## UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

## WHAT IS RAPE?

Rape is sexual intercourse without the consent of the other person, or sexual intercourse with someone who cannot legally give consent

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Large percentages of rapes leave no physical marks or injuries and involve no weapon
- Perpetrators rely on intimidation, fear, inexperience, and sometimes intoxication
- Rape is an act of violence and not sex
- Rape is having control over someone, not sexual intimacy
- It is never okay to force or coerce someone to have sex
- NO means NO
- No person deserves to be raped
- Rape is violence
- A rape victim is never at fault, regardless of what they were wearing, or how they are behaving
- The perpetrator is responsible for their own behavior



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24-hour hotline: 417-864-SAFE(7233) / 819 N. Boonville, Springfield, MO 65802 / www.thevictimcenter.org