



Teen|LA

Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice

Recognizing and Protecting the Legal Rights of Sexual Assault Survivors

Issue Spotting Scenarios

Hypothetical Scenario 1:

Veronica was born in Mexico and entered the US with her parents when she was three years old. Veronica is now seventeen years old, attends the local high school and plays girls varsity basketball. She was just awarded a basketball scholarship to attend the local University. Last Saturday, she went to a party with other kids from her school. Veronica had several drinks and was later sexually assaulted by Paul and Perez. Paul and Perez play on the Varsity boys' basketball team and Paul is in Veronica's English class. The day after the assault, Perez sent Veronica a text message saying "snitches end up in ditches." Veronica did not give Perez her number and does not know how he got it. Paul took pictures of the assault on his cell phone and is threatening to post the photos he has on Facebook. Veronica is afraid to go to school and has started skipping classes and practices. She has been very depressed and sleeps most of the day. Veronica's mom thinks that she should talk to a therapist but Veronica knows her family cannot afford to pay for therapy. Veronica is concerned that her family may be deported if she makes a report to the police and she worries about what Paul and Perez might do. How can a civil attorney help Veronica?

Hypothetical Scenario 2:

John is twenty years old and lives in the local public housing development with his grandmother and younger siblings. John works part time at a large chain retail store to help his grandma pay the bills. Recently, John's coworker, Perkins, started taking him home once in a while when he worked late. Two weeks ago, instead of taking John home after work, Perkins took John to a parking lot and sexually assaulted him. Perkins texted John the next day apologizing for "the way things got all crazy." Now, when Perkins sees John at work, he passes him notes, and tries to talk to him about when they will "hang out again." John feels very unsafe and uncomfortable at work. A few days ago, John asked his manager for a day off so that he could talk to a counselor. John's manager said he must find someone to cover his shift if he wants time off but John wasn't able to find anyone to cover for him. Late last night, Perkins showed up to John's apartment drunk and yelling. He banged loudly on John's door and called him names. John and his family were terrified and called the police. John's apartment manager is upset and gave John's grandma an eviction notice today due to "criminal activity." How can a civil attorney help John?