THIS GUIDE IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE, RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE, AND STALKING, AND THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS. IT ALSO GIVES AN OVERVIEW OF THE REPORTING OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCE INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE.

Sexual violence, relationship violence, and stalking in any form, including sexual assault and rape, are prohibited by University policy. The definitions in this guide are adapted from the Penn Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, and Stalking Policy.

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Sexual violence includes a range of behaviors in which an act of a sexual nature is taken against another person without the individual’s consent or when the individual is unable to consent. Sexual assault (including but not limited to rape) is defined as someone having committed any of the following acts:

- Any physical sexual contact that involves the use or threat of force or violence or any other form of coercion or intimidation;

- Any physical sexual contact with a person who is unable to consent due to incapacity or impairment, mental or physical. “Incapacity” or “impairment” includes but is not limited to being under the influence of alcohol or drugs or being too young to consent.

**What is consent?**

- An affirmative decision to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity given by clear words or actions cannot be given by a person who because of youth, disability, intoxication or other condition is unable to lawfully give his or her consent.

- Consent to one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to other forms of sexual activity may not be inferred from silence, passivity, or lack of resistance alone.

- The existence of a current or previous relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent.

90% of college sexual violence survivors know their attacker.
Relationship Violence, commonly known as dating or domestic violence, is defined as a pattern of abuse committed by a person, past or present, involved in a social, sexual or romantic relationship with the victim. Relationship violence can encompass a broad range of behaviors that may include physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence, and economic violence.

Examples of abusive behavior include:

- Using threats or insults
- Hitting, pushing, strangling
- Stealing money
- Isolating from family & friends
- Restricting access to birth control

No physical violence needs to occur in order for a relationship to be abusive. However, it is important to know that emotional and psychological abuse often escalate to physical violence in time.

Women aged 16-24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence.
Stalking

means engaging in a course of conduct directed at specific person(s) that would cause a reasonable person to (a) fear for his or her safety or the safety of others, or (b) suffer substantial emotional distress.

People are most often stalked by someone they know such as an acquaintance or an ex-partner, but you can also be stalked by a stranger. Stalking behavior is often mistaken for unwanted romantic attention and may not be taken seriously. However, if not interrupted, stalking can cause a victim to live in fear and alter their routine.

18–24 year olds experience the highest rates of stalking

Examples of stalking behavior:

- Following or spying on someone
- Repeatedly sending unwanted e-mails, letters, Facebook messages, text messages, etc.
- Threatening someone or their friends & family
- Leaving unwanted gifts or items
- Destroying someone’s property
SPECIAL SERVICES, DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS) 4040 CHESTNUT ST, 215 898 6600
Special Services offers comprehensive support for any member of the Penn community who has experienced interpersonal violence. Special Services advocates provide options counseling, hospital and court accompaniment, and assistance with filing a criminal complaint. *confidential

STUDENT INTERVENTION SERVICES (SIS) 3611 LOCUST WALK, 215 898 6081
Student Intervention Services (SIS) manages support services for students affected by interpersonal violence. SIS coordinates academic support, housing arrangements, and other protective measures at students’ request. SIS respects the sensitivity of violence cases and can discreetly advocate for students with schools and other offices in the University.

PENN WOMEN’S CENTER (PWC) 3643 LOCUST WALK, 215 898 8611
The Penn Women’s Center provides education, advocacy, and crisis counseling, and co-facilitates a support group for survivors. PWC staff can assist victims in navigating the different resources at both Penn and in the broader community. PWC supports all students regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. *confidential

THERE ARE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES BOTH ON AND OFF
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STUDENT HEALTH SERVICE (SHS) 3535 MARKET ST, SUITE 100, 215 746 3535
The Student Health Service can provide evaluation and treatment to victims of sexual and dating violence regardless of whether they make a report or seek additional resources. SHS providers can perform examinations, discuss testing and treatment of sexually transmissible infections, provide emergency contraception and arrange for referrals. *confidential

COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS) 3624 MARKET ST, 215 898 7021
CAPS offers a wide range of free and confidential services in a safe space to help students who have experienced violence of any kind. Initial consultation, individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, structured workshops, and medication reviews are available. *confidential

THE OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN (CHA) 240 HOUSTON HALL, 215 898 8456
The Office of the Chaplain offers pastoral support, guidance, informal advising, and counseling to all members of the Penn community. The staff is trained to support survivors of interpersonal violence, or anyone struggling with related issues in a safe and confidential manner. *confidential

* Confidential offices are committed to keeping information secure to the extent permitted by law.

CAMPUS. VISIT VPUL.UPENN.EDU/PVP FOR A FULL LIST.
A student who would like to report an incident or sexual violence, relationship violence, or stalking has the right to pursue criminal charges through local law enforcement and/or to make an internal complaint through the University of Pennsylvania. Students may choose to pursue both these options, one of them, or neither.

Student Internal Reporting Options:
Determining the appropriate office to file a complaint, depends on whether the accused offender is a student, staff member, or faculty member.

STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT A SUPPORT RESOURCE (PAGE 4/5) FOR ASSISTANCE WITH FILING A COMPLAINT.
Below is a brief outline of the recommended steps for Penn students to take immediately after experiencing sexual violence:

1. If possible, **find a safe place** away from the perpetrator or from any other potential danger.

2. **Contact the Penn Police at 215.573.3333.** The Penn Police are specially trained to respond to incidents of interpersonal violence and will connect students with an advocate from Special Services. These advocates will discuss medical and reporting options such as receiving a Protection From Abuse Order and/or receiving a medical exam.

3. **Seek medical attention** as soon as possible. The **Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center (PSARC)** is designated to provide forensic rape examinations to victims of sexual assault. It is recommended that students who wish to pursue legal action, or may want to pursue legal action in the future, receive this examination, which includes a collection of evidence. During this examination victims can receive treatment for injuries and sexually transmitted infections as well as emergency contraception. An advocate from Special Services can provide transportation and accompaniment to PSARC.

4. **Speak with a resource**, some of which are listed on page 4/5. These resources offer a range of services such as counseling, advocacy, safety planning, assistance with making a report, and housing and academic support.
Penn Violence Prevention is a collaborative program housed in the Division of the Vice Provost of University Life. PVP aims to engage the Penn community in the prevention of sexual violence, relationship violence, and stalking on campus through education and outreach.

**ABOUT PENN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

**Penn Violence Prevention and Educational Initiatives**

**Contact:**

**Jessica Mertz**  
Director of Sexual Violence Prevention & Education  
jmertz@upenn.edu  
215.898.6081  
vpul.upenn.edu/pvp

**Penn Policies and Title IX Compliance**

**Contact:**

**Sam Starks**  
Title IX Coordinator and Executive Director  
Office of Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity Programs  
sstarks@upenn.edu, 215.898.6993  
upenn.edu/affirm-action
GET INVOLVED IN PVP

STUDENT GROUPS, ACTIVISM, & EVENTS
CONTACT:

Penn Women’s Center
3643 Locust Walk
215.898.8611
vpul.upenn.edu/pwc
pwc@pobox.upenn.edu

JOIN A STUDENT GROUP
There are a number of groups dedicated to raising awareness about interpersonal violence on campus, including ASAP, 1 in 4, and PAVE.

GET EDUCATED
Attend the Student Anti-Violence Advocate Training or host a workshop.

ATTEND EVENTS
Show your support at events like Take Back the Night and the Vagina Monologues.

SPEAK UP
Speak up when you hear or see problematic behavior.