

I'm interested in the Sexual Assault Counseling program at The Listening Ear.

I would like to:

- ___ Have a SAC counselor speak to my community group.
- ___ Learn more about SAC services.
- ___ Become a Listening Ear volunteer.
- ___ Donate \$ _____ to SAC and The Listening Ear.

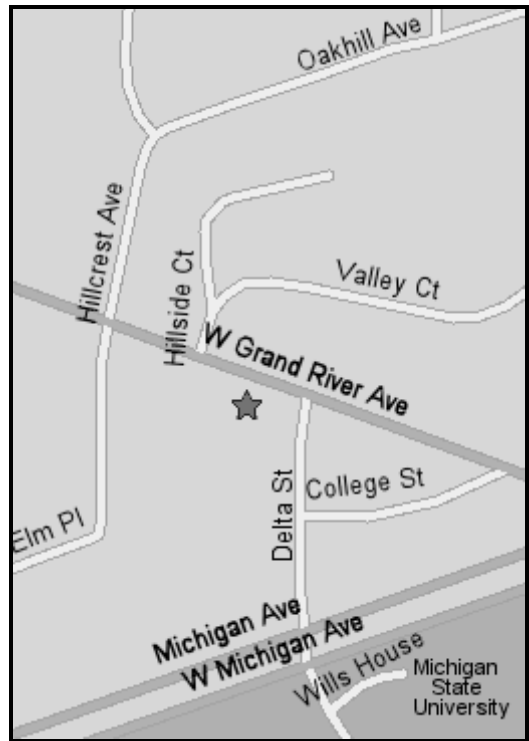
Name _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
E-mail _____

Please mail this sheet to:

The Listening Ear, Attn: SAC
313 West Grand River Ave.
East Lansing, MI 48823-4213

"Myths and Facts About Rape" is a publication of The Listening Ear. It may be freely redistributed so long as the content remains unchanged.

The Listening Ear is a non-profit crisis center located in East Lansing, Michigan. We have served the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year without interruption since 1969.



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Sexual Assault Counseling

Myths and Facts About Rape

The Listening Ear
313 West Grand River
East Lansing, MI 48823-4213

(517) 337-1717

24-hour Crisis Center

Myths and Facts About Rape

Rape is one of the most misunderstood crimes in our country today. Rape myths are common misconceptions and false beliefs that lead people to deny or ignore many instances of rape. These myths create an environment where rape survivors often remain silent for fear of being blamed, and rapists continue to rape, at times without even realizing that their actions are a crime.

Rape Doesn't Happen Much These Days

Rape occurs with alarming frequency. While underreporting makes it impossible to give exact statistics, studies estimate that as many as 1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men will be raped in their lifetimes.

Women Make Up Accusations of Rape to Get Back at a Man

FBI studies show the rate of false reporting for rape to be about 2% - the same as for any other crime.

Most Rapes are Interracial

In fact, most perpetrators of rape choose victims of their own race.

Most Rapes Involve Strangers

The "Stranger Lurking in the Bushes" scenario is a common rape myth. In reality, about 4 out of 5 rapes (80%) are committed by friends, spouses, or family members of the victim. By focusing on stranger rape, we ignore the more common problems of acquaintance rape, date rape, and incest.

Women Secretly Want to be Raped

Nobody wants to be raped. Rape is a brutal, degrading, humiliating crime that strips control away from the victim.

Sometimes Women Deserve It

Nobody deserves to be raped. Rape is the only crime where people ask "What did the victim do to deserve it?" instead of "Why did the perpetrator choose to rape?"

Rape is the responsibility of the rapist. Always. To ignore that responsibility is to excuse the perpetrators and give permission for them to continue raping.

Rape Happens Mostly to Poor Women

Rape can happen to everyone, of all races, ages, and economic classes.

Rapists are Insane or Psychotic

Most rapists are unremarkable in appearance or demeanor. In fact, a 1980 study by Malamuth, Haber, and Feshback found that 51% of college-aged men admitted they would consider committing rape if assured they would get away with it. These were "normal" men, selected at random.

There's Nothing I can do to Stop the Problem of Rape

There are many things you can do:

- 1. Take responsibility for your actions and attitudes.*
- 2. Challenge rape myths when you hear others talking about them.*
- 3. Communicate and Listen - Talk to men. Talk to women. For years, people have been afraid to talk about rape, but silence allows perpetrators to continue raping.*
- 4. Finally, if a friend tells you they have been raped, **believe them.***