Safety Planning With Campus Sexual Violence Victims

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WHO IS THE VRLC?

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Poll

Are you advocating for victims while working at a:
Language

• Victim/Survivor & Perpetrator

• Accuser & Accused

• Complainant & Respondent
Training Objectives

✓ Interpret the data on **who are the victims of sexual assault.**

✓ Explain how **safety planning with survivors of nonintimate partner SA differs** from safety planning with victims of intimate partner violence.

✓ Address the **unique challenges** facing campus sexual violence victims.

✓ How to use the VRLC’s Campus Safety Planning Guide.
Safety Planning

• Helps victims feel safe, and, as a result, they may be more likely to engage in an accountability process.
• Promotes campus and community safety
• Provides an opportunity to address:
  ▪ Physical, emotional, legal, and academic needs
• Promotes communication and develops trust between the student and the institution
How long have you worked with victims of nonintimate partner sexual violence?
The majority of sexual assaults against women and girls are perpetrated by someone other than the victim’s intimate partner.
From 2005-2010, incidents of rape and/or sexual assault against female victims age 12 and older were perpetrated by the following:

66% → Nonintimate Partner
    38% Acquaintance
    6% Relative
    22% Stranger

34% → Intimate Partner (including current & former)
Warning:
Content Describes Sexual Assault
Terrance is an 18-year-old freshman who has been on campus for 3 months. He comes from a very religious, strict family. This is the first time Terrance has lived on his own, although his family lives in the same town as the university. Upon getting to school, Terrance got a work study position at the gym on campus to help pay for his education. Terrance is gay but has never told a single person. The first month on campus, he saw a flyer for the campus LGBTQ affinity club, and he showed up one night. To his surprise, he found his roommate, Mark, another freshman, at the meeting. They had never talked about their orientation before. After this club meeting, Terrance and Mark were more open with each other about their experiences, and Terrance felt he had made a trusted friend. They even decided to join the school’s intramural soccer league together. Two weeks later, after a night of studying, Terrance went to bed early to be ready for an exam the next morning. He heard Mark come into his room at one point and felt him climb into Terrance's bed. Terrance was terrified and became very still, having never had a sexual advance made by another person. Mark began to rub on Terrance's genitals and reached over and pulled down his pants and penetrated Terrance. Mark then got up and walked out of his room.
How Does Safety Planning With Victims of NIPSA Differ From Safety Planning With Victims of IPSA?
Safety Planning – SA ≠ DV

- Criminal protective orders may not be an option depending on jurisdictional law
- Victim may not know much about the perpetrator(s) – and vice versa
- Limited or no emergency housing / DV (but not SA) shelters
- Few (if any) safety planning templates available
- Cycle of violence / power and control wheel approach relevant?
- Age of victim
- Emotional safety planning
- **School-related issues**
Safety Planning with Campus SA Victims

• Insular community
  ▪ Students are often entirely dependent on the college or university to create a safe learning environment and address their physical, emotional, and academic safety

• Ability of campus community to create its own rules provides opportunity for creative safety solutions

• Risk of retaliation by other students is high
Tips to Using the Guide #1

Determine the right time to safety plan.
  • May have to be limited at the first discussion
    ▪ Ask in stages
    ▪ Follow your client’s lead

Be selective in what questions to ask.
  ▪ Guide covers many areas
  ▪ Not all remedies may be relevant to your client
Population-Specific Needs

QUESTION
(Type your answers in the “Chat” box.)

What are some unique barriers campus SA victims may face when accessing safety?
Tips to Using the Guide #2

• Identify victim’s specific needs:
  - Transportation – Does victim have a car on campus? Is there a campus shuttle that all students access?
  - Health care – Access? If the victim’s family is unaware of the assault, what issues does that raise for health care and insurance?
  - Housing – Does the victim live in the same residence hall as the perpetrator? If not, what access does s/he have to the victim’s residence hall?
  - Academic – Does the victim have classes with the perpetrator?

• Identify population-specific needs:
  - Cultural/religious/linguistic identity may impact safety needs and options
Tips to Using the Guide #3

Consider the status of the Perpetrator/Respondent when safety planning:

• Access to victim
  ▪ Campus employment: TA, RA, work study in registrar’s office, library, dining halls, etc.
  ▪ Class schedule or concentration/major

• Affiliations
  ▪ Student leaders, Greek life, athletics
Case Study: Terrance

QUESTION
(Type your answers in the “Chat” box.)

What are some safety issues Terrance may face on his campus?
Tips to Using the Guide #4

Consider the interrelation and balance between safety and privacy when requesting safety and remedial measures.

Impact of safety remedies on maintaining victims’ privacy:
- Who needs to know?
- How much must be disclosed?
- What is the impact on other matters?

Revisit safety regularly.
Reporting Structure

Responsible Employees

Persons With Statutory Privilege

Persons With Confidentiality
On-Campus Safety and Remedial Measures

**Goal:** Ensure the safety and well-being of the complainant and the school community

- If the school determines that the sexual violence occurred, the school must continue to take these steps to protect the complainant and ensure his or her safety, as necessary.
  – April 2014 Q&A, pg. 3

**Practice Tip:** Notice of available interim measures that may be taken to protect the student in the educational setting should be listed in Title IX policy. – Q&A, pg. 13
On-Campus Safety and Remedial Measures

Common remedies:
• Campus-issued no contact orders, housing transfers, class schedule changes, course withdrawals without penalty, campus security escorts, safe parking, etc.

Be creative in your suggestions:
• Remember that the campus environment allows for creative safety and remedial measures
  ▪ Ex: Safe dining hall/gym hours, third party NCOs, etc.

Practice Tip: Ask the Complainant what measures can be taken in order to make them feel safe rather than making assumptions. This should be an ongoing conversation.
Campus-Issued No Contact Orders (NCO)

Useful safety planning tool.

Available at many institutions, but the specifics vary widely:

- Important to understand whether the NCO covers:
  - Third-party contact
  - Off-campus contact
  - Social media/online contact
NCOs: Advocacy Tips

Ensure victim understands the differences between campus-issued NCOs and CPOs available in the jurisdiction:

- Generally, no distance requirement
- Mutual v. unilateral

Incidental contact is much more likely in a campus setting. Important to discuss this with the victim and consider it when safety planning.

If the NCO is given verbally, help the victim draft a followup e-mail to institutional employee with questions and outlining his/her understanding.
QUESTION
(Type your answers in the “Chat” box.)

What are some safety and remedial measures that may be helpful to Terrance?
Tips to Using the Guide #5

1. What are the safety or supportive measures the victim needs?
   - YES: Generally, no investigation.
   - NO: The institution may need to start an investigation. A victim can still request confidentiality, but it will be balanced with the institution’s obligation to keep the campus safe.

2. Who is the institutional employee who can assist the victim?

3. Identify your on-campus partners, are they confidential?
Do you have questions we did not have a chance to address today?

If you want us to send you specific resources we referenced in this webinar, please indicate that in the Chat box.
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