Sexual Assault

Laguna College of Art and Design prohibits rape, acquaintance rape, and sexual assault. Sexual assault is a violation of the College’s Code of Conduct, as well as a violation of the law. In an effort to reduce the risk of sexual assault occurring among its students, the College will electronically send out awareness and prevention information to the LCAD Community.

In the event that a sexual assault does occur, the College takes the matter very seriously. A student who is found to have committed sexual assault on or off campus is subject to immediate suspension, or dismissal from LCAD. If a student is accused of sexual assault, s/he is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the stated Code of Conduct in the LCAD Student Handbook. A student wishing to officially report such an incident may do so by contacting the Director of Student Affairs, Laura Patrick, or the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Helene Garrison. Anyone with knowledge about a sexual assault is encouraged to report it immediately to campus security authorities.

Legal Definitions

Rape is generally defined as forced sexual intercourse. It may also include situations where the victim is incapable of giving consent due to a disability or intoxication. Many rapes are committed by someone the victim knows, such as a date or friend.

Under California law, rape is sexual intercourse against the will of the victim that can occur under a variety of circumstances, including:

- Where the victim is prevented from resisting due to alcohol or drugs.
- Where the assailant uses physical force or the threat of force to overpower and control the victim.
- Where the victim fears that she or he or another will be injured if the victim does not submit.
- Where the victim is at the time unconscious of the nature of the act, and this is known to the assailant.
- Where the victim is incapable of giving legal consent due to a mental disorder or developmental or physical disability, and this is known or reasonably should be known to the assailant.
- Where the act is accomplished by threatening to use the authority of a public official to incarcerate, arrest, or deport the victim or another person.
- Where the assailant uses duress, such as a direct or implied threat of hardship or retribution, to coerce the victim.
- Where the assailant uses force, fear, or threats to accomplish sexual intercourse against the will of the spouse. This provision of the law is known as the "spousal rape law."

The complete California rape law is contained in Section 261 of the Penal Code. The spousal rape law is set forth in Section 262.
Other Sexual Assaults

Besides rape, other sexual assault crimes include the following: sodomy (forced anal intercourse); oral copulation (forced oral-genital contact); rape by a foreign object (forced penetration by a foreign object, including a finger); and sexual battery (the unwanted touching of an intimate part of another person for the purpose of sexual arousal).

Resources

For information about registered sex offenders in California, and how to protect yourself and your family, visit the Department of Justice's Internet website at http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/

If You Are Sexually Assaulted

1. Report- Go to a safe place and speak with someone you trust. Tell this person what happened. If there is any immediate danger, call 911 and report the incident to a campus security authority.

2. Seek Medical Attention- For your safety and well being, immediate medical attention is encouraged. Further, being examined as soon as possible, ideally within 72 hours, is important. To preserve evidence, it is best that you do not bathe, shower, douche, or change clothes before that exam. Even if you have already bathed, you are still encouraged to have prompt medical care. Additionally, you are encouraged to gather bedding, linens, or unlaundered clothing and any other pertinent articles, which may be used for evidence.

3. Call Support Services- Community Services Programs, Inc. (CSP) operates a sexual assault victim service and prevention program that provides extended support services to victims of rape and child sexual abuse. Rape Crisis Centers are located in Santa Ana and Irvine. Certified sexual assault counselors, working with law enforcement and the criminal justice system serve all of Orange County. Staff and volunteers respond to hospitals and police departments on request. Support groups for survivors of sexual assault are offered in English and Spanish.

CSP Phone Numbers:

Sexual Assault Victim Services for North Orange County:

- (714) 834-4317

Sexual Assault Victim Services for South Orange County:

- (949) 752-1971
Rape Crisis Hotlines – 24 Hour Counseling:

- (714) 957-2737
- (949) 831-9110

4. Consider Campus Counseling- Even after the immediate crisis has passed, counseling and medical assistance referral may be sought from the Student Services Office, with the knowledge that the information received will remain confidential. LCAD’s campus counselor provides mental health counseling and is available to students on a weekly basis. Contact the Student Services Office to arrange an appointment.