

## SEXUAL ABUSE

What is Sexual Abuse?

In order to understand sexual abuse, we must define both sexual harassment and rape.

Sexual Harassment is defined as the unwelcome, unreciprocated imposition of sexual attention, usually in the context of a relationship of unequal power

Rape is defined as an act of sexual penetration with a person against his/her will

Both of these actions fall under the definition of sexual abuse. There are many types of sexual abuse. Sexually abusive behavior occurs on a continuum ranging from harassment to rape and usually falls into one of two categories, verbal and physical

### **Verbal abuse may include:**

- whistling
- humor and jokes about sex or male or specific traits
- suggestive or insulting sounds
- sexual innuendoes about your or someone else's personal appearance
- demands for sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats

### **Physical abuse may include:**

- obscene gesture
- staring suggestively
- any inappropriate touching, pinching or pats
- brushing against someone else's body
- coerced sexual intercourse
- assault

What Should You Do?

Confront situations. If you observe someone sexually abusing another individual, either verbally or physically, stop them and tell them you do not like what you are seeing or hearing.

If you have knowledge of sexual abuse incident, inform a chapter office and the chapter adviser.

If there is merit to the allegations, the chapter prior and chapter advisor should contact the Executive Office immediately.

Act quickly and responsibly.

Understand that you are responsible for your own actions as an individual and as a member of a group.

Understand your own sexuality and be aware of social pressures.

***UNDERSTAND THAT NO" REALLY MEANS NO!***