

Consent



What Is Consent?

- Noun- Permission for something to happen or agreement to do something.
- Verb- To give permission for something to happen.

What 3 things are needed for consent?

- (1) Disclosure of information
- (2) Competency of the participants to make a decision
- (3) Voluntary nature of the decision.



Consent Is!

- Consent to a specific act once doesn't mean that consent automatically exists for that or any act in the future.





- For every act, every time, the whole time, consent is needed.
- That means consent must be an ongoing dialogue, not a one-time conversation.



- Whenever the person says or does something to stop you, whatever is happening must stop immediately.
- Likewise, as soon as you don't get an enthusiastic "yes" to continue, you must stop.



Consent cannot be given when a person

- Doesn't understand what they're agreeing to
- Is asleep, unconscious, or otherwise mentally or physically incapacitated
- Is under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Is physically forced
- Is coerced to give in through a physical, emotional, or financial threat
- Has less power in the relationship than the other
- Underage (under 16 years old in Georgia)





Mutually Generated Consent

Set aside the notion of “getting” consent and consider what it might mean to mutually generate consent mutually with your partner(s)

- **Ask open-ended questions** as a way of starting an ongoing dialogue about what you each want.
- **Leave space for your partner(s) to respond** freely about IF, WHEN, and HOW they want to do something.
- **Talk about boundaries beforehand**; include wants and limits.
- **Be clear about your expectations and boundaries** to avoid confusion or unintentional pressure.
 - If you do receive a “no,” accept it the first time. Don’t proceed or pressure them. They’re declining the sexual act, not you. Appreciate that they’ve trusted you enough to tell you what they really want.
- **Check-in frequently with your partner(s)** This ensures everyone is on the same page and demonstrates respect and caring.



Behaviors To Look Out For

SPECTRUM FROM RESPECT TO VIOLENCE

RESPECTFUL BEHAVIORS (HEALTHY & SAFE)	HARMFUL OR PROBLEMATIC BEHAVIORS (EARLY WARNING SIGNS)	VIOLENT BEHAVIORS (ABUSIVE & CRIMINAL)
• asking for and respecting boundaries • listening actively • supporting others' choices without pressure • using inclusive and affirming language • seeking enthusiastic consent • challenging harmful comments or jokes	• ignoring personal boundaries • making sexist, racist, or homophobic jokes • catcalling or unwanted comments • gossiping or spreading rumors • pressuring someone into something • dismissing someone's feelings	• sexual assault or harassment • physical violence or threats • stalking • intimate partner violence • emotional manipulation or gaslighting • coercion or force

Bridging Hope Contact information:

24/7 Crisis Line: 770-503-7273

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