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A Better Way
Education & Support

Right to Privacy, and Safe Touch

We are a Christian organization that equips trusted adults in children's lives with the tools to recognize and respond to potential and actual child sexual abuse.

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Consent

Consent is when two people both talk about and agree (say “yes”) to do something.

Consent is also when permission is asked by a person and granted by the person being asked.

Consent is always needed for sex (intercourse) to be ok. This means two main things:

- 1) It is of your own free will, no one can make you do anything you do not want to.
- 2) It is clearly given by you. The other person or people know if you said, “Yes”, or “No”.

A child cannot consent to sex or intercourse of any type. "Kinna kenna net ya saya fa intercourse, sie vissa net vas es even maint."

Consent cannot happen if you are unsure, hesitant, pressured, threatened, intimidated, unconscious, asleep, under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or if you have been hurt or scared.

In Pennsylvania:

- Children younger than 13 years old cannot legally **consent** to sex (intercourse).
- Teens between the ages of 13 and 15 cannot **consent** to sex (intercourse) with anyone who is 4 or more years older than them.
- People ages 16 and older can legally **consent** to (intercourse) with anyone they choose, as long as the other person does not have authority over them as defined in Pennsylvania’s institutional sexual assault statute

(Examples of “authority” could be parents, grandparents, brothers/sisters, uncles/aunts, legal guardians, church leaders/bishops, doctors/nurses, teachers, law enforcement/police, bosses, or anyone else who can tell you what to do).

Safe or Trusted People

Someone who is safe to talk to about anything. They do not have to be older people, and they do not have to be a minister, a parent or someone in authority.

Ask yourself these questions to help you to decide if someone might be safe or trusted:

Do they listen to you?

Do they trust and believe what you say?

Will they get mad at you for talking to them?

You can try talking to someone about something else to see if they are safe to talk to about your abuse. It does not have to be someone in your family or church.

Right to Privacy

You have the right to privacy in your own space. This means that your body and your things belong to you. Just like people should knock and receive permission to enter before coming into your room or your home, people also need to ask and receive permission to touch your body parts.

Safe Touch

Safe touch is any contact or touching of your body that makes you feel good, safe, comfortable, happy, and connected with another person or people.

Examples of safe touch might be hugs, holding hands, or any other kind of embrace from another person that makes you feel happy, safe, and comfortable..

Safe touch might make you FEEL good, supported, comforted, happy, or safe

Unsafe Touch

Unsafe touch is any contact or touching of your body that makes you feel sad, bad, unsafe, or uncomfortable. It can be from a stranger or even someone you know.

If someone does not ask you for your permission before touching you, even putting a hand on your shoulder or hugging you, it can sometimes make you feel unsafe.

Examples of unsafe touch might be pinching, hitting, grabbing, hugging or other touch you don't want.

Serious examples of unsafe touch might be someone touching your private parts. This might be your buttocks, chest, and/or genital area without your permission.

Unsafe touch might make you FEEL gross, ugly, uncomfortable, scared, weird, alone, embarrassed, hurt, angry, sad, terrified, mad, betrayed, or confused.