What are the signs that a student may have experienced sexual violence?

When sex isn’t consensual, the aftermath can be devastating to the victim both in and out of the classroom. Victims may experience anxiety and fear, difficulty in relationships, and/or a drop in academic performance—some may withdraw/transfer or drop out of school. Additionally, there may be:

• Shock and disbelief
• A feeling of “why me?”
• Guilt.
• Denial.
• Flashbacks/nightmares.
• Acute distress/severe anxiety.
• Confusion.
• Multiple fears (of death, rape, other situations).
• Depression (hopelessness/ helplessness).
• Anger.
• Loss of self-esteem.
• Thoughts of suicide.
• Dysfunctional behaviors.

Please note: Not all students experience these signs or symptoms, and some may occur because of other issues.

How can you help prevent sexual violence?

If you know of a student who is harassing, abusing, or acting violently toward others, you have a role in prevention through bystander intervention. Through awareness and action, you can be the person who stops a situation from escalating or continuing. We encourage you to use the SEE Model: Safe Responding, Early Intervention, and Effective Helping.

Safety first. The welfare of the student and the campus community is the top priority when a student displays or threatens violent behavior. Coordinated professional help and follow-up care are essential.

Trust your instincts. It is important to pay attention to your gut feelings. Seek consultation from the Women’s Resource Center or the Office of the Dean of Students. Promptly report safety concerns or conduct code violations.

Listen sensitively and carefully. Distressed students need to be heard and helped, but they may have difficulty articulating their feelings. Don’t be afraid to ask them if they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, feel confused, or have thoughts of harming themselves or others.

Help the survivor explore options. Promptly report safety concerns or conduct code violations.

How do you help a victim of sexual violence?

If a sexual violence survivor turns to you in the immediate aftermath of sexual assault (within approximately 72 hours of incident):

• Help the student find a safe environment.
• Advise the student to seek medical attention as soon as possible. Even if there are no apparent injuries, there may be internal injuries. It is also important for the student to get checked for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy, which can be done at the Women’s Clinic in Stamps Health Services or at the Grady Rape Crisis Center. Stamps can also provide emergency contraception. Trained advocates are available 24 hours a day to accompany students or advise them on how to proceed.
• Advise the student to preserve evidence. To preserve evidence for a rape kit, which must be collected within 72 hours of an assault, a victim should not bathe, shower, douche, change clothes, brush teeth, chew gum, or eat or drink anything. If a student suspects being drugged, a urine sample should be collected for analysis. A rape kit will help the student pursue justice should he or she choose to press charges, but it is not required in order to report the incident to campus authorities or the police.

How do you report sexual violence as a faculty/staff member?

As a faculty/staff member at Georgia Tech, you are required to fill out a Confidential Reporting Form (CRF) to report any acts of sexual violence that may have been communicated to you. The name of the accused perpetrator is not needed to fill out this form; in fact, you should not ask for the accused perpetrator’s name. If the perpetrator’s identity is known, then, whether the student would want this or not, the report can no longer remain confidential. If the student does reveal this information, you must note it in the CRF. The Institute will make every effort to treat the information as confidential but cannot guarantee confidentiality in all cases. You must hand deliver the CRF to the Women’s Resource Center in a sealed envelope. The CRF must be filled out regardless of how much time has elapsed since the incident.

The CRF allows students to have their assault (but not their names or yours) included in campus statistics without having the case formally investigated by the Institute. The CRF also allows us to follow up with the survivor. A CRF has been included in this folder and can also be accessed at www.voice.gatech.edu.

Reporting options for students

While the Institute encourages students to pursue formal investigations through campus/local police, the Title IX Coordinator, or the Office of Student Integrity, students are not required to pursue further investigation to receive support services.

• To file a complaint for violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy, students should contact the Office of Student Integrity.
• To file a criminal report, students should contact the Georgia Tech Police Department.

If you have any questions about reporting options or processes, you or the student can discuss them confidentially with a victim advocate from the Women’s Resource Center.
A number of campus resources are available to you and/or your student to help deal with sexual violence, should it occur.

**Women’s Resource Center (WRC)**  
404-385-0230

The WRC provides information and education, referrals, and support regarding sexual assault, harassment, or misconduct. The WRC has a victim advocate on staff who can work with victim-survivors and direct them to resources if they are struggling personally or academically or experiencing other consequences resulting from the assault.

**Office of the Dean of Students**  
404-894-6367

The Dean of Students can serve as an advocate for students in reporting incidents of sexual assault. The Dean can provide resources and referrals for victims and enforce judicial actions through the Office of Student Integrity.

**Women’s Health**  
404-894-1434

Women’s Health in Stamps Health Services has female nurse practitioners who provide services for sexual and reproductive health needs, including pelvic exams and pap smears, contraception (including emergency contraception), and STI screening. They do not collect rape kits.

For additional information on sexual violence and campus resources, visit [www.voice.gatech.edu](http://www.voice.gatech.edu).

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**What is sexual violence?**

Sexual violence can be defined as any unwanted sexual attention, contact, or activity involving the body that is conducted without the explicit consent of the person involved.

- Sexual contact by another without consent.
- Sexual penetration with an object without consent.
- Oral or anal intercourse without consent.
- Sexual contact with a person under the age of consent.
- Intentional contact with another without consent.
- Forcing another to touch, directly or through clothing, themselves or another.
- Forcing another to participate in any sexual activity.

**Consent has three components:**

- Actual Consent: Verbally saying yes or making another affirmative statement initiating the particular sexual activity.
- Express Consent: Any agreement that indicates a willingness to engage in the mutually agreed upon sexual activity.
- implied Consent: The presence of factors that would allow a reasonable person to infer consent if not explicitly communicated.

Incapacitation can include:

- Alcohol or other drug use that impairs judgment or decision-making.
- Incapacitation can also occur where one’s knowledge of prior violent behavior by an assailant (coupled with menacing behavior) places this person in fear as they engage in sexual activity.
- Intimidation occurs when someone uses their physical presence to instill fear in another, although no physical contact occurs; intimidation can also encompass verbal threats or actions that create a sense of fear or vulnerability.
- Intimate Partner Violence is use of force or intimidation (i.e., threats) to obtain consent for an otherwise unwanted act. Coercion can also include the repetition of the activity beyond what is reasonable, the degree of pressure applied, or environmental factors such as isolation or the initiator’s repetition of the activity beyond what is reasonable, the degree of pressure applied, or environmental factors such as isolation or the initiator’s knowledge of impairment by alcohol and/or other drugs.

**Rules for consent:**

- Consent to one sexual activity does not imply consent to all sexual activities.
- Consent cannot be given or received when there is incapacitation, meaning the person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs to the extent that they are not able to understand the situation or make a free, voluntary decision.
- Consent cannot be given if one is under the age of consent.
- Consent cannot be given or received if one is under the influence of alcohol or drugs to the extent that they are not able to understand the situation or make a free, voluntary decision.
- Consent to one sexual activity does not imply consent to all sexual activities.
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- Consent cannot be given or received when there is incapacitation, meaning the person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs to the extent that they are not able to understand the situation or make a free, voluntary decision.
- Consent cannot be given if one is under the age of consent.

**What constitutes “consent”?

- Actual Consent: Verbally saying yes or making another affirmative statement initiating the particular sexual activity.
- Express Consent: Any agreement that indicates a willingness to engage in the mutually agreed upon sexual activity.
- Implied Consent: The presence of factors that would allow a reasonable person to infer consent if not explicitly communicated.

**Context:**

- Each person gives consent freely, without the presence of intimidation, coercion, or deception.
- Consent is consensual, meaning that it is given voluntarily by both parties.
- Consent is active, meaning that it is given consciously and actively.

**Responsibility:**

- In every sexual encounter, the person(s) initiating the activity has the responsibility to ensure that the other person(s) is fully informed, capable of making a free decision, and has given consent.
- If uncertainty exists about consent, assume that it is not given.

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**Georgia Tech Resources and Support Services**

**Health Promotion**  
404-894-9980

Health Promotion, a unit of Stamps Health Services and home to the VOICE initiative to prevent sexual violence, provides presentations, programs, and resource referrals for sexual violence and related issues. Students can also meet with health educators individually to discuss sexual health issues.

**Office of the Dean of Students**  
404-894-6367

Officer from GTPD can support the investigation and prosecution of cases, ensure the well-being of the victim, and transport victims to Grady Hospital for treatment.

**Title IX Coordinator**  
404-385-5151

The Title IX Coordinator is the Institute official with primary responsibility for ensuring the Institute’s compliance with laws and regulations that prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual violence.

**Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD)**  
404-894-2500

**Georgia Tech Counseling Center**  
404-894-2575

GT Counseling Center offers free confidential counseling services for Georgia Tech students, including those who have been victims of sexual violence.