



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
**SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION
AND RESPONSE OFFICE**



SAFETY ASSESSMENT TOOL

MAY 9, 2023

Purpose:

This tool may be used to assist first-responders when determining whether a victim of sexual assault is in imminent danger of serious physical and mental harm that requires rapid and assertive action or intervention from law enforcement officials and healthcare providers. In addition, the tool may be used to decide which available interventions should be utilized to provide safety planning and protection. After the determination and prediction of risk, the victim should be periodically checked for warning signs of suicide, self-harm/abuse, or harming others.

When supporting a victim of a sexual assault, be aware of circumstances that some vulnerable populations may face (i.e., sex, cultural factors, disabilities, sexual orientation, language, or rank) and how this may affect the way a victim makes decisions and responds to first responders and law enforcement. For example, victims who are lesbian or gay may have specific privacy needs depending on whether the individual is out to others in their lives. Likewise, victims from certain cultures or religions may be at harm or lose social support should it be discovered that they experienced a sexual assault. Sensitivity and awareness about obstacles, barriers, and risk factors victims face in reporting is of critical importance.

Instructions:

Use this tool for safety risks and ongoing checking of sexual assault victims. Explain the purpose of the assessment to victims. Carefully read each item and the concluding statement to the victim and ensure that all written responses are clear and readable. Tell victims that their responses are voluntary and confidential.

	Ask the questions below	Discussion Points
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have you contacted police/law enforcement because the accused physically threatened, maltreated, or harassed you?• Has the accused ever threatened you with a weapon?• Has the accused ever stalked you?• Have you contacted an emergency hotline for advice?• Have you contacted a friend after the sexual assault event?• Has a friend/family member reported their concern about the accused's threatening behavior?• Have you ever protected yourself from the accused?• Have you ever contacted neighbors for protection?• Does the accused have a criminal record?• Does the accused frequently abuse alcohol or drugs?	If the victim responds positively to these questions, have the victim call 911, crisis hotline, local emergency number, or an intervention staff member.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you have thoughts of harming yourself or someone else?	

	Ask the questions below	Discussion Points
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you been physically examined by medical staff? • Did you sustain a serious injury during the sexual assault event? • Are you currently under medical care? 	<p>Do you have a pregnancy concern?</p> <p>Do you have a sexually transmitted disease concern?</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you feel safe in the barracks/quarters/at home? • Do you feel safe at work? 	If no, why don't you feel safe?
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you feel at risk of being harmed by the accused after talking about the sexual assault event? • Has the accused been acting erratically? • Has the accused stalked you? • Is the accused violent? • Does the accused have a criminal background? • Is the accused suicidal? • Is the accused a flight risk? 	<p>Do you feel at risk of being harmed by the accused's coworkers?</p> <p>Do you feel at risk of being harmed by the accused's friends or family? Have they threatened or intimidated you?</p>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you contacted the command or law enforcement? 	
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the accused in your chain of command? 	
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you come into contact with the accused? 	Do you come into contact with the accused's coworkers?
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you ever had a relationship or friendship with the accused? • Does the accused know any of your passwords or have access to your devices or networks? • Has the accused ever had a relationship with your family members (i.e., spouse, dependents)? • Have you ever lived with the accused? • Do you have children with the accused? 	Can the accused access your phone, computer, Wi-Fi network, or any online accounts?
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the accused know where you live, work, or spend time regularly? 	

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

	Ask the questions below	Discussion Points
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the accused contacted you since the sexual assault event (e.g., face-to-face, telephone, text)? Has the accused contacted you using social media or are they able to view/access your profiles? Has the accused posted information about you? 	<p>Have the accused's coworkers contacted you via social media?</p> <p>Have the accused's friends or family members contacted you via social media?</p>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the accused threatened you directly or in other ways (e.g., threatened to tell other people or the command, threatened to damage your property, or harm your family, friends, or pets)? 	
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you have a system of checking in with a trusted friend or family member before and after leaving your barracks/quarters/home/work? 	
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does your leadership know about the sexual assault? Do you trust your command leadership? Have you experienced any negative responses from the command since reporting the sexual assault? 	
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you feel excluded by leadership or peers from command activities? 	
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you have a civilian or military protective order? 	Has the accused violated the protective order?
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the accused have access to a weapon(s)? 	<p>What type of weapon(s)?</p> <p>Where is the weapon(s) located?</p>
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you have access to a weapon(s)? 	<p>What type of weapon(s)?</p> <p>Where is the weapon(s) located?</p>

Concluding Statement:

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have questions about the assessment and/or your case, your SARC, SAPR Victim Advocate, Special Victim Counsel/Victim Legal Counsel, or counselor can give you further details.

Date/Time/Location: