

TIMELY WARNING

OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT ALERT

Sexual Assault 9-24-2014

This communication is prepared as part of the Timely Warning requirement of the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act of 1990. This federal law requires a general communication to the campus community of all crimes reported to campus or local police departments that may pose a threat to the campus community. Such reports shall be provided to students and employees in a manner that is timely and that may aid in the prevention of similar occurrences.

Millersville University Police received a delayed report that a student was sexually assaulted off-campus. The assault occurred last Saturday night, September 20, 2014 and was reported to a University staff member this week. The staff member ensured the student received medical care. The student advised that she was at a party near campus and then went to a residence that was further from campus where she was assaulted. The location of the assault is NOT on University owned property or on campus. Federal law does not require a timely warning for this instance, but University Police are issuing the notification to alert students of the crime and to increase student awareness to sexual violence. The location of the assault is not being listed at this time to protect the reporting student's identity.

In response to this incident, Millersville University Police provides the following general information on acquaintance sexual assaults. This information is not related specific to this incident. The only person responsible for sexual violence is the perpetrator. Millersville University has zero tolerance for sexual assault or misconduct.

It is estimated that nationwide 20 percent of women and six percent of college men experience sexual assault or attempted sexual assault during their college years. Data reveal nearly 50 percent of transgender people experience sexual violence. No matter the demographic, the most common type of sexual assault is not committed by a stranger but by someone known to the victim, typically a date or other acquaintance.

There are risk factors associated with sexual assault, about which it may be useful to be aware, but being at risk in no way shifts responsibility for sexual assault to a victim/survivor.

Studies of sexual assault show a high correlation between acquaintance rape and drug/alcohol use. Alcohol and drugs are often used by assailants to make someone vulnerable to sexual assault. Be alert to people who pressure you or others to use a drug or consume alcohol. Don't leave your drink unattended while talking, dancing, using the restroom, or making a phone call. If you've left your drink alone, throw out the drink. Someone incapacitated due to alcohol or drugs cannot consent to any sexual activity.

If you feel uneasy about a situation, as someone vulnerable or as a bystander, trust your instincts and attempt to interrupt the chain of events. Being an active bystander doesn't require you put yourself at risk. Create a distraction, involve friends or call for help. Make a commitment to ensure everyone has a safe way home, i.e., a trusted friend or escort. If you believe a crime has been committed call the police at 911. The Millersville University Police Department provides a safety escort from 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. available by calling 872-3433. Anyone who may have knowledge or information about this assault is urged to contact Ms. Lori Austin, Title IX deputy coordinator at 872-3433, and may remain anonymous.

This warning should remain posted in residential areas for two weeks until October 8, 2014