



## DID YOU KNOW?

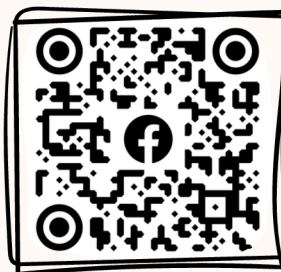
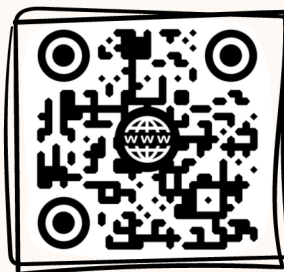
Marital rape is just as violent, just as degrading, and oftentimes, more traumatic than rape by a stranger. Sometimes it is perpetrated with weapons, repeatedly, brutally, and in front of others. Most often, Rape is a final act in a series of physical and emotional abuse.

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

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# RAPE IN MARRIAGE

SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
WITHIN  
RELATIONSHIPS



# WHAT IS MARITAL RAPE?

Marital rape is the term used to describe nonconsensual sexual acts between long term partners. These sexual acts can include: intercourse, anal or oral sex, forced sexual behavior with other individuals, and other unwanted, painful, and humiliating sexual activities.

**FACT**

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 SOMEONE TO RAPE THEIR SPOUSE.

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 are strange or perverse. 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.)

MARRIAGE

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CONSENT

MARITAL RAPE IS ESPECIALLY DAMAGING TO SURVIVORS



- 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.