Assault, Physical

Assault includes any behavior, whether intentional or reckless, which results in bodily injury to another person and/or damage to property. Included in this would be any behavior, intentional or reckless, that by its nature would be understood (*interpreted*) by a reasonable person as intent to harm another person or to damage his/her property. Threats may be oral or written. They may be communicated through regular mail, computer, fax, or phone. These threats may be direct or implied.

FORMS OF ASSAULT INCLUDE

- Physically assaulting a person. This includes physical threats to inflict physical harm as well as:
  - Slapping.
  - Hitting.
  - Poking.
  - Kicking.
  - Punching.
  - Pushing.
- Arson.
- Sabotage.
- Equipment vandalism.
- Damaging or destroying property.
- Throwing or hitting objects.
- Displaying a weapon or an object that appears to be a weapon in a threatening manner.
  - Carrying a firearm of any kind.
  - Using a weapon to harm someone.
- Using greater physical size/strength to intimidate another.
  - Making intimidating or threatening gestures.
  - Bullying.
  - Hazing.
- Intimidating, threatening, hostile, or abusive language directed toward another person.
  - It communicates the intention to engage in violence against that person. And it leads a reasonable person to expect that violent behavior may occur.
- Stalking another person.

IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN

- Should this occur again, immediately call for emergency help (911 in U.S.).
- If someone poses clear and immediate danger to you, seek legal authorities to have a protective or restraining order put in place.
- Less threatening assaults can at least be reported to authorities.

STEPS TO TAKE IF A SEXUAL ASSAULT HAS HAPPENED

- Go to an area of safety. This may include a shelter or staying with a friend. Stay away from the area where you have been attacked. A large percentage of sexual assaults are caused by a friend, relative or associate.
- **If medications were given by your caregiver, take them as directed** for the full length of time prescribed.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- If you have come in contact with a sexual disease, find out if you are to be tested again. If your caregiver is concerned about the HIV/AIDS virus, he/she may require you to have continued testing for several months.
- For the protection of your privacy, test results can not be given over the phone. Make sure you receive the results of your test. If your test results are not back during your visit, make an appointment with your caregiver to find out the results. Do not assume everything is normal if you have not heard from your caregiver or the medical facility. It is important for you to follow up on all of your test results.
- File appropriate papers with authorities. This is important in all assaults, even if it has occurred in a family or by a friend.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF

- You have new problems because of your injuries.

- You have problems that may be because of the medicine you are taking, such as:
  - Rash.
  - Itching.
  - Swelling.
  - Trouble breathing.
- You develop belly *(abdominal)* pain, feel sick to your stomach *(nausea)* or are vomiting.
- You begin to run a temperature.
- You need supportive care or referral to a rape crisis center. These are centers with trained personnel who can help you get through this ordeal.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF

- You are afraid of being threatened, beaten, or abused. In U.S., call 911.
- You receive new injuries related to abuse.
- You develop severe pain in any area injured in the assault or have any change in your condition that concerns you.
- You faint or lose consciousness.
- You develop chest pain or shortness of breath.

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