ask them to look out for you, too.
- Respect a friend who challenges you if you're about to make a poor decision.

### Reducing the Risk of Being an Aggressor

To make sure you don't perpetrate a crime of sexual or relationship violence:

- Listen to your partner and respect his or her personal boundaries.
- Don't allow drugs or alcohol to compromise your ability to make good decisions.
- Don't make assumptions about consent—communicate!
- Remember that someone who is drunk or drugged *can't* give consent.

## Bystander Intervention

When an incident of sexual or relationship violence is about to take place, bystanders can intervene simply and safely, often flipping the switch to change the outcome. Some positive ways to intervene include:

- Provide a distraction that interrupts an interaction.
- Start a conversation with one or more of the involved parties.
- Get police or other authorities involved.
- Tell someone else and get help.
- Ask someone in a potentially dangerous situation if he or she is ok or wants to leave.
- Remind a potential perpetrator that incapacitated people can't give consent.
- Help remove someone from the situation.
- Provide options and a listening ear.

Don't just hope that someone else will step in. You have the ability to stop a terrible, life-altering situation. Be part of the solution!

### Being a Proactive Bystander

There are multiple actions you can take to help prevent sexual and relationship violence proactively too, such as:

- Speak up when you hear victim-blaming statements.
- Talk with friends about confronting sexual and relationship violence.
- Educate yourself and your friends and look out for each other.
- Use campus resources.

### Providing a Distraction

Sometimes all it takes is a distraction to interrupt a potentially dangerous interaction.

- Call a friend's cell repeatedly.
- Spill something on purpose.
- Interrupt the conversation.
- Turn off the music.
- Tell the potential perpetrator, "Your car is being towed!"
- Matter-of-factly pull your friend away, saying, "We need to leave" - and then go.

## Protection and Prevention

Protecting you from sexual and relationship violence—and helping you better understand how to protect yourself and others—is a key concern at WTC. You should *never* have to contend with sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking—and we strictly prohibit these crimes.

The federal Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) put new obligations in place for some schools. These regulations are designed to help prevent these crimes while also raising awareness and providing support at every turn. Our school is committed to creating a safe environment for *all* students and this brochure offers tools to help make it happen.

### Definitions

The four main categories covered under VAWA are sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. It's important to know what each one means.

### Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is an offense that involves one or more of the following: rape, fondling or touching private body parts, incest and statutory rape.

Many sexual assaults occur between people who know one another. Alcohol is often a factor, too, impairing the perpetrator or victim's judgment. You are *never* responsible for being sexually assaulted, though! The only one responsible for a sexual assault is the assaulter.

**Yes, it's called the "Violence Against Women Act," yet people of all genders are protected under this federal legislation!**



**Plus, people of all genders can be perpetrators, too.**

Source: VAWA Final Regulations, *Federal Register*, 10/20/2014

## Dating & Domestic Violence

### Dating Violence

If a romantic or intimate partner or former partner kicks, slaps, hits or shoves you, that is **physical** dating violence.

If that person keeps you away from friends and family, shames you, calls you names, bullies or publicly embarrasses you, that is **psychological and emotional** abuse.

If that person forces or coerces you to engage in sexual activity when you're unable to consent—or don't want to consent—that's **sexual** abuse.

**Dating violence can take place in person, via technology, such as repeated texting or posting sexual photos of a partner online without consent.**

All of these actions and more constitute dating violence. It can include the types of abuse mentioned above or the threat of such abuse. You *never* deserve to be treated this way and it's a crime.

### Domestic Violence

The crime of domestic violence can be committed by:

- A current or former spouse or partner
- A person with whom you share a child
- A person against whom you have a protective order

In most abusive relationships, possessive or controlling behaviors are present. These may include controlling money, isolation from friends or family, destruction of property, hurting or threatening to hurt you, your children or pets, intimidation, preventing you from working or attending school, pressuring you sexually, forcing drug or alcohol use, threats of self harm if you leave and more.

**Crimes of sexual and relationship violence take place without someone's consent.**

These actions are about power and control over an intimate partner. Domestic violence can happen to people of all genders, races, abilities, ages, nationalities, sexual orientations, religions, socioeconomic and educational levels. It is always a crime.

Source: The National Domestic Violence Hotline; "Teen Dating Violence" from the CDC

## Stalking

Stalking is when someone engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes that person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others. It also causes the stalked person substantial emotional distress.

Over 85 percent of people are stalked by someone they know, according to the Stalking Resource Center, with behaviors that control, track or frighten them, including:

- Threatening to hurt you, family, friends or pets
- Following you, showing up or driving by where you are
- Monitoring your phone and computer use
- Using technology to track you
- Damaging your home, car or other property
- Spreading rumors about you online, in public or by gossip
- Digging for information about you
- Sending unwanted gifts, notes, texts or emails

Being stalked can lead to anxiety, stress, irritability, an inability to sleep or concentrate and depression. You don't have to feel this overwhelmed, vulnerable and unsafe—let us help.

**The National Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).**

### Consent

Consent is the affirmative, straightforward and voluntary agreement obtained without coercion, intimidation, force or threats to engage in a specific sexual activity.

Consent cannot be given if someone is unconscious, asleep, incapacitated (due to alcohol or other drugs), a minor or physically or mentally impaired.

If someone fails to say "no," that doesn't mean he or she is saying "yes," and he or she certainly has the right to change his or her mind!

Source: Defining consent, *Federal Register*, 10/20/14

## What to Expect

### Support

We are here to help. You can expect a prompt, fair and impartial investigation of your complaint including helping you receive counseling, medical assistance and offering protective measures to help you feel safer on campus.

These accommodations may be related to your academic, transportation and workplace situations, if you request them and they are reasonably available. At times, we may need to act quickly to protect your safety, so we may not be able to obtain your written consent ahead of time. Please know, though, that we will be in communication with you throughout the process, to keep you in control of the situation and feeling as safe as possible.

### Reporting

If you or someone you know has been a victim of relationship or sexual crime or you believe a relationship or sexual crime is likely to occur, contact a Campus Security Authority (CSA). Numerous people here, including but not limited to all instructors as well as Student Services staff, serve as CSAs. They're trained to listen, take your report and guide you to appropriate resources. You'll receive information about support options, the student disciplinary process and how to pursue a criminal complaint—if YOU choose to do so.

The federal Clery Act, requires CSAs to report where and when crimes occur, but not necessarily who is involved. WTC will balance the need for campus safety with your request for confidentiality to the maximum extent possible.

### Campus Disciplinary Proceedings

Resolving cases of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking involves a fair, impartial campus disciplinary process, held within a reasonably prompt timeframe. During this process, both the complainant and respondent will be allowed to have an advisor of their choice present, will be given timely notice of meetings, and timely, equal access to information that will be used during meetings and hearings.

Once a disciplinary proceeding is over, the complainant and respondent will be alerted simultaneously regarding the outcome and any appeal options.