

Consent in Relationships

Consent: At the time of the act there are words and physical actions that indicate everyone involved freely agrees and really wants to do the same thing. Consent only occurs when one person asks and the other person freely says yes.

Sexual Assault: anything up to and including sexual intercourse without consent.

Consent is necessary for all sexual activity including kissing, touching, being naked with another person, sexting, etc.

Consent can only be given:

1. When it's legal.
 - a. No fear, force or coercion is present
 - b. Age of consent: 16 in Kansas, 17 in Missouri.
2. When the relationship is equal.
 - a. There is no age, developmental or status difference.
 - b. No person has authority over the other person
 - c. No one has threatened or used violence with the other person.
3. Both people understand what the consequences may be.
4. If you feel free to change your mind and for the activity to stop at any time.
5. Both parties are awake, aware, and sober.
 - a. Neither person is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
6. When it is safe to say no.
7. When it's enthusiastic, wanted and active.

Adapted from the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence