

# Responding to Disclosures of Interpersonal Violence



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# **About**

The UNLV Jean Nidetch Women's Center has trained **victim advocates** available to help victims of interpersonal violence—whether the incident occurs on or off campus. If someone at UNLV discloses to you an experience of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, please encourage them to contact the JNWC and make an appointment with an advocate. We are here for students, professional staff, and faculty. We can help victims/survivors create safety plans, and connect people with resources on and off campus. Please have them contact JNWC at 702-895-4475 or visit us in our office at the Student Services Complex (SSC-A) 255, second floor.

This handbook is a project of the Advocacy, Support, & Education Response Team Against Violence, or ASERTAV.

Training faculty and staff to respond to student and peer disclosures of interpersonal violence—domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking—is critical to the health of the UNLV community.

ASERTAV is a collaborative effort between the Jean Nidetch Women's Center and other UNLV entities including the Multicultural Center/ Centro Multicultural, the Office of Civic Engagement & Diversity, Office of Student Conduct, Counseling & Psychological Services, the Student Health Center, Admissions, Residential Life, and Police Services, along with community partners and social services including S.A.F.E. House, Safe Nest, Family & Child Treatment, the Rape Crisis Center, Rose Heart, Inc., Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence, and Las Vegas Metro Police Department.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2009-WA-AX-0022 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

#### Jean Nidetch Women's Center

The Faculty & Staff Response to Student Disclosure of Violence Handbook teaches faculty, staff, advisors, and graduate assistants what to do when someone discloses experiences of interpersonal violence. In addition to teaching, research, and advisement, UNLV faculty and staff may also act as confidents, mentors, and authority figures. As such, when students, or faculty or staff, disclose experiences of stalking, physical violence, domestic violence, and/or sexual assault or rape, faculty and staff can use this guide to provide holistic, non-judgmental assistance.

In this handbook, you will find:

- Step by step directions for what to do when a student discloses
- On and off campus resources for survivors of violence and stalking
- Statistics on interpersonal violence
- Relevant UNLV regulations and Nevada Revised Statutes code

Even though UNLV is a safe and secure campus, the threat or experience of violence can occur anywhere, and affect someone's physical and mental health.

A healthy student population is a happy, productive, successful population. Our population is diverse—employees and students of different backgrounds and ages on a commuter campus. This handbook recognizes that men, women, and transgender people can be victims of interpersonal violence, and they can be victimized if they are single or in a relationship.

#### Domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are crimes!

The effects of trauma can impact a student's ability to continue with studies or an employee's ability to work. Training faculty and staff to be aware of the issues affecting students (and each other), along with knowledge of resources available on and off campus, will help keep UNLV healthy and vibrant.

#### Other Jean Nidetch Services & Programs

The Jean Nidetch Women's Center (JNWC) at UNLV provides programs and services to educate, support, motivate and empower people's lives. With an emphasis on gender issues, the JNWC promotes self-awareness & self-sufficiency, equity & understanding.

- \* Breast Cancer Awareness
- \* Workshops, Seminars, & Special Events
- \* Internships, Graduate Practicum, and Projects
- \* Lactation Room & Parenting Resources
- \* Sexual Violence Prevention
- \* Victim Advocacy
- \*Interpersonal Violence Prevention

#### Advocacy, Support, & Education Response Team Against Violence

ASERTAV is a collaborative effort between JNWC, other UNLV entities, community resources and social services to:

- Raise awareness of interpersonal violence that occurs throughout the UNLV campus and community including but not limited to: sexual assault, rape, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and harassment.
- Create a collaborative response to student, staff, and faculty members who have been affected by violence.
- Provide resources, advocacy, and education to assist victims in their recovery.
- Reduce the likelihood and occurrence of interpersonal violence.
- This handbook is one outcome of the ASERTAV coalition.

#### **Student Advocacy**

#### Peers Advocating Anti-Violence Education (PAAVE)

A peer education program committed to informing students about interpersonal violence using the latest developments in the anti-violence movement. Once trained, peer advocates are available to lead anti-violence workshops in classes, for UNLV organizations, and for community organizations. If you are interested in having PAAVE conduct one of the workshops listed below (or request a related topic) in your class or group, please email us at wcssc@unlv.edu or call 895-4475.

- \* Greek 101: Sexual Assault
- \* Healthy Relationships
- \* Domestic Violence Basics
- \* Same Sex Abuse Basics

- \* Stalking & Cyber-stalking
- \* Rape Culture & Media
- \* Intimate Partner Violence

#### **Events to Empower**

# October is *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*April is *Sexual Violence Awareness Month*

Take Back the Night
Take Back the Campus

Speak out against interpersonal violence, remember and honor victims, support survivors, celebrate recovery, and advocate for a safe and violence free campus and community at events throughout October and April, including two main events, Take Back the Night and Take Back the Campus.

For more information about our projects, please visit our JNWC offices, located in the Student Services Complex (SSC-A) 255, call (702) 895-4475, or visit us on the web:

Website: http://womenscenter.unlv.edu
Twitter: http://twitter.com/JNWC\_UNLV

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/UNLVJNWC

# **Numbers to Know**

Organizations highlighted in red are part of the ASERTAV coalition of on and off campus resources for survivors and victims of interpersonal violence.

| <b>UNLV Campus Resources</b>                  |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Campus Police (to report a crime on campus)   | 895-3668                   |
| Student Health Center                         | 895-3770                   |
| Student Counseling & Psychological Services   | 895-3627                   |
| (CAPS)  |                            |
| Jean Nidetch Women's Center                   | 895-4475                   |
| Office of Student Conduct                     | 895-2308                   |
| (when the offending party is a student)       |                            |
| Administrative Code Officer                   | 895-1879                   |
| Multicultural Center/Centro Multicultural     | 895-5580                   |
| Rape Crisis Intervention and Counseling       |                            |
| Rape Crisis Center of Southern Nevada         | 385-2153 office,           |
|   | 366-1640 hotline           |
| Family and Child Treatment (F.A.C.T.)         | 285-5585                   |
| Domestic Violence Counseling and Shel         | ters                       |
| Safe Nest (Las Vegas)                         | 646-4981 or 1-800-486-7282 |
| S.A.F.E. House (Henderson)                    | 564-3227                   |
| Shade Tree (Women & Children)                 | 385-0072                   |
| (also provides shelter for homeless women & c | hildren)                   |
| Domestic Violence Hotline                     | 646-4981                   |
| Additional Resources for Same Gender          | Assault                    |
| Community Counseling Center                   | 369-8700                   |
| LGBT Community Center                         | 733-9800                   |
| Transgender Support Group                     | 392-2132                   |
| Sex Worker Support Group                      |                            |
| Sex Worker's Outreach Project-Las Vegas       | 1-866-525-7967, ext. 701   |
|   | www.scapa-lv.org           |
| Homeless Shelters                             |                            |
| Crossroads Family Shelters                    | 385-2777                   |
| LV Rescue Mission (For men)                   | 382-1766                   |
| St Vincent Plaza (For men)                    | 384-0409                   |
| Salvation Army                                | 870-4430                   |
|   |                            |

# **State Coalitions: Information & Statistics**

# Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence

| (NCASV) Las Vegas office                 | 702-990-3460 |
|--|--------------|
| (NCASV) Reno office                      | 775-355-2220 |
| http://ncasv.org                         |              |
| Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence | 775-828-1115 |
| (NNADV) Toll free                        | 800-230-1955 |
| www.ncadv.org                            |              |

# **Reporting a Crime & Medical Assistance (Off Campus)**

| Las Vegas Metro Police Department - Sexual Assault Unit       | 828-3421             |
|---|----------------------|
| LV Metro Police Department - Domestic Violence Unit           | 828-4431<br>646-9111 |
| North Las Vegas Police Department Henderson Police Department | 267-5000             |
| Henderson PD Victim/Witness Advocates                         | 267-4727             |
| Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline                                 | 399-0081             |
| Senior Protective Services                                    | 455-8672             |
| University Medical Center                                     | 382-2084             |
| Clark County Protective Orders                                |                      |
| Emergency Protective Orders (via Family Court)                | 455-1500             |
| Temporary Protective Orders (via Justice Court)               | 455-3400             |
| Sexual Assault Protective Orders (via Justice Court)          | 455-3400             |
| Stalking/Harassment Orders (via Justice Court)                | 671-3165             |

# When a Student Comes to You...

A student may confide in you—as someone in a position of power at the university—if they have experienced some form of violence or violation. This handbook presents a list of resources to help victims and survivors of interpersonal violence, and a guide to help you provide the best assistance and safest space possible. Do not feel that you have to counsel or advise the student, especially if you are not comfortable with that role.

Student safety is the #1 priority. Here are a few tips about how to help a student who has been a victim of violence:

- Someone may not directly say "I was raped" or "My partner abuses me." They may share a story about a particular occurrence or talk about what happened in a more roundabout way. Often, even if the person does not have the vocabulary to express exactly what happened, this is a disclosure of violence and abuse.
- Listen without judging.
- Convey care and concern:
  - o Tell them that the abuse in not their fault.
  - "I'm sorry you had to go through something like that."
- Gently ask the guiding questions provided in each section of this handbook to provide the best possible assistance.
- You do not have to ask all the guiding questions, just assess if the student needs help and give that student the information necessary to get that help.
- Never ask for personal information. You are assessing someone's sense of safety and well-being, and offering information for social services, support, and reporting—that's it. All information should be strictly confidential within the limits of the law. Do not contact another party without the victim's permission. You may file a confidential report of crimes that occur on campus, see page 23 for more information.
- Always share resources! Emphasize help is available. There are many resources for assistance & support that you can share with the student. At the least, encourage them to contact an advocate through the UNLV Women's Center.
- Explain that violence is a crime and protection is available.
- Make sure the student is comfortable accessing such resources. Encourage them to contact social services, reporting, and/or counseling for help. Now that they have told you, they may feel a sense of relief that someone else knows. Stress that you cannot provide direct assistance, but you can provide information on all the resources they may need.
- Be sensitive to the fact that violence affects people of all genders and sexual orientations. While men are the perpetrators of most interpersonal violence, women, men, & transgender people can be victims and perpetrators of violence.

If you believe the student is in imminent danger and the student refuses to take action on their own, encourage the student to call UNLV Public Safety (895-3668) or Student Psychological Services (895-3627).

# When a Student Discloses Domestic Violence...

Share important messages to the student to avoid blaming:

- "You are not alone."
- "You are not to blame."
- "You do not deserve to be treated this way."
- "There is help available to you."

#### Assess student's safety, asking:

- Do you feel safe going home?
- Are you afraid to go home?
- Do you need access to a shelter?
- Has the violence increased in frequency and/or severity?
- Do you want police intervention?
- Do you have a safety plan?
- Are there weapons present?
- Can you stay with family or friends?
- Have there been threats of homicide or suicide?

#### What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence, also called battering, spouse abuse, family violence or intimate partner violence, is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors in which an individual establishes and maintains power and control over another with whom he/she has an intimate, romantic, marital or family relationship. Abusers often use threats, intimidation, isolation, violent acts and other behaviors to establish and maintain power and control. This can directly affect someone's schooling: hiding car keys, keeping someone up all night, preventing studying, etc. **Domestic violence is a crime.** 

# Who does domestic violence happen to?

Domestic violence occurs in relationships where abusers and survivors know each other. It happens to men, women, and transgender people within different age ranges, ethnic backgrounds, & financial levels, and in heterosexual or same-sex relationships. Women may be the abuser in a heterosexual relationship, or in a lesbian relationship. The abuser and survivor may be married, divorced, separated, dating, cohabitating, have a child together, or are simply part of the family. The relationship may be long-term or may have just started.

# Resources to give to the student...

**Shelters in the Las Vegas Valley** 

SAFE House 564-3227 Safe Nest 646-4981

#### For support and counseling

**Student Counseling and Psychological Services** 

(CAPS)895-3627Student Health Center895-3770Jean Nidetch Women's Center895-4475

#### For protection orders

Emergency Protection Orders (see "reporting off Temporary Protection Orders campus", p 28)
Office of Student Conduct (no-contact letter) 895-2308

#### For more information and statistics on domestic violence

Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-486-7282
Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence 775-828-1115 or
(NNADV) 1-800-230-1955
www.nnadv.org

Note: If students ask for information on how to report domestic violence to local police or to campus police, please provide it. We do not provide it here because often reporting exacerbates a situation and may potentially place the student in more danger.

# **Domestic Violence Warning Signs**

It's impossible to know with certainty what goes on behind closed doors, but there are some telltale signs and symptoms of domestic violence and abuse. If you notice a number of warning signs, you can reasonably suspect domestic abuse.

- Frequent injuries with the excuse of "accidents"
- Submissive behavior; lack of assertiveness
- Isolation from friends and family
- Insufficient resources to live (money, credit cards, car)
- Depression, crying, low self-esteem
- Frequent and sudden absences from work or school
- Frequent, harassing phone calls from the partner
- Fear of the partner; references to the partner's anger
- Personality changes (i.e. outgoing to withdrawn)
- Excessive fear of conflict

Reporting domestic abuse is important, **but is up to the individual!** Providing the best support means being empathic, calm, and non-judgmental. The student has the option to give you permission to call the police on their behalf.

# Why do they stay?

All too often the question "Why do victims of abuse stay in violent relationships?" is answered with a victim blaming attitude and stereotypes about women. This perpetuates violence against women, and perpetuates the belief that men are not victims of abuse, and that lesbian and gay relationships are de facto free of violence.

Women victims of abuse in particular often hear that they must like or need such treatment, or they would leave. Others may be told that they are one of the many "women who love too much" or who have "low self-esteem." The truth is that no one enjoys being beaten, no matter their emotional state or self image.

A person's reasons for staying are more complex than a statement about their strength of character. In many cases, it is dangerous for someone who is being abused to leave the abuser. If that abuser has all the economic and social status, leaving can cause additional problems for the person. Leaving could mean living in fear and losing child custody, losing financial support, and experiencing harassment at work.

Although there is no singular profile of who will be battered, there is a well documented syndrome of what happens once the battering starts. Battering victims experience shame, embarrassment and isolation. Someone may not leave battering immediately because of:

- Realistic fears that the batterer will become more violent and even fatal if that person attempts to leave.
- Worry that friends and family may not support their decision to leave.
- The difficulties of single parenting in reduced financial circumstances.
- The mix of good times, love and hope along with the manipulation, intimidation, and fear.
- A lack of knowledge about, or lack of access to, safety and support.

# **Behind the Violence: Power and Control**

The "Duluth Wheel" of power and control is one popular example of what physical and sexual violence look like. Domestic violence and sexual assault take many forms, so a student may share a story that fits with the examples below, or a story that does not. This wheel may not apply to everyone; this is not the only way power and control are exercised. Also, both partners may be engaged in control tactics. Victims of domestic abuse may do so for survival in an attempt to gain some control back in an abusive relationship.

Despite what many people believe, domestic violence is not due to the abuser's loss of control over his/her behavior.

In fact, **violence** is a **deliberate** choice made by the abuser in order to take control over his/her partner.

Spousal abuse and battery are used for one purpose: to gain and maintain total control over the victim.

In addition to physical violence, abusers use the following tactics to exert power over their partners.



| CONTROL AND ABUSE (destructive)                        | EQUALITY<br>(constructive)                                     |  |
|--|--|--|
| Using coercion and threats                             | Negotiation and fairness                                       |  |
| <ul> <li>making and/or carrying out threats</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>seeking mutually satisfying resolutions to</li> </ul> |  |

- making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt
- threatening to leave, to commit suicide, to report their partner to welfare
- making their partner drop charges
- making their partner do illegal things
- seeking mutually satisfying resolutions to conflict
- accepting change
- being willing to compromise

#### **Using intimidation**

- instilling fear by using looks, actions, gestures smashing things
- destroying their partner's property
- abusing pets
- displaying weapons (such as knives)

#### Non-threatening behavior

 talking and acting so that their partner feels safe and comfortable expressing themselves and doing things

#### Using economic abuse

- preventing their partner from getting or keeping a job
- making their partner ask for money
- giving their partner an allowance
- taking their partner's money
- not letting their partner know about or have access to family income

#### **Economic partnership**

- making money decisions together
- making sure both partners benefit from financial arrangements

#### Using emotional abuse

- Using put downs, humiliation
- making their partner feel bad about who they are – name calling
- making their partner think that they are crazy
- playing mind-games
- making their partner feel guilty

#### Respect

- listen non-judgmentally
- be emotionally affirming and understanding
- value opinions

#### Using gender privilege

- treating a woman like a servant
- making all the big decisions
- acting like the 'master of the house'
- being the one to define male and female roles in a heterosexual relationship
- ridiculing gender non-conformity
- threatening to out someone to family or co-workers as gay or as transgender

#### **Shared responsibility**

- mutually agreeing on a fair distribution of work
- making family decisions together

#### **Using isolation**

- controlling what their partner does, who they see and talk to, what they read, where they go
- limiting outside involvement
- using jealousy to justify actions

#### **Trust and support**

- supporting their partner's goals in life
- respecting their partner's right to their own feelings, friends, activities and opinions

#### **Using children**

- making their partner feel guilty about the children
- using the children to relay messages
- using visitation to harass their partner
- threatening to take the children away

#### **Responsible parenting**

- sharing parental responsibilities
- being a positive non-violent role model for the children

#### Minimizing, denying and blaming

- making light of the abuse and not taking their concerns about it seriously
- saying the abuse didn't happen
- shifting responsibility for abusive behavior
- · saying their partner caused it

#### Honesty and accountability

- accepting responsibility for self
- acknowledging past use of violence
- admitting being wrong
- communicating openly and truthfully

# When a Student Discloses Sexual Assault...

Share important messages to the student to avoid blaming:

• "You are not alone."

- "You are not to blame."
- "Help is available to you."
- After an assault, health & safety come first.
- Encourage the student to get medical attention. They may be injured more seriously
  than they realize. Also, medical evidence will be needed if the victim decides to
  press charges. Evidence can be collected up to 5 days after the assault. Survivors can
  receive a forensic exam for the collection of physical evidence at no charge and
  without being mandated to speak with law enforcement.
- Women on college campuses are at greater risk of sexual assault than women in the general population or in a comparable age group.
- Encourage the victim to contact the Jean Nidetch Women's Center to meet with a trained victim advocate.
- Encourage the student to report the assault to law enforcement. Remember, reporting is not the same as pressing charges. They may want to press charges later.
- Victims can apply for "Nevada Victims of Crime Program" (NVCP) even without reporting the crime. This way, they can qualify for financial compensation of medical expenses and counseling services.<sup>1</sup>
- Remember the student is not to blame; they have been the victim of a crime and should not deal with it alone. There are many resources here to help them.

#### Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence: What Sexual Violence May Look Like

\* Assailants overpower their victims with the threat of violence or with actual violence. Especially in cases of acquaintance rape or incest, an assailant often uses the victim's trust to isolate her/him.

\* The vast majority of men who sexually assault other men are heterosexual. Men and women are assaulted for basically the same reasons—so the assailant can vent hostility and feel a sense of power. Sometimes fear of homosexuality leads some men to attack gay men. The motivations for most sexual assaults are power and anger.

\*Some perpetrators use a pharmaceutical weapon to overpower and incapacitate their victims—commonly called date rape drugs. Substances like Rohypnol or GHB, valium or other prescription drugs, can be slipped unnoticed into drinks at bars, clubs, raves and other parties, leaving the victim confused, unconscious, and/or with fuzzy or little memory of what occurred.

\* Alcohol facilitated rapes are also common. For victims under the age of 21, they may fear legal reprisal for drinking underage if they report an assault. Police and medical

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> *Note*: The NVCP website claims that a victim must report to receive compensation, but this is not true for victims of sexual assault. The NVCP website has not been updated to reflect this.

personnel are trained to deal with the crime of rape and not to re-victimize the victim. *No matter what the circumstances, rape is a crime.* 

#### Resources to Give the Student...

#### **Direct Assistance**

| Rape Crisis Center of Southern Nevada Hotline | 366-1640 |
|---|----------|
|---|----------|

#### **For Support and Counseling**

**Student Counseling and Psychological Services** 

(CAPS)895-3627Student Health Center895-3770Jean Nidetch Women's Center- victim advocates895-4475

#### <u>Financial Compensation for Victims of a Violent Crime</u>

Nevada Victims of Crime Program www.voc.nv.gov

(JNWC advocates can help a victim navigate this process.)

#### Reporting

| LVMPD Sexual Assault Unit    | 828-3421 |
|------------------------------|----------|
| NLVPD (North Las Vegas area) | 646-9111 |
| HNPD (Henderson area)        | 267-4727 |
| Office of Student Conduct    | 895-2308 |

(If the perpetrator is a student, the victim can choose to go through the OSC instead of reporting to the police. The OSC has a Sexual Misconduct Response Protocol in place.)

# When a Student Discloses Stalking...

Share important messages to the student:

- "You are not alone."
- "This is a serious issue."
- "You are not to blame."
- "Help is available to you."

#### What is Stalking?

"Stalking" is used to describe specific kinds of behavior that may involve any one or more of the following: repeated physical proximity, nonconsensual communications including electronic forms of communication (e-mails, texting, social networking sites), gifting of unwanted items or presents, and/or verbal or written implied threats that make someone feel unsafe. Any unwanted contact between a stalker and their victim which directly or indirectly communicates a threat or places the victim in fear can be considered stalking.

#### Who are Stalkers?

Stalking is a gender neutral crime. Men, women, and transgender people can be perpetrators and victims of stalking. Statistically, the majority of stalkers are men. In fact, 75-80 % of stalking cases involve men stalking women. Most stalkers tend to be young or middle aged. Stalkers come from every walk of life and every socio-economic background. Anyone can be a stalker or a victim.

#### Warning Signs That Someone is Being Stalked

- \* Monitoring someone's home or workplace
- \* Threats of, or actual, violence
- \* Defamation or manipulative behavior
- \* Unwanted communication
- \* Often misses or is late to class, or leaves class early

#### Resources to Give the Student...

| Campus Police                                 | 895-3668  |
|---|-----------|
| Office of Student Conduct (no contact letter) | 895-2308  |
| Stalking Protection Order                     | see p. 28 |

#### **For Support and Counseling**

**Student Counseling and Psychological Services** 

(CAPS) 895-3627 Jean Nidetch Women's Center 895-4475

# Lesbian, Gay, Queer & Transgender Students' Experiences of Interpersonal Violence

Lesbian and bisexual women, gay and bisexual men, transgender people, and queer people(LGBTQ) are just as likely to experience domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking as straight people. In some cases, they may be more likely to experience such violence and less likely to feel like they can rely on social services or be taken seriously when reporting interpersonal violence.

When a student comes to you, **never assume sexual orientation**. While we do not have a demographic breakdown of the UNLV student population by sexual orientation, we can infer from the general Las Vegas population that a sizable number of our students are not strictly heterosexual.

Also, **be respectful of gender identity**—pronouns and names are the easiest way to show respect for transgender and gender non-conforming students. Gently ask if you are unclear about a student's preferred name or pronoun as it may differ from the class roster; most transgender people appreciate the opportunity to state their preference.

- Only 16% of LGBTQ victims of domestic violence called the police, according to a 2008 national study of LGBTQ social service and community agencies. "...many LGBTQ community members experience systemic bias and have legitimate distrust of the police supporting them on multiple axes of identity and oppression. Clients...often report that police officers may identify them as the abuser when they are in fact the survivor, or are told that because the partners are of the same gender identity, police "have to take them both in." Transgender survivors of domestic violence face many hurdles with respect to accessing their basic human rights within the criminal legal system."<sup>2</sup>
- Within the LGBTQ domestic violence incidents reported to social service and community agencies in 2008, almost a third were 19 to 29 years old.<sup>3</sup>
- "Men are far less likely to report violence committed against them, considering only 64% of female victims report crimes committed against them."
- 90% of community-based organizations and victim assistance providers reported they lacked funding and staffing services for transgender people, lesbian/bisexual women, and gay/bisexual men.<sup>5</sup> LGBTQ people are less able to utilize social services due to lack of funding, invisibility, and ignorance of LGBTQ experiences of sexual violence and intimate partner violence.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> LGBTQ Domestic Violence in the United States in 2008, p 26.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> LGBTQ Domestic Violence in the United States in 2008, p 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Male Victims: Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Resource Sheet. FORGE.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Ciarlante and Fountain, 2010.

# **Campus Victim's Rights**

Nevada law provides a victim of crime many statutory rights that were not traditionally available to them in earlier years.

#### **Nevada Crime Victim's Bill of Rights**

The 1983 Nevada General Assembly mandated certain rights and guarantees to crime victims and witnesses. Chapter 178 of the Nevada Revised Statutes recognizes the following needs and rights of crime victims:

- You have the right to know the status of the case in which you are involved.
  - You have the right to be free from intimidation or dissuasion.
- You have the right to know when your impounded property can be released.
- You have the right to receive a witness fee for lawful obedience to a subpoena.
- You have a right to understand the existing victim compensation laws and receive compensation, if applicable.
- You have the right to a secure waiting area, which is not available to the defendant or his family, when you are at court.
- You have the right to know when the defendant is released from custody before or during trial (upon written request).
- You have the right to know when the offender is released from prison (upon written request).

This is also true on campus. The **UNLV Student Conduct Code** details students' rights and responsibilities, including "the right to fair and equitable process in all matters concerning the *Code*." The full SCC is available online at http://studentconduct.unlv.edu.

#### **JNWC Bill of Rights**

Someone seeking JNWC victim advocate services can expect the following:

- No information will be disclosed without prior consent
- To be treated with dignity and respect
- All JNWC staff will try to provide well informed, educated options and support your decisions without bias.

# The Numbers: Violence on Campus & in the Las Vegas Valley

Statistics on interpersonal violence are difficult to assess. Violent crimes such as domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are notoriously underreported. Reporting is not an accurate measure of interpersonal violence. Approximately one-quarter of all physical assaults, one-fifth of all rapes, and one-half of all stalking perpetuated against women by intimate partners are reported to the police. On college campuses, fewer than 5% of rape victims report it to police, though about 65% of victims do tell someone other than police.<sup>6</sup>

For example, the numbers for sexual assaults committed on UNLV's campus are quite low (only four sexual assaults were reported to UNLV Police Services in 2008). Crimes committed on campus may be lower due to the small number of students who live on campus and the lack of Pan-Hellenic houses on campus, in addition to a culture of non-reporting. Even "of the 2,983 sexual assaults [reported to Las Vegas Metro Police over 26 months, only] 15% were resolved by arrest or summons."

This means that UNLV students are affected by interpersonal violence that occurs *off campus*. What happens off campus affects student performance and well-being on campus. That is one reason this handbook was created: to empower those whom students interact with the most on campus—you—with the knowledge and resources to help students who have been a victim of violence.

#### The Numbers

#### Stalking Resource Center National Statistics

- 3.4 million people over the age of 18 are stalked each year in the United States.
- Persons aged 18-24 years experience the highest rate of stalking.
- 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men have been stalked in their lifetime.
- 81% of women stalked by a current or former intimate partner are also physically assaulted by that partner; 31% are also sexually assaulted by that partner.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "Victim Behavior." A presentation of AEquitas: The Prosecutors' Resource on Violence Against Women.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See the *UNLV Annual Security Report*, October 2009.

#### Stalking on College Campuses<sup>8</sup>

- Around 10% of college women are stalked.
- Stalking incidents lasted on average for two months.
- Only 30 percent of female students are stalked only off campus; the remaining victims are stalked either only on campus or both on and off campus.
- Three in 10 women report being emotionally or physically hurt by their stalker.
- In 15.3% of the stalking incidents, the victim reported their stalker either threatening them or harming them.
- In 10.3% of the incidents, the victim reported that their stalker attempted, if not forced, sexual contact.
- 83.1% of the stalking incidents were not reported to the police or campus law enforcement.
- 93.4% of stalking victims confided in a friend that they were being stalked.

### National Sexual Assault Statistics9

- The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) estimates that there are 714 rapes everyday in the United States.
- Less than 43% of rapes are reported to law enforcement.
- At least 45% of rapists were under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- 75% of female rape victims need medical attention immediately afterwards.
- According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, which includes crimes that were not reported to the police, 232,960 women in the U.S. were raped or sexually assaulted in 2006.
- 1 in 6 women & 1 in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape.
- 30% of lesbians have been sexual assaulted by another woman (not necessarily an intimate partner). 10
- 15% of men living with a male intimate partner report being raped, assaulted or stalked by a male cohabitant.<sup>11</sup>
- Nearly 7.8 million women have been raped by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.
- Sexual assault or forced sex occurs in approximately 40-45% of battering relationships.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "How extensive is stalking?" (2000), The Sexual Victimization of College Women.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "Number of incidents and victimizations and ratio of victimizations to incidents, by type of crime." (2010), Table 26. Personal crimes, 2007. *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2007 - Statistical Tables*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> http://www.wavawnet.org/community/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer-community

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> http://www.wavawnet.org/community/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer-community

# <u>Local Sexual Assault Statistics (Rape Crisis Center of Southern Nevada (RCC) & Las</u> Vegas Metro Police Department (LVMPD)):

- The RCC responded to 735 victims of sexual violence in 2008. Women and girls totaled 97% of the victims assisted by the RCC. The RCC assisted 24 male victims in 2008.
- Over 25% of sexual assaults take place in the home of the victim (RCC).
- 47% of the victims RCC assisted were between the ages of 18 and 29.
- "Nearly all reported sexual assault cases were <u>'acquaintance related'</u>...the stranger type...where both parties were completely unknown to each other...accounted for <u>less than 1%</u> of cases reported to the police" (LVMPD).

### National Domestic Violence Statistics<sup>12</sup>

- One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.
- 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner yearly.
- 85% of domestic violence victims are women.
- Women aged 20-24 are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence.
- Bisexual, transgender, lesbian, and gay people experience violence within their intimate relationships at about the same rates as heterosexuals.<sup>13</sup>
- Most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police.

#### Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence: Local Domestic Violence Statistics

- 36,835 Nevadans received services from domestic violence programs in 2007.
- 1,479 adults and 1,629 children sought shelter, and were provided with 60,016 emergency shelter nights and 3,578 transitional housing bed-nights.
- 43% of the women and children that called a domestic violence program for assistance received individual counseling, and domestic violence programs provided 1,099 victims with support group sessions.
- 36% of victims served by a domestic violence program in Nevada received assistance preparing a Protection Order against their batterer.
- Victims of domestic violence received 151,038 referrals for further services from domestic violence programs. Most referrals were made to legal services (15,660) and individual counseling (17,861).
- Nevada's domestic violence programs provided 2,631 hours of training to volunteers, which resulted in 115,680 hours of volunteer service during 2007.
   46% of these hours were spent helping victims on domestic violence hotlines.

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<sup>12 &</sup>quot;Domestic Violence Facts,"

http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet%28National%29.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> http://www.wavawnet.org/community/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer-community

# **Reporting On and Off Campus**

Interpersonal violence violates an individual's sense of safety. A victim or survivor of assault, domestic abuse, stalking may want to report the crime, may want to press charges, and/or may want to obtain a protection order. This can all be done through on and off campus police departments and the UNLV Office of Student Conduct (OSC).

It is important to report a crime—remember, reporting is not the same thing as pressing charges. You cannot file an anonymous report with the police, but you can report a crime without pressing charges. Campus police encourage you to report if a crime was disclosed to you (see the following two forms) as we try to accurately gauge the number of incidents that occur on campus.

Victims of stalking and domestic violence may also seek to end any communication with the offender. At the county level, they can choose to file one of four types of protection orders with Clark County: a temporary protection order, an emergency protection order, or a stalking protection order. A victim of sexual assault who has a pre-existing relationship with the assailant can file a temporary protection order; if they did not, they can file a sexual assault protection order.

Also, victims of interpersonal violence on campus can seek a "No-Contact Letter" (similar to the County's Temporary Protection Order) through the Office of Student Conduct if both parties (the victim and the assailant or offender) are affiliated with UNLV. This deals largely with on-campus behavior and electronic communication. For example, if someone is being stalked on and/or off campus, or if a sexual assault was reported to local police, UNLV's OSC can issue a No-Contact Letter to the offending party. Campus police can arrest someone for violating the No-Contact Letter. See page 29 for an example of a No-Contact Letter. The OSC responds to on-campus issues as well as situations off-campus that adversely affect the UNLV community, such as attacks or stalking on athletic trips or study abroad. The OSC also addresses incidents between individuals who know each other through their affiliation with UNLV even if the altercation or assault takes place off campus. OSC can be reached at 895-2308.

#### **Protection Orders**<sup>14</sup>

Approximately 20% of the 1.5 million people who experience intimate partner violence annually obtain civil protection orders.

 Approximately one-half of the orders obtained by women against intimate partners who physically assaulted them were violated. More than two-thirds of the restraining orders against intimate partners who raped or stalked the victim were violated.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Tiaden and Thoennes, "Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," 2000. Cited in the NCADV Domestic Violence Facts.

# University of Nevada Las Vegas CONFIDENTIAL SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORT FORM

This form is for the purpose of collecting data to determine the number of incidents occurring within this community in order to comply with federal law and to develop appropriate resources.

#### \*\*Instructions: see page 3\*\*

| Assault reported to:  | Phone Number:   |
|---|---|
| Date reported:  |   |
| Classification:   | (Please classify the incident using the legal definitions on page 3).           |
| Please provide a general description of the (atter<br>reported to anyone: | mpted) rape/sexual assault, including information about whether the assault was |
|   |   |
|   |   |
|   |   |
|   |   |
| What was the date of the incident? (please be as                          | specific as possible)   |
| What was the time? (please be as specific as pos                          | ssible)   |
| Location of Incident (please be as specific as po                         | ssible):  |
| Did the incident occur on a university-owned or                           | controlled property?  |
| Yes No Unknown  |   |
| Did the incident occur at a university-sponsored                          | activity/event?   |
| Yes No Unknown  |   |
|   | SURVIVORINFORMATION   |
| Male or female?   | Student or non-student?   |
| If the survivor is a student, are they a freshman,                        | sophomore, junior, or senior?   |
| Dorm resident or non-dorm resident?                                       |   |
|   | ASSAILANT INFORMATION   |
| Male or female?   | Student or non-student?   |
| If the assailant is a student, are they a freshman,                       | sophomore, junior, or senior?   |
| Dorm resident or non-dorm resident?                                       |   |
| Was either of the persons under the influence of                          | alcohol at the time of the incident?  |
| Survivor Assailant Bo   | oth Neither Continued on page 2   |

| Hate Crimes  |               |                                      |   |
|--|---------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Was this incident motivated by hate or bias?       | Yes           | No                                   |   |
| If yes, please identify the category of prejudice: |               | Race:National Origin:<br>Disability: | Ethnicity: Religion: Sexual Orientation |
| If yes, please provide a brief explanation of what | determined th | e incident to be motivated           | by hate or bias:                        |
|  |               |                                      |   |
|  |               |                                      |   |
|  |               |                                      |   |
|  |               |                                      |   |
|  |               |                                      |   |

Please forward this completed form to: James H. Morrow, UNLV Police Department, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89154-2007

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. This form is intended for use in cases of forcible and non-forcible sexual offenses as defined below.
- 2. Do not complete this form in presence of the assault survivor.
- 3. Do not include the survivor's name or other identifying information (e.g. student identification number, address, phone no.) on this form
- 4. Record as much requested data as possible based on information volunteered or discussed. Do not pry for information, just list the information obtained in the conversation.
- 5. Complete this form even if the survivor indicates that he or she has spoken with another person on campus and even if you will be referring the survivor to another department.
- Completed forms should be forwarded to the Campus Security Authority Coordinator, James H. Morrow, UNLV Police Department, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89154-2007. He can be reached at 702-895-5739. Please leave a message if he is not able to answer.
- 7. In the event of a change in the current coordinator, you will receive an updated copy of this form in the mail.

#### DEFINITIONS FOR CLASSIFICATION PURPOSES:

(Indicate the correct classification of the incident you are reporting on page 1 using one of the legal definitions below in either the Sex Offenses – Forcible section or the Sex Offenses – Non-forcible section)

#### Sex Offenses - Forcible

Any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will; or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

#### A. Forcible Rape

The carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and/or against the person's will; or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity (or because of his/her youth).

#### B. Forcible Sodomy

Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will; or not forcibly against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

#### C. Sexual Assault with an Object

The use of an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, forcibly and/or against that person's will; or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

#### D. Forcible Fondling

The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, forcibly and/or against that person's will; or, not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

#### Sex Offense – Non-forcible

Unlawful, non-forcible sexual intercourse.

#### A. Incest

Non-forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

#### B. Statutory Rape

Non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

Sex Offense Definitions are taken from the National Incident-Based Reporting System Edition of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Please forward this completed form to: James H. Morrow, UNLV Police Department, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89154-2007

Campus Security Authority Crime Statistic Report Form – Sex Offense Version 1.0 Revision Date: 04/07 Last received 06/10

# University of Nevada Las Vegas CRIME STATISTIC REPORT FORM

| Reporting Person (if the victim is the reporting person, leave bl  | ank):                                    |                           |                              |
|--|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Phone Number (if the victim is the reporting person, leave blan  | k):                                      |                           |                              |
| What crime occurred? (see definitions on page 2):  |  |                           |                              |
| Date and Time the Incident Occurred (please be as specific as p  | possible):                               |                           |                              |
| Location of the incident (building name or address-please be as possible):   |  |                           |                              |
| Did the crime occur in a building or on the street?  Did the crime occur on university owned, controlled, or leased  Did the crime occur at a university-sponsored activity or event |  | Building:<br>Yes:<br>Yes: | Street:<br>_ No:<br>_ No:    |
| Brief description of the incident (attach additional sheet if necessary)   | ssary):                                  |                           |                              |
|  |  |                           |                              |
|  |  |                           |                              |
|  |  |                           |                              |
| In instances of violations of alcohol, drug, or weapons laws (no for campus disciplinary action? :   |  | what were the nur         | mber of individuals referred |
| Hate Crimes  |  |                           |                              |
| Was this incident motivated by hate or bias?   |  |                           | No                           |
| If yes, please identify the category of prejudice:   | Race:<br>National Origin:<br>Disability: | Relig                     | city:ion:al Orientation      |
| If yes, please provide a brief explanation of what determined the  | e incident to be motivated               | by hate or bias: _        |                              |
|  |  |                           |                              |
|  |  |                           |                              |

Please forward this completed form to: James H. Morrow, UNLV Police Department, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89154-2007

#### **CRIME DEFINITIONS**

**Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter:** the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. NOTE: Deaths caused by negligence, attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, accidental deaths, and justifiable homicides are <u>excluded</u>.

**Negligent Manslaughter:** the killing of another person through gross negligence.

**Robbery:** the taking or attempting to take anything from value of the care, custody or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

**Aggravated Assault:** an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. It is not necessary that injury result from an aggravated assault when a gun, knife, or other weapon is used which could or probably would result in a serious potential injury if the crime were successfully completed.

**Burglary:** The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. For reporting purposes this definition includes: unlawful entry with intent to commit a larceny or a felony; breaking and entering with intent to commit a larceny; housebreaking; safecracking; and all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned.

**Motor Vehicle Theft:** The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. (Classify as motor vehicle theft all cases where automobiles are taken by persons not having lawful access, even though the vehicles are later abandoned – including joy riding).

**Arson:** The willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, or personal property of another kind.

**Weapon Law Violations:** The violation of laws or ordinances dealing with weapon offenses, regulatory in nature, such as: manufacture, sale, or possession of deadly weapons; carrying deadly weapons, concealed or openly; furnishing deadly weapons to minors, aliens possessing deadly weapons; all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned.

**Drug Abuse Violations:** Violations of state and local laws relating to the unlawful possession sale, use, growing, manufacturing, and making of narcotic drugs. The relevant substances include: opium or cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroine, codeine); marijuana; synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadone); and dangerous non-narcotic drugs (barbiturates, Benzedrine).

**Liquor Law Violations:** The violation of laws or ordinance prohibiting: the manufacture, sale, transporting, furnishing, possessing of intoxicating liquor; maintaining unlawful drinking places; bootlegging; operating a still; furnishing liquor to minor or intemperate person; using a vehicle for illegal transportation of liquor; drinking on a train or public conveyance; all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned. (Drunkenness and driving under the influence are not included in this definition.)

Crime definitions from the Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook

Please forward this completed form to: James H. Morrow, UNLV Police Department, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89154-2007

Campus Security Authority Crime Statistic Report Form Version 1.0 Revision: 04/07 Last received 06/10

# **Example of UNLV's No Contact Letter**

[date]

[name] [address/Hall & room #] [City ST Zip / mailbox #]

**EXAMPLE ONLY** 

Dear [Name],

The purpose of this letter is to provide notice that a 'no contact' rule has been placed on you with UNLV student[(s)/staff/etc -[insert any applicable people].

You are hereby informed that a 'no contact' ruling means that you understand that you are prohibited from initiating or contributing to any physical, verbal, electronic, or written communication with [name(s) listed above], his/her family, or his/her personal possessions. If you need to have a communication sent to him/her, it can be through the Office of Student Conduct. [Only if applicable ...In addition, until further notice, you are trespassed from the (location, i.e. residence hall or admin bldg)].

A violation of this ruling could result in the UNLV Police Services being contacted for formal removal from the premises and further conduct sanctioning, or outside legal charges.

Only a recommendation from the Office of Student Conduct can change this rule. Please further understand that any violation of the 'no contact' rule will negatively reflect on any Student Conduct Code case that may involve you which may also put your student status in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Office of Student Conduct

Cc: Public Safety
Individuals/Offices mentioned above

# **Reporting Off Campus**

#### **Protection Orders**

#### What protection does the order provide?

By issuing a temporary protection order, the court may:

- Prohibit the adverse party from threatening, physically injuring, or harassing the applicant or minor children, either directly or through an agent.
- Exclude the adverse party from the applicant's place of residence.
- Prohibit the adverse party from entering the residence, school or place of employment of the applicant or minor children and order him/her to stay away from any specified place frequented regularly by them.
- Prohibit the adverse party from having any contact with the applicant:
  - o In person
  - o By phone
  - By mail (written or electronic)
  - Through a third party
- Order such other relief as it deems necessary in an emergency situation.

#### **Emergency**

An Emergency Temporary Protection Order (ETPO) may be issued if adverse party is arrested for domestic battery or related charges and still in custody.

This process MUST be started immediately upon the adverse party's arrest. If the request is delayed, the judge may not consider it an emergency. A hearing will be scheduled within seven calendar days. The applicant must attend this hearing. Apply for an Emergency Protective Order via Family Court, 455-1500.

#### **Temporary**

A Temporary Protection Order (TPO) may be issued for 30 days. An extension hearing may be requested to extend the Order up to one year thereafter.

Apply in person at:

Eighth Judicial District Court - Family Division Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Violence Intervention Program & Protective Orders Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 601 N. Pecos Road
Las Vegas NV 89101
(702) 455-3400

#### How to apply for a Temporary Protection Order (TPO)

The applicant will be required to complete an application, describing the need for a Protection Order.

- The applicant is not assessed any fee to file a Protection Order.
- Criminal charges do not have to be filed.
- Police or medical reports of current or previous incidents may be included with the application.
- Photos of any visible injuries may be taken in the Protection Order office.
- Photo identification of the applicant is required for notarization of the application.
- The application must contain specific information about recent physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse or threats of abuse that cause concern for the applicant's safety.
- An advocate will review the application, discuss safety options and offer referrals to other services as needed.
- The application process may take one to two hours.

#### Who may apply for a protective order?

The applicant MUST have a least one of the following relationships with the person against whom the Order may be issued:\*

- Related by blood (i.e. son/daughter, father/mother, brother/sister)
- Related by marriage (i.e. spouse, ex-spouse, or current in-law)
- Current or former roommate
- Past or present dating relationship
- Have children together

NOTE: The applicant's, or any of the person's listed above, minor child may also be entitled to protection.

#### \*Sexual Assault Protection Order

If the sexual assault victim does not have any of the above relationships with the person against whom the Order may be issued, the applicant can obtain a Sexual Assault Protection Order.

Sexual Assault Protection Orders are done through the Regional Justice Court (see address and contact information under TPO).

# **Stalking Order**

A stalking order that is issued by a Justice of the Peace may do the following:

- Order the adverse party to stay away from the home, school, business, or place
  of employment of the victim and any other location specifically named by the
  court.
- Order the adverse party to refrain from contacting, intimidating, threatening or otherwise interfering with the victim and any other person, including a member of the family or the household of the victim, specifically named by the court.

#### Apply in person at:

Las Vegas Regional Justice Center 200 Lewis Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 671-3165

#### How to apply for a Stalking Order

The applicant must fill out an affidavit that describes in detail the actions or behavior of the adverse party that causes the applicant to believe his/her physical or mental wellbeing is at risk. The affidavit must be LEGIBLE, and it should include all relevant dates and times so that a proper foundation will be presented to the reviewing judge. In the affidavit, the applicant must show that the adverse party is acting in a pattern or "course of conduct" consisting of a series of acts over time that shows evidence of a continuity of purpose directed at a specific person.

The applicant may include any supporting documents such as:

- Documentation of phone calls
- Notes left by the adverse party
- Pictures of property damage, etc.
- Answering machine tapes

The applicant will be contacted by a court clerk and informed of the judge's decision. If granted, the Order will be in effect for 30 days and may be extended up to one year thereafter.

### Other Forms of Abuse & What Can Be Done

University populations are diverse in many ways. Some students have mental or physical disabilities. Some students are parents. Whatever the need, there are resources on campus to support students, faculty, and staff.

### **UNLV Disability Resource Center**

The Disability Resource Center is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. http://drc.unlv.edu/ 702-895-0866

# Abuse of Persons with Disabilities

- People with disabilities are especially vulnerable to abuse.
- Abuse is when someone threatens another's well-being.
- The following constitutes abuse: rough treatment (hitting, slapping, misuse of restraints); any non-consensual sexual conduct; humiliation; intimidation; insults or threats; isolation from family members and friends; withholding medication; overmedication; controlling the person's finances and property without consent; interfering with mail; withholding food or basic necessities...

#### What if Someone You Know is Being Abused?

They need the abuse to stop. They need information and support to help them become independent of the abuser. Talk to them about it and let them know you care. Suggest they get help from someone they trust.

#### How often are people with mental disabilities sexually abused?

According to research, many people with disabilities will experience some form of sexual abuse<sup>15</sup>. At least 20% of mentally disabled females and 5-10% of mentally disabled males are sexually abused every year in the United States. More than 90% of people with a mental disability will experience sexual abuse at some point in their lives. Forty – nine percent will experience more than ten sexual assault incidents.<sup>16</sup> The likelihood of rape is staggering. Between 15,000 of the 19,000 people with developmental disabilities are raped each year in the United States.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Sobsey & Vernhagen 1989

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Valenti – Hein and Schwartz 1995

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Sobsey 1994

#### Child Abuse

#### **Child Abuse and Neglect- Emotional Effects**

All parents get upset with their children sometimes. Saying 'no' and managing difficult behavior is an essential part of parenting. Tired or stressed parents can lose control, say something they regret, and may even harm the child. If this happens often enough, it can seriously harm the child. That is why **abuse** is defined in law. The federal Children Act of 1989 states that abuse should be considered to have happened when someone's actions have caused a child to suffer **significant harm** to their health or development.

#### Significant harm can be caused by someone...

- Punishing a child too much.
- Hitting or shaking a child.
- Constantly criticizing, threatening, or rejecting a child.
- Not looking after a child- not giving them enough to eat, ignoring them, not playing or talking with them, or not making sure that they are safe.

If you suspect a parent of abusing their child, contact Child Protection Services - (702) 399-0081.

# C.O.P.E Child or Parent Emergency

Under pressure, you or I, or anyone may feel like hurting an annoying child, but we don't have to. Watch for these warning signs and get help.

#### Warning signs

- Do you scream at your children all the time?
- Are your children scared when you get angry?
- Do they flinch when you make a sudden move?
- Do you feel empty and unable to give to your children?
- Do you feel your children don't love you?
- Do you feel they deliberately bother you?
- Are you often disappointed in your child?
- Are you worried that your neighbors and people at school might disapprove of the way you raise your children?
- Are you hurting your children the way your parents hurt you when you were little?
- Have you ever left bruises or welts on your child when you disciplined?

#### **Nevada Revised Statutes**

Rape: NRS 200.364 Definitions, NRS 200.366 Sexual assault: Definitions, penalties.

As defined by Nevada law, "a person who subjects another person to sexual penetration, or who forces another person to make a sexual penetration on himself or another, against the victim's will or under conditions in which the perpetrator knows or should know that the victim is mentally or physically incapable of resisting or understanding the nature of his conduct, is guilty of sexual assault" (NRS 200.366). Sexual penetration includes sexual intercourse, oral sex and digital penetration (NRS 200.364).

#### NRS 33.018 Acts which constitute domestic violence.

- 1. Domestic violence occurs when a person commits one of the following acts against or upon his spouse, former spouse, any other person to whom he is related by blood or marriage, a person with whom he is or was actually residing, a person with whom he has had or is having a dating relationship, a person with whom he has a child in common, the minor child of any of those persons, his minor child or any person who has been appointed the custodian or legal guardian for his minor child:
- (a) A battery.
- (b) An assault.
- (c) Compelling the other by force or threat of force to perform an act from which he has the right to refrain or to refrain from an act which he has the right to perform.
- (d) A sexual assault.
- (e) A knowing, purposeful or reckless course of conduct intended to harass the other. Such conduct may include, but is not limited to:
  - (1) Stalking.
  - (2) Arson.
  - (3) Trespassing.
  - (4) Larceny.
  - (5) Destruction of private property.
  - (6) Carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.
  - (7) Injuring or killing an animal.
- (f) A false imprisonment.
- (g) Unlawful entry of the other's residence, or forcible entry against the other's will if there is a reasonably foreseeable risk of harm to the other from the entry.
- 2. As used in this section, "dating relationship" means frequent, intimate associations primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate or sexual involvement. The term does not include a casual relationship or an ordinary association between persons in a business or social context.

Added by laws 1985, p. 2283. Amended by Laws 1995, p. 902; Laws 1997, p. 1808; Laws 2007, c. 40, § 1; Laws 2007, c. 318, § 5.

#### NRS 200.575 Stalking: Definitions; penalties.

- 1. A person who, without lawful authority, willfully or maliciously engages in a course of conduct that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, harassed or fearful for the immediate safety of a family or household member, and that actually causes the victim to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, harassed or fearful for the immediate safety of a family or household member, commits the crime of stalking. Except where the provisions of subsection 2 or 3 are applicable, a person who commits the crime of stalking:
  - (a) For the first offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
  - (b) For any subsequent offense, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.
- 2. A person who commits the crime of stalking and in conjunction therewith threatens the person with the intent to cause the person to be placed in reasonable fear of death or substantial bodily harm commits the crime of aggravated stalking. A person who commits the crime of aggravated stalking shall be punished for a category B felony by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 2 years and a maximum term of not more than 15 years, and may be further punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000.
- 3. A person who commits the crime of stalking with the use of an Internet or network site, electronic mail, text messaging or any other similar means of communication to publish, display or distribute information in a manner that substantially increases the risk of harm or violence to the victim shall be punished for a category C felony as provided in NRS 193.130.

#### **Statutes on Mandated Reporting**

**Elderly Abuse:** Anyone who works within the population of the elderly automatically becomes a mandated reporter. A report must be made within 24 hours. If a report is not made the service worker risks losing her/his license (NRS 200.5292).

**Children:** A person becomes a mandated reporter as soon as she/he begins working within a community in contact with children. A report must be made within a 24-hour period. If a report is not made, the service worker risks losing her/his license (NRS 432B.121).

Division of Aging - (702) 486-3545

Child Protection Services - (702) 399-0081

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<sup>\*</sup>All websites last accessed Fall 2010.