SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE
LESSON XIII
LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Objectives
Students will
• Discuss the legal considerations of teenage intercourse
• Discuss sexual abuse, sex crimes, victimization
• Discuss the legal considerations of pregnancy and parenthood
• Discuss advantages of abstinence

Concepts
1. The middle school child is legally considered to be a minor. Some decisions regarding sexuality may have legal implications. Any kind of sexual touch or fondling with consent is considered to be sexual abuse and is reportable to authorities and punishable by law. Sexual conduct and/or engaging in intercourse with a minor under 15 years of age is a Class 2 Felony and punishable by law. Students need to be encouraged to report any activities with illegal implications for their own welfare matters of the law. Involvement of the school nurse, school administrator and/or police would need to be considered.

2. Pregnancy of a teenager is a serious and difficult situation. Numerous family decisions will need to be addressed. The child’s welfare, the teen’s welfare and the circumstances need to be given important consideration. If a baby is born to a teenage girl, the care of that baby is a legal responsibility. The father of the child is legally responsible to help financially. Paternity can be proven with a court ordered or voluntary blood test to 99.99% accuracy. Costs of the blood test are the responsibility of the father. Fathers of children can be held responsible for the support of the child until the child reaches the age of 18. Extenuating circumstances of the pregnancy (father is a juvenile, mother agreed to have sex) are not exemptions under the law, and financial support is still expected. The law can garnish wages, seize some personal property (TV, car, stereo, house, etc.) intercept income tax refunds and hold the father in contempt of court to get financial support for the child. Childbirth expenses may also be the responsibility of the father. If the father is under 18, his parents may be held responsible for childbirth expenses up to $2,500.

3. Actual parenting of the child is an enormous responsibility. The child is entitled to be cared for under the law. The decision to parent the child or place the child for adoption is a complex and difficult decision. Individuals who are pregnant or fathered children in adolescence need adult and parental help and guidance throughout the complex situation.

4. The drug Flunitrazepam or brand name Rohypnol (ruffies, roche, R-2, rib, and rope) is also known as the “date rape” or “club drug.” Often taken to enhance other drugs, it is typically taken orally and has the effects of a sleeping pill. It is a physically and psychologically dangerous drug. Rohypnol is being used to lower the inhibitions of
young ladies causing impaired judgement, impaired motor skills, and amnesia. Many young women have reported waking up in unfamiliar surroundings and having been sexually assaulted while under the influence of the drug.

Materials
- Handout “Precautions”
- Handout “Protect Yourself”
- Handout “Rape and Date Rape”

Activities
1. Discuss the information in the concept section.
   A. sexual Abuse
   B. teen Parenting
   C. date Rape Drug
2. Have students suggest how they might report an abuse or rape situation and to whom they would report. Role-playing might help students discuss the difficult topic.
3. Review “Protect Yourself” handout.
4. Review “Precautions Against Sexual Assault.”
5. Review “Rape and Date Rape” handout.
6. Discuss the “Date Rape” drug and how girls could be tricked into using the drug without knowing it.
7. Lists the cost of childbirth and infant care and discuss the results.
8. Exceptional Educational Inclusion Activities
   A. Have the students make a poster of ways to protect themselves
   B. Role-play ways to protect him/herself.
PROTECT YOURSELF

1. TRUST YOUR FEELINGS.

2. If you are feeling scared, confused or just uncomfortable, there is probably a good reason.

3. REMEMBER THAT YOU COULD BE AT RISK. Anyone can be a victim. It is easier to think about protecting yourself if you know that it could happen to you—not just to other people.

4. THINK ABOUT SITUATIONS THAT COULD BE OR ARE UNSAFE. Avoid them, or make sure someone you trust is with you. Be alert to those who could slip drugs unknowingly into drinks (Rohypnol). Talk about it with someone you trust, too.

5. DO NOT BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP. If you are in danger or afraid, it is smart to ask someone for help. It is not a sign of weakness. It is just common sense.

6. DO NOT TRY TO HANDLE EVERYTHING ON YOUR OWN. If something has happened to you, or if you are afraid or confused, a counselor or another adult you trust can help you talk through your feelings.

7. USE COMMON SENSE SELF-DEFENSE RULES.
   - Do not walk alone at night.
   - Do not take rides from people you do not know very well.
   - Do not hitchhike.
   - And all the others you have heard; they make sense!

8. SAY WHAT YOU MEAN AND WHAT YOU WANT. If someone is pressuring you, you can say “no!” If someone touches you in a way that you do not like or that is confusing, leave and talk to someone about it. Do not let friends talk you into doing something that seems scary or unsafe. Trust your feelings.
PRECAUTIONS AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

The best way to protect your body is to use your head. Many people, both men and women, wonder what they would (or should) do in the event of physical assault. The best answer is simply to consider all the options and do whatever you can to get out of the situation without being harmed. Some people can fight, some do not believe they would be able to struggle. Most importantly, think about it beforehand so that you avoid panic.

Some good advice about avoiding attacks:
1. Be aware of your surroundings, your location-do not look lost.

2. Avoid going out alone at night whenever possible. Go with friends or, if you must go alone, travel quickly and be alert to your situation.

3. Lock your house, your car, your garage, your windows and do not let anyone in unless you are sure of who it is and why they are there. Almost half of all victims KNOW their assailant!

4. Let someone know where you are going and when you will return.

5. Demand identification from all repairmen and service people who want to come into your home.

6. Keep your car in good running order, and have enough gas to get where you are going.

7. Get new, efficient locks whenever you move into a new house or apartment.

8. If you come home late often, vary your route.

9. Walk on the side of the street facing on coming traffic. If you are being harassed by people in a car, walk in the direction they come from so that they will have to turn around to follow you.

10. If you are being followed, run to the nearest place where there are people. Do anything you can to attract attention, scream, yell, pound on doors or windows.

11. Rohypnol is being used to lower the inhibitions of young ladies causing impaired judgement, impaired motor skills, and amnesia.

12. If you are assaulted, report the incident to the police or to a rape crisis service in your neighborhood. Rapists are repeaters, and the only way a victim can help prevent this from happening to someone else is to get the assailant off the streets.

13. DO NOT HITCHHIKE! EVER! AND DO NOT PICK UP HITCHHIKERS!
RAPE AND DATE RAPE

1. What is rape?

Rape is any form of genital contact that a person has not initiated or explicitly agreed to, and that is imposed on this person by another person who uses deception, threat, social blackmail, or physical violence to achieve the genital contact.

2. What is date rape (often called acquaintance rape)?

A. Acquaintance rape, or date rape, is an extremely prevalent and serious problem.
B. No one “owes” another person sex, no matter how much money or time is spend on them.
C. Refusing sex does not indicate anything is wrong with you. You have the right to say no at any time you are with another person.
D. Men will not be harmed if they get aroused but do not experience orgasm.
E. Women who enjoy affection but are not ready for sex are not “teasing,” and they do not deserve to be pushed into sex.
F. The way one dresses does not give permission for sexual advances or rape.
G. Drugs lower one’s inhibitions and while under the influence one may not adhere to pre-set standards.
H. 85% of the rapes occur by a known assailant.