

# **You must obtain VALID, LEGAL, INFORMED CONSENT**

## **BEFORE SEXUAL ACTIVITY:**

- Valid, **LEGAL** consent is *freely, mindfully, and actively* given
- Uses mutually understandable words or actions
- Indicates a willingness to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity (**in other words, 2 people agree to do the same thing, at the same time, in the same way, with each other**).

### What you should know about consent:

- ☐ At the heart of consent is the idea that every person, woman or man, has a right to **personal sovereignty** – not to be acted upon by someone else (especially in a sexual manner) unless given clear permission to do so.
- ☐ Consent may be broad or narrow, and can be limited. **Consent to one form of sexual activity does not automatically imply consent to other forms of sexual activity.**
- ☐ Consent may be given verbally or non-verbally, based on an active, informed, mindful, freely decided choice. A high level of intoxication (drug or alcohol) may make this **legally** impossible.
- ☐ Consent means that you cannot make assumptions about what your partner does or does not want. **Absence of clear signals is a sign to stop. Without consent, a crime occurs!**
- ☐ The idea of consent eliminates the need to engage in force and resistance behaviors. There is **no biological harm** to males or females in stopping at any point during sexual behavior.
- ☐ No means no, but nothing also means no. Silence and passivity do not equal permission. **SUBMISSION DOES NOT EQUAL CONSENT!**
- ☐ If you receive a “no” and keep right on pressuring/continuing to interact sexually, your behavior is considered to be a coercive influence on the other party.
- ☐ To be valid, consent must be given **BEFORE** sexual activity. “After the fact” is not the time to discuss boundaries. **Communicate!**

A nonviolent, educated, peaceful community is a place where females and males are equally respected and no person's body or character is violated. Respect means paying attention to verbal and non-verbal cues, desires, and boundaries. You are part of a larger community; your personal integrity and your connections with other people impact the whole.

Kansas State University Women's Center



[www.k-state.edu/womenscenter/](http://www.k-state.edu/womenscenter/)

# DATING BILL OF RIGHTS

**I have the right to decent treatment by anyone I date.**

I have the right to refuse to date anyone.

I have the right to be safe on a date.

**I have the right to stop blaming myself for dating abuse.**

I have the right to pay my own way on a date.

I have the right to be respected as a person on every date.

**I have the right to disagree with my date.**

I have the right to say "NO."

I have the right to get angry.

**I have the right  
to a healthy, respectful dating relationship.**

I have the right to use my own transportation on a date.

I have the right to leave any dating situation.

**I have the right to be well-cared for  
by those who call themselves my friends.**

I have the right to control my level of intimacy  
with any other person.

Based on: Warning: Dating May Be Hazardous to Your Health, by Charlotte McShane



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# Men, Teach Your Friends:

NEVER force yourself on another person or attempt to coerce, pressure, intoxicate, argue, or bully someone into having sex with you, even if you think one or both of you deserve it.

No one deserves to have their body to be used in ways they do not want.

**If you don't hear "Yes", stop.**

- 1) Communicate your sexual desires clearly, early, and honestly. Ask hers. If you have any doubts, stop, ask and clarify. If you are getting a double message, ask her to explain. Make sure you know what she wants or doesn't want.
- 2) **If a woman is not actively, mindfully consenting to sex, then it is rape.** A woman who is mentally deficient is not capable of giving consent. It does not matter if the deficiency is mental or physical. Having sex with a woman who is too intoxicated to give consent is legally rape.
- 3) LEGALLY → Your intoxication is NOT a defense to rape.  
LEGALLY → You are responsible for all your actions, SOBER OR NOT.
- 4) Your size and physical presence may itself be intimidating to a woman. Women may not fight back or say anything based on this general fact. **Submission does not equal consent!**
- 5) **Be a man of honor and integrity.** Be sensitive to women who are not sure they want to have sex. Consider pregnancy issues, intimacy, the feelings of the other person. Life is too short to be a bully or act selfishly.
- 6) Not having sex, or not "scoring" does not mean you are not a "real man." Respecting a woman's desires and decisions is a powerful choice, something a man with real strength can do.
- 7) If a woman says "No" to sex, she is turning sex down, not you.

## Real Men Don't Use Their Strength For Hurting

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<http://www.k-state.edu/womenscenter>



# Man to Man: Sexual Ethics – Consent Rules!

1. No = No. If a partner says it, believe it. Otherwise you will be turning your potential lover into your victim. It isn't someone else's responsibility to set our limits. **If someone doesn't say "no," it certainly does not mean, "yes."**

2. No answer does not = yes. Too many of us males have acted without good information (or ignored clear messages). If either (or both) of you can't (won't) talk about sex and the possible consequences for a relationship, **then it is much too soon to be sexual together.**

3. **SUBMISSION DOES NOT = CONSENT.** Reasons that females might submit include: fear; experience might have shown her that resistance, verbal or physical, doesn't work and may even be punished additionally; fatigue- she may become tired of fending us off. If you ask and someone says "I guess" or "Well, if you want to" or "Fine...just get it over with" or "I don't know..." or "If that's what you want..." or "Whatever you say" these don't sound like someone is freely, happily, consenting to sexual acts.

4. After the fact (of sex) is no time to be finding out that a partner did not want any or the same level of sexual interaction. **It is 100% my responsibility** to be as sure as possible that my partner is as "into" sex as I am.

5. Each assumption about your partner's intentions or receptivity that you make and act on is a choice that you are making. The way someone looks at you, the way they are dressed, that they laugh at your jokes, that they seem into it (by kissing, for example), **that they should know what you want because it's obvious what you want**, that they stop pushing your hand away are not acts that equal verbal consent. Relying on our optimistic reading of our partner's body language is a good way to set ourselves up to commit assault.

6. **Sex with someone unable to consent is sexual assault.** Sex with someone very drunk, stoned, asleep, passed-out, retarded, underage or otherwise unable to consent is sexual assault. Prior to sexual acts, to protect ourselves from hurting someone by committing assault, it is our responsibility to find out if our partner wants to give (and can legally give) consent.

7. Consent is a verbal process, established without coercion. "Yes" is only the beginning of the process to establish consent. "Would you like to hold hands?" "Where do you like to be touched?" Ask questions that help establish that both parties are equally interested in participating.

8. If someone, female or male, feels assaulted they have been assaulted. After the fact is too late to find out for the first time how our partner felt about the sexual interaction. Later, if someone felt that they had been coerced, then that "sex" was a sexual assault, whatever our intention at the time.

9. **Someone can change their minds at any point.** For example, if they say "stop" or "no" or "that hurts" **STOP.** We can stop at any time. To avoid committing assault, check-in with your partner during sexual acts: "Are you doing OK?", "Does this feel good?", "Does this still feel good?" are some ways of finding out that your partner is still "into it" as you are. *THERE IS NO "POINT OF NO RETURN."* I'd rather waddle home without ejaculating (however uncomfortable) than feel there was a chance that she might feel assaulted. My physical discomfort will pass; she may carry the trauma of her assault for the rest of her life. No male ever died of "blue balls."

10. Confronting masculine violence is good and essential work for boys and men. Women have done most of the rape prevention in the past and present. That there are finally some men doing this work, privately and publicly, does not deny those women's work and doesn't deny the need for many more males to be involved. We males are not "The A Team," those women have not been standing around until we males showed up. We can be allies with caring, activist women in the effort to end sexual violence.

# MEN ..... LOWER THE RISK OF RAPE

## Legal Consent IS:

- Valid, **LEGAL** consent is *freely, mindfully, and actively* given
- Uses mutually understandable words or actions
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☐ Consent may be broad or narrow, and can be limited. **Consent to one form of sexual activity does not automatically imply consent to other forms of sexual activity.**

☐ Consent may be given verbally or non-verbally, based on an active, informed, mindful, freely decided choice. A high level of intoxication (drug or alcohol) may make this **legally** impossible.

☐ Consent means that you cannot make assumptions about what your partner does or does not want. **Absence of clear signals is a sign to stop. Without consent, a crime occurs!**

## Legal Consent IS NOT:

- Kissing. Going to dinner is not sexual consent. Dancing close is not sexual consent. Blowing in ears is not sexual consent.
- Accepting a gift is not sexual consent. Grabbing an ass is not legal consent.
- Passing out in your bed is not legal consent. Passing out on the floor is not valid consent. First base is not a homer. Second base is not a homer. Do you know the rules of the world? Can you spell F-E-L-O-N-Y?

☐ DID YOU GET A **YES**??? No means no, but nothing also means no. Silence and passivity do not equal permission. **SUBMISSION DOES NOT EQUAL CONSENT**

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☐ To be valid, consent must be given BEFORE sexual activity. “After the fact” is not the time to discuss boundaries. **Communicate!**

A nonviolent, educated, peaceful community is a place where females and males are equally respected and no person's body or character is violated. Respect means paying attention to verbal and non-verbal cues, desires, and boundaries.

**You are part of a larger community;**

Your personal integrity and your connections with other people impact the whole.

Don't be an idiot

No \*&%\$#, man!

