

Did you know?

Marital rape is just as violent, just as degrading, and oftentimes, more traumatic than rape by a stranger. Sometimes it is perpetrated with knives, at gunpoint, repeatedly, brutally, and in front of others. Most often it is the final act in a series of physical and emotional abuses.

A person raped by a stranger has to live with the memory of the experience. A person raped by a spouse has to live with the rapist. Many victims, trapped in a reign of terror, experience repeated sexual assaults over a number of years. The trust and intimacy in a marriage is destroyed when the person who has promised to love and protect, and on whom one may be economically dependent, commits such a brutal and violent crime.

STATEWIDE SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS
RESPONSE HOTLINE
1-800-977-5776

Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault

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***Rape
In
Marriage***

ACASA
Arkansas Coalition
Against Sexual Assault

What is Marital Rape?

Marital rape is the term used to describe nonconsensual sexual acts between partners including wife, husband, ex-husband, ex-wife or intimate, long-term partner. These sexual acts can include: intercourse, anal or oral sex, forced sexual behavior with other individuals, and other unwanted, painful, and humiliating sexual activities. It is rape if your partner uses force, threats, or intimidation to get you to submit to sexual acts.

Marital Rape and The LAW

It is illegal in all 50 states for a male or female to rape his/herspouse. A victim of marital rape can make charges in the same manner as other sexual assault cases. The interview and examination process would be the same as with other types of sexual assault.

There have been marital rape cases successfully prosecuted in the United States; however only a small percentage of these cases actually make it to a criminal trial. Other victims have chosen to sue their partner in civil court for financial compensation for the injuries and suffering.



Types of Marital Rape:

- **Battering Rape**
 - Involves forced sex combined with beatings. This type of sexual assault is primarily motivated by anger toward the victim.
- **Force-Only Rape**
 - Partner uses only as much force as necessary to coerce their spouse into sex. This type of sexual assault is primarily motivated by the need for power over the victim.
- **Obsessive Rape**
 - The partner's sexual interests run toward the strange and perverse, and they are willing to use force to carry activities out. (This is similar to sadistic rape, however, the emphasis is on the obsession rather than the sadism.)

Source: [License to Rape: Sexual Abuse of Wives](#)

By D. Finklehor& K. Yllo

Why is Marital Rape so Damaging to the Survivor?

Victims who are raped by someone with whom they share a life, home, and even a family with experience profound psychological injuries. They are not only violated sexually but their intimate relationship has been betrayed as well. Many victims of marital rape have to cope with a deeply seeded lack of trust in their partners, acute fear, self-doubt, and the overwhelming reality that the sexual attack is likely to happen again. Research has shown that survivors of marital rape are much more likely to be victimized on multiple occasions than victims of stranger or acquaintance rape. These facts are coupled with the reality that most Americans still view marital rape as being "less harmful" than stranger rape, so a survivor may experience limited support from others.

Marriage

Is Not

Consent.