


Side  
Info

Joel V. drank a case of beer one night. He lost control of his behavior. He broke into a woman's apartment and held a knife in front of her. He said he wanted to have sex with her. The woman was afraid he would murder her. She had to give in but asked him to wear a condom. She was afraid of catching a disease and of becoming pregnant. After he left her house, she called the police. They caught him nearby.



CHECK UP vocabulary words in bold.  
LOOK UP word meanings in the glossary beginning on page 92.

A grand jury indicted Joel V. on **sexual assault** and burglary charges. The jury found Joel V. guilty of rape. He is now behind bars, and the woman is getting counseling help. In this chapter, you will learn about rape and **sexual harassment**. You will learn what they are and what you can do if you are raped or **sexually harassed**. You will also find out about what takes place at a rape trial.

 **CRITICAL THINKING**  
Some radio stations play music that talks about hurting people, drugs and violence against society. In the United States, this is called "gangsta rap." What influence can this have on the behavior of young people?

**Rape**

What does the law say about rape? Rape is a crime of assault. The law says that there are two kinds of rape. One kind is forcible rape. Another kind is statutory rape.

Forcible rape is the forcing of a person to have sex. Statutory rape is having sex with a person who is too young to say yes legally. In this situation, whether the young person was forced to have sex or not, a crime was committed.

What should you do if you are raped? There are six things you must do, and do quickly, if you are raped. Read these over until you have memorized them.

1. Tell someone right away. It is best to tell an adult person you know. If you are at home, tell a neighbor. If it happens in the street, you may have to get help from a stranger. Go to a store or a restaurant. Ask to use a telephone. Tell someone everything that happened while you still remember details. If you are a woman, you may feel more comfortable talking to another woman. If you are a man, you may want to talk with a man.



Attorney Diaz says: "Every case is different. If you decide to fight back, you could be hurt, but this is better than being raped. If a weapon is used, especially a gun, *not* fighting back is smart. Then the most important thing becomes surviving the crime of rape, not dying."

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2. Next, call the police. Some cities have special phone numbers for rape victims called Rape Crisis Hotlines. A victim can call that number or call the police emergency number.

3. Next, call the friend you told about the rape to come and be with you. A friend can help you talk to the police. A friend can help you at the hospital. Do not be afraid to show your upset feelings.

4. Next, do not answer any questions about your sex life. The police may ask you about your sex life, but you do not have to answer. You will probably be too upset to talk. You need to tell them this. Many rapes are committed by people who actually know their victims. The police may ask the victim whether he or she ever had sex with the suspect before. That is their job.

Yet, you do not have to answer this type of question. The crime of rape has nothing to do with your past or even with the day before you were assaulted. Having had sex with others before does not mean you said yes this time.

5. Next, go to the hospital. Ask the police to take you to the hospital, or go with a friend. It is very important to go to the hospital as soon as possible. You will need to have proof that you were raped. The hospital exam record will show that you were attacked. It will tell whether you have cuts or bruises.

6. Finally, do not wash anything before you go to the hospital! Many victims want to wash their body or their clothes right away. However, this would mean washing away evidence. This evidence could be hair or blood or semen from the attacker. It is also important to go to the hospital in case you have also been hurt from a struggle with the attacker.

There may be a chance that the rape causes you to become pregnant. The doctor can give you a pill to stop the pregnancy just in case. If you are in a hospital that does not give such a pill, go to a family-planning or abortion clinic as soon as possible.

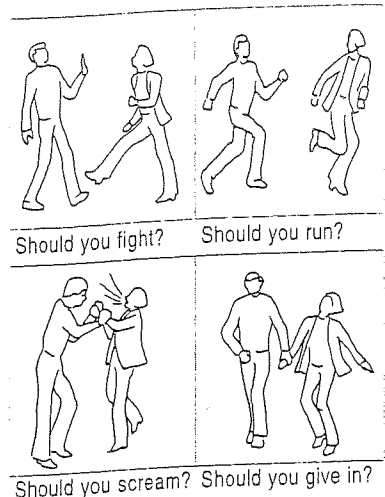
Some people do not want to take this type of pill for religious or other reasons or because it can make you sick. Always ask the doctor about how any medicine might make you feel.

Can you catch a disease from being raped? The answer is yes! There are more than twenty such diseases! These are called **sexually transmitted diseases**, or **STD's**. This means that you only get them from having sex with someone who has them.

At the hospital, doctors can give you a shot to protect against many but not all of these diseases. You will need to go back to the hospital in a few weeks for tests to make sure you did not catch anything. This is important because some of the STD's have no symptoms, or signs. Some STD's can be caught very easily.

### AIDS

Can you catch AIDS from a rapist? The answer is yes! It is possible to catch this killer disease from having sex just once with



**CRITICAL THINKING**  
If you are physically threatened, don't be nice. Should you fight? Should you run? Should you scream? Should you give in to avoid being beaten or killed?

**DID YOU KNOW?** Ten out of seventeen men said that if the women they had tried to rape had run, screamed, or fought, they might have avoided the rape. Yet, these suspects did not mean crying, begging, or making a deal.

**EYE OPENER** The crime of rape happens five times more often in the United States than in Germany, thirteen times more than in England, and twenty times more than in Japan.

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One out of eight Hollywood movies has a rape scene.

another person. You cannot know for sure if you have caught it until a long time after the attack. It often takes years before the AIDS virus shows up in a blood test.

AIDS is the most serious disease of the century. After being raped, a person must be tested as soon he or she arrives at the hospital. It is a matter of life and death. It is not something that can only happen to other people. If a person is casual or not careful about sex, he or she is playing with death. Until a person knows the test result, he or she must take care not to infect another person, just in case.

### Some of the Feelings Rape Victims Have

Rape victims have many of the same feelings as other crime victims. They may feel frightened, depressed, or sad. They may even feel guilty and need help to know that the rape was not their fault.

Rape victims also need help to learn how to protect themselves. They need to learn how to feel safe again. They need to talk about what happened and need a lot of support from friends and family.

Where can the rape victim get help? He or she can go to a special place or center that helps rape victims with medical and emotional problems.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Years ago, most victims did not bring charges against a rapist. They did not want to have to go through the embarrassment of a trial.



### Rape Victim Pressing Charges

Many rapes are committed by people who know their victims, even if not well. This means that the victim can often identify the attacker for the police. Yet, believe it or not, victims sometimes do not press charges because they are embarrassed or frightened. This is definitely wrong.

It is the right thing to go to the police. Rape is a terrible crime. The police and courts have a better understanding of how rape victims feel than in the past. However, rape trials are still very hard emotionally on the victims.

What happens at a rape trial? At a rape trial, the victim has to tell the story once again. The suspect's lawyer may turn things around and try to find anything the victim might have said or done to make the victim seem guilty.

For example, if the victim asks the rapist to wear a condom and even supplies one for safety, the defense lawyer might say that it is possible the victim was agreeing to have sex. To make sure things are not turned around, the victim must show honesty. This is the best way of answering uncomfortable questions.

Remember, too, that the law tries to treat everyone the same. This means that the suspect's past sex life cannot be brought up, even if he or she was tried for rape before. Also, be prepared to be asked: "Did you not know better than to go on that dangerous street alone?" or "Didn't you know better than to open the door to a stranger?" The court will need to ask these questions to make sure that you had nothing to do with causing the attack. And, of course, while it is a mistake to take such risks, it is not a reason to be raped. Rape is still a crime, and you, as a victim are still not guilty.

**EYE OPENER** Two out of three students in grades eight through eleven say they have been sexually harassed.

## The Right Thing to Do

**Did you resist?** To resist means to try to stop something from happening to you. The law says rape is sex without the consent of the victim. Many people think, then, that this means the victim must fight and struggle. This is always smart. If you think however that struggling, kicking, or screaming might make the attacker hurt you even more, then it is not smarter to resist. Every person needs to do what is best to save his or her life. Every attack is different. Every attacker is different.

A person needs to decide what to do at the moment of the attack, and very quickly. The fear of being murdered can make a person not struggle. The person who does not struggle is still a victim 100 percent. Fear does not equal consent.

**Is there a witness to the rape?** If there are no witnesses and you have no cuts and bruises, it will be harder to prove there was a rape. This is why it is so important for you to tell someone right after it happens. Even though this person did not witness the rape, the person did witness how upset you were right after the crime happened.

**Did you know the suspect?** Rape victims often know their attacker. For example, there was a case of a woman who was raped by someone delivering food to her apartment. Another person was raped by the building's security guard. The rapist could even be a jealous friend. This does not mean you need to worry about every person you see. But it does mean that you must be careful always.

**How careful should you be?** There are some simple rules everyone should follow

- ☐ Never let a complete stranger into your house.
- ☐ Be careful about allowing even a friend of a friend to come into your home alone.

## Date Rape

**What about dates and parties?** These kinds of situations are times when a kind of rape called **date rape** can happen. If, for example, you go out on a date with someone who wants to have sex, and you do not, you need to know how to protect yourself. A victim of date rape has a hard time proving the rape in court because the victim started out by agreeing to go on a date.

Remember that saying yes to a date or a dance is not the same as saying yes to sex.

Many times, victims are raped at parties because everyone is drinking. Sometimes, people even faint. Also, women usually are not physically able, because of their size, to drink as much as men without feeling drunk. When a person is feeling faint, he or she cannot really know what is happening. As a result, he or she may not even remember being raped.

**What can you do to avoid date rape?** The best thing to do is to keep physical control of yourself. This means to never drink too much at parties. Never drink if you are under age. Also, do not choose to attend

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People who have been the victims of rape often say that they will never be the same. Why do you think this is so?

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**DID YOU KNOW?** If a person does not say yes to sex, this is the same as saying no.

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**EYE OPENER** Today, although only 3 to 10 percent of all rapes are reported each year, this more than in the past.

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**CRITICAL THINKING**  
How might a person go about making a personal safety plan? What might be included in the plan?

parties that have no one supervising them. Do not go to parties where you do not know most of the people very well.

Believe it or not, rape is never OK, even in a party or date situation. Criminal behavior is illegal and wrong all the time. It doesn't matter what anyone else thinks: you can have control over your own behavior. You know what is wrong and what is right. If you have been date raped, you need to press charges.

Can you be raped by your spouse? In the past, most state laws said no. Most states said that it is more important that a spouse have the right to have sex with his or her partner. However, more and more states are now changing their laws. People are realizing that the rights of a person not to have sex should always be protected.

Sex needs two people who agree every time, not just some of the time. Otherwise, a rape has taken place.

We understand that many rapists rape again. Their behavior becomes a pattern. That is why a victim who can put a rapist in jail will be helping to save other people from this violent crime.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Sexual or sex harassment is not yet punishable by a prison sentence. Yet, because society is becoming aware of how wrong any type of harassment is, there will likely be harsher punishment for this crime in the near future.

**Sexual Harassment**

What is sexual harassment? Sexual harassment happens any time one person touches another person's body, talks about sex to them in an unwelcome way, or looks at your body in a way that makes you upset. It can be your boss saying you must have sex if you want to keep your job. It can be a classmate making jokes about private parts of your body.

Where does sexual harassment happen? It happens almost everywhere. It is a growing problem in workplaces and in schools. A student who has been harassed, may have a problem about wanting to return to school.

Is sexual harassment against the law? In many cases, sexual harassment is a criminal act. It is definitely against the law for an employer to demand sex so that you can keep your job. Although you cannot usually have someone sent to jail for sexual harassment, you can certainly bring charges against the person. If the person is found guilty, he or she may have to pay a fine. A fine is a punishment, too. For example, one man brought charges against his female boss. He said she had bothered him for six years. He won the case.

What if sexual harassment happens in school? Does your school have a way to handle people who commit sexual harassment? If it does, find out what it is. If it does not, here are some things that you and your friends can do:

■ If anyone at school (a teacher, a student, or a security guard) is harassing you, tell that person what you are feeling and that you want the person to stop.

■ If the person does not stop, then go to someone above that person, perhaps the principal or a school counselor, with a list of things that happened. The list should say what, when, where, and who. Also,

**EYE OPENER** The present focus is on sexual harassment of women by males. Yet, in the United States, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission report said that in 1992 claims of sexual harassment were also filed by men. In 1991, roughly one in thirteen claims were made by men.

list the names of any witnesses. List what you said or did to the harasser and what the harasser said or did to you. Finally, don't forget to say how you felt about the harassment.

☐ If the harassment happens again, go to someone on an even higher level, such as a school-board member or the superintendent of schools. Continue to keep track of the dates, times, and witnesses to the harassment. You cannot report on the crime if you do not keep a record like a reporter.

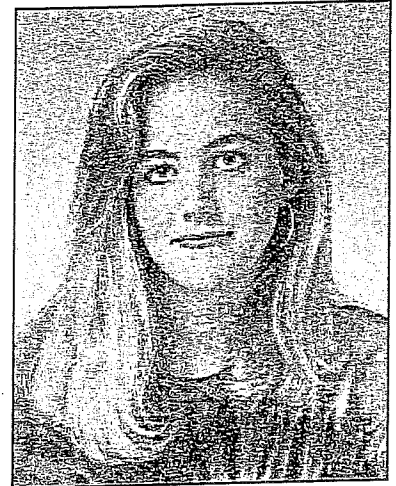
For example, a student was very upset because people were writing sexual things about her on the school bathroom walls. She complained to the principal. The school did not even wash the walls. It was as if they did not care that she felt harmed emotionally.

The student sued the school and won her case. The court said that the school had to do something to stop the harassment. Sexual harassment is different from rape. It can be physical or just emotional. But it can include everything short of rape.

Today, people convicted on sexual harassment do not get prison sentences. Yet, the laws are changing and society is taking this problem more seriously. Victims of both rape and sexual harassment feel robbed of their self-respect and of control over their own body. The media have failed to show how sex crimes really hurt individual victims, their families, and all of society.


#### CRITICAL THINKING


A woman met a man and, a few days later, agreed to have sex with him. She requested that he use protection. Yet, he was strong and powerful and, at the last minute, tore off the condom he was wearing. He knew he was HIV-positive. The woman became infected. The court found him guilty of criminal negligence. The judge said that the woman was partly to blame because a reasonable person would not be so quick to have sex. What is your opinion?



### Understanding Chapter 15

1. What is sexual assault, and who can be sexually assaulted?
2. How is a rape trial different from all other criminal trials?
3. What is sexual harassment?

 *Workbook*  
Self-Check p.32  
Reality-Check p.33

 **TO LEARN MORE**  
*Government Today*, p. 97

Chapter 15. Side Information

1. What kind of music do some radio stations play? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. What is this kind of music called? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Attorney Diaz says its better to do what than being raped? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When does she say not fighting back is smart? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What does she say is the most important thing in the crime of rape? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If you are physically threatened what should you not be? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How did 10 out of 17 men say a rape could have been avoided? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. They didn't mean what? \_\_\_\_\_
9. The crime of rape happens how many times more in the U.S. than in Japan? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many movies have rape scenes? \_\_\_\_\_
11. In the past why did most rape victims not bring charges against rapists? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What percentage of students in grades 8 through 11 say they have been sexually harassed?  
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13. What do people who have been raped often say? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What is the same as saying no? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What percent of rapes are reported each year? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Each person need to go about making a personal what? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Why will there be harsher punishment for sexual harassment in the near future? \_\_\_\_\_  
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18. How many claims of men being sexually harassed were made in 1991? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. What is the present focus of sexual harassment on? \_\_\_\_\_
20. If an HIV-positive person infects another person, what can they be found guilty of? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Critical Thinking  
Chapter 15

1. Do you think music can influence people? How?
2. When should you fight back against rape? When should you not? Why?
3. Why is being nice the worst thing you can do when being physically threatened?
4. Why would most victims of rape not bring charges?
5. Why do students put up with so much sexual harassment?



6. Why do women that have been raped often blame themselves?

7. What would be included in your personal safety plan when going to a party?

8. Should there be a prison sentence for sexual harassment? Why?

9. Can a man be sexually harassed? In what situation does this occur?

10. Describe sexual harassment.