

PROTECTING YOUR POSSE FROM DRUG-FACILITATED ASSAULTS

Having sex with someone who cannot resist or say "no" because the person is drugged, drunk, passed out, unconscious, or asleep may be sexual assault. The fact that a person has been drinking does not imply consent. When there is any uncertainty about a person's ability to give consent, it is best to wait for another time. Simply put, when in doubt, don't.

In a perfect world violence would not exist and neither would drug facilitated sexual assaults but until that day comes we've got to look out for ourselves and each other.

Protect Yourself and Your Posse

- Be aware of your surroundings, particularly at parties, bars and clubs and trust your instincts.
- Don't accept opened drinks, including nonalcoholic ones, (no matter how hot they are).
- If someone offers you a drink from the bar at a club or party, accompany the person to the bar to order your drink, watch the drink being poured, then carry the drink yourself.
- Don't drink from bottles or containers being passed around or share or exchange drinks with anyone (even if it's a friend, you don't know if their drink has been altered).
- No matter how appealing it looks or delicious it may taste, don't drink home-made vats of mixed drinks from a bath tub, community cooler, etc.
- If possible, bring your own drinks to parties (alcoholic and non-alcoholic).
- Don't leave your drink unattended while talking, dancing, using the restroom, etc. Take it with you everywhere.
- If you realize your drink has been left unattended set it free.
- Don't drink anything that has an unusual taste or appearance (e.g., salty taste, excessive foam, unexplained residue).
- In advance of going out, make plans with your friends to check on each other (especially the designated sober person).
- If you start to feel strange or unusually intoxicated, seek help from a friend or someone you trust.
- Go home with the same group of people you went out with.
- Don't mix sex and alcohol. Alcohol impairs inhibitions, judgment and decision-making.

Signs You May Have Been Drugged

- Feeling much more intoxicated than your usual response to the amount of alcohol you consumed.
- Waking up very hung over, feeling "fuzzy."

- Experience memory lapse or "loss of time."
- Unable to recall what happened for a period of time after you consumed a drink.
- Feeling as though someone had sex with you, but unable to remember parts of or the entire incident.

Not everyone is affected by these drugs the same way. The effects may vary depending upon the drug, the dosage, and whether the drug is mixed with alcohol or other drugs. Other factors that influence how a particular drug will affect you are your weight, gender and metabolism

If you or a person you know might have been drugged and/or assaulted under the influence of any drug

- Go to a safe place and get help immediately, call 911 or the campus emergency number.
- Ask a trusted friend to stay with you and assist you in getting the services you need.
- Get medical care immediately. Go to a hospital emergency department as soon as possible for an examination and evidence collection.
- Try not to urinate prior to providing urine samples. If possible, find cups or glasses from which you drank and/or a sample of the suspect beverage, and submit these to the police for laboratory tests.
- If you think you may have been sexually assaulted, you should have a specialized sexual assault examination. Preserve all physical evidence of the assault. If possible, do not shower, bathe, douche, eat, drink, wash your hands, or brush your teeth before you have a medical evaluation. Save the clothing you were wearing at the time of the assault. Try not to disturb anything in the area where the assault may have occurred.
- Call a rape crisis center for support and information. You can contact RAINN at 1-800-656-HOPE and they will connect you to a rape crisis center in your area.