

SEEKING LEGAL HELP

You have the right to make a police report. It is the responsibility of the police to obtain basic information and attend to your physical wellbeing. The police can also help you find transportation to the hospital or to a safe location.

Sexual assault is a crime. Your partner or spouse can be prosecuted, and you can sue in civil court for pain and suffering if you choose to.

An advocate is available to support you throughout the legal process.

*Contact an Advocate
for further help.*

Sexual assault in an intimate relationship can happen to anyone. It may be difficult to talk about your experiences, and you may feel many different emotional and physical reactions as a result of the abuse. We are here to listen and to provide support for healing through advocacy counseling and medical and legal advocacy.

Please contact an advocate at:

*You have a right to live a life
safe from both physical
and sexual assault.*



Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs

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Know the Truth about

INTIMATE PARTNER SEXUAL VIOLENCE

fact:

**1 out of 10 people
has been raped by
an intimate partner¹**



www.wcsap.org

ABOUT INTIMATE PARTNER SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- *Has your partner ever made you have a sexual experience when you didn't want to?*
- *Have you ever participated in sexual activities with your partner out of fear, or because they threatened, pressured, or hurt you?*
- *Has your partner ever had sexual contact with you when you were physically or mentally unable to consent?*

Know the facts:

- You are not alone, and it is alright to feel hurt, angry, betrayed and confused.
- This is not your fault - your actions did not cause this to happen.
- You have the right to say "NO" to any kind of sexual contact, even if you are in an intimate relationship with the person you are saying no to.
- You are not obligated to have sex with your partner, even if you are married.
- Forced sexual activity in an intimate relationship is just as serious as if forced by a stranger.
- Intimate partner sexual violence is a crime.
- You have the right to report the rape and/or sexual assault to the police.

You may be experiencing many types of abuse in your relationship with your partner, including physical, verbal, mental, and sexual abuse.

A trained advocate is available to talk with you and provide you with support for healing. You can contact an advocate by calling the number listed at the end of this brochure.

People who are sexually assaulted by their partners might stay in the relationship for many years. They may feel they did something to cause the abuse or that it is their duty to have sex with their partners. Some people have had positive sexual experiences with their partners in the past, and therefore may feel that rape or sexual assault is not possible.

It does not matter what type of relationship you have with your partner, or what your past sexual experiences were; if you do not consent to the sexual activity, it is rape.

SEEKING MEDICAL HELP

If you have been sexually assaulted recently, you may want to consider going to the hospital to receive medical care, or you may choose to have a sexual assault evidence examination. This exam is free, and it preserves evidence in case you want to make a police report.

Medical attention is confidential for adults and can be extremely important.

An advocate is available to support you throughout the medical process.

To preserve evidence after the assault:

- ✓ *Do not take a shower or wash*
- ✓ *Do not douche*
- ✓ *Do not change your clothing*
- ✓ *Bring a change of clothes with you to the hospital*

¹Mahoney, P. Williams L.
Sexual Assault in Marriage:
Prevalence, consequences, and treatment of wife rape

Remember...you are not alone, and it's not your fault.