



AGE of CONSENT
Do not know your own legal rights for everyone inside



www.kcsarc.org
a program of
(the power of prevention)
KCSARC

Want to talk to someone?

King County Sexual Assault Resource Line

1-888-99-VOICE (86423).....www.kcsarc.org

NW Network for Bi, Trans, Lesbian, and Gay Survivors of Abuse

206-568-7777.....www.nwnetwork.org

Asian Pacific Islander Safety Center

206-467-9976.....www.apisafetycenter.org

Seattle Counseling Services (LGBTQ-specific)

206-323-1768.....www.seattlecounseling.org

Teenlink

1-866-833-8646.....www.866teenlink.org

ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS

Want to talk about it?

Resources on the back can help you out.

CONSENT

Consent is not just a lack of no.
You need a *real* YES!

Ask for it! Consent is Respect.

Say what you want to do, ask what they want to do. Respect the answer *no matter what*.

Consent means each person actively wants to participate in whatever physical or sexual act is happening.

People who are drunk, high, or asleep cannot give consent.

Always ask before you touch someone. It's easy and respectful.

POWER

Just because your relationship is legal, *doesn't* mean it's equal.

Do you & your partner trust each other equally?

Do you each have autonomy - separate friends and activities?

Does your partner pressure you to do things you don't want to?

Does your partner tell you that no-one else would ever love you?

Does your partner ever scare you with the things they do or say?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

about age of consent laws

Q: What's the "age of consent" in Washington State?

A: 16 years old (consent = at the time of the act of sexual contact there are actual words or conduct indicating freely given agreement to have sexual contact. RCW 9A.44.010)

Q: What can you consent to?

A: You can consent to sexual contact (sexual contact = any touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of a person done for the purpose of gratifying sexual desire of either party or a third party. RCW 9A.44.010) when you are 16 in Washington state. Other state laws may be different.

Q: So if you're over 16, can you have sexual contact with anyone who's older than you?

A: Not necessarily. It is NOT legal if the person is a teacher, boss, or has authority over you. (RCW 9A.44.093)

Q: So if you're under 16, can you have sexual contact with anyone who is your age or younger?

A: It depends. There are many legal restrictions based on age differences that you will want to check out first. (RCW 9A.44)

Q: What if you have an illegal age difference but your parents are okay with the relationship?

A: It is still illegal and you and/or your partner could face charges.

Q: What if your relationship is a secret?

A: Healthy relationships don't exist in secret, and one sign of relationship abuse is one person isolating the other.

Q: Is it okay to send nude pictures on my phone or webcam?

A: The true story about sending pictures is that you can't control what happens after they leave your hands - they could get copied and forwarded all over. In terms of the law, making, having, or sharing photos could get you hit with sexual exploitation of children charges. (RCW 9.68A)

Q: How do you know if what you're doing with someone is okay with them?

A: Ask! Always ask someone before you touch them; it's the easiest and most respectful precaution.

Q: Isn't spontaneity sexy, though?

A: The sexiest thing you can do is ask, "Do you want to ____?" Sex without consent is rape. (RCW 9A.44.060)

If you want the full scoop on how to be legal-sexy*, check out the laws (RCWs - listed above) at: www.kcsarc.org/pop/laws

*What is legal-sexy? It's knowing the laws that apply to you and making smart decisions with that knowledge, regardless of your age.