

Your partner does not own you

Rape within
partnerships
and marriage

Sexual Assault Support Service

PO Box 217 North Hobart Tasmania 7002

Contact details for local services here when supplied

- Telephone (03) 6231 1811

- Facsimile (03) 6231 5370

- e-mail sasshbt@netspace.net.au

- Crisis Line (03) 6231 1817 (after hours)



YOU MIGHT THINK

It's my duty

FACT:

You have a right to choose whether or not you engage in sexual activity. If you do not freely consent to a sexual act, but your partner pressures or forces you, it's rape.

Rapists are strangers

FACT:

In most cases, people are raped by someone they know – including spouses.

They can't control themselves

FACT:

Neither men nor women have uncontrollable sexual needs. Rapists can control their sexual behaviour.

My partner needs sex

FACT:

The reason for rape is not sexual satisfaction. The rapist wants to control and humiliate another person. Rape is an act of violence.

It's not really rape

FACT:

Being pressurised or forced into having sex when you don't want to is rape. Even if the other person is your spouse or regular sex partner, it's still rape.

You might be feeling ...

- alone
- trapped
- betrayed
- scared
- ashamed
- guilty
- confused

They might have said ...

- it's their right
- it's part of being married
- you should enjoy it
- it's your fault

**But they are wrong! There are no excuses
Any rape is a crime**

Is it rape?

Sexual assault is any unwanted sexual behaviour.

This is still true if the person imposing the sexual behaviour is a stranger, a friend or acquaintance, or a partner.

In all states of Australia, sexual assault or rape within marriage is a crime. It is estimated that one of the most common forms of rape is a husband assaulting his wife.

There are many ways to make someone have sex when they don't want to, including:

- violence or force (pushing, hitting, holding down etc)
- threats or intimidation
- making the person feel they have no choice
- making them feel they 'owe' the assailant sex
- not leaving them alone until they give in
- not taking 'no' for an answer
- waiting until they are asleep

