

# Intimate Partner Violence on Campus

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Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

## **Public Act 14-11 An Act Concerning Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence on Campus**

Expands the scope of the law that requires public and independent higher education institutions to:

1. Adopt and disclose (to their students and employees) their policies on sexual assault, stalking and intimate partner violence
2. Offer sexual assault, stalking and intimate partner violence primary prevention and awareness programming and campaigns.

## It also requires:

All institutions (public, independent, and for-profit), after a reported incident, to immediately provide concise written notification to each victim regarding his or her rights and options under the institution's policy or policies

## Allows:

All institutions to permit anonymous reporting.

## The act requires institutions to:

- Report annually to the Higher Education Committee concerning their policies, prevention and awareness programming and campaigns, and the number of incidents and disciplinary cases involving sexual assault, stalking, and intimate partner violence.
- To include information about stalking and family violence in their annual uniform campus crime reports.

# Public Act 14-11

Under the act, all higher education institutions must establish a **CAMPUS RESOURCE TEAM** to review their policies and recommend protocols for providing support and services to students and employees who report being victims.

# Intimate Partner Violence

# Types of Violence

- Physical
- Emotional/Psychological
- Sexual
- Financial
- Technological

# Types of Violence

## **Emotional or psychological** abuse:

- Threatening, intimidation, humiliation
- Extreme jealousy and possessiveness
- Threatening acts of violence
- Constant criticizing, insulting and belittling
- Ignoring or dismissing the victim
- Denying, minimizing and blaming
- Threatening to call DCF



# Types of Violence

## **Financial** abuse:

- Withholding money
- No access to bank accounts/ATM and credit cards
- Ruining victim's credit

# Types of Violence

## Physical abuse:

- Hitting, pushing, shoving, slapping, punching
- Holding, tying down or restraining
- Strangling, choking
- Inflicting bruises, welts and lacerations
- Dragging, pulling by hair
- Restraining

# Types of Violence

## **Sexual** abuse:

- Coercing victim to have sex
- Making victim watch pornographic movies
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Using date rape drugs

# Types of Violence

## Technology abuse:

- GPS tracking
- Threatening texts and emails
- Spoofing
- Facebook and social media
- Spyware

# Warning Signs

People who are being abused may:

- Seem afraid or anxious to please their partner.
- Go along with everything their partner says and does.
- Check in often with their partner to report where they are and what they're doing.
- Receive frequent, harassing phone calls from their partner.
- Talk about their partner's temper, jealousy, or possessiveness.

# Warning Signs

- Have frequent injuries, with the excuse of “accidents.”
- Frequently miss school or social occasions, without explanation.
- Dress in clothing designed to hide bruises or scars (e.g. wearing long sleeves in the summer or sunglasses indoors).
- Difficulty making decisions. May show poor self-confidence.
- Be restricted from seeing family and friends.
- Rarely go out in public without their partner.

# Batterer Tactics

- **Isolation:** Why do you want to see your family every week?
- **Intimidation:** Making your partner afraid by using looks, actions, gestures
- **Using coercion and threats:** I will kill myself if you leave
- **Controlling:** Taking partner to every place s/he goes

# Batterer Tactics

- **Damaging partner's relationships:** Telling people she is crazy/liar, using email and Facebook to send negative messages to friends
- **Minimizing, denying and blaming:** But I didn't hit you that hard, you bruise easily, I wouldn't have hit you if you hadn't been smiling at that person
- **Being possessive and jealous:** Telling victim "you are mine and always will be."



# Complexities of Intimate Partner Violence Cases

- There are many nuances to domestic violence
  - It is not a single incident
  - It is series of events along a continuum
  - It is not only physical abuse
- During the course of a violent relationship, victims will negotiate with and accommodate abusive partners to stay safe
- Leaving may not end the danger in the relationship- perpetrators may take more extreme actions at the time of separation

# Complexities of Domestic Violence Cases

## Trauma

- Victims of intimate partner violence and stalking experience trauma leaving them to cope with the loss of their safety and security
- Trauma exposure increases the likelihood of a range of vulnerabilities such as PTSD, anxiety, depression and other mental health conditions
- Trauma affects the way in which victims approach potentially helpful relationships
- Victims are often reluctant to engage in any type of human services which compounds their issues of isolation

# Progression of Intimate Partner Violence

- It may be subtle when it begins: criticizing, humiliating, threatening, intimidating
- It may escalate to violence including physical violence: destroying property, pushing, shoving, slapping, punching, sexual assault
- It can become life threatening: choking, use of weapons

# Definition of a Family Violence Crime

“Family violence crime” means a crime as defined in section 53a-24, other than a delinquent act as defined in section 46b-120, which, in addition to its other elements contains an element thereof an act of family violence to a family or household member.

“Family violence crime” does not include acts by parents or guardians disciplining minor children unless such acts constitute abuse.

# Evidence-Based Investigations

- Obtain Statements
- Canvass the campus
- Photo of injuries / medical releases
- Document conditions at the scene
- Evidence collection
- 911 recordings

# Family Violence Arrest

- Next day arraignment
- Offender meets with Family Relations
- Victim meets with Family Violence Victim Advocate
- Judge issues protective order
- Continuance date

# Orders of Protection

## Types of Orders:

- Protective Order
- Restraining Order
- Standing Criminal Protection Order
- Full Faith and Credit
- Conditions of Release

# Orders of Protection

- Locations where a victim can file a complaint on electronic violations of protective and restraining orders
  - Where the victim resides
  - Where the electronic communication was received
  - Where the electronic communication originated
- Full Faith and Credit- Out of state orders of protection



# Safety Planning

## **Safety planning is a tool:**

- To help victims identify options
- Evaluate these options
- Come up with a plan to reduce a victim's risk when faced with the threat of harm or actual harm

# Supporting Someone Experiencing Abuse

## Start the Conversation

- Start the conversation when you have time to listen and respond
- Use the following openings:
  - I'm worried about you.
  - Are you afraid?
  - How can I help?
  - What is this like for you?
- Listen to victim's concerns and validate their feelings
- Support victim's decisions even if you don't agree- they know their situation best

# Supporting Someone Experiencing Abuse

- Learn more about domestic violence
- Post information about domestic violence and the local domestic violence agency phone number
- Keep the number of the statewide helpline in your cell phone: 888.774.2900
- Refer the victim to help for safety planning, risk assessment and resources

## ON CAMPUS

### Reporting and Investigation:

- Campus Police
- Office of the Title IX Coordinator

### Resources:

- Women's Center
- Counseling and mental health services
- Student health services
- Residential life

## OFF CAMPUS

### Reporting and Investigation:

- Local police department

### Resources:

- Local domestic violence organization
  - Safety Planning
  - Crisis intervention
  - Court based advocacy
  - Support groups
  - Information and referrals
  - 24 hour hotline
  - Emergency shelter
  - Short term counseling
  - Advocacy and support services

## When someone calls for help:

They will talk to a caring person who will listen carefully without judging them or their situation.

They can help a person think about their options and determine what steps and services will work best for them.

They may ask questions to learn more about the situation.

They will ask that a person considers all possible scenarios and outcomes so that they can make the best decision about action steps for them and their children.

They will work with people of all races, ethnicities, ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, cultural backgrounds, religions, and all economic and social backgrounds.

**STATEWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
HOTLINE  
888-774-2900**