

# HYDE COUNTY HOTLINE, INC.

*We are committed to promoting dignity, respect and safety at home resulting in safer community.*

Visit us at: Website: [HydeCounty-Hotline.org](http://HydeCounty-Hotline.org) Facebook: [Hyde County Hotline](#)

## August 2018 Newsletter

### This Is Why I Didn't Tell You He Was Beating Me

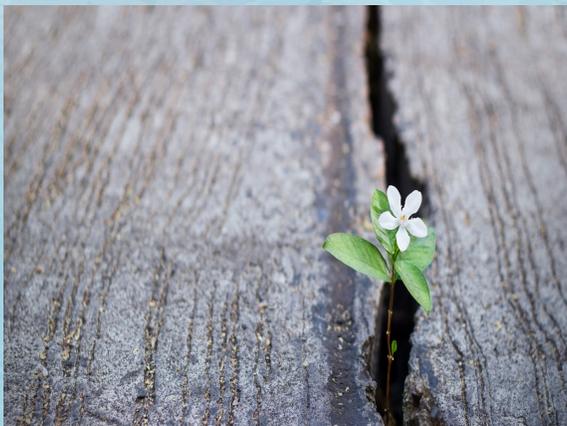
Understanding the mind-set of a domestic violence victim is almost impossible to do. Unless, like this writer, you've been one.

....One day you bump into her at the grocery store, and you're shocked by her appearance. She'd always been so meticulous about how she dressed, especially in public. And now she's wearing sweat pants—she'd never be caught dead wearing those outside of the house or gym! Yet here she is, not only in sweats, but they're stained, and she's wearing a baggy T-shirt, her hair, usually perfectly coiffed, now pulled into a sloppy ponytail. Her fingernails are ragged and unpolished.

She looks tired.

But you're so happy to see her you pull her into a tight hug. She stiffens in your arms, as though she's in pain. You let go—surprised. And then you take a really good look at her face.

She won't meet your eyes. Her mouth trembles a little, and her lips are chapped. *Is that a fading bruise on her cheek?* You're thinking. *No, it must be the lighting.....* [Click to read.](#)



#### Did you know?

On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men

# What is the North Carolina Age of Consent?

The North Carolina Age of Consent is **16 years old**. In the United States, the age of consent is the minimum age at which an individual is considered legally old enough to consent to participation in sexual activity. Individuals aged 15 or younger in North Carolina are not legally able to consent to sexual activity, and such activity may result in prosecution for statutory rape.

North Carolina statutory rape law is violated when a person has consensual sexual intercourse with an individual under age 16. A close in age exemption exists when the offender is less than 4 years older. No employee of a K-12 (unless they are not a teacher, administrator, student teacher, safety officer, or coach) may engage in sexual activity with a student, unless they are married, regardless of age.

## North Carolina Age Of Consent Law:

§ 14-27.7A. Statutory rape or sexual offense of person who is 13, 14, or 15 years old.

(a) A defendant is guilty of a Class B1 felony if the defendant engages in vaginal intercourse or a sexual act with another person who is 13, 14, or 15 years old and the defendant is at least six years older than the person, except when the defendant is lawfully married to the person.

(b) A defendant is guilty of a Class C felony if the defendant engages in vaginal intercourse or a sexual act with another person who is 13, 14, or 15 years old and the defendant is more than four but less than six years older than the person, except when the defendant is lawfully married to the person.

Criminal Charge	Severity	Punishment
<a href="#">Incest</a> Class B1 felony; Class C felony (defendant is give life w/o parole if victim under 12 or if defendant has prior B1 conviction ); 44 to 182 months in prison		Minimum sentence of imprisonment is 25 years
<a href="#">Indecent liberties between children</a>	Class 1 misdemeanor	Up to 120 days in prison
<a href="#">Intercourse and sexual offenses with certain victims</a>	Class E felony	15 to 63 months in prison
<a href="#">Rape of a child (under 13)</a> Class B1 felony (defendant is give life w/o parole if victim under 12 or if defendant has prior B1 conviction )		Minimum sentence of imprisonment is 25 years
<a href="#">Rape- first degree</a> Class B1 felony (defendant is give life w/o parole if victim under 12 or if defendant has prior B1 conviction )		Minimum sentence of imprisonment is 25 years
<a href="#">Sexual offense with a child (under 13)</a> Class B1 felony (defendant is give life w/o parole if victim under 12 or if defendant has prior B1 conviction )		Minimum sentence of imprisonment is 25 years
<a href="#">Sexual Offense- first degree</a> Class B1 felony (defendant is give life w/o parole if victim under 12 or if defendant has prior B1 conviction )		Minimum sentence of imprisonment is 25 years
<a href="#">Statutory rape or sexual offense of a person who is 13-15 years old</a> Class B1 felony; Class C felony (defendant is give life w/o parole if victim under 12 or if defendant has prior B1 conviction ); 44 to 182 months in prison		Minimum sentence of imprisonment is 25 years
<a href="#">Taking indecent liberties with children</a>	Class F felony	10 to 41 months in prison

# What's love got to do with it?



## Sexual Assault

**NOTHING!**

**There is not love involved; sexual assault is an act of power, force and control.**

### What is it?

Sexual assault is any forced sexual activity that is against the person's will. The force comes in many forms: physical, mental and emotional coercion and/or manipulation. Sexual assault is a term that encompasses many crimes against women including (but not limited to) date rape, rape, dating violence and battering.

### Why me?

It is **not** your fault. Anyone can be a victim. A woman can be raped regardless of her age, appearance and behaviors. Women who are ninety years old and even infants are raped. You are not responsible for the behavior of an attacker merely because of what you wear, where you are, what time you are out or who you are with.

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## What is happening to me?

When confronted with sexual assault, it is normal for the victim to experience fear, anxiety and helplessness. This is an understandable reaction under the circumstances, and a victim should never be condemned for having suffered this common reaction. This unexpected flood of emotions and fear is a normal outcome of the assault and can reoccur over time. Sometimes a victim may experience “flashbacks” years after the attack. For your emotional health, you may want to consider talking with a professional counselor you work through your anxieties.

## Who did this to me?

You could have been attacked by a stranger, a date, a friend, a neighbor, a relative or even your husband. Attackers can come from all areas of society regardless of age, race, appearance or social standing. More than likely the person who attacked you will be someone you know. Statistics show that in nearly 80% of the cases the victim knew her assailant. Most attackers do not fit any particular pattern; therefore, if you know your attacker, it does not make you a poor judge of character.

**“Sometimes a victim may experience “flashbacks” years after the attack.”**

## What is the next step?

After a sexual assault you may be unsure what to do next. It is important for you to feel safe and secure.

Your safety and health are priorities. Call 911 for assistance or go directly to an emergency medical facility. Ask to have a rape crisis counselor meet you. It is important that you seek medical attention to check for STD's, internal physical injuries or pregnancy. This should be done whether or not you plan to file a criminal complaint against your attacker-it is for your health.

In spite of the fact that you feel like bathing, don't clean up before going to the doctor. Preserve all physical evidence. Do not shower, bathe or douche. Save the clothing you were wearing at the time of the assault. Do not disturb anything in the area where the assault occurred.

If you would like the emotional support of a friend or relative, it's okay to call someone. The rape crisis counselor can help your friend or family member understand what is happening too.

Seek the counseling and information of the Hyde County Hotline. The aftermath of the assault can be a difficult readjustment and grieving period for you and your family and friends. Hotline can help with information, referrals for therapy or other needed services, accompaniment through the court proceedings, and support during the healing process.

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## What does Hotline offer the sexual assault victim?

### Following a sexual assault, a rape crisis counselor provides:

- Response to medical or law enforcement facilities to provide emotional support and information for the victim.
- Referral for appropriate counseling and victim services.
- Support and advocacy as the sexual assault survivor makes decisions regarding options available through the court.

*If the world seems cold to you, kindle fires to warm it.”  
~ Lucy Larcom*

Warmth can be found in the support of friends, family and caring professionals.

**IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT!**

**Do not remain a silent victim.**

For information or assistance...

**Reach Out!**

**1-252-925-2500**

**24 hour crisis line**

**Hyde County Hotline, Inc.**

A private, non-profit organization in Hyde County, NC dedicated to promoting dignity, respect and safety at home resulting in safer communities.

PO Box 335  
Engelhard, NC 27824

# Hyde County Hotline

Serving victims of Domestic Abuse  
and Sexual Victimization

**24 Hour Crisis Line**

**252-925-2500**

PO Box 335, Engelhard, NC 27824  
Advocacy Office 252-925-2502



**We love Volunteers!**  
Please help and call  
Hyde County Hotline  
252-925-2502.



 Nothing Compares 



**Thank you to the family Violence Prevention Services Program  
US DHHS, and NC Council for Women for financial support.**