



## **Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA) Fact Sheet**

### **What is a Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault?**

A rape/sexual assault facilitated by the use of drugs to incapacitate the victim.

### **What are the signs?**

- Memory loss, including “snapshots” or “cameo memories”
- Confusion
- Impaired motor skills
- Reduced inhibition
- Dizziness
- Drowsiness
- Impaired judgment
- Intoxication disproportionate to the amount of alcohol consumed

### **How do I determine if a sexual assault may have been drug facilitated?**

The following scenarios that may indicate that a victim was drugged:

- If the victim remembers taking a drink but cannot recall what happened for a period of time after consuming the beverage.
- If the victim feels a lot more intoxicated than her/his usual response to the amount of alcohol consumed or feels intoxicated after drinking a non-alcoholic beverage.
- If the victim woke up feeling “hung over” or “fuzzy,” experiencing memory lapses and unable to account for a period of time.
- If the victim feels as though someone had sex with her/him, but cannot recall any or all of the incident.
- If the victim wakes up in a strange or different location without knowing how she/he got there.
- If the victim’s clothes are absent, inside out, disheveled or not hers/his.
- If the victim has “snapshots” or “cameo memories.”

## **What do I do if I recognize the possibility of drug facilitated sexual assault?**

Complete the forensic exam using the New York State Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kit before using the Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault Kit and remember the following:

- The collection must be done within 96 hours of the ingestion of the suspected drug.
- Obtain consent from the victim; a consent form is included in the DFSA kit.
- The victim's first urine is critical. If a pregnancy test is done as part of the routine exam, do not throw out any leftover urine.
- Do not use the clean catch method of urine collection.
- Collect as much urine as possible, up to 100 ml.

## **What if the hospital does not have any Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault Kits available?**

- Use two gray-top blood tubes and a standard sterile urine collection cup to obtain the samples.
- Do not include the DFSA samples in the New York State Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kit used to do the forensic exam. Please consult with your nearest forensic lab for information about where to send the samples for testing.
- Obtain a signed consent from the victim; this is mandatory.
- Copies of the Authorization for Release of Sexual Assault Drug Screen form are available [online](#) or from the DCJS Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Unit:
  - [dcjsvawa@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:dcjsvawa@dcjs.ny.gov)
  - (518) 457-9726