



Women's Center FAQ

What is Power-Based Personal Violence?

Power-based personal violence is a form of violence that has as a primary motivator: assertion of power, control and/or intimidation in order to harm another.

Power-based personal violence includes:

- Sexual Assault
- Domestic Violence
- Dating Violence
- Stalking

What is Sexual Assault?

First Degree Sexual Assault, or rape, is defined as the penetration of any part of the victim's body by any part of the offender's body or by an object.

Second Degree Sexual Assault includes fondling or sexual contact, without penetration, of a person's genital area, inner thigh, buttocks, or breasts without that person's consent.

If you are Interested in finding out more about the issue of sexual assault, or if you or someone you know has been (or might have been) sexually assaulted there is help available through the Advocacy Helpline Program as well as several on/off campus resources listed on our website.

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by a current or former spouse, a person to whom the victim is related by blood or marriage, a person with who the victim shares a child, person who is dating or has dated the victim within the past year, or a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim within the past 3 years. (Campus SaVE Act, 2015 & State of Rhode Island General Assembly, 2015).



What is Dating Violence?

Dating violence is violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of romantic or intimate nature with the victim (Campus SaVE Act, 2015).

What is Stalking?

Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or to suffer substantial emotional distress (Campus SaVE Act, 2015).

Examples of Stalking include:

Unwanted texting/calling

Unwanted gifts/letters

Social media/computer/phone monitoring

Following/Drive-bys

What is Consent?

Consent implies that both people have agreed to sexual activity, that both individuals are legally old enough to agree to the sexual activity, and that both have the capacity to agree to the sexual activity (Rhode Island General Assembly, 2014).

What is Incapacitation?

Incapacitation is a state in which a person lacks the capacity to appreciate the fact that the situation is sexual and/or the nature or extent of the situation.



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Can result from mental disability, involuntary physical restraint, or from the ingestion of substances, including alcohol and drugs.

A person who knows or should reasonably have known that another person is incapacitated may not engage in sexual activity with that person.

A person's state of incapacity is a subjective determination that is based on all of the facts available

Everyone reaches incapacitation at different points and as a result of different stimuli. (Providence College, 2015).

If you or someone you know is sexually assaulted, what should they do?

For a person subjected to an act of sexual violence, there can be time-sensitive decisions to make about sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and collecting physical evidence in the event of prosecution. Therefore, survivors of sexual violence are advised to:

Find safety: Go to a safe place as soon as possible.

Contact Someone You Trust: You may wish to ask a trusted friend or family member to assist and support you. Advocacy Helpline is also available to you 24/7 at 401-258-4209.

Get Medical Attention: Seek medical attention immediately. Injuries and exposure to disease may not be immediately apparent. A medical examination can provide necessary treatment and collect important evidence. It is recommended that a physical exam be conducted within 72 hours of the incident in order to adequately preserve evidence. Survivors of a sexual assault are encouraged to seek medical attention before washing yourself or your clothing. A representative from the University and/or a support person can accompany you to the hospital and University Police can provide transportation if necessary. See the Resource List for a list of hospitals.

If you go to the hospital, local police will be called, but you are not obligated to talk to the police or to prosecute. The exam will help to keep that option open for you, should you decide later to exercise it. The hospital staff will collect evidence, check for injuries, and address the possibility of exposure to sexually transmitted infections. If you have changed clothing since the assault, bring the clothing you had on at the time of the assault with you to the hospital in a clean, sanitary container such as a clean



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paper grocery bag or wrapped in a clean sheet (plastic containers do not breathe, and may render evidence useless). If you have not changed clothes, bring a change of clothes with you to the hospital, if possible, as they will likely keep the clothes you are wearing as evidence.

Try to Preserve Physical Evidence: It is important to preserve all physical evidence following an act of sexual violence. Physical evidence may be necessary in the event criminal prosecution is pursued. If possible, a survivor should not to wash, eat, drink, shower, use the bathroom, or change clothes. If clothes are changed, all clothes that were worn at the time of the incident should not be cleaned and should be placed into a clean paper bag. Do not disturb the crime scene. Leave all sheets, towels, etc. that may bear evidence for the police to collect.

On and Off Campus resources: Various health and support services are available on and off campus for survivors of sexual violence. See the Resource List included in this document.

How do you help a victim of sexual assault?

Stay Calm and Listen

Be supportive and non-judgmental

Let the person know it's not their fault

Encourage the person to seek help in any way they feel comfortable

Offer to accompany survivors to any resources

What happens when I contact the Advocacy Helpline Program?

Your call will be confidential

You will be able to speak with a faculty or staff member who has received training as First Responders in violence crisis intervention and support and who are familiar with resources for those affected by violence



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Advocacy Helpline First Responders are prepared to help students understand the varied on and off campus resources available to them as well as to support students in choosing the course of action the student feels is best for them.

First Responders will come to campus to meet with you if you wish.

First Responders will be willing to go with you to the hospital or to meet with local law enforcement.

Is there a group on campus dedicating to exploring women's issues?

The **Alliance for Women's Awareness (AWA)** at Bryant University strives to provide opportunities for individuals of all genders to interact, to, promote awareness, and to talk about topics of interest. AWA works in collaboration with The Hochberg Women's Center. AWA is actively involved on and off campus. On campus, AWA co-sponsors Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues, hosts film screenings, and engages the campus community in meaningful conversations around power-based personal violence and gender empowerment through a variety of programs. Off campus, AWA has collaborated with Day One, the Rhode Island Coalition against Domestic Violence, and the Sojourner House. Membership is open to all members of the Bryant Community.





Is there a course of study at Bryant dedicated to exploring gender and specifically women's issues?

Yes, there is! **The Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Minor, a concentration and minor**, is an engaging, interdisciplinary approach to understanding the social and historical conditions of women. It's also an opportunity to examine the ways in which gender intersects with race, class, ethnicity, age, and sexual orientation. Finally, it challenges the conventional ways of understanding gender and inspires students to engage in social justice work, focusing on systems that are unresponsive to individuals of marginalized gender identities.

Is the Gertrude Meth Hochberg Women's Center inclusive of all genders?

The Women's Center serves Bryant students of all gender identities. Our resources are pertinent to all individuals. Some resources include:

Information relating to healthy relationships, sexual education, safer sex materials, literature and films related to gender, study spaces, and a comfortable lounge area. and referrals to campus and local organizations.

What kind of workshops and presentations does the Hochberg Women's Center offer?

The Hochberg Women's Center is constantly modifying existing and crafting new workshops to meet the needs and interests of the Bryant community. Workshops are presented at major University events including New Student and Transfer Orientation, 4MILE, and Opening Weekend. Workshops are also offered throughout the year and we are available specifically to your department, organization, or club upon request. Popular workshops include:

- Know Your IX: Empowering Students to Stop Power-Based Personal Violence
- Bystander Intervention in 3D
- Got Consent
- Healthy Relationships and Hookup Culture



How can I get involved with the Hochberg Women's Center?

By participating in and/or attending our events and programs.

Attending our engaging and educational workshops

Scheduling a workshop for your department, club, or organization.

Simply stopping by, hanging out, or saying, "hello!"

Who was Gertrude Meth Hochberg?

Gertrude was an ardent advocate for women's equality and achieved many "firsts" during her accomplished career as Vice President of Public Relations at Bryant which spanned from 1949-1977. Not only was she the first female vice president of a college or university in Rhode Island, but she was also the moving force behind Bryant's first Commencement address given by a woman. She organized Bryant's first Women's Symposium in 1963, a precursor to today's Women's Summit, and was appointed by the Governor to serve as chairperson of the Rhode Island Commission on the Status of Women in 1971.



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Gertrude helped to promote the University's focus on educating and empowering women to achieve fulfilling careers – a continuous theme in Bryant's history. A consummate professional and a devoted mother and wife, she served as a great mentor and role model, helping women realize that achieving a balance between a career and a loving family can indeed be accomplished.

What are the hours of operation and location of the Women's Center?

We are located in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion on the 2nd floor of the Fisher Student Center.

Hours: Monday - Thursday from 8:30AM - 7:00PM & Friday 8:30PM - 5:00PM

If you need immediate assistance related to Sexual Assault or Violence, there is help available 24/7 (during the academic year) through the **Advocacy Helpline: 401-258-4209**.

I have additional questions; who can answer them?

Please contact **Kelly Boutin**, Assistant Director, Hochberg Women's Center at kboutin1@bryant.edu if you have any additional questions.