

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1994
8:30 - NOON**

EXTENDED LENGTH SESSION ONE

**What is Acquaintance Rape:
The Issue of Consent in Student Sexual Relations**

Faculty:

**Flora Devine
Dennis Golden
Madelyn Jacobs
Edward Stoner II**

WHAT IS ACQUAINTANCE RAPE: THE ISSUE OF CONSENT IN STUDENT SEXUAL RELATIONS

PRESENTERS:

FLORA B. DEVINE
VICE PRESIDENT FOR LEGAL
AFFAIRS & INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
DEKALB COLLEGE

DENNIS C. GOLDEN, ED.D
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

MADLYN J. JACOBS, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

EDWARD N. STONER, III
PARTNER, PITTSBURGH OFFICE
REED, SMITH, SHAW & McCLAY

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Consent in Student Sexual Relations**

Flora B. Devine
Phone: (404) 244-2260
Fax: (404) 244-5024

Dennis C. Golden
Phone: (502) 852-6933
Fax: (502) 852-5844

Madelyn J. Jacobs
Phone: (502) 852-6479
Fax: (502) 852-0660

Edward N. Stoner, III
Phone: (412) 288-3131
Fax: (412) 288-3063

In recent years the national media has given considerable attention to the issue of rape on college campuses. The very idea of college students being involved in such incidents is frightening; the reality of it creates an extremely complex set of circumstances.

Both the alleged victim/survivor and the alleged perpetrator have rights. The campus and external community have concerns. The general administration, faculty, staff, alumni; and, more specifically, legal counsel, health services, and student affairs have concerns and responsibilities.

Official review of the incident must move forward and, along with the principal parties, the process may involve family, nurses, peer counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, other doctors, lawyers, courts, campus-based codes of conduct, community interest groups, pressure groups, clergy and, of course, the media.

Therefore, when confronted with a situation when a woman student indicates that "he" is a classmate, a friend, a co-worker, a date or an acquaintance and that "he raped me," it is serious business.

Traditionally, colleges and universities are established for the acquisition, transmission and preservation of knowledge. Their time honored functions are teaching, research and service. Students, however, are the critical mass. They are the core essence, the *raison d'être* and the preferred customers of these institutions. Their welfare, well being, safety and holistic development is an especially vital and compelling part of their total educational emersion. Therefore, colleges and universities must be prepared to be both pro-active and reactive when dealing with the reality of sexual relationships.

The very concept of rape is horrid, and it is a heinous crime. Unfortunately, it occurs anytime, anyplace and all too often on campuses. This presentation will present a complex case study involving student athletes, which will be used as a basis for analysis and discussion. It will deal with the rights of the

accused student(s), the rights of the victim/survivor, education of those involved, medical realities, legal and court procedures, campus-based code(s) of conduct, administrative stress and strain, media relations, and resolutions and decisions. There will be ample time for questions and answers, and audience participation is welcomed and encouraged.

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