

Kate from UNEWS helps you decide...



Have I Obtained Consent?

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Did they say "No"?

If a person says no to having sex, for any reason, they are not consenting.

Did they say "Yes"?

Just because a person does not or cannot say no to sex, that does not mean they consent. Seek **Enthusiastic Consent**.

To you, specifically?

Consenting to sex with one person does not mean consenting to sex with their friends/team mates or anyone else.

On this specific occasion?

Even if a person has willingly had sex with you before, that does not mean they consent now. You must obtain consent every time. Consent can also be withdrawn and you must then stop.

To this specific sex act?

There is more than one kind of sex. For example, consenting to oral sex does NOT mean consent to penetration.

Are they capable of giving meaningful consent?

A person cannot consent if they are:

- Under the age of consent (16 in NSW)
- Drunk or high
- Intellectually incapable of understanding what they are agreeing to.

Was the consent given under violence or threat of violence?

Consent must be given freely. If a person is too scared to say no, they are not consenting. Again, seek **Enthusiastic Consent**.

Was the consent obtained by any other form of coercion?

Tricking or coercing someone into sex is not obtaining consent. This includes making a person believe something bad will happen if they say no, or blackmailing them.

CONSENT?

Remember, consent must be enthusiastic to be meaningful...

You think it's not rape because...

... I'm a woman!

... he's a man!

Women can rape and men can be raped. Rape means having sex with a person who does not want to have sex and it does not matter what gender you are, or they are.

... they're a sex worker!

Some people think that sex workers cannot be raped. ANYONE can be raped. Just because a person sometimes has sex for money, this does not mean they have to have sex with you, even if you offer them money.

... we're married!

Being married to someone does not give you the right to have sex with them. Even your wife or husband has to consent to every individual sexual encounter, or it counts as rape.

... they made me horny!

... she dresses slutty!

... they're a slut!

It does not matter how a person dresses, how they behave, how many other people they have slept with or how they make you feel. There is no such thing as "asking for it", or "implying consent". If a person does not explicitly tell you they want to have sex, then it is rape.

... I have "blue balls"!

This is not a thing. Both men and women can go entire lifetimes without having sex. You do not ever NEED to have sex, and feeling as though you do is no excuse for rape.

... I'm entitled to birthday sex!

No you're not.

No one is ever entitled to sex. Sex is an act involving two people who BOTH want to participate. No matter how much you feel you deserve sex, no one is ever obligated to have sex with you.

... he had an erection!

... they enjoyed it!

Sometimes, the human body is aroused even when the conscious mind is not. Even if a man has an erection, or a woman orgasms during a rape, they have still not consented to the sex. Just because the body has reacted reflexively to the rape, this does not make it consensual.

... they changed their mind!

Consent can be withdrawn by either party at any time. It does not matter if you are in the middle of a sexual act, or even about to orgasm. If a person changes their mind and you continue with the sex, this is rape.

... it will "cure" them!

Rape does not "cure" anything. Raping a person cannot cure them of being homosexual, transgender, asexual, afraid of sex or anything else. Rape is never "helpful" or "therapeutic". It is an act of violence, oppression and power.

... we didn't go "all the way"!

While having full penetrative sex with someone without consent is rape, there are other acts that constitute rape or sexual assault. All are illegal and damaging. This includes everything from touching a person inappropriately, through oral sex to full penetration.



This has been an instructional poster from Kate of ONEWS

RAPE: NO EXCUSES!