

# AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT

"a knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity."

system.suny.edu

**You might hear someone say this...**

"If someone is uncomfortable during sex, they should just speak up and say 'No'."

"Asking for consent during the moment ruins spontaneity and is unrealistic."

"Men initiate sex while women either grant or deny sex."

**You could respond with this...**

"It is everyone's responsibility to get consent before sexual activity."

"Open communication creates a space where everyone feels comfortable."

"We should encourage everyone to take responsibility for their sexual experiences."

Sources: [www.sexandu.ca](http://www.sexandu.ca), [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org), Teaching Affirmative Consent: Practical guidelines to increase student understanding

**12%**

forwarded a sext without permission

[ifstudies.org](http://ifstudies.org)

**1 in 4**

teens reported sending, receiving, or sharing nude photos or sexual images in 2019

2019 WI YRBS

**8%**

have experienced their photo being forwarded without their consent

[ifstudies.org](http://ifstudies.org)

## Consent and Technology

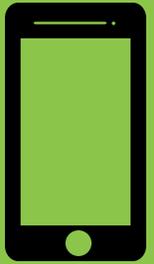


### What is consenting through technology?

Sexting is "the willing interactive exchange of sexually oriented messages using digital mobile communication devices." It is essential to receive consent before sending explicit messages. Affirmative consent with technology means both people are voluntarily and openly sending pictures, videos or texts to another person. If someone is sending you inappropriate messages without your consent, it is image abuse.

### Why does it matter?

Affirmative consent builds communication skills, prevents sexual assault, recognizes new social perspectives and addresses negative gender roles.



[www.goodmenproject.com](http://www.goodmenproject.com), [theinsider.com](http://theinsider.com)

### COVID-19 & Sexting

- Can be a safe way to be sexually active while maintaining social distancing
  - Can be a way to feel more connected during a time of disconnect
  - No risk of sexually transmitted infections
- [www.wellandgood.com](http://www.wellandgood.com)

## Think and ask before you send

Obtain consent before engaging in sexually explicit conversations with someone.

Communicate openly with your partner to ensure you are both comfortable with the texts.

Take time to ensure you are comfortable with the texts you are sending.

Know the laws in your state. In Wisconsin, teens could face child pornography charges for sending or receiving sexually explicit images.



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT**  
*of HEALTH SERVICES*