

# ***END SILENCE***

YOUTH SPEAKING UP ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE IN CUSTODY



## ***SHEILA'S DILEMMA***

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## NOTES

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## RESOURCES FOR YOUTH

*Space intended for agencies to add resources reflective of their specific location and type of agency*

*Examples include:*

- *Your 1-800 reporting hotline (if you have one)*
- *Information and procedure for reporting abuse*
- *Address and phone number of grievance officer or outside reporting mechanism such as an ombudsman*
- *Phone number and address for a rape crisis center in the area*
- *Medical health information*
- *Guidance on telling parents*

## FOREWORD

Since 1999, The Project on Addressing Prison Rape (Project) at American University, Washington College of Law has provided training to key correctional decision makers, agencies, associations, and individuals looking to improve their practices on addressing sexual abuse of individuals in custodial settings. In 2009, the Project began to do intensive work within a number of state departments of juvenile justice and to work on issues of LGBTI youth in custody.

The END SILENCE series is the product of that work and work by many organizations and individuals concerned about preventing and addressing sexual abuse of youth in custody. The series includes four other graphic novels targeted to: (1) boys ages 10-14; (2) girls ages 10-14; (3) girls ages 14-18; and (4) LGBT youth.

We would like to thank them for their insightful and honest commentary about the situations that youth face and how sexual abuse affects them.

END SILENCE is a first step in reaching out to youth in juvenile justice settings in order to help them identify, address, and respond to incidents of sexual abuse by staff or other youth. We hope the publication will deepen the dialogue about strategies to eliminate sexual abuse of youth in custody.

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## INTRODUCTION

*Sheila's Dilemma* is a graphic novel for female youth, aged 14-18, that focuses on an incident of sexual abuse between a youth and a male staff probation officer.

At the end of the graphic novel you will find: blank panels for youth to fill in an appropriate continuation for the story; a glossary of terms; discussion questions; resources for youth; and a note page. While we understand different states house youth in different settings or classifications, this is meant to address sexual abuse of youth in custody nation-wide. To that end we have generalized some content and details of this novel.

This graphic novel is intended to be "stand alone" material to orient and educate youth about the issue of sexual abuse in custodial settings, we hope it provokes discussions with and between youth.

Please contact us with comments about these stories, the usefulness of graphic novels as a tool for training youth, and suggestions for other needed resources.

The Project on Addressing Prison Rape can be reached at:  
202-274-4385 or [endsilence@wcl.american.edu](mailto:endsilence@wcl.american.edu)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Feel free to ask other additional questions)

- Do you think Sheila should have told someone about Mr. Charles?
- Do you think Frank did the right thing talking to his mom and Mr. Lucas?
- Do you think it took courage for Sheila to talk about what happened to her?
- How do you think Mr. Lucas handled the situation?
- What would you do if this happened to you?  
Who would you report it to?
- Do you think this situation would be different if Sheila was in a detention setting instead of on probation?  
If so, how?

## **GLOSSARY CONTINUED**

### **Sexual Acts:**

carnal knowledge, oral sex, anal sex, rape, sexual assault with an object, sexual fondling

### **Sexual Assault with an Object:**

The use of any hand, finger, object, or other instrument to penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person.

### **Sexual Fondling:**

The touching of the private body parts of another person, including the penis, vagina, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks, for the purpose of sexual gratification

### **Sodomy:**

Anal sex with a member of the same or opposite sex

### **Staff Sexual Harassment:**

Repeated verbal statements or comments of a sexual nature to a person in custody by an employee, volunteer, official visitor, or agency representative, including: demeaning references to gender or derogatory comments about body or clothing; or profane or obscene language or gestures.

### **Staff Sexual Misconduct:**

Any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward a person in custody by an employee, volunteer, official visitor, or agency representative.

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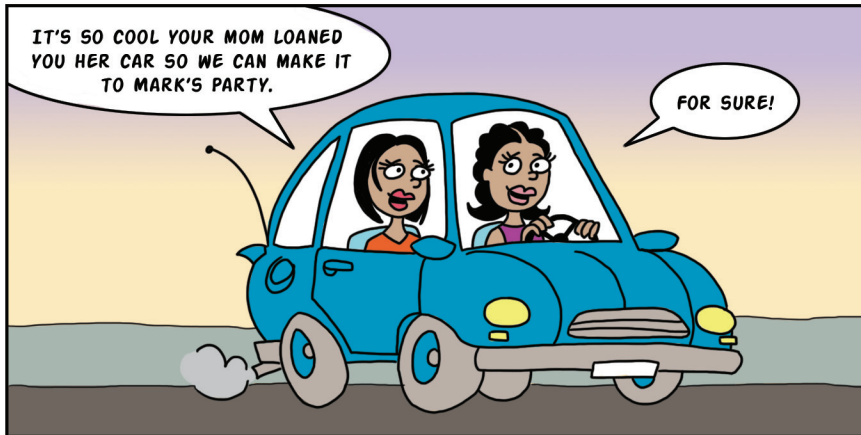
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**AUGER ARTWORK STUDIOS**

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## GLOSSARY

### Abusive Sexual Contact:

Contact with any person without his or her consent; contact with a person who is unable to consent or refuse; and intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the penis, vagina, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person

### Custody:

When a person is under the power and control of an entity – the police, the juvenile justice system, the prison system – or person and is not free to leave

### Carnal Knowledge:

Contact between the penis and the vagina or the penis and the anus including penetration of any sort

### Non-Consensual Sexual Acts:

Contact with any person without his or her consent, or with a person who is unable to consent or refuse; contact between the penis and the vagina or the penis and the anus including penetration, however slight; contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina, or anus; or penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person by a hand, finger, or other object

### Oral Sex:

Contact between the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the vagina or the mouth and the anus.

### Rape:

includes all of the following actions: oral sodomy, sexual assault with an object, or sexual fondling of a person forcibly or against that person's will; forcibly or against that person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of youth, temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity; achieved through exploitation of the fear or threat of physical violence or bodily injury

FINISH THE STORY...

