

Protection and Prevention

Protecting you from sexual and relationship violence—helping you better understand how to protect yourself and others—is a key concern at HPTC. You should never have to contend with sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking—ad we strictly prohibit these crimes.

The federal Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) put new obligations in place for some schools. These regulations are designed to help prevent these crimes while also raising awareness and providing support at every turn. Our school is committed to creating a safe environment for all students and this brochure offers tools to help make it happen.

Definitions

The four main categories covered under VAWA are sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. It's important to know what each one means.

Sexual Assault:

Is an offense that involves one or more of the following: rape, fondling or touching private body parts, incest and statutory rape.

Many sexual assaults occur between people who know one another. Alcohol is often a factor, too, impairing the perpetrator or victim's judgment. You are never responsible for being sexually assaulted, though! The one responsible for a sexual assault is the assaulter.



Yes it's called the
"Violence Against Women Act"
Yet people of **all genders** are
protected under this
federal legislation!
Plus, people of **all genders**
can be perpetrators,
too.

Source: VAWA Final Regulations, Federal Register, 10/20/2014

Dating & Domestic Violence

Dating Violence

If a romantic or intimate partner or former partner kicks, slaps, hits, or shoves you, that is physical dating violence.

If that person keeps you away from friends and family, shames you, calls you names, bullies or publicly embarrasses you, that is psychological and emotional abuse.

If that person forces or coerces you to engage in sexual activity when you're unable to consent or don't consent—that's sexual abuse.

Dating violence can take place in person, via technology, such as repeated texting or posting sexual photos of a partner online without consent.

All of these actions and more constitute dating violence. It can include the types of abuse mentioned above or the threat of such abuse. You never deserve to be treated this way and it's a crime.

Domestic Violence

The crime of domestic violence can be committed by:

- ♥ A current or former spouse or partner
- ♥ A person with whom you share a child
- ♥ A person against whom you have a protective order

In most abusive relationships, possessive or controlling behaviors are present. These may include controlling money, isolation from friends or family, destruction of property, hurting or threatening to hurt you, your children or pets, intimidation, preventing you from working or attending school, pressuring you sexually, forcing drug or alcohol use, threats of self harm if you leave and more.

Crimes of sexual and relationship violence take place without someone's consent.

Source: The National Domestic Violence Hotline; "Teen Dating Violence" from the CDC.

Stalking

Stalking is when someone engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes that person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others. It also causes the stalked person substantial emotional distress.

Over 895 percent of people are stalked by someone they know, according to the Stalking Resource Center, with behaviors that control, track or frighten them including:

- ♥ Threatening to hurt you, family, friends or pets
- ♥ Following you, showing up or driving by where you are
- ♥ Monitoring your phone and computer use
- ♥ Using technology to track you
- ♥ Damaging your home, car or other property
- ♥ Spreading rumors about you online, in public or gossip
- ♥ Digging for information about you
- ♥ Sending unwanted gifts, notes, text, or emails

Being stalked can lead to anxiety, stress, irritability, an inability to sleep or concentrate and depression. You don't have to feel this overwhelmed, vulnerable and unsafe—let us help.

Consent

Consent is the affirmative, straightforward and voluntary agreement obtained without coercion, intimidation, force, or threats to engage in a specific sexual activity.

Consent cannot be given if someone is unconscious, asleep, incapacitated (due to alcohol or other drugs), a minor or physically or mentally impaired.

If someone fails to say "no" that doesn't mean he or she is saying "yes," and he or she certainly has the right to change their mind at anytime.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is
1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)

Source: Defining consent, Federal Register, 10/20/14

What to Expect

Support

We are here to help. You can expect a prompt, fair and impartial investigation of your complaint including helping you receive counseling, medical assistance and offering protective measures to help you feel safer on campus.

These accommodations may be related to your academic and workplace situations, if you request them and they are reasonably available. At times, we may need to act quickly to protect your safety, so we may not be able to obtain your written consent ahead of time. Please know, though, that we will be in communication with you throughout the process, to keep you in control of the situation and feeling as safe as possible.

Reporting

If you or someone you know has been a victim of relationship or sexual crime or you believe a relationship or sexual crime is likely to occur, contact the Assistant Superintendent or Counselor. Numerous people here, including but not limited to all instructors as well as the Student Services staff, are here to help. They are here to listen, take your report and guide you to the appropriate resources.

The federal Clery Act, requires HPTC to report where and when a crime occurs, but not necessarily who is involved. HPTC will balance the need for campus safety with your request for confidentiality to the maximum extent possible.

STOP
THE
VIOLENCE

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

High Plains Technology Center does not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex/gender, race, color, religion, age, national origin, qualified disability or veteran in the operation of its educational programs, activities, recruitment, admissions or employment practices. Refer to page 19 for the complaint procedure. Amber Riley is designated as the Compliance Coordinators to assure compliance with regulations regarding non-discrimination and equal employment opportunities. Complaints should be addressed to Amber Riley and Tony Haskins.

Affirmative Action Compliance Statement

HPTC, in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, and other applicable federal laws and regulations, and to the extent required by law, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, physical or mental disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. Inquiries concerning the application of these programs should be made to Compliance Coordinators Amber Riley or Tony Haskins, High

Plains Technology Center, 3921

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RISK REDUCTION

To protect yourself & your friends from incidents of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence & stalking, there are preventive measures you can take to reduce risk.

- ◆ Trust your instincts. If you're uncomfortable, don't worry about offending someone—just get out of there.
- ◆ Make your limits known as early as possible
- ◆ Say “NO” clearly and firmly
- ◆ Notice when your boundaries aren't being respected and assert your right to have them respected
- ◆ Be “**situationally aware**” by taking note of your surroundings and who is present.
- ◆ Don't be afraid to ask for help in situations where you don't feel safe
- ◆ Be responsible regarding alcohol and drugs. These substances can lower your inhibitions and make you vulnerable.
- ◆ Walk with others.
- ◆ Lock doors and windows in your car and living space.
- ◆ Look out for your friends and ask them to look out for you, too.
- ◆ Respect a friend who challenges you if you're about to make a poor decision.

Reducing the Risk of Being an Aggressor

To make sure you don't perpetrate a crime of sexual or relationship violence:

- ◆ Listen to your partner & respect his/her personal boundaries.
- ◆ Don't allow drugs or alcohol to compromise your ability to make good decisions.
- ◆ Don't make assumptions about consent—communicate!
- ◆ Remember that someone who is drunk or drugged can't give consent.

BYSTANERS INTERVENTION

When an incident of sexual or relationship violence is about to take place, bystanders can intervene simply & safely often flipping the switch to change the outcome. Some positive ways to intervene include:

- ◆ Provide a distraction that interrupts an interaction.
- ◆ Start a conversation with one or more of the involved parties.
- ◆ Get police or other authorities involved.
- ◆ Tell someone else and get help.
- ◆ Ask someone in a potentially dangerous situation if he or she is ok or wants to leave.
- ◆ Remind a potential perpetrator that incapacitated people can't give consent.
- ◆ Help remove someone from the situation.
- ◆ Provide options and a listening ear.

Don't just hope that someone else will step in. You have the ability to stop a terrible, life-altering situation. Be part of the solution.

Being a Proactive Bystander

There are multiple actions you can take to help prevent sexual and relationship violence proactively too, such as:

- ◆ Speak up when you hear victim-blaming statements.
- ◆ Talk with your friends about confronting sexual and relationship violence.
- ◆ Educate yourself and your friends and look out for each other.
- ◆ Use campus resources.

Provide a Distraction

Sometimes all it takes is a distraction to interrupt a potentially dangerous interaction.

- ◆ Call a friend's cell repeatedly
- ◆ Spill something on purpose.
- ◆ Interrupt the conversation.
- ◆ Turn off the music.
- ◆ Tell the potential perpetrator, “Your car is being towed!”
- ◆ Matter-of-fact pull your friends away, saying “We need to leave” and then go.



**SEXUAL ASSAULT,
DATING VIOLENCE,
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
&
STALKING ON CAMPUS**
Prevention, Awareness
&
How the Violence Against
Women Act
PROTECTS YOU

The Violence against Women Act
Protects people of all genders.