

# Personal Safety Alert

Date of posting: 02/23/2024

## Sexual Assault

On 02/23/2024, University Security received a report of a sexual assault that occurred on 02/21/24 in Julia Sears Residence Community.

The victim reports meeting her assailant on a dating site earlier that day.

\*Anyone with information about the above incident is urged to call University Security at 507-389-2111.

When/if you decide to meet someone you meet on a dating app:

- Be clear about your expectations and ensure that you are both on the same page.
- Meet in public, stay in public.
  - Do not meet for the first time at the person’s home, or invite the person to your home.
  - Meet at the public location instead of accepting a ride from the person you are meeting.
- Tell someone you trust where you are going and who you are meeting.
- If you become uncomfortable with the date or the person, leave.
- Always trust your gut.

Sexual assault can happen to anyone. Anyone initiating any kind of sexual contact with another person must seek consent and not engage in sexual contact unless verbal consent is given. The perpetrator, not the survivor, is responsible for any instance of sexual assault. Nothing a survivor does or does not do is an excuse for sexual assault.

According to Minnesota State Colleges and Universities 1B.3 Sexual Violence Policy, consent is defined as follows:

*Consent is informed, freely given and mutually understood. If coercion, intimidation, threats, and/or physical force are used, there is no consent. If the complainant is mentally or physically incapacitated or impaired so that the complainant cannot understand the fact, nature, or extent of the sexual situation, there is no consent; this includes conditions due to alcohol or drug consumption, or being asleep or unconscious. Silence does not necessarily constitute consent, and past consent of sexual activities does not imply ongoing future consent. Whether the respondent has taken advantage of a position of influence over the complainant may be a factor in determining consent.*

For more information on consent, see <https://admin.mnsu.edu/equal-opportunity-title-ix/sexual-violence/>. As the Sexual Violence Policy makes clear: “Minnesota State Colleges and Universities is committed to eliminating sexual violence in all forms and will take appropriate remedial action against any individual found responsible for acts in violation of this policy.”