

## Rape Myths as enumerated by the Supreme Court of Canada

Principle	Specific application to Sexual Assault
<b>Rape myths enumerated by the Supreme Court of Canada include</b>	certain types of women are "unrapable"
	<b>certain women because of their occupations are unworthy of belief</b>
	women by their behaviour or appearance may be responsible for the occurrence of sexual assault
	drug use is relevant to the issue of credibility as to consent
	dependence on social assistance is relevant to the issue of credibility as to consent
	Women are "emotional." Certain emotional reactions lend credibility to the assault report, whereas the opposite reactions lead to the conclusion that the complainant must be fabricating the event. if a woman is raped, she will get hysterical during the event and she will be visibly upset afterward. If she is able to "retain her cool," then "nothing happened".
	Immediate reporting of the assault, despite all of the barriers that might discourage such reports, lends credibility to the assault report, whereas the opposite diminishes credibility
	women, out of spite, fickleness or fantasy are inclined to lie about sexual assault
	false allegations are more common in sexual assaults than in other offences
	extraordinary need for caution with respect to the credibility of SA complainants
	a woman cannot be raped against her will, that if she really wants to prevent a rape she can
	rapists are strangers; interaction between friends or between relatives does not result in rape
	women must be 100% "proper and respectable" to be believed
	Female sexual behavior, depending on her age, is under the surveillance of her parents or her husband, and also more generally of the community. Thus, if a woman says she was raped it must be because she consented to sex that she was not supposed to have.
	women may say "no" but mean "yes"
	sexually experienced victim/survivors experience less harm than less sexually experienced victim/survivors
	rape by a stranger is worse than rape by an acquaintance
	women's "normal" sexuality is passive, constituted largely of "submission"
	sexually aggressive behaviour is more "hormonal" than "criminal"
Improper to consider so-called "victim-precipitating" conduct	
	such as going to a bar
	or getting into a car with the defendant
Complainant should not be measured against current rape mythologies of 1. who she should be in order to be recognized as having been, in the eyes of the law, raped; 2. who her attacker must be in order to be recognized, in the eyes of the law, as a potential rapist; and 3. how injured she must be in order to be believed.	