

Sex Without Your Consent by a Partner ...

If your partner has insisted that you have sex against your will by force, threats, or intimidation, please know that you are not alone. There is help available. Supportive services can be found through the Sexual Assault Treatment Center, Domestic Violence services and family service agencies.

Being raped by a partner with whom you share your life, home and possibly children, is a violation of your body and a betrayal of trust and intimacy.

Sometimes it's difficult to see that what's happening to you is wrong and a violation of your rights. You may hear it said that it is your duty to have sex with your partner, regardless of your wishes or the amount of violence used. Despite such claims, sex on demand is **not** part of a partner arrangement.

You do not deserve to be abused and/or degraded. You do have legal and human rights.

Research indicates that victims in intimate partner relationships are more likely to be raped multiple times when compared with stranger and acquaintance rape victims. They can suffer long lasting physical and psychological injuries, which are **as severe or more severe** than stranger rape victims. No one has the right to sexually abuse his/her partner.

Some survivors of sexual abuse have been hurt in the past for not cooperating with sexual advances by their partners. For example, some may have been physically beaten, or had money or other necessities taken or withheld from them. Their partner may have used emotional or psychological abuse, such as threatening to leave them or "out them". The choice may then be to minimize the harm to oneself by resisting as little as possible to the sexual activity.

Many people cannot leave an abusive relationship because they do not have the financial or legal resources. Some may hesitate to leave for fear of what the offender may do to them or to the children. In addition, some people may not leave due to love and loyalty to the partner, which may override one's own pain and suffering. The decision to leave a person one cares about or loves can be very difficult, even when the relationship is unhealthy or violent. But it is the abuse that is wrong, not loving someone who is abusive.

No one deserves to be beaten or raped. No one should have to live afraid in one's own home.

Safety planning is very important for the survivor of intimate partner/partner rape. Reporting of rape is complicated by the relationship with the assailant and survivors often hesitate to use outside assistance to try to stop the violence.

The following agencies are sensitive and skillful in helping you discuss past or recent experiences of abuse.

Sexual Assault Treatment Center 414-219-5555
The Healing Center 414-671-HEAL(4325)
Task Force on Family Violence 414-276-1911
(legal & children advocacy, emergency assistance)
Sojourner Truth House (shelter)..... 414-933-2722
Milwaukee Women's Center
(shelter) 414-671-6140

The information presented is intended for general information and educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care provider. Contact your health care provider if you believe you have a health problem.