

Did You know?...

- Rape and sexual assault happens to people of all ages.
- Rape and sexual assault can happen to males or females.
- Sexual assault is about power and violence. It is not about love.
- Sexual assault has nothing to do with sexual orientation.
- Victims and offenders may be either heterosexual or homosexual.
- The fact that a victim of sexual assault became sexually aroused does not mean they were not raped or that they gave consent. These are normal, involuntary reactions.
- Any sexual contact between staff and youth is against the law.
- It is common for survivors of sexual assault to have feelings of embarrassment, anger, guilt, panic, depression and fear even several months or years after an attack.

If you sexually assault another youth you should know...

You will be issued a YBIR and an investigation will take place. The State Highway Patrol will be notified. You will face consequences from DYS and you will face additional criminal charges. If you are found guilty your time will be increased and you could face life long reporting requirements after release. You could face adult prison time.

Consider that unprotected sex increases your risk of HIV infection, along with exposing you to other sexually transmitted diseases.

If you have trouble controlling your actions ask for help from your Social Worker or Mental Health staff. Stay busy with positive activities like school, community service, letter writing or physical exercise.

DIVISION OF THE
CHIEF INSPECTOR

Ohio Department of Youth Services
51 N. High Street, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF
YOUTH SERVICES

What you should know about sexual abuse & assault



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CHIEF INSPECTOR

What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is “any contact between the sex organ of one person and the sex organ, mouth or anus of another person, or any intrusion of any part of the body of one person, or of any object into the sex organ, mouth or anus of another person, by the use of force or threat of force.” The offender uses sex as a weapon to assault the body, the mind, psyche and spirit.

Sexual assault affects everyone, either directly or through the experiences of those we care about. It can affect any male or female of any age, race, ethnic group, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation or disability.

No youth or staff member ever has the right to ask you for a sexual favor or to have sex with you.

ODYS has zero tolerance for sexual abuse and assault.

How to avoid rape...

The only way rape can be prevented is when a potential rapist chooses NOT to rape. However, you may avoid an attack by keeping the following safety guidelines in mind:

Be aware of situations that make you feel uncomfortable. Trust your instincts. If it feels wrong, TELL A STAFF MEMBER YOU TRUST.

Don't be afraid to say “NO” OR “STOP IT NOW.”

Walk and stand with confidence. Many rapists choose victims who look like they won't fight back or are emotionally weak.

Avoid talking about sex or being partially dressed. These things may be considered a come on, or make another youth believe that you have an interest in a sexual relationship.

Do not accept commissary items or other gifts from other youth. Placing yourself in debt to another youth can lead to the expectation of repaying the debt with sexual favors.

Avoid secluded areas. Position yourself in plain view of staff members. If you are being pressured for sex, report it to a staff person immediately.

What do you do if you are sexually assaulted...

Although an attacker may threaten to harm you, REPORT THE ATTACK TO A STAFF MEMBER IMMEDIATELY. The longer you wait to report the attack the more power you give to the perpetrator. If you wait it will be more difficult to obtain the evidence necessary for an investigation.

Request to see the nurse for immediate medical attention. You may have serious injuries that you are not aware of, and any sexual contact can expose you to sexually transmitted diseases.

Do not shower, brush your teeth, use the restroom or change your clothes. You may destroy important evidence.

If you have been assaulted or witness an assault, but you are unwilling to report it to your unit staff, then you may fill out a grievance form, write a kite, request to see the Chaplain, Youth Advocate, or the Victim Services Representative at your institution.

D I V I S I O N O F T H E
C H I E F I N S P E C T O R

**Ohio Department of Youth Services
51 N. High Street, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215**

Avoiding sexual abuse and assault

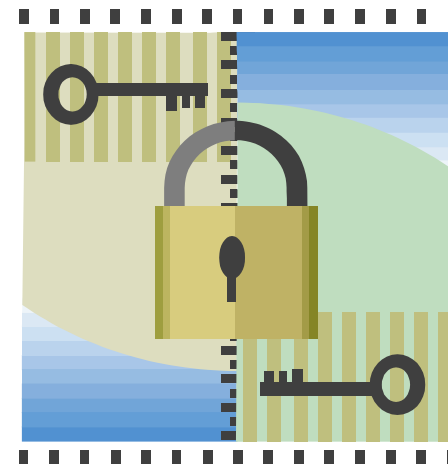
Here are some things you can do to protect yourself against sexual assault:

- Do not accept gifts or favors from staff or youth.
- Do not accept an offer from another youth to be your “protector”.
- Be direct and firm if others ask you to do something you don’t want to do. Do not give mixed messages to other youth regarding your wishes for sexual activity.

Trust your instincts. If you sense that a situation may be dangerous or inappropriate, it probably is. If you fear for your safety or the safety of another youth, report your concerns to staff.



Your Right to be Safe from Sexual Assault and Abuse



Governor Ernie Fletcher

BG Norman E. Arflack, Secretary
Justice & Public Safety Cabinet

Bridget Skaggs Brown,
Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice



A Guide for Youth

What is sexual abuse?

- Youth or staff engaging in or attempting to engage in a sexual act with another youth
- Threatening or intimidating someone sexually
- Inappropriate touching
- Pressuring a resident to engage in a sexual act
- Making sexual comments that may include profane or abusive language or gestures
- Exposing yourself to another youth

Regardless of whether it is staff, youth or visitors, while you are in this facility no one has the right to pressure you to engage in sexual acts. You do not have to tolerate sexual assault or pressure to engage in sexual behavior. You have the right to be safe from sexual advances and acts.

What to do if you or someone else is abused or assaulted?

- If you or someone else is sexually abused or assaulted you should immediately inform a staff member you feel safe with and you should call the abuse and neglect hotline at: **1-800-890-6854**, as soon as possible.
- If you were sexually assaulted, you will be referred for a medical examination and clinical assessment.
- You do not have to name the other youth or the staff member to receive assistance, but specific information may make it easier for staff to help you.

Confidentiality

Information concerning the identity of a victim reporting sexual assault or abuse, and the facts of the report itself, shall be limited to those who have a need to know in order to make decisions concerning the victim's welfare and for law enforcement/investigative purposes.

Counseling

If you have been the victim of sexual abuse or assault you may seek counseling or advice from your counselor or the facility psychologist.