

Republic Act 8353: An Act Expanding the Definition of the Crime of Rape and Reclassifying the same as Crime Against Persons.

The Anti-Rape Law of 1997 redefines rape as:

1. A CRIME AGAINST PERSONS

Rape violates a person's well being and not just ones virginity or purity.

The law considers that any person, whether a prostituted person, non-virgin or one who has an active sexual life may be victimized by rape.

2. A PUBLIC OFFENSE

By declaring that rape is a crime against persons, the law no longer considers it as a private crime.

Anyone who has knowledge of the crime may file a case on the victim's behalf.

The prosecution continues even if the victim drops the case or pardons the offender.

Graphics: VANCE GALVIN TIN TANGCUECO,
Most Creative, 2013 18- Day Campaign to End VAW,
Poster Making Contest



WHAT CONSTITUTES RAPE?

Rape is committed:

By a man who shall have sexual intercourse with a woman under any of the following circumstances:

- A. Through force, threat, or intimidation;
- B. When the victim is deprived of reason or is unconscious;
- C. Through fraudulent machination or grave abuse of authority; and
- D. When the victim is under twelve (12) years of age or is demented, even if none of the above circumstances are present.

By any person who, under any of the above circumstances, commits an act of sexual assault by inserting his penis into another person's mouth or anal orifice, or any instrument or object, into the genital or oral orifice of another person.

WHO CAN BE RAPED?

Anyone can be a rape victim, but the incidence of rape is more rampant in women and girls.

WHO CAN COMMIT RAPE?



Any man or woman may be held liable for rape.

It is possible that a man may rape his own wife, an act deemed as "marital rape." The penalty for rape in general may apply on the offender who commits marital rape.



HOW IS THE CRIME PUNISHED?

The penalty varies depending on the act itself and the circumstances surrounding it.

Reclusion Perpetua (*Imprisonment from 20 to 40 years*) is imposed on the offender if rape is committed through sexual intercourse.

Prision Mayor (*Imprisonment from 6 to 12 years*) is imposed on the offender if rape was committed through oral or anal sex or through the use of any object or instrument that was inserted into the mouth or anal orifice of the woman or a man.

This may also be elevated to **Reclusion Temporal** (*Imprisonment from 12 to 20 years*) or **Reclusion Perpetua** depending on the circumstances surrounding the crime.

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WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE IS RAPED?



1. Advise the victim to seek the help of a counselor or a therapist who is an expert in handling cases of sexual abuse.
2. Assist her in securing a safe and temporary shelter if she needs to move to another place for security reasons. She can be referred to a crisis center or any government agency that offers temporary shelter.
3. Make sure that the evidence is safe and intact. This would help should the victim decides to file a case.
4. Secure a Medico-legal certificate from a Medico-legal officer. Absence of bodily injuries does not mean that rape did not occur or that the case may not be pursued anymore.
5. Support the victim along the way when she decides to file a case.
6. Ensure that she is prepared in all aspects. Make her understand the overall picture of the case. Inform her that it is possible that doctors, police, lawyers and judges would not be sensitive to her situation and experience.
7. Help the victim choose the lawyer who understands her most.
8. Coordinate with people who can assist or support her all throughout.

WHERE TO GET HELP?

Philippine National Police (PNP)
Women and Children Protection Center (WCPC)
Camp Crame, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 410-3213 / 532-6690
Aleng Pulis Text Hotline: 0919-777-7377
Women and Children Protection Desk of nearest Police Precinct
Emergency Hotline : 911

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)
Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Desk (VAWCD)
Taft Avenue, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 523-8231 to 38 / 525-6028

DOJ - Public Attorney's Office (DOJ-PAO)
Tel. Nos.: 929-9010 / 526-2747 / 929-9436 to 37 loc. 106 / 107

UP-PGH Women's Desk
Tel. Nos.: 524-2990 / 567-3394 loc. 3072

DOH Hospital's Women and Children Protection Unit
Tel. No. 651-7800 locs. 1726 to 1730

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
Community-Based Services Section (CBSS) Legarda, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 733-0014 to 18 local 116 / 488-2861

Women's Crisis Center (WCC)
Women and Children Crisis Care and Protection Unit
Vito Cruz, Manila
Contact Nos.: 0928-420-0859 / 0999-577-9631

References:

1. The Anti-Rape Law of 1997 and Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act of 1998, NCRFW
2. Ang Batas Laban sa Panggagahasa, Isang Praymer, WLB in cooperation with NCRFW and UNFPA, 1998

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First Prize Winner, 2014 18 Day Campaign to End VAW, Poster Making Contest



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The Anti-Rape Law of 1997