

How to Determine Age of Consent for Sexual Contact

How old is the individual?

Under 12

Ages 12-15

Ages 16-17

18+

CANNOT legally consent to sexual contact. All cases must be reported to DFS and law enforcement.

Is their partner more than 4 years older?

Is their partner in a position of authority (family member, babysitter, coach, teacher, doctor, clergy, etc.)?

Does their partner have a cognitive disability, mental illness, or other condition rendering them incapable of legal consent?

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

STOP.
Consent cannot be given.

Is their partner in a position of authority (family member, babysitter, coach, teacher, doctor, clergy, etc.)?

STOP.
Consent cannot be given.

Is their partner under 30 years of age?

STOP.
Consent cannot be given.

Consent for sexual contact can be given between adults.

Yes

No

Yes

No

STOP.
Consent cannot be given.

Consent for sexual contact can be given between an individual ages 12-15 and a partner who is no more than 4 years older, and who is not in a position of authority.

Consent for sexual contact can be given between an individual ages 16-17 with a partner under age 30 who is not in a position of authority.

STOP.
Consent cannot be given.

Confidential 24/7 Hotline Support in DE

24-hour Relationship Violence Hotlines
New Castle County: 302-762-6110
Kent/Sussex Counties: 302-422-8058

24-hour Relationship Violence Hotline (en español)
New Castle County: 302-762-6110
Kent/Sussex Counties: 302-745-9874

24-hour Rape/Sexual Assault Hotlines
YWCA SARC (New Castle/Sussex Co.): 1-800-773-8570
Contact Lifeline Crisis Helpline (Kent/Sussex Co.): 1-800-262-9800

To report child abuse in DE, call 1-800-292-9582

National Hotlines and Support

The National Domestic Violence Hotline
Online Chat: thehotline.org
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

The National Sexual Assault Hotline
Online Chat: online.rainn.org
1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

Love is Respect Teen Hotline
866-331-9474
Text: LOVEIS to 22522

Developed by Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence from State of Delaware Child Protection Accountability Commission Guidelines for Responding to Teen Dating and Sexual Violence in Delaware Schools

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