

Consent

WHO?

Consent may only be given by someone who is capable of doing so, who is not incapacitated by sleep, unconsciousness, intoxication, or some other condition. A person is mentally or physically incapacitated when that person lacks the ability to make or act on considered decisions to engage in sexual activity. Engaging in sexual activity with a person whom you know -- or reasonably should know -- to be incapacitated constitutes sexual misconduct.

WHAT?

Check in with your partner about their desires and communicate your own desires, too. Consent means positive, unambiguous, and voluntary agreement to engage in specific sexual activity throughout a sexual encounter. Consent cannot be inferred from the absence of a “no”; a clear “yes,” verbal or otherwise, is necessary. Consent cannot be obtained by threat, coercion, or force.

WHY?

Talking with sexual partners about desires and limits may seem awkward, but it can serve as the basis for positive sexual experiences shaped by mutual willingness and respect. Communicating can put you in sync with your partner to help create an experience you both want.

WHEN?

Consent to some sexual acts does not constitute consent to others, nor does past consent to a given act constitute present or future consent. Consent must be ongoing throughout a sexual encounter and can be revoked at any time.

HOW?

Although consent does not need to be verbal, verbal communication is the most reliable form of asking for and gauging consent, and you are thus urged to seek consent in verbal form. Non-verbal signs (e.g., body language and facial expressions) are also important so pay attention to whether your partner is enthusiastic or reluctant. Consent can only be accurately gauged through direct communication about the decision to engage in sexual activity. Presumptions based upon contextual factors (such as clothing, alcohol consumption, or dancing) are unwarranted, and should not be considered as evidence for consent.

Read Yale’s definition of Consent:

smr.yale.edu/definitions-sexual-misconduct-consent-and-harassment



For more information, visit:

The SHARE Center www.sharecenter.yale.edu/

University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct
www.provost.yale.edu/uwc

Title IX provost.yale.edu/title-ix



RESOURCES

Campus

SHARE Center.....	203.432.2000 (24/7) (Confidential) (Sexual Harassment and Assault Response & Education)
Yale Health, Lower Level....	<i>Drop in weekdays</i> 9am-5pm
Security Escort.....	203.432.WALK
Mini Bus.....	203.432.6330
University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct (UWC).....	203.432.4449
Title IX.....	provost.yale.edu/title-ix
Walden Peer Counseling (undergrads)..	203.432.TALK
Communication and Consent Educators (CCEs; undergrads).....	203.432.0847

Mental Health & Counseling Center

8:30am – 5pm, Mon-Fri.....	203.432.0290
After hours & weekends.....	203.432.0123

Yale Medical Health Services

Ob/Gyn.....	203.432.0222
Student Health.....	203.432.0312
Acute Care.....	203.432.0123

Other Resources

Yale Chaplain's Office.....	203.432.8752
Yale LGBTQ Resource Office.....	203.432.0309

Public Safety

Yale Police Department.....	203.432.4400
New Haven Police Department.....	203.946.6316 or 911

In The Community

CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services

24-hour Toll-Free Hotline	
(English).....	1.888.999.5545
(Spanish).....	1.888.568.8332
Women and Families Center.....	203.389.5010
Planned Parenthood.....	203.387.3131
Yale–New Haven Hospital.....	203.688.2222