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Sexual Assault Case Study

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FACTS: Two nursing students (John and Sue) date from October through May of the following year. They are in the same cohort. Sue breaks up with John and he is hurt. Sue has a new boyfriend in July (not a nursing student). John starts spending time with Jane (another nursing student within their cohort) once school starts up in the fall. Jane and Sue have been friends up to this point.

At Christmas a few nursing students throw a party for their cohort. Sue had just broken up with her boyfriend and went alone to the party. John and Jane came together and seemed like the happy couple. It was out of character for Sue, but she got inebriated at the party. She was clearly jealous that John was now with Jane. Sue told one of the other nursing students that John had sexually assaulted her when they were dating. Sue stated that at their last time of being intimate, Sue told John to stop and he did not stop right away. She stated that he continued until she started crying and said, "Stop that hurts." Rumors started to spread that John raped Sue in May. An instructor heard this rumor on the first class day following the party and reported the incident to the Title XI office.

When being initially interviewed, Sue never said that John raped her. She stated that he did assault her but she just wants John out of her cohort. When interviewed John states that she told him to stop and she stopped right away. He said she cried because sex was too painful and she felt bad for stopping him. He explained that he consoled her and even held her for 20 minutes and spent the night with her.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What are the key issues and/or problems?
2. What strategies would you employ to address them?
3. Who would you include in your process? Why?
4. What process would be appropriate? What is your rationale?
5. Are there principles that you can generalize from this case?