

## Need to Know

Faculty and staff at the University of Minnesota have the unique opportunity to observe and interact with diverse members of the student community.

In this position of responsibility, students may come to you with issues in their life related to sexual violence, relationship violence, harassment, or stalking. This brochure will help to prepare you to deal with such a disclosure.

The Aurora Center is the university's one-stop resource for these issues. The Aurora Center operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

## How to Respond

- Believe a student when s/he discloses any kind of violence to you.
- Never make choices for the student. It is her/his decision whether or not to make a police report, tell parents, or go to a clinic for care. Only the student can decide what is best.
- Offer to contact The Aurora Center. We can usually make same day appointments or dispatch an advocate to your office if that is what the student prefers. Our 24 hour crisis line is 612-626-9111.

## What To Say

It can be difficult to know what to say to someone who discloses something personal and painful. Here are some simple suggestions:

- I believe you
- It's not your fault
- I am sorry this happened
- No one deserves to be hurt like that
- I want to help. Can I call The Aurora Center for you?

## Other Ways You Can Support a Violence-Free Campus

- Be supportive and respectful of students.
- Address issues of sexual and relationship violence, stalking and harassment in class (as appropriate). Do not allow sexist comments to stand unchallenged.
- Invite The Aurora Center to come to your class to present on sexual assault awareness, healthy relationships or gender violence and the media. We have a variety of presentations that we can tailor to your needs.
- Share something you have learned from this brochure with other faculty, staff, and friends.

## The Aurora Center can...

- Give support and information regarding options for survivors of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking & harassment
- Provide academic advocacy if the survivor is struggling with school
- Arrange for medical care and accompany the victim/survivor to the hospital
- Assist with making a police report if the victim/survivor chooses to do so
- Write restraining orders, accompanying victim/survivor to court
- Provide crisis counseling and assist with finding long term counseling if desired
- Arrange for alternate safe housing
- Offer on campus support groups for survivors of sexual assault and relationship violence

Aurora Center advocates explain options so that each survivor can make the choices that are best for her/him.

**All services are free and all contact is kept strictly confidential.**

## Facts

- Women age 16-24 are more likely to be victimized by an intimate partner than women in any other age group.
- 1 in 5 women attending college experiences rape or attempted rape while in college.
- 1 in 10 males and 1 in 3 females experiences sexual abuse/assault in their lifetime.
- 90% of rape victims on a college campus know their attackers.

*All statistics are from research conducted for the U.S. National Institute of Justice.*

## Definitions

**Sexual Assault**- According to U of M policy (2.6.3) sexual assault is any sexual contact achieved without consent. Sexual intercourse without consent is rape. Consent must be mutually agreed upon and understood. It cannot be given under conditions of threat, force, coercion or incapacitation by alcohol or other drugs.

**Relationship Violence**- Sometimes called domestic abuse, a violent relationship can include: isolation, extreme jealousy, verbal and emotional abuse, physical abuse, and sexual assault. Many violent relationships start out with isolation and/or verbal abuse and then slowly progress to include physical or sexual violence.

**Stalking/Harassment**- Any unwanted actions occurring two or more times which result in the victim feeling threatened or fearful. Examples include following a person, unwanted phone calls or emails, and unwanted gifts or attention.

## Resources at the U of M

### The Aurora Center

Crisis: (612) 626-9111  
Office: (612) 626-2929  
TTY: (612) 626-4279  
[www.umn.edu/aurora](http://www.umn.edu/aurora)

- **Boynton Mental Health Clinic** (616) 624-1444
- **University Counseling and Consulting Services** (612) 624-3323
- **University Police Department**  
911-Emergency  
(612) 624-COPS (2677)
- **University Escort Services** (612) 624-WALK (9255)

## Community Resources

### Sexual Assault

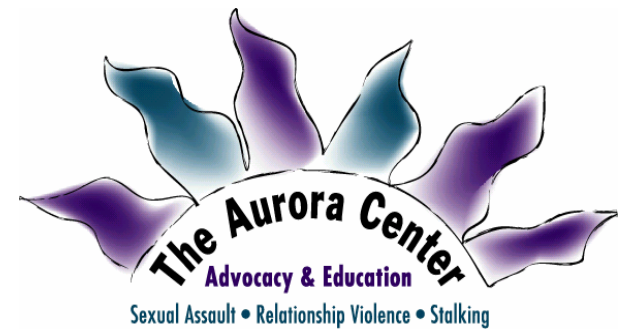
- **Sexual Violence Center** (612) 871-5111
- **Rape and Sexual Abuse Center** (612) 825-4357
- **Sexual Offense Services** (651) 643-3006
- **Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network**  
[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)

### Relationship Violence

- **Tubman Family Alliance** (612) 825-0000
- **Domestic Abuse Project** (612) 874-7063
- **Battered Women's 24hr Metro Shelter Info** (651) 646-0094
- **MN Domestic Violence Hotline** (866) 223-1111

### For Abusers/Perpetrators:

- **Domestic Abuse Project** (612) 874-7063
- **Program in Human Sexuality** (612) 625-1500



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## A Guide for Faculty and Staff:

*Helping students who disclose  
sexual assault, relationship  
violence or stalking*

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA