

It's time ... to help a friend

Alison (21), Sam (21) and Jackson (22)

I have been living in my college house for three years. I love my school and we try to keep students interested in staying on campus by having a party or event almost every week. This week it's my turn to host and for some reason, there seems to be a lot of new people I don't know.

After a couple of hours at the party, I notice this one girl is pretty drunk. She's a freshman that I've met a couple of times. I see that she's the only girl in a group of guys. As I walk toward her, I overhear her say that she is getting pretty dizzy, so one of the guys - a hockey player I don't know - offers to take her outside to get some air.

This worries me, so I tell of my two friends, Sam and Jackson. They say they know him; he seems like a good guy, and I shouldn't worry. Out of fear, I tell them that I was once raped, so I tend to think the worst in these situations.

As the freshman and the hockey player head outside, I am honestly not sure what I should do. Sam and Jackson understand that it won't be easy for me to confront the situation alone and ask me if there is anything they can do to help.

Activity

Create a network map of WHO might be involved in this situation and WHAT they can do. An answer key appears on the following two pages.

Answer Key

Directions

First, brainstorm the people who are in a position to say or do something.

Below, some examples:

- Someone else in the fraternity or sorority
- One of the group of guys drinking beer
- Advisor to the fraternity or sorority
- The school administration

Then, brainstorm what they might be able to do.

Sample of suggested responses

For Alison

- Sam and Jackson to go with you to talk with the girl and guy who are leaving the party. Some questions that Sam and Jackson can ask the guy: "Where are you going?" "Do they need help?" "Can we join you outside?"
- Some questions that Alison can ask the girl: "Are you OK?" "Do you know this guy?" "Did you come with someone who can take you home?" "Do you want help getting home?"
- Work with the sorority and fraternity to create a safe zone for girls - that these parties and events are places where someone will truly be a big brother or sister and watch out for you.

For Sam and Jackson

- Hearing Alison's concerns, simply stop the guy and girl and check in with them. Ask them: Where are you going, do you need help, and are you joining anyone else outside (e.g., entering a car with only guys).
- Ask Alison to join you to talk with the girl and ask: Are you OK, do you know this guy, do you want help getting home, did you come with someone who can take you home, etc.
- Work with the sorority and fraternity to create a safe zone for girls - so that parties and events are places where someone will truly watch out for you.

Advisor or school officials

- Revisit policies about drinking on campus and educate everyone on campus about the link between drinking and sexual violence
- Create a campus committee to establish policies that will help to keep students safe, looking at both campus safety policies and prevention policies aimed at reducing the perpetration of sexual assault and sexual harassment (e.g., Adopt policies to have a "designated" buddy for any freshman attending a campus party or event)

Others in the fraternity, sorority or one of the groups of guys drinking beer

- Ask the freshman girl who she came with and have them check in with her and take her home
- Talk with the guy to help him be safe - let him know that the girl is too drunk to "consent" to anything and she should go home with friends

Resources

Here is an online video of a similar situation, entitled "Awareness & Prevention Program Sexual Assault: Staying On Guard" by Mind & Media, Inc. To view it, visit: www.mindandmedia.com/education-and-prevention.php