

# Accountability and Bystander Intervention

## HOLDING MEMBERS ACCOUNTABLE

### Utilizing Honor Board

If a member is named as a perpetrator of sexual assault, the member should be asked to attend an Honor Board meeting utilizing proper procedures outlined in the Sergeant-at-Arms manual.

The goal of meeting with this member is not to interrogate but rather to discuss the allegations and learn the new member or member's account of the situation. The honor board's objective is not to determine whether or not the assault took place—it is to determine whether there is enough information to reasonably determine that the member or new member violated their oath or did not meet expectations of membership.

If the Honor Board determines that the member committed actions (whether they reach the definition of sexual assault or not) that are considered inconsistent with the Fraternity's values, the Honor Board can sanction the member appropriately, including, but not limited to:

- Educational tasks (self-reflection essay, exploring opportunities for restorative justice)
- Revocation of privileges (voiding of housing contract, restriction from social events, etc)
- Suspension
- Expulsion

## UTILIZING CAMPUS RESOURCES

Your college/university has a dedicated employee(s) for Title IX complaints. Many institutions also have dedicated offices or units for supporting survivors of sexual violence.

Educate your chapter on these resources. Invite a staff member from the Title IX office to speak at a chapter meeting and conduct an educational program!

There is likely at least one student organization on your campus that is dedicated to supporting survivors and/or eradicating sexual assault on your campus. Consider co-hosting an event with this group or encourage your members to attend its events and support its mission.

Many Interfraternity Councils (IFC) have established a committee or sub-organization focused on educating fraternity men about sexual violence. If such an organization doesn't exist on your campus and members are passionate about the topic your chapter might take the lead in establishing one.



## DELTA TAU DELTA

*Resources for this document:*

- <https://www.rainn.org/articles/your-role-preventing-sexual-assault>
- <https://rainn.org/articles/practicing-active-bystander-interventiononga=2.106125123.1397309785.1649358215-1427379908.1649358215>

# YOUR ROLE IN PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT

*The only person responsible for committing sexual assault is a perpetrator, but all of us have the ability to look out for each other's safety.*

Whether it's giving someone a safe ride home from a party or directly confronting a person who is engaging in threatening behavior, anyone can help prevent sexual violence.

## PRACTICING ACTIVE BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

An active bystander is someone who interrupts a potentially harmful situation, especially when it comes to sexual violence. They may not be directly involved but they do have the choice and opportunity to speak up and intervene.

In these situations, you can play an important role in addressing interpersonal violence on and off campus. Taking action and interfering safely is an essential skill. Stepping in can make all the difference, but it should never put your own safety at risk.

**Below are ways you can be an effective, active bystander without posing risk to yourself.**

### Create a Distraction

Distracting is a subtle and innovative way of intervening.

The purpose of distraction is to interrupt the incident, safely, by communicating with the individual at risk and giving them an opportunity to safely exit the potentially dangerous situation. Try creating a distraction as early as possible.

This technique can be used to de-escalate the situation and re-direct the attention of the aggressor or the individual at risk to something else.

### Ask Directly

Asking directly to the individual at risk can help you determine if an action needs to be taken immediately to ensure a safe environment. You can address the individual at risk directly. You can ask one of the following:

“Do you need help?”

“Would you like me to stay with you?”

“Would you like to get out of here and go somewhere safe?”

Make sure to ask the question when the perpetrator is not listening or nearby in order to de-escalate the situation from turning into a crisis.



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## Rally Others

It can be intimidating to approach a situation alone. If you need to, enlist another person to support you:

Ask someone to come with you to approach the person at risk. Sometimes there is power in numbers.

Enlist the friend of the person you're concerned about. "Your friend looks like they've had a lot to drink. Can you check on them?"

Sometimes the safest way to intervene is to enlist an authority figure like a resident assistant, bartender, bouncer or security guard. This option will allow you to have others on your side and can offer additional safety from the perpetrator.

## Extend Support

After experiencing such a situation, the individual at risk may feel panicked and be unsure about what to do next. Extending a helping hand and an empathetic ear can make a huge difference. Offer appropriate resources and options for how you can support them. You can ask:

"Do you want me to walk with you to your destination?"

"Is there anything I can do to support you?"

"Would you like resources for support and guidance following this incident?"

If the individual wants resources, you can share contact numbers for your campus' health, student support and advocacy centers. You can also share the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800.656-HOPE (4673) or [rainn.org](https://rainn.org)); it's free, confidential, and available 24/7. Extending support is an important part of bystander intervention because it allows the individual at risk to heal and connect with a supportive community for recovery and restoration.

## Your Actions Matter

Whether or not you were able to change the outcome of the situation, by stepping in you are helping change the way people think about their roles in preventing sexual violence. If you suspect that someone you know has been sexually assaulted, there are steps you can take to support that person.

- Learn more about steps you can take to prevent a sexual assault and [show you C.A.R.E.](#)
- Identify ways to [help someone you care about.](#)
- Learn more about [how to respond](#) when someone discloses sexual assault or abuse.

To speak with someone who is trained to help, call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673) or chat online at [online.rainn.org](https://online.rainn.org).



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*Links can be found throughout this document by hovering over underlined content*

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