

## Western Iowa Tech Community College

### WHAT ARE SEXUAL VIOLENCE, DATING/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND STALKING?

1. *Sexual Violence* includes any physical sexual act perpetrated against a person's will or where the person is incapable of giving consent (e.g., due to the person's use of drugs or alcohol, being a minor, or having an intellectual or other disability that prevents them from having the capacity to understand the situation or give consent). Types of sexual violence include: **rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse or sexual coercion.**
2. *Domestic Violence* includes violent misdemeanor or felony offenses against a current or former spouse or cohabitant, or a person who would otherwise be protected under domestic or family violence laws.
3. *Dating Violence* includes violence against a person who has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the person, which is gauged by the relationship's length, type and frequency of interaction.
4. *Stalking* is defined as conduct that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their or another's safety, or behavior that causes substantial emotional distress.
5. *Sexual Harassment* is defined as conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the education program or to create a hostile or abusive educational environment.

#### Sexual Violence Facts vs. Myths

Myth: Women are raped by strangers, outside, in dark alleyways.

Reality: 90% of college women know their rapist.

Myth: Women who get drunk or take drugs should not be surprised if they are sexually assaulted.

Reality: Women have the right to consume alcohol just like men. A woman is **not able** to consent/agree to sex if she is drunk.

Myth: If two people are in a relationship and have had sex before, then it cannot be rape.

Reality: Previously agreeing to sex does not mean any sex thereafter is consensual. Consent must be obtained before each and every sexual encounter.

Myth: If a person does not struggle, was not forced or hurt, or did not report it immediately, then it was not rape.

Reality: People react differently to stressful or traumatic situations. Some people fear being seriously harmed, some people become paralyzed by fear, and some people go into shock. All these things prevent them from fighting back.

Myth: If sexual violence occurs between two females or two males, then it is not really sexual violence.

Reality: The gender of the people involved does not matter. Sexual violence can occur between people of the same sex.

*This information has been provided by the WITCC Title IX Committee. Please contact Title IX Coordinator at [Brenda.Bradley@witcc.edu](mailto:Brenda.Bradley@witcc.edu) or at (712) 274-6400 ext. 1220 additional information. bsb/9-25-15*