

Age of Consent to Sexual Activity

Consent to Sexual Activity

- The age of consent is the age at which a young person can legally agree to sexual activity.
- When it comes to sexual consent, only yes means yes.
- When someone is under the influence of drugs or alcohol they cannot legally consent to any kind of sexual activity.

Canada's Age of Consent

The age of consent to sexual activity is 16 years of age.

There are exceptions when a 16 or 17 year old **cannot** consent to sexual activity:

- if their sexual partner is in a **position of trust or authority** over them, for example teacher or coach
- if they are **dependent** on their sexual partner, for example for care or support
- if the relationship between the young person and their sexual partner is **exploitative**

Close in Age Exceptions

A person who is 11 years of age or under **cannot** consent to sexual activity.

A person who is 12 or 13 years of age can provide consent to anyone who is:

- up to **2 years older** than they are
- not in a position of trust or authority over them

A person who is 14 or 15 years of age can provide consent to sex with anyone who is:

- up to **5 years older** than they are
- not in a position of trust or authority over them

Other Persons Age

Your Age		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	12	✓	✓	▲	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	13	✓	✓	✓	▲	X	X	X	X	X	X
	14	▲	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	▲	X	X
	15	X	▲	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	▲	X
	16	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ you can give consent

X you cannot legally give consent

▲ depends on your birthday

Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation is the deliberate manipulation or abuse of power and control over another person, either by force or coercive control, in order for the abuser to obtain sexual or financial gain.

The following factors may be taken into account when determining whether a relationship is exploitative of the young person:

- the young person's age
- the age difference between the young person and their partner
- how the relationship developed (for example, quickly, secretly, over the internet)
- whether the partner may have controlled or influenced the young person

It is **ALWAYS** illegal to engage in sexual activity without consent

It is **ALWAYS** illegal to engage in sexual activity with someone who cannot consent

If you need help tell a trusted adult

or call

24 Hour Sexual Assault Crisis Line

1-888-292-7565

or

Kids Help Phone

1-800-668-6868

text CONNECT to 686868