

Speaker 1:

When students come and they start living on their own and on campus and off campus and having their own roommates and houses, a lot of parties go on obviously, a lot of alcohol and maybe other things. And then, there's obviously sexual activity and hooking up at these parties, and people get mad at each other, and people having regrets after doing things. And so, you deal with all of that.

So when someone says they're assaulted, law enforcement obviously takes that very seriously. But you also see where people have just made the wrong decisions, and it's not quite the level of a sexual assault, but it's being misconstrued and just even uttering the words is enough to cause alarm. If a law enforcement officer contacts you about something like that, it's serious. It is always serious.

And sometimes, it's not a sexual assault. And we have to look at that. We always believe when a, let's say in this case, a female says, we always believe that. But sometimes, there's other motivations. It's probably not popular to say, but there's false accusations out there. And there's bad judgment that led to trying to cover up maybe the fact that she or he did something.

So they're tough cases and they have to be dealt with in a manner where you get all the facts, you interview all the witnesses, you know exactly what everybody saw. And in a sexual assault case, if someone's being investigated, you want to get more information or as much information as you possibly can get, so that you have ammunition should a charge come. That's one that you want to do a whole lot of investigation before anything really happens if a person is being accused of something that serious.

What typically happens is someone will get a call from a law enforcement officer, and that officer will say something to the effect of, "Why don't you come downtown? We want to talk to you about something." And they might be kind of vague, "So about this party that you had." And if you ask, you're like, "Oh, okay." Well, generally you know because you've heard through the grapevine, especially in the student population. It's like, "Oh my gosh, such and such said that you didn't just hook up, that you forced her," or something like that. You usually have some heads up that that's coming. And then, when the officer calls you or the detective, you know at that point, you're getting ready to go downtown and you're getting ready to be questioned. And you might not walk out of that room without handcuffs, so you know that as soon as law enforcement calls you and says, "Come talk." Really, you need an attorney before then, if someone's accusing you of something like that. But for sure, you need an attorney right then, before you go in and speak to law enforcement.

Their job is to gather information to basically prosecute you. So they're going to not tell you what they know, but they're going to try to box you in to bolster the case potentially. And you got to be ready for that.