



About Consent

All of us in the BDSM community have seen the topic of consent in numerous forms. Consensual sex, gain consent, talk about consent, consenting individuals, or even consensual non-consent play. It seems like it should be such a simple topic: have permission for what you do with others. Yet, like the uncommon nature of common sense, consent is apparently not as easily understood as you'd think.

So, why do I feel the need to write this? Unfortunately, it's the obvious reason: some people didn't respect consent. I've had people who just plain didn't understand, people who allowed alcohol to impair their judgment, people who didn't pay attention to negotiations, or people who had the arrogance to believe I would change my mind. All of those things were choices. Some people argue that I ought to share the names of those people who have violated consent, but I won't publicly black-ball them. They aren't welcome in my home or at my events, and I'll share if I'm specifically asked about those people in vetting. Otherwise, I believe they ought to be given the chance to learn and change.

In that vein, I must admit that I've touched people without asking for consent simply because that previously wasn't part of my paradigm. Casual touching was, pre-pandemic, a very common habit. Asking is a new habit that I and many others are still acquiring. In this new world with justified fears of contagions, personal preferences regarding casual touch pair with health concerns extending beyond BDSM concepts of consent. Neither should be ignored, but one has perhaps shed more light on the other. I'm not an expert; I'm just another member of this community. So, when I say what I say, realize that it's from the perspective of one of your peers with no condescension or condemnation intended. I simply want this community to be as safe as I and others can possibly make it. As our world, both vanilla and kink, evolve, I ask that individuals (myself included) do as well.

How can we respect consent? Here's just a simplified list of examples (even consensual non-consent involves negotiation first). There are obviously more. This is what I ask for in my home. Those who flagrantly or repeatedly fail to comply can end up banned.

- Ask someone before touching them, even casually.
- Just because someone else is interacting with a person in a certain way does not give YOU permission to do it. Seeing Person A hug Person B doesn't give you permission to hug either of them just because you've seen a hug happen.
- When someone says 'No' or some other protest against your behavior, you STOP.

- If someone says "Red" or their safeword, you STOP, no questions asked. There are other ways to communicate slowing down. Safewords mean you end the scene or whatever else is occurring. Details don't matter at that point. Talk about it after; don't attempt to justify continuing.
- Consent can be withdrawn at any point. If you don't communicate that you are withdrawing consent, you cannot hold the other person accountable for your inability to communicate as agreed.
- Mid-scene, negotiate down but not up. Remove things you previously said were alright, but don't add things to which you didn't agree beforehand. Don't ask the other person to change their boundaries midway. Consider a bottom in sub-space as impaired in terms of decision-making; it's irresponsible to ask them to change the rules when they aren't thinking clearly. Instead, stop fully, bring them back to a clear state of mind, and then renegotiate.
- When someone says they don't want something, either be okay with that or leave them alone entirely. Just because YOU want something does not obligate them to give it. That includes scenes, kisses, whatever else.
- Never ask a sub's Dominant to force them to consent when they refuse.

A lot of these things have happened to me in one form or another, and I'm sure many of you have faced these issues. Consent is too important to forget. Without it, without that trust in each other, we'd never be able to explore the extent of our kinks together. Sometimes, I believe that it's safer in the kink world than the vanilla one. Here, many of us actively seek to hurt each other, but we take pains never to cause harm. Adhering to common ideals, like consent, allows us security you can't find in the vanilla world. Please help maintain that.

About Respect

What follows are general statements, not a commentary on the behavior of any individual. Please keep these thoughts in mind at the next event you attend, be it here or elsewhere;

At the beginning of every play party, @GameMaster923 and I bring everyone together for a reminder of the rules. We spend a great deal of time on consent, on what you can and can't do, that it always seems like overkill to highlight what you SHOULD do. Thankfully, we have not had any major issues. We did, however, have mild difficulties sharing space. We currently do not have sectioned off spaces for scenes. Our intent is that people should be able to adjust our space and equipment for the needs of their scenes rather than settle for what we might arrange. With that loose flow, though, comes a detriment: other people are using other spaces. Communicate with those around you (who aren't in scenes) about

what you will need and ask for cooperation in creating your scene. If you aren't in a scene, please help make it possible for others to use the space.

So, what does it mean when we tell everyone to respect a scene? The rules clearly state not to interrupt, but that only covers part of the problem. Some tops LIKE to talk to an audience, even welcome their participation. Certain "scenes" are actually skill shares or learning experiences where a helping hand might be, well, handy. Another set of attendees might prefer quiet to allow for the proper headspace. Sometimes, a raucous, laughing activity IS the scene, or events unfold organically without a "scene" (though consent is still required). Navigating the differences is part of respecting other attendees. Everyone must be cognizant of the needs of other attendees in the space. If you become aware that your level of socializing may be disruptive to scenes, please come back to the first floor. Loud conversations do not help maintain the proper headspace for many participants.

TO THE EXPERIENCED TOPS (and bottoms): Many people are still learning community rules. Please help them rather than trying to be polite and saying nothing. If you see something dangerous, don't bite your tongue. If you don't want to intervene, find [@FunandGames923](#) or [@GameMaster923](#). If you do not say something to the people who are being disruptive, no one will ever learn. You have a responsibility to yourself and your bottom when you get into a scene, and disruptive influences harm that. Please help me foster an environment capable of honoring that connection.