



rape and abuse crisis center

advocacy. counseling. education.

Acquaintance Rape

***Most of the time we have associated the word “rape” with dirty old men in alleys, strangers on a dark street, or a crazy person who attacks suddenly. We have not been prepared or informed that in most rape cases, the assailant is someone the victim knows.**

Sue had dated Jeff a couple of times during the school year. They had been at a number of the same parties and this was no different. Then Sue's friend, Linda, decided to go home early. Jeff said he would drive Sue home so she could stay longer. Sue became worried when Jeff missed the turn to her home and began driving out of town. She told Jeff she had to get home or she would be late, but Jeff said she had a lot of time and not to worry. Jeff pulled over on a dark gravel road and began kissing Sue and pulling on her clothes. She asked him to stop, but he told her she'd really like this, and to quit fighting. Jeff was much stronger than Sue, and no matter how much she struggled, she couldn't get away. Sue was raped by someone she knew and trusted. Because it was an acquaintance rape, she was confused and angry about why it happened and what she could do.

Unique problems involved with acquaintance rape

- People may have a hard time believing the assault really took place.
- If the assailant is a close friend of the family, you may fear upsetting either family.
- Friends may think since you had dated him before, you should have known what he was like.
- People may say you led him on.
- You fear the assailant may know quite a bit about you and your family.
- You may not trust other acquaintances/boyfriends for a long time.
- You may feel obligated to the assailant. You may feel that a rape has not occurred because the assailant spent money on you.
- You may be too embarrassed and ashamed to tell anyone.
- You may question your own judgment-“Was this really rape?” or “How could I have picked someone who would do this to me?”

Remember, you are NOT the offender-you're the victim. Don't try to work through this alone. Tell someone who can help-a counselor, teacher, friend, or a crisis center, if one is available. Whomever you choose should provide you with information, support, and help you through the medical and legal procedures involved.

Don't change clothes, wash, or douche. Taking these steps will destroy evidence, should you decide to press charges.

Get medical attention. There could be internal injuries, the possibility of pregnancy, or venereal disease.

24-hour Crisis Line (701)293-7273
www.raccfm.com

07/12

This material may be reproduced provided credit is
given to the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center.

F: Education/Revised Handouts/Acquaintance Rape.