

Rape

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Rape is a type of sexual assault usually involving sexual intercourse. Rape can also include ANY other forms of sexual penetration carried out against a person without that person's consent.

Consent

Consent is a freely given agreement to sexual activity. The absence of objection does not mean that someone gives consent. In the following situations, consent are not valid:

- If you are unconscious
- Fear induced consent
- If you are asleep
- If you are drunk (alcohol)
- If you have used sedatives or drugs
- If you are hypnotized
- If someone is mentally retarded
- If someone is under the age of 16 years old

The Law

It is against the law to have sexual intercourse with any person under 12 years of age. Between 12 and 16 years of age it is regarded as statutory rape if the age gap between the two parties are more than 2 years, regardless of whether the person gave consent to the sexual intercourse. Any person above 16 years old can legally give consent to sexual intercourse if they do not fall under the scenarios mentioned above.

Consequences of rape

It is extremely important for a rape victim to seek help, due to the negative effects that it can have on the victim. Examples of the consequences of rape are:

- A person are traumatised
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (anxiety, reliving the rape, isolating self)
- Pregnancy
- A person can get a sexually transmitted disease (See page 65-66)
- Serious physical injuries
- Reproductive problems
- Infertility
- Miscarriage
- Suicide risk
- Depression
- Abortion



- Substance abuse
- Emotional & psychiatric disorders
- Physical injury to the victim's body

What to do?

If you have been raped, it is extremely important to report it at a police station, even if you are not ready to make a legal case against the rapist. It is, however even more important to go to a hospital's emergency department as soon as possible so that a doctor can examine you for any injuries and treat you for possible STDs. During the hospital visit various samples can also be taken (with your consent). These results can be used during legal matters.

It is recommended that you do not shower or wash yourself before going to the hospital, so that adequate evidence can be collected against the rapist. Counseling and various other support systems can also be found at the hospital. Further help can be found at 'Rape Crisis Line' – 021 447 9762 (24 hour, toll free)

Some people would say that you got raped because of the clothes that you were wearing or the places that you were visiting. Always remember, those kind of reasoning are NEVER valid. RAPE IS NEVER THE VICTIM'S FAULT!!!

