What is S.A.R.T.?

S.A.R.T., the Sexual Assault Response Team, is a telephone response line for University of Miami students. The S.A.R.T. phone is a cellular phone that an advocate carries 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to assist victims of sexual assault. This service is available to both men and women. The S.A.R.T. program is organized under the direction and training of the University of Miami Counseling Center.

Facts

1. Sexual Assault is an act of violence. It is an attempt to control and degrade, using sex as a weapon.
2. Sexual Assault can happen to anyone: children, students, the rich and poor, men and women.
3. Sexual abusers can be anyone: classmates, co-workers, ugly or attractive, outgoing or shy.
4. One in four college age women are survivors of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault.

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Important Numbers

SART: 305-798-6666
UM Police: 305-284-6666
Coral Gables Police: 305-442-1600
Counseling Center: 305-284-5511
**Helping a Sexual Assault Survivor**

1. Believe your friend. Not being believed is what victims fear most.

2. Concentrate on understanding his/her feelings.

3. Make it clear that the survivor is not to blame. Poor judgment does not make a crime the victim’s fault.

4. Offer to provide concrete support, such as going with your friend to get medical help, calling S.A.R.T. (305)-798-6666, UM Police (305)-284-6666, 911, or other helping people.

5. Ask how you can help, but don’t be discouraged if your friend isn’t sure.

6. If a friend trusts you, do not tell anyone about the assault without your friend’s permission.

**When you call...**

- When you call S.A.R.T. an advocate will answer and give you his/her first name. You do not have to give your name unless you wish to do so.

- Tell the advocate why you called. Let them know what you need and if you want to talk. If you do not know what you need, the advocate will help you figure that out.

- If you wish, s/he can meet you on campus or at the Jackson Hospital Rape Treatment Center to speak with you personally.

- The S.A.R.T. advocate will always leave decisions of what to do in your hands.

- S.A.R.T. advocates will let you know what to expect. They are there to listen and to care.

**Protecting Yourself**

**Use Your Head!**

Be Alert! Walk with confidence and purpose.

Be aware of you surroundings — know who is out there and what is going on.

Do not let alcohol or other drugs cloud your judgment.

Trust your instincts. If a situation or place makes you feel uncomfortable or uneasy, leave!

**Your First Steps**

If you have been taken advantage of sexually:

1. Call the police.
2. Do not shower or bathe.
3. Place clothing/bedding in a bag.
4. Do not disturb the crime scene.
5. Call S.A.R.T.