Know What to Do

If you or someone you know has been assaulted, harassed, stalked, or is in an abusive relationship, help is available.

- **If you need emergency assistance**, call Cornell Police (607-255-1111) or 911.
- **Seek support and care.** For confidential support, speak with a Cornell Victim Advocate (607-255-1212) or call Cornell Health (607-255-5155). In order to keep you and others in the Cornell community safe, most Cornell faculty and staff (including DGSs) have a duty to consult with the Title IX Coordinator if they become aware of potential incidents of prohibited conduct. All faculty and staff, including the Title IX Coordinator, will maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible. See TITLEIX.CORNELL.EDU/RESOURCES for more resources, including an explanation of which resources are confidential.
- **Seek medical attention.** Support and referral are available by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week through Cornell Health (607-255-5155). You may choose to have physical and medical evidence recorded for legal purposes. In cases of sexual assault, seek immediate medical attention at Cayuga Medical Center where trained nurses (sexual assault nurse examiners) can provide sensitive medical care and physical evidence collection. Should you decide later to press charges, such evidence will significantly increase the possibility of prosecution.
- **Keep additional evidence of abuse.** You may choose to file a complaint or report an incident to the police and every piece of information you collect could help, should you decide to move forward with a complaint. Save emails, texts, voicemails, letters, notes, etc. Photograph anything of yours that the abuser damaged and any injuries that the abuser caused. If there were witnesses, ask them to document what they saw.
- **Consider reporting the incident to the Cornell Police or to the Title IX Coordinator.** The choice of whether or not to file a complaint is yours. Cornell Police can assist you in filing a criminal complaint and obtaining and enforcing a court order of protection. The Title IX Coordinator can assist you with filing a complaint under University Policy 6.4. Even if you are unsure about filing a complaint, consultation with the Title IX Coordinator can lead to actions being taken on your behalf, including specific protective measures, such as a no-conduct order. The Title IX Coordinator will maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible. See TITLEIX.CORNELL.EDU for more information including a guide for students about filing a complaint under Policy 6.4.
- **Know your rights.** According to University Policy 6.4, you have the right to make a report to university police, local law enforcement, and/or state police or choose not to report; to report the incident to Cornell, to be protected by Cornell from retaliation for reporting an incident; and to receive assistance and resources from Cornell, such as living, academic, work, or transportation accommodations. All Cornell policies apply equally to all Cornell community members regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. For additional information view the Student Bill of Rights. See TITLEIX.CORNELL.EDU.
- **Learn more about safe and positive options for bystander intervention.** We can act as a community to reduce risk and promote positive, healthy behaviors and relationships. See SHARE.CORNELL.EDU/BYSTANDER.

For more information: SHARE.CORNELL.EDU
Definitions of Policy 6.4 Prohibited Student Conduct

Cornell University will not tolerate gender-based harassment, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, or other forms of sexual misconduct committed by or against students, staff, or faculty. All reports will be taken seriously and all individuals will be treated with respect. Sanctions for those found responsible may include any of the following, depending on the nature of the conduct: dismissal, suspension, probation, counseling, and education.

DATING/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, also sometimes referred to as intimate partner violence, is any intentional act or threatened act of violence against the complainant committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the complainant; a current or former spouse or intimate partner; a person with whom the complainant shares a child; or anyone who is protected from the respondent's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of New York. Dating/Domestic violence also includes behavior that seeks to establish control over a complainant by causing that person to fear violence to themselves or another person. Such behavior may take the form of harassment, property damage, intimidation, and violence or a threat of violence to one's self or a third party. It may be one act or a pattern of behaviors used to gain power and control over current or previous intimate partners. For examples of typical signs of intimate partner violence and unhealthy relationships, see SHARE.CORNELL.EDU/EXAMPLES.

SEXUAL ASSAULT is a broad term used to define sexual intercourse or sexual contact without affirmative consent.

- **Sexual intercourse** means any penetration—however slight—with any object or body part.
- **Sexual contact** means intentional sexual touching—however slight—with any object or body part, whether directly or through clothing.
- **Affirmative consent** is a knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity. Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create clear permission regarding willingness to engage in the sexual activity. Silence or lack of resistance, in and of itself, does not demonstrate consent. The definition of consent does not vary based upon a participant's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Consent can be withdrawn at any time. Consent cannot be given by a person who is less than 17-years-old, mentally disabled, or incapacitated. A person is incapacitated when they lack the ability to choose knowingly to participate in a sexual activity. So when engaging in sexual activity, be sure your partner wants to be intimate and is not too intoxicated to make the choice to engage in sexual activities.

STALKING is engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to (a) fear for their safety or the safety of others or (b) suffer substantial emotional distress. For examples of stalking behaviors, see SHARE.CORNELL.EDU/EXAMPLES.

NYS LAW: Sexual offenses (including rape and sexual abuse), family offenses, and stalking are crimes in New York State. Under NYS penal code, lack of consent results from (a) forcible compulsion, (b) incapacity to consent, (c) no express or implied acquiescence, where the offense charged is sexual abuse or forcible touching, or (d) clear expression of non-consent, where the offense charged is rape. NYS law states that a person is incapable of consent when he or she is (a) under the age of 17, (b) mentally disabled, (c) mentally incapacitated, (d) physically helpless, or (e) committed to the care of the state. In NYS, “family offenses” are certain violations of the penal code, including but not limited to harassment, sexual abuse, stalking, and menacing, committed by a family member or intimate partner that have created a substantial risk of physical or emotional harm to a person or a person’s child. Under NYS penal code, stalking is an intentional course of conduct, directed at a specific person, that causes fear for their health, safety or property, or the health, safety or property of their family or acquaintances; harm to the mental or emotional health of that person; or fear that their employment, business or career is threatened. For more information, contact Cornell Police at (607-255-1111).

For more detailed definitions of prohibited conduct and information about Policy 6.4 and reporting options, visit TITLEIX.CORNELL.EDU

For help, get involved.
a caring community resource