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Dear Parents,

My name is Deirdra Richardson. I am a Forensic Clinical Examiner in The Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) in the Rotunda Hospital where I care for victims of rape and sexual violence. My role involves performing forensic clinical examinations on men and women in the presence of An Garda Síochána who have been sexually assaulted. I run sexual health clinics 3 days a week and am involved with audit and research.

Part of my role also involves teaching and education. As a result of this I developed a sexual assault risk reduction programme for teenagers 15 years ago. I have delivered this programme to many schools over the years with positive feedback.

The program involves a one and a half hour lesson as a power point presentation, worksheets are completed and there is a lot of interaction from students. The outline of the lesson is as follows:

- awareness of sexual assault and rape - what it means
- aspects of the legal system in relation to sexual assault, statistics and consent
- how to access the service and what happens when someone reports a sexual assault
- demonstration of a Sexual Offences Examination Kit and Instruments used.
- evaluation of the lesson.

Teenagers are taught sex education and sexually transmitted infections in school They are not informed about sexual assault and rape. This is an important aspect to their social development and an important health promotion issue.

I have been invited by the school to deliver this talk to your child. if you require further information please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Deirdra Richardson (CMS)
Forensic Clinical Examiner