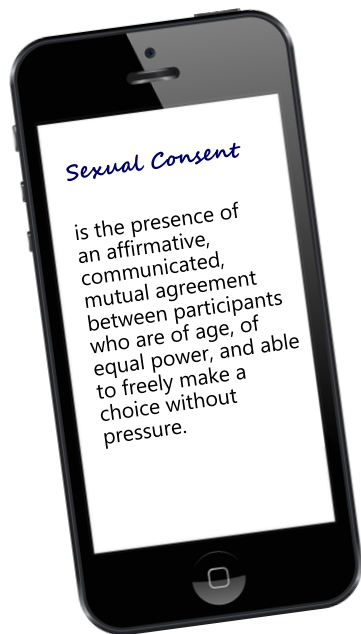




The CONSENT Conversation



New Jersey law says it is illegal to engage in sex in the following scenarios:

1. If someone is **under the age of 13**
2. If someone is **13 or older and under the age of 16**, they cannot consent to sexual activity with anyone over 4 years older than them
3. If someone is **under 18 years old** and having sex in exchange for anything of value (money, shelter, clothes, etc.)
4. If someone is **under 18 years old** and they are engaging in sexual activity with anyone who has authority over them or has the duty to care for them (a family member, someone in a supervisory role, teacher, coach, police officer, religious leader, group home staff, etc.)
5. At **any age** when a person is: physically, intellectually or mentally incapacitated due to drugs or alcohol; unconscious or sleeping; incapable of providing consent due to lack of understanding from an intellectual, cognitive, mental disability or psychological disorder; developmentally disabled, they cannot consent to anyone who has authority over them or to a governmental caregiver; physically forced or coerced (manipulated, threatened, intimidated)

Sexual Assault: the penetration, no matter how slight, in which physical force or coercion is used or in which the victim is physically or mentally incapacitated.

Sexual Violence: any form of unwanted, unwelcome or coercive sexual behavior. Includes but is not limited to sexual harassment, stalking or cyber-stalking, inappropriate touching, lewdness, or penetration without consent.

Steps of Consent:

STEP 1: Direct communication is the best way to know whether someone else is comfortable.

"Is it ok to...?", "Can I...?", "Are you okay with...?", "Would you like me to...?", "Is this still okay?"

STEP 2: Listen to the response.

⇒ **When YOU HAVE obtained CONSENT**

"Yes!", "Let's do it!", "I'm okay with...", "Sure!", "I'm comfortable with...", "I want to..."

⇒ **When YOU HAVE NOT obtained CONSENT**

Silence — "Uhhmm", "No", "I don't feel comfortable", "I don't want to anymore", "I'm not sure", "Stop", "I'd rather not", "Not now", "I don't know"

STEP 3: Respect one another's boundaries and comfort levels.

STEP 4: Check in by communicating before and during any and all types of sexual activity, every time.

What is sexual consent?

MUTUAL—all agree and feel comfortable

CHOICE—all are aware and want to engage in sexual activity

COMMUNICATED—actively and thoroughly discussed by all participants

INFORMED—risks are discussed and understood, and participants feel safe

WITHOUT FEAR—there is no pressure, threats, coercion, bargaining, or manipulation

Consent is needed for:

EVERY TIME you engage in sexual activity

SPECIFIC sexual activity, for each sexual act

INCREASED sexual activity/changes in sexual activity

RECURRING sexual activity, any time, even if consent was previously given

Consent can be withdrawn at any time for any reason.

Adapted in part from Prevent Child Abuse NJ

www.180nj.org

24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline: 888.843.9262

24/7 Sexual Violence Hotline: 888.264.RAPE

2NDFLOOR Youth Call/Text Helpline: 888.222.2228



Turning Lives Around, Inc.