
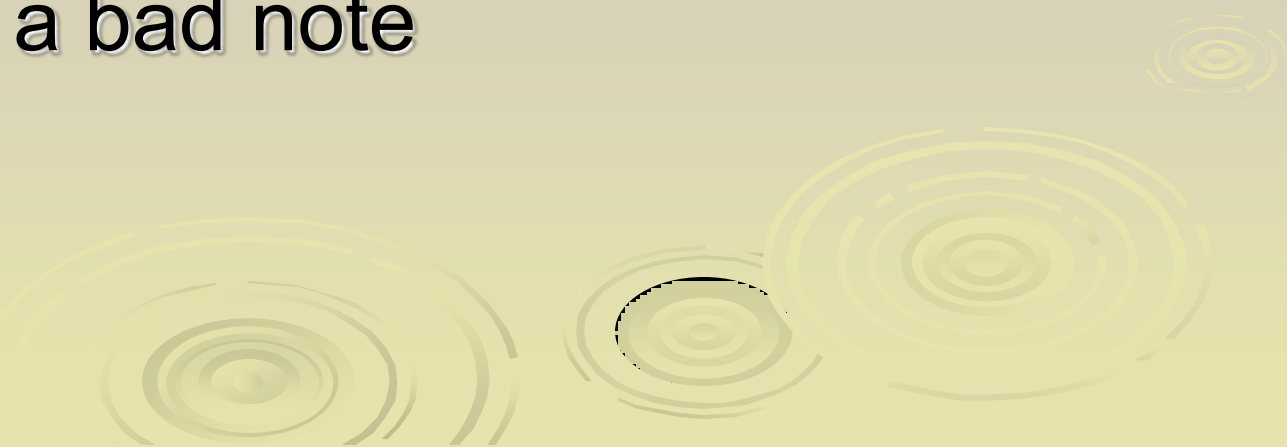


# Sexual Assault Support Groups: The Importance of Safety

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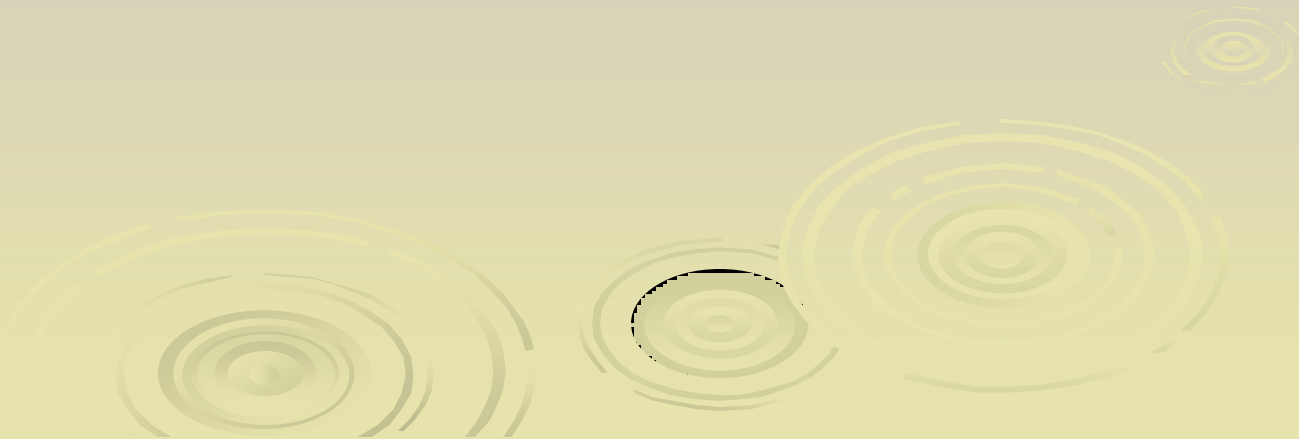


# Overview

- Why is Safety an issue?
  - Safety Logistics
  - Communication
  - Ground Rules
  - Confidentiality Concerns
  - Leaving on a bad note
  - Q&A
- 

# Why is Safety an Issue?

- Why I am talking about this.
- While many survivors of sexual assault may no longer be as concerned with safety from their perpetrator, there are many we work with who are still in contact with their perpetrator.



# Safety Logistics

- Things to think about when setting up a group:
  - Location
  - Time of day
  - Signage
  - Advertisement
  - Transportation

# Logistics

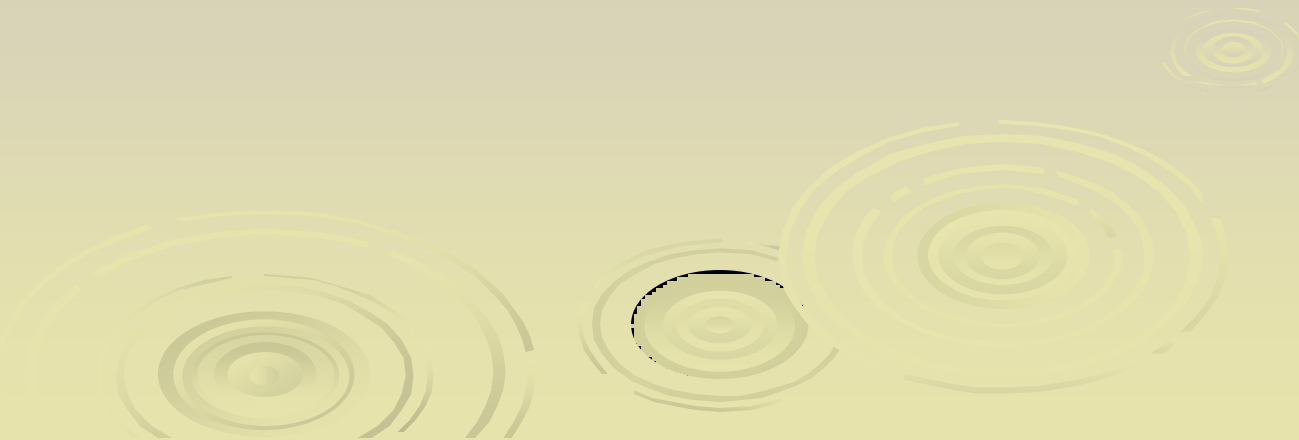
## ➤ Location

- door locked
- windows
- exit options
- panic button
- how YOU leave the premises
- local police aware

# Logistics, Cont.

## ➤ Time of day

- Afternoon when perp gets off work?
- Dark or light out and pros and cons to both?
- When classes are getting out or starting.



# Logistics, Cont.

## ➤ Signage and Advertisement

- Signage: What I write, what are some other sign ideas.
- Advertisement: Do you put location on your poster? Day and time? Is your group open or closed? Who is your audience? Who can potentially see that?

# Logistics, Cont.

## ➤ Transportation

- Bus
- Walk to car
- Walk
- Rides Home
  - Your organizations policy. Safety concerns about taking to perpetrators home.



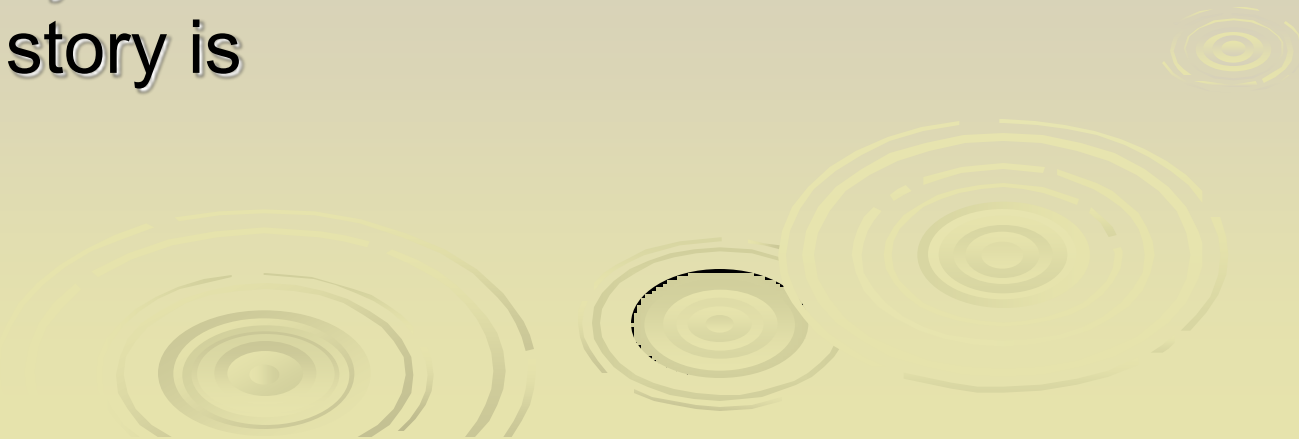
# Logistics, Cont.

## ➤ Handouts

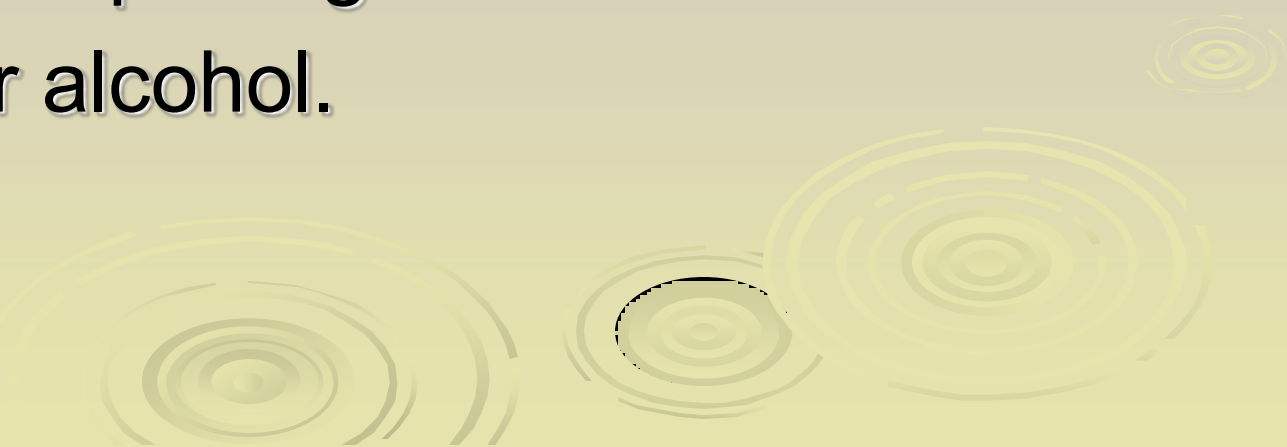
- Leaving a folder at place of group
- Taking folder home
- Do the handouts have any info about location of group?
- Group Notes (No Names!!!)

# Communication

- Phone or Email Reminders
  - Message?
  - Code?
  - Private email?
- Back up Story of where Members are
  - Make sure you are aware of what each members story is



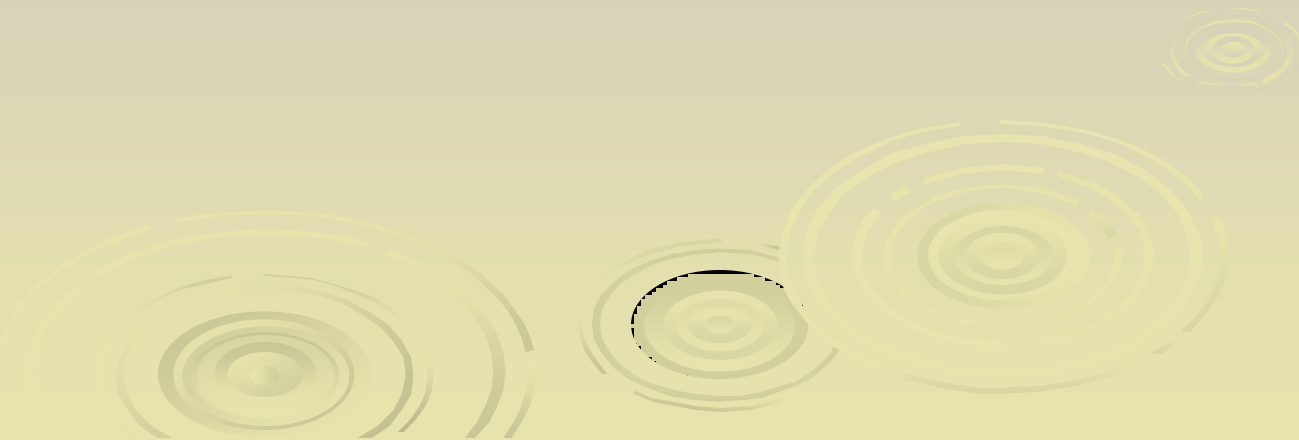
# Ground Rules

- It's important to emphasize the safety factor during the rules and confidentiality pieces of your group sessions.
  - One rule is to let us know if you don't feel safe going home.
  - Mandatory Reporting
  - No drugs or alcohol.
  - Others?
- 

# Confidentiality Concerns

- If there is a breach in confidentiality, may want to think about moving location/day/time of group.
- Safety within group: What if one member's perpetrator finds out
- This is a big reminder of why confidentiality agreements are so critical.

Leaving on a bad note



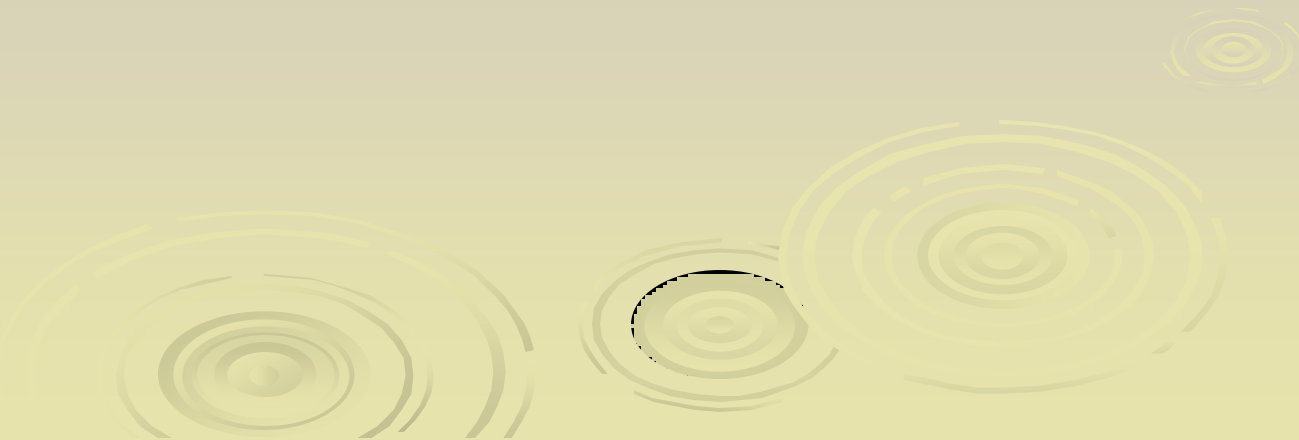
# Leaving on a good note!

- What do you do to keep yourself and other members safe?
- One of the biggest gifts we can give our clients is taking their safety seriously. Call it nurture, call it concern, but it all boils down to advocacy.



# Q&A

- What am I missing?
- Any experiences participants think might be useful to share?



# Thank You!

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