Do you need to know the definition of consent?

**Yes**

- **is clear**
- **is not coercion**
- **is active**
- **is the responsibility of the person(s) initiating**
- **can be withdrawn at any time**
- **cannot be given when a person is incapacitated**

**No**

- **the 30 second version**
- **the full SUNY policy** (if you are here, it applies to you)

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**Affirmative consent** is a clear, unambiguous, knowing, informed, and voluntary agreement between all participants to engage in sexual activity. The definition of consent does not vary based upon a participant’s sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Consent cannot be given when it is the result of any **coercion**, intimidation, force, or threat of harm.

Consent is **active**, not passive. Silence or lack of resistance cannot be interpreted as consent. Consent to any sexual act or prior consensual sexual activity between or with any party does not constitute consent to any other sexual act.

Seeking and having consent accepted is the responsibility of the person(s) initiating each specific sexual act regardless of whether the person initiating the act is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Consent may be initially given but **withdrawn at any time**. When consent is withdrawn or cannot be given, sexual activity must stop.

Consent cannot be given when a person is incapacitated. Incapacitation occurs when an individual lacks the ability to fully, knowingly choose to participate in sexual activity. Incapacitation includes impairment due to drugs or alcohol (whether such use is voluntary or involuntary), the lack of consciousness or being asleep, being involuntarily restrained, if any of the parties are under the age of 17, or if an individual otherwise cannot consent.

[know it, stop it]

[www.counseling.suny.edu/knowviolence]