

SEX & GENDER-BASED MISCONDUCT RESPONSE & PREVENTION: BYSTANDER INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Intervention by classmates, colleagues and others within proximity to the precursors or signs of possible sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking can significantly impact the course of an interaction between a latent perpetrator and victim. Bystanders may also encourage friends, classmates and colleagues who are already experiencing victimization to seek assistance sooner than they may have without encouragement, support or acknowledgment. Community members are encouraged to recognize warning signs and to consider possible methods of interference in various scenarios before opportunities to intervene arise. By planning ahead, we all maximize the likelihood of being empowered to take safe actions to either prevent sexual misconduct or offer paths to eliminate ongoing victimization.

When a member of the Chamberlain community observes threatening, coercive, forceful, aggressive or harassing behavior, it is important to assess the situation to determine the best possible course of action for all concerned. Some forms of intervention are direct, while others will be less apparent to the perpetrator or others within range of the interaction. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Making up an excuse to get someone out of a dangerous situation.
- Stepping in to change the course of an interaction.
- Warning potential or perceived perpetrators that their actions may lead to severe consequences.
- Refusing to leave the company of a potential victim despite efforts by an aggressor or pursuer to get the potential victim alone.
- Taking steps to reduce alcohol or drug consumption within a potentially dangerous social situation.
- Calling and cooperating with security, administration, the police or others to assist with intervention and accountability.
- Expressing concern or offering resources when you notice someone with unexplained or frequent injuries.
- Refusing to consider sex and/or gender-based misconduct a personal or private matter between the victim and the perpetrator.