



Sexual Assault Response Services *of Southern Maine*

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ACTIONS THAT MEAN “NO”

Looking down
Crying
Cringing
Moving Away
Avoiding being alone with you
Reluctance to get into your car

At any point in a sexual encounter a person has the right to stop. It is never too late to say NO. There is no such thing as an uncontrollable sexual urge, so there are no excuses for not stopping. Remember, when you don't take no for an answer you are infringing on another person's rights. Forced sex isn't really sex. It is a violent crime, even if you know the other person or are out on a date. Rape is illegal and causes lifetime consequences for the survivor (the rape victim). It can also put you in jail for long time.

Some people think that being drunk or high on drugs is an excuse for rape. The truth is that drugs and alcohol do not take away your ability to control your behavior. If you claim you were out of control, you are just making an excuse. You are always responsible for your behavior. Getting a person drunk or high in order to have sex is also unacceptable. It does not lessen the responsibility of the offender, who is taking advantage of the person's inability for self-protection and to set limits. Using someone for sex is illegal.

Help, Hope, and Healing