

Definitions of Consent to Sexual Activity

Collin College's Definition

Sexual activity requires consent, which is defined as an informed, voluntary, affirmative, and mutual agreement between the participants to engage in a specific sexual act. The following guidelines will be used to determine whether consent was obtained when investigating a complaint of sexual assault against a Collin College student or employee.

1. Consent to sexual activity can be communicated in a variety of ways, but one should not presume consent has been given in the absence of a clear, positive agreement.
2. Consent can only be accurately gauged through direct communication about the decision to engage in sexual activity. The absence of the word "no" or the like (e.g., "stop") does not imply consent.
3. Although consent can be non-verbal, verbal communication is the most reliable form of asking for and obtaining consent. Discussing desires, needs, and limitations with sexual partners provides a basis for positive sexual experiences shaped by mutual willingness and respect.
4. Presumptions based upon contextual factors (e.g., provocative clothing or dancing) are unwarranted and should not be considered grounds for consent.
5. As defined in the [State of Texas Penal Code §22.011 Sexual Assault](#), the age of sexual consent is 17. Therefore, consent cannot be obtained from someone who is under the age of 17, as that person is legally considered to be a minor.
6. Consent cannot be obtained from someone who is asleep, unconscious, or otherwise mentally or physically incapacitated, whether due to alcohol, drugs, or some other condition (e.g., an intellectual or other disability). 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 assault.
7. Consent to some sexual acts does not constitute consent to other sexual acts.
8. Consent must be ongoing throughout a sexual encounter and can be revoked at any time. If you proceed despite your partner's verbal and/or non-verbal communication to stop, you have committed sexual assault.
9. Consent cannot be obtained by threat, coercion, or force. Agreement under such circumstances does not constitute consent.
10. A prior sexual encounter or pre-existing relationship does not indicate consent to current or future sexual activity.

State of Texas's Definition

The [Texas Penal Code, Section 22.011 Sexual Assault](#) states:

- (b) A sexual assault under Subsection (a) (1) is without the consent of the other person if:
- (1) the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by the use of physical force, violence, or coercion;
 - (2) the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by threatening to use force or violence against the other person or to cause harm to the other person, and the other person believes that the actor has the present ability to execute the threat;
 - (3) the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unconscious or physically unable to resist;
 - (4) the actor knows that as a result of mental disease or defect the other person is at the time of the sexual assault incapable either of appraising the nature of the act or of resisting it;
 - (5) the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unaware that the sexual assault is occurring;

- (6) *the actor has intentionally impaired the other person's power to appraise or control the other person's conduct by administering any substance without the other person's knowledge;*
- (7) *the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by threatening to use force or violence against any person, and the other person believes that the actor has the ability to execute the threat;*
- (8) *the actor is a public servant who coerces the other person to submit or participate;*
- (9) *the actor is a mental health services provider or a health care services provider who causes the other person, who is a patient or former patient of the actor, to submit or participate by exploiting the other person's emotional dependency on the actor;*
- (10) *the actor is a clergyman who causes the other person to submit or participate by exploiting the other person's emotional dependency on the clergyman in the clergyman's professional character as spiritual adviser;*
- (11) *the actor is an employee of a facility where the other person is a resident, unless the employee and resident are formally or informally married to each other under [Chapter 2, Family Code](#);*
- (12) *the actor is a health care services provider who, in the course of performing an assisted reproduction procedure on the other person, uses human reproductive material from a donor knowing that the other person has not expressly consented to the use of material from that donor;*
- (13) *the actor is a coach or tutor who causes the other person to submit or participate by using the actor's power or influence to exploit the other person's dependency on the actor; or*
- (14) *the actor is a caregiver hired to assist the other person with activities of daily life and causes the other person to submit or participate by exploiting the other person's dependency on the actor.*