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**What is Sexual Assault?**

Sexual assault and sexual abuse are terms that refer to sexual contact without consent. Rape, incest, attempted rape and unwanted sexual touch are often called sexual assault.

**Where Can I Get Help?**

Rape victims, family members and friends can all get help at a rape crisis center. Crisis center services are free and confidential. Hotline numbers for crisis centers are listed on the other side of this brochure. For crisis center information and location go to www.icasa.org. Crisis centers are located throughout Illinois. If you are a victim of sexual assault, if you know someone who is, or if you want more information about sexual assault, you can contact the crisis center nearest you.

**What is a Crisis Center?**

When you call a rape crisis center, a crisis counselor will respond. Counselors, medical and legal advocates are available to help. Anyone who is a victim of sexual assault, sexual abuse or sexual harassment can receive services at a crisis center. Crisis center services are confidential, free and available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

**Staff and trained volunteers:**

- Answer the hotline.
- Provide crisis intervention.
- Meet you at the hospital.
- Go with you to the police station, the State’s Attorney’s office and court.
- Provide individual and group counseling.
- Give you specific information about sexual assault.

In addition to these services, centers provide prevention education. Prevention educators teach students about sexual assault and give presentations to community and civic groups. Staff also provide training for medical personnel, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, teachers and social workers.

**The Facts ...**

Sexual assault and sexual abuse can happen to anyone. It’s not just a myth. These are the facts:

- Sexual assault is a **crime**.
- Sexual assault is a violent use of **power**.
- There is no typical victim: anyone can be a victim of sexual assault.
- It is estimated that 1 in 7 women in **Illinois** have been the victims of sexual assault.
- **1 in 4** women in college will be the victim of rape or attempted rape.
- Only 3 in 10 sexual assaults is reported to the **police**.
- **1.3** adult women are raped every minute.
- **80%** of rape victims were known to their attackers.
- 65% of teens have been asked to engage in sex acts they didn’t want to via e-mail/texts/cellphone.
- **ICASA** centers assisted more than 18,000 victims of sexual violence and their significant others in 2012.

**The Law ...**

If you have been a victim of sexual assault or sexual abuse, the criminal justice system can help. Illinois law:

- Focuses on the **behavior** of the offender, rather than the behavior of the victim.
- Requires serious **penalties** for crimes against children, older people and people with disabilities.
- Allows a **spouse** to be charged with sexual assault.
- Says offenders can be male or female and of any age.
- Does not require **resistance** to prove sexual assault or sexual abuse.
- Criminalizes many kinds of coercive sexual behavior in addition to penetration.

**What is ICASA?**

The Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA) is the statewide network of rape crisis centers working together to end sexual violence. For more information on ICASA or to contact a local rape crisis center please visit www.icasa.org.