

# Giving Consent

*Sexual consent is an agreement to participate in sexual activity. Before being sexual with someone, you need to know if they want to be sexual with you too. It's also important to be honest with your partner about what you want and do not want. Consenting and asking for consent are about setting your personal boundaries and respecting those of your partners- and checking to see if things are or aren't clear. Both people must agree to sex (in any form) every single time for it to be consensual.*

**WITHOUT CONSENT, SEXUAL ACTIVITY INCLUDING ORAL SEX, GENITAL TOUCHING AND VAGINAL OR ANAL PENETRATION IS SEXUAL ASSAULT OR RAPE**

*Here are the basics of consent...*

**CONSENT IS:**

**FREELY GIVEN-** Consenting is a choice you make without pressure, manipulation, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

**REVERSIBLE-** Anyone can change their mind about what they like doing, anytime, even if you've done it before and even if you are both naked in bed.

**INFORMED-** You can only consent to something if you have the full story. For example, if someone says they'll use a condom but they don't, that is not informed consent.

**ENTHUSIASTIC-** When it comes to sex, you should only do things you WANT to do, not things you feel you are expected to do.

**SPECIFIC-** Saying yes to one thing, like going to the bedroom, doesn't mean you've said yes to others, like having sex.

You get the final say over what happens with your body. It doesn't matter if you've hooked up before or even if you said yes earlier in the evening and then changed your mind. You're allowed to say STOP at any time and your partner needs to respect that.

Consent is never implied by things like your past behavior, what you wear, or where you go. Sexual consent is always clearly communicated- there should be no question or mystery. Silence is not consent. It's not just important for the first time you're with someone. Lastly there are laws about who can consent and who can't. People who are drunk, high, or passed out cannot consent to sex..