

Circumstances where consent cannot be given

Consent is not given if a person:

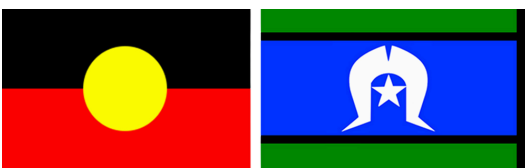
- ✗ Does not say or do anything as a sign of consent (e.g. freezing)
- ✗ Uses force or fear of force of harm (including physical, psychological, financial)
- ✗ Is held against their will
- ✗ Is asleep, unconscious or affected by alcohol/drugs
- ✗ Does not understand sexual act
- ✗ Has been tricked about the act or identity of the person
- ✗ Withdraws consent
- ✗ Is under coercion or intimidation*

Consent is not given if:

- ✗ There is an abuse of a relationship of authority or trust (when a person takes advantage of their relationship or misuse their position of power to cause the other person to submit to the sexual act or to feel they have no choice but to submit)
- ✗ False or misleading representation about payment of commercial sexual services (there is consent if a person lies about making payment or gives fake bank details to sex workers)
- ✗ An agreement is made that a condom will be used and the person removes or tampers with the condom, also known as “stealthing”.

*This circumstance has been included to better reflect the complexity of consent in the context of family violence and the inability to give free and voluntary agreement in these situations.

Coercive control is a pattern of controlling and manipulative behaviours within a relationship with the aim of taking away the victim-survivors' freedom and independence and to be dependent on the perpetrator.



Youthlaw Victoria is located on the traditional country of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners and pay our respects to their Elders, past and emerging. Sovereignty was never ceded.



Youthlaw Victoria is a proudly inclusive organisation and an ally of the LGBTIQ+ community.

Youthlaw acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.



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