



Alcohol/Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault

<p>What is alcohol/drug facilitated sexual assault?</p>	<p>Sexual assault is defined as sexual touch, contact or penetration that is non-consensual. A large percentage of sexual assaults occur when the perpetrator, victim or both are drinking alcohol or using drugs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The act of utilizing alcohol and/or other drugs to incapacitate a victim in order to commit nonconsensual sexual acts is called alcohol/drug facilitated sexual assault.• In DFSA cases the victim may knowingly consume alcohol or other drugs OR be given those substances without her/his knowledge. Either way, the vulnerability created by the drug is acted upon by the perpetrator.
<p>What drugs are included in this?</p>	<p>While drug facilitated sexual assault became an issue identified with the introduction and use of popular “date rape drugs” the practice of rendering a person impaired and unable to protect her/himself can happen with alcohol or other kinds of mood altering substances.</p> <p>Rohypnol and GHB are call “date rape” drugs because of their potential to cause blackouts and amnesia. Often, victims who have ingested these drugs have no recollection or memory of any events that transpired. They may appear drunk, sedated, or drowsy. Paradoxically, Rohypnol may cause a person to become aggressive.</p> <p>It is important to remember that while these “date rape drugs” get a lot of attention, alcohol is the most commonly used date rape drug!</p>
<p>How does this usually happen?</p>	<p>An offender who uses chemical substances to render a person vulnerable may provide the drug with or without the victim knowing. Some common secret ways of giving someone a mood altering substance include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slipping someone a “mickey,”• Giving someone an unusually strong drink,• Doctoring a drink with rohypnol or GHB• Providing a punch bowl with an unadvertised alcoholic “punch,” <p>More overt ways of making someone consume more alcohol or drugs than they planned might be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offering to continue to buy or supply drinks to someone to ensure they drink more than they intended,• Pressuring someone to drink more than intended as a part of peer pressure• Providing and/or requiring alcohol or drugs as part of an initiation ritual• Suggesting that someone drink/use more drugs in order to “loosen up.” <p>When drugs or alcohol are administered to a person to render her/him vulnerable, it is typical that the perpetrator may also use, but not in the same quantity as the victim. It is in the perpetrator’s interest to remain in control of</p>

What can a victim do?

his faculties.

If you think you have been assaulted while under the influence of a chemical, it is important to seek medical attention quickly. If you choose not to seek medical attention right away consider collecting a sample of your urine in a bottle for further testing. These drugs leave the system quite quickly: traces of rohypnol may be detected up 48-72 hours after an assault; GHB can be detected in the urine only up to 12 hours after ingestion. It metabolizes quickly and the largest amount is excreted two to four hours after ingestion.

A sexual assault forensic examination may be able to determine if someone had sexual contact with you. In Minnesota, that exam can be conducted at no cost to the victim whether or not the victim chooses to make a report to law enforcement.

Consider talking to an advocacy program or the police about your concerns. It is illegal in Minnesota to give someone a controlled substance without their knowledge for the purpose of committing a sexual assault. Depending upon the circumstances, rendering a person vulnerable by providing them openly with alcohol or other drugs and then having sexual contact may also be a crime.

Other considerations:

- Often, victims who have willingly ingested alcohol or drugs and then experience sexual assault are concerned that no one will believe them. Many law enforcement officers have been trained, however, to understand that sex offenders commonly pressure a potential victim to “willingly” drink or take other drugs in order to make that person vulnerable.
- This is an even more serious concern if the victim is under the legal drinking age. If a victim has concerns about that it is important to talk with someone who can help. Many law enforcement agencies in Minnesota will overlook underage drinking or curfew violations when someone reports a sexual assault. Sexual assault is the far more serious concern. Call your local sexual assault advocacy program or speak with an adult you trust to help you know what to do.

How can I find an advocacy program?

Under the “Seek Help” heading on the mncasa.org website you will find a list of advocacy programs organized by county. They have 24 hour phone lines for immediate assistance. Check other fact sheets on mncasa.org to learn more about sexual assault and its affects on victims.

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