

# New York State Law Definitions Regarding Sex Offenses 2019



Violence against women act specific definitions: The Violence Against Women Act and its proposed regulations require the inclusion of certain New York state definitions in a campus's Annual Security Report and also require that those definitions be provided in campaigns, orientations, programs and trainings for employees and students. Definitions required include: affirmative consent, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. For more information on the below or other crimes, you can go to The [NYS Penal Law](#) website.

## **New York State Education Law, [Article 129-B, section 6441](#): Affirmative Consent to Sexual Activity states:**

1. "Affirmative consent is a knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity. Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as these words or actions create clear permission regarding willingness to engage in sexual activity. Silence or lack of resistance, in and of itself, does not demonstrate consent. The definition of consent does not vary based upon a participant's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression."
2. Each institution's code of conduct shall reflect the following principles as guidance for the institutions community."
  - a. Consent to any sexual act or prior consensual sexual activity between or with any party does not necessarily constitute consent to any other sexual act.
  - b. Consent is required regardless of whether the person initiating the act is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
  - c. Consent may be initially given but withdrawn at any time.
  - d. Consent cannot be given when a person is incapacitated, which occurs when an individual lacks the ability to knowingly choose to participate in sexual activity. Incapacitation may be caused by the lack of consciousness or being asleep, being involuntarily retained, or if an individual otherwise cannot consent. Depending on the degree of intoxication, someone who is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicants may be incapacitated and therefore unable to consent.
  - e. Consent cannot be given when it is the result of any coercion, intimidation, force, or threat of harm.
  - f. When consent is withdrawn or can no longer be given, sexual activity must stop.

Additional Consent Information:

### **Sexual violence is sexual activity without consent.**

- **Consent is lacking** in circumstances under which, at the time of the act of intercourse, oral sexual conduct, or anal sexual conduct, the victim clearly expressed that he or she did not consent to engage in such act, and a reasonable person in the actor's situation would have understood such person's words and acts as an expression of lack of consent to such act under all the circumstances.
- **Consent cannot be given when a person is temporarily incapacitated.** Temporary incapacitation occurs when an individual is incapable of appraising or controlling his or her conduct owing to the influence of a narcotic or intoxicating substance regardless of whether or not such substance was voluntarily consumed.
- **Consent cannot be given when one is physically helpless.** Physical helplessness occurs when an individual is unconscious or for any other reason is physically incapable to communicate unwillingness to an act.

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- **Consent cannot be given when one is physically compelled** by force or threat of harm or when involuntarily restrained.
- **Consent cannot be given** if any of the parties are under the age of seventeen.
- **Consent cannot be given when a person suffers from a mental disease or defect**, which renders him or her incapable of appraising the nature of his or her conduct.
- **Consent** to any sexual act or prior consensual sexual activity between or with any party **does not constitute consent** to any other sexual act. **When consent is withdrawn at any time, sexual activity must stop.**

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## New York State Penal Laws

**S 130.20 Sexual misconduct:** A person is guilty of sexual misconduct when: 1. He or she engages in sexual intercourse with another person without such person's consent; or 2. He or she engages in oral sexual conduct or anal sexual conduct with another person without such person's consent; or 3. He or she engages in sexual conduct with an animal or a dead human body.

*Sexual misconduct is a class A misdemeanor.*

**S 130.25 Rape in the third degree:** A person is guilty of rape in the third degree when: 1. He or she engages in sexual intercourse with another person who is incapable of consent by reason of some factor other than being less than seventeen years old; 2. Being twenty-one years old or more, he or she engages in sexual intercourse with another person less than seventeen years old; or 3. He or she engages in sexual intercourse with another person without such person's consent where such lack of consent is by reason of some factor other than incapacity to consent.

*Rape in the third degree is a class E felony.*

**S 130.30 Rape in the second degree:** A person is guilty of rape in the second degree when: 1. being eighteen years old or more, he or she engages in sexual intercourse with another person less than fifteen years old; or 2. he or she engages in sexual intercourse with another person who is incapable of consent by reason of being mentally disabled or mentally incapacitated. It shall be an affirmative defense to the crime of rape in the second degree as defined in subdivision one of this section that the defendant was less than four years older than the victim at the time of the act.

*Rape in the second degree is a class D felony.*

**S 130.35 Rape in the first degree:** A person is guilty of rape in the first degree when he or she engages in sexual intercourse with another person: 1. By forcible compulsion; or 2. Who is incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless; or 3. Who is less than eleven years old; or 4. Who is less than thirteen years old and the actor is eighteen years old or more.

*Rape in the first degree is a class B felony.*

**S 130.40 Criminal sexual act in the third degree:** A person is guilty of criminal sexual act in the third degree when: 1. He or she engages in oral sexual conduct or anal sexual conduct with a person who is incapable of consent by reason of some factor other than being less than seventeen years old; 2. Being twenty-one years old or more, he or she engages in oral sexual conduct or anal sexual conduct with a

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person less than seventeen years old; or 3. He or she engages in oral sexual conduct or anal sexual conduct with another person without such person's consent where such lack of consent is by reason of some factor other than incapacity to consent.

*Criminal sexual act in the third degree is a class E felony.*

**S 130.45 Criminal sexual act in the second degree:** A person is guilty of criminal sexual act in the second degree when: 1. being eighteen years old or more, he or she engages in oral sexual conduct or anal sexual conduct with another person less than fifteen years old; or 2. he or she engages in oral sexual conduct or anal sexual conduct with another person who is incapable of consent by reason of being mentally disabled or mentally incapacitated. It shall be an affirmative defense to the crime of criminal sexual act in the second degree as defined in subdivision one of this section that the defendant was less than four years older than the victim at the time of the act.

*Criminal sexual act in the second degree is a class D felony.*

**S 130.50 Criminal sexual act in the first degree:** A person is guilty of criminal sexual act in the first degree when he or she engages in oral sexual conduct or anal sexual conduct with another person: 1. By forcible compulsion; or 2. Who is incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless; or 3. Who is less than eleven years old; or 4. Who is less than thirteen years old and the actor is eighteen years old or more.

*Criminal sexual act in the first degree is a class B felony.*

**S 130.52 Forcible touching:** A person is guilty of forcible touching when such person intentionally, and for no legitimate purpose: 1. forcibly touches the sexual or other intimate parts of another person for the purpose of degrading or abusing such person, or for the purpose of gratifying the actor's sexual desire; or 2. subjects another person to sexual contact for the purpose of gratifying the actor's sexual desire and with intent to degrade or abuse such other person while such other person is a passenger on a bus, train, or subway car operated by any transit agency, authority or company, public or private, whose operation is authorized by New York state or any of its political subdivisions. For the purposes of this section, forcible touching includes squeezing, grabbing or pinching.

*Forcible touching is a class A misdemeanor.*

**S 130.53 Persistent sexual abuse:** A person is guilty of persistent sexual abuse when he or she commits the crime of forcible touching, as defined in section 130.52 of this article, sexual abuse in the third degree, as defined in section 130.55 of this article, or sexual abuse in the second degree, as defined in section 130.60 of this article, and, within the previous ten year period, excluding any time during which such person was incarcerated for any reason, has been convicted two or more times, in separate criminal transactions for which sentence was imposed on separate occasions, of forcible touching, as defined in section 130.52 of this article, sexual abuse in the third degree as defined in section 130.55 of this article, sexual abuse in the second degree, as defined in section 130.60 of this article, or any offense defined in this article, of which the commission or attempted commission thereof is a felony.

*Persistent sexual abuse is a class E felony.*

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**S 130.55 Sexual abuse in the third degree:** A person is guilty of sexual abuse in the third degree when he or she subjects another person to sexual contact without the latter's consent; except that in any prosecution under this section, it is an affirmative defense that (a) such other person's lack of consent was due solely to incapacity to consent by reason of being less than seventeen years old, and (b) such other person was more than fourteen years old, and (c) the defendant was less than five years older than such other person.

*Sexual abuse in the third degree is a class B misdemeanor.*

**S 130.60 Sexual abuse in the second degree:** A person is guilty of sexual abuse in the second degree when he or she subjects another person to sexual contact and when such other person is: 1. Incapable of consent by reason of some factor other than being less than seventeen years old; or 2. Less than fourteen years old.

*Sexual abuse in the second degree is a class A misdemeanor.*

**S 130.65 Sexual abuse in the first degree:** A person is guilty of sexual abuse in the first degree when he or she subjects another person to sexual contact: 1. By forcible compulsion; or 2. When the other person is incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless; or 3. When the other person is less than eleven years old; or 4. When the other person is less than thirteen years old and the actor is twenty-one years old or older.

*Sexual abuse in the first degree is a class D felony.*

**S 130.65-a Aggravated sexual abuse in the fourth degree:** 1. A person is guilty of aggravated sexual abuse in the fourth degree when: (a) He or she inserts a foreign object in the vagina, urethra, penis, rectum or anus of another person and the other person is incapable of consent by reason of some factor other than being less than seventeen years old; or (b) He or she inserts a finger in the vagina, urethra, penis, rectum or anus of another person causing physical injury to such person and such person is incapable of consent by reason of some factor other than being less than seventeen years old. 2. Conduct performed for a valid medical purpose does not violate the provisions of this section.

*Aggravated sexual abuse in the fourth degree is a class E felony.*

**S 130.66 Aggravated sexual abuse in the third degree:** 1. A person is guilty of aggravated sexual abuse in the third degree when he or she inserts a foreign object in the vagina, urethra, penis, rectum or anus of another person: (a) By forcible compulsion; or (b) When the other person is incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless; or (c) When the other person is less than eleven years old. 2. A person is guilty of aggravated sexual abuse in the third degree when he or she inserts a foreign object in the vagina, urethra, penis, rectum or anus of another person causing physical injury to such person and such person is incapable of consent by reason of being mentally disabled or mentally incapacitated. 3. Conduct performed for a valid medical purpose does not violate the provisions of this section.

*Aggravated sexual abuse in the third degree is a class D felony.*

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**S 130.67 Aggravated sexual abuse in the second degree:** 1. A person is guilty of aggravated sexual abuse in the second degree when he or she inserts a finger in the vagina, urethra, penis, rectum or anus of another person causing physical injury to such person: (a) By forcible compulsion; or (b) When the other person is incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless; or (c) When the other person is less than eleven years old. 2. Conduct performed for a valid medical purpose does not violate the provisions of this section.

*Aggravated sexual abuse in the second degree is a class C felony.*

**S 130.70 Aggravated sexual abuse in the first degree:** 1. A person is guilty of aggravated sexual abuse in the first degree when he or she inserts a foreign object in the vagina, urethra, penis, rectum or anus of another person causing physical injury to such person: (a) By forcible compulsion; or (b) When the other person is incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless; or (c) When the other person is less than eleven years old. 2. Conduct performed for a valid medical purpose does not violate the provisions of this section.

*Aggravated sexual abuse in the first degree is a class B felony.*

**S 130.75 Course of sexual conduct against a child in the first degree:** 1. A person is guilty of course of sexual conduct against a child in the first degree when, over a period of time not less than three months in duration: (a) he or she engages in two or more acts of sexual conduct, which includes at least one act of sexual intercourse, oral sexual conduct, anal sexual conduct or aggravated sexual contact, with a child less than eleven years old; or (b) he or she, being eighteen years old or more, engages in two or more acts of sexual conduct, which include at least one act of sexual intercourse, oral sexual conduct, anal sexual conduct or aggravated sexual contact, with a child less than thirteen years old. 2. A person may not be subsequently prosecuted for any other sexual offense involving the same victim unless the other charged offense occurred outside the time period charged under this section.

*Course of sexual conduct against a child in the first degree is a class B felony.*

**S 130.80 Course of sexual conduct against a child in the second degree:** 1. A person is guilty of course of sexual conduct against a child in the second degree when, over a period of time not less than three months in duration: (a) he or she engages in two or more acts of sexual conduct with a child less than eleven years old; or (b) he or she, being eighteen years old or more, engages in two or more acts of sexual conduct with a child less than thirteen years old. 2. A person may not be subsequently prosecuted for any other sexual offense involving the same victim unless the other charged offense occurred outside the time period charged under this section.

*Course of sexual conduct against a child in the second degree is a class D felony.*

**S 130.90 Facilitating a sex offense with a controlled substance:** A person is guilty of facilitating a sex offense with a controlled substance when he or she: 1. knowingly and unlawfully possesses a controlled substance or any preparation, compound, mixture or substance that requires a prescription to obtain and administers such substance or preparation, compound, mixture or substance that requires a prescription to obtain to another person without such person's consent and with intent to commit



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against such person conduct constituting a felony defined in this article; and 2. commits or attempts to commit such conduct constituting a felony defined in this article.

*Facilitating a sex offense with a controlled substance is a class D felony.*

**S 255.25 Incest in the third degree:** A person is guilty of incest in the third degree when he or she marries or engages in sexual intercourse, oral sexual conduct or anal sexual conduct with a person whom he or she knows to be related to him or her, whether through marriage or not, as an ancestor, descendant, brother or sister of either the whole or the half blood, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece.

*Incest is a class E felony.*

**S 255.26 Incest in the second degree:** A person is guilty of incest in the second degree when he or she commits the crime of rape in the second degree, as defined in section 130.30 of this part, or criminal sexual act in the second degree, as defined in section 130.45 of this part, against a person whom he or she knows to be related to him or her, whether through marriage or not, as an ancestor, descendant, brother or sister of either the whole or the half blood, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece.

*Incest is a class D felony.*

**S 255.27 Incest in the first degree:** A person is guilty of incest in the first degree when he or she commits the crime of rape in the first degree, as defined in subdivision three or four of section 130.35 of this part, or criminal sexual act in the first degree, as defined in subdivision three or four of section 130.50 of this part, against a person whom he or she knows to be related to him or her, whether through marriage or not, as an ancestor, descendant, brother or sister of either the whole or half blood, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece.

*Incest is a class B felony.*

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**Domestic Violence/Dating Violence ([NY Social Services Law 459-a](#); [NY Criminal Procedure Law Section 530.11](#)):** New York state does not specifically define “domestic violence” within its Penal Law.

Domestic Violence: as defined in the Social Services Law under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act. A “victim of domestic violence” under that law means any person over the age of sixteen, any married person or any parent accompanied by his or her minor child or children in situations in which such person or such person’s child is a victim of an act which would constitute a violation of the penal law, including, but not limited to acts constituting disorderly conduct, harassment, aggravated harassment, sexual misconduct, forcible touching, sexual abuse, stalking, criminal mischief, menacing, reckless endangerment, kidnapping, assault, attempted assault, attempted murder, criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, or strangulation; and (i) such act or acts have resulted in actual physical or emotional injury or have created a substantial risk of physical or emotional harm to such person or



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such person's child; and (ii) such act or acts are or are alleged to have been committed by a family or household member.

- A family or household member is defined as persons related by consanguinity or affinity; Persons legally married to one another; Persons formerly married to one another regardless of whether they still reside in the same household; Persons who have a child in common regardless of whether such persons are married or have lived together at any time; Unrelated persons who are continually or at regular intervals living in the same household or who have in the past continually or at regular intervals lived in the same household; Persons who are not related by consanguinity or affinity and who are or have been in an intimate relationship regardless of whether such persons have lived together at any time; or any other category of individuals deemed to be a victim of domestic violence as defined by the office of children and family services in regulation. Factors that may be considered in determining whether a relationship is an “intimate relationship” include, but are not limited to: the nature or type of relationship regardless of whether the relationship is sexual in nature; the frequency of interaction between the persons; and the duration of the relationship. Neither a casual acquaintance nor ordinary fraternization between two individuals in business or social contexts shall be deemed to constitute an “intimate relationship”.
- A parent means natural or adoptive parent or any individual lawfully charged with a minor child’s care or custody.

Further, under the NY Criminal Procedure Law Section 530.11, the family courts and the criminal courts have concurrent jurisdiction over any proceeding concerning: acts which would constitute disorderly conduct (including disorderly conduct not in a public place), harassment in the first degree, harassment in the second degree, aggravated harassment in the second degree, sexual misconduct, forcible touching, sexual abuse in the third degree, sexual abuse in the second degree, stalking in the first degree, stalking in the second degree, stalking in the third degree, stalking in the fourth degree, criminal mischief, menacing in the second degree, menacing in the third degree, reckless endangerment, strangulation in the first degree, strangulation in the second degree, criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, assault in the second degree, assault in the third degree, an attempted assault, identity theft in the first degree, identity theft in the second degree, identity theft in the third degree, grand larceny in the fourth degree, grand larceny in the third degree or coercion in the second degree, between spouses or former spouses, or between parent and child, or between members of the same family or household except that if the respondent would not be criminally responsible by reason of age, then the family court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over such proceeding. Notwithstanding a complainant's election to proceed in family court, the criminal court shall not be divested of jurisdiction to hear a family offense proceeding pursuant to this section.

Family or Household Members: persons related by consanguinity or affinity; persons legally married to one another; persons formerly married to one another regardless of whether they still reside in the same household; persons who have a child in common, regardless of whether such persons have been married or have lived together at any time; and persons who are not related by consanguinity or affinity and who are or have been in an intimate relationship regardless of whether such persons have lived together at any time. Factors the court may consider in determining whether a relationship is an

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“intimate relationship” include but are not limited to: the nature or type of relationship, regardless of whether the relationship is sexual in nature; the frequency of interaction between the persons; and the duration of the relationship. Neither a casual acquaintance nor ordinary fraternization between two individuals in business or social contexts shall be deemed to constitute an “intimate relationship”.

Dating Violence: New York State does not specifically define “dating violence.” However, under New York Law, intimate relationships are covered by the definition of domestic violence when the act constitutes a crime listed elsewhere in this document and is committed by a person in an “intimate relationship” with the victim. See “Family or Household Member” for definition of “intimate relationship.”

## **New York State Penal Laws (Stalking)**

S 120.45 Stalking in the fourth degree: A person is guilty of stalking in the fourth degree when he or she intentionally, and for no legitimate purpose, engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person, and knows or reasonably should know that such conduct: 1. is likely to cause reasonable fear of material harm to the physical health, safety or property of such person, a member of such person's immediate family or a third party with whom such person is acquainted; or 2. causes material harm to the mental or emotional health of such person, where such conduct consists of following, telephoning or initiating communication or contact with such person, a member of such person's immediate family or a third party with whom such person is acquainted, and the actor was previously clearly informed to cease that conduct; or 3. is likely to cause such person to reasonably fear that his or her employment, business or career is threatened, where such conduct consists of appearing, telephoning or initiating communication or contact at such person's place of employment or business, and the actor was previously clearly informed to cease that conduct. For the purposes of subdivision two of this section, “following” shall include the unauthorized tracking of such person’s movements or location through the use of a global positioning system or other device.

*Stalking in the fourth degree is a class B misdemeanor.*

S 120.50 Stalking in the third degree: A person is guilty of stalking in the third degree when he or she: 1. Commits the crime of stalking in the fourth degree in violation of section 120.45 of this article against three or more persons, in three or more separate transactions, for which the actor has not been previously convicted; or 2. Commits the crime of stalking in the fourth degree in violation of section 120.45 of this article against any person, and has previously been convicted, within the preceding ten years of a specified predicate crime, as defined in subdivision five of section 120.40 of this article, and the victim of such specified predicate crime is the victim, or an immediate family member of the victim, of the present offense; or 3. With intent to harass, annoy or alarm a specific person, intentionally engages in a course of conduct directed at such person which is likely to cause such person to reasonably fear physical injury or serious physical injury, the commission of a sex offense against, or the kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment or death of such person or a member of such person’s immediate family; or 4. Commits the crime of stalking in the fourth degree and has previously been convicted within the preceding ten years of stalking in the fourth degree.

*Stalking in the third degree is a class A misdemeanor.*

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**S 120.55 Stalking in the second degree:** A person is guilty of stalking in the second degree when he or she: 1. Commits the crime of stalking in the third degree as defined in subdivision three of section 120.50 of this article and in the course of and in furtherance of the commission of such offense: (i) displays, or possesses and threatens the use of, a firearm, pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, electronic dart gun, electronic stun gun, cane sword, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, plastic knuckles, metal knuckles, chuka stick, sand bag, sandclub, slingshot, slungshot, shirken, "Kung Fu Star", dagger, dangerous knife, dirk, razor, stiletto, imitation pistol, dangerous instrument, deadly instrument or deadly weapon; or (ii) displays what appears to be a pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, machine gun or other firearm; or 2. Commits the crime of stalking in the third degree in violation of subdivision three of section 120.50 of this article against any person, and has previously been convicted, within the preceding five years, of a specified predicate crime as defined in subdivision five of section 120.40 of this article, and the victim of such specified predicate crime is the victim, or an immediate family member of the victim, of the present offense; or 3. Commits the crime of stalking in the fourth degree and has previously been convicted of stalking in the third degree as defined in subdivision four of section 120.50 of this article against any person; or 4. Being twenty-one years of age or older, repeatedly follows a person under the age of fourteen or engages in a course of conduct or repeatedly commits acts over a period of time intentionally placing or attempting to place such person who is under the age of fourteen in reasonable fear of physical injury, serious physical injury or death; or 5. Commits the crime of stalking in the third degree, as defined in subdivision three of section 120.50 of this article, against ten or more persons, in ten or more separate transactions, for which the actor has not been previously convicted.

*Stalking in the second degree is a class E felony.*

**S 120.60 Stalking in the first degree:** A person is guilty of stalking in the first degree when he or she commits the crime of stalking in the third degree as defined in subdivision three of section 120.50 or stalking in the second degree as defined in section 120.55 of this article and, in the course and furtherance thereof, he or she: 1. intentionally or recklessly causes physical injury to the victim of such crime; or 2. commits a class A misdemeanor defined in article one hundred thirty of this chapter, or a class E felony defined in section 130.25, 130.40 or 130.85 of this chapter, or a class D felony defined in section 130.30 or 130.45 of this chapter.

*Stalking in the first degree is a class D felony.*

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## Possible Penalties for Sex Offenses

The New York State Penal Law provides for the following possible penalties for the various classifications of sexual assault offenses:

Offense	Sentence
'A' Violent Felony	Life, 20-25 years
'B' Violent Felony	5-25 years
'B' Non Violent Felony	1-3, Max 25 years
'C' Violent Felony	3½ to 15 years
'C' Non Violent Felony	No Jail, Probation, 1-2 years to 15 Years
'D' Violent Felony	2-7 Years

Offense	Sentence
'D' Non Violent Felony	No Jail, Probation, 1-3 to 7 years
'E' Violent Felony	No Jail, Probation, 1½ to 4 years
'E' Non Violent Felony	No Jail, Probation, 1⅓ to 4 years
'A' Misdemeanor	<1 year and/or up to \$1000.00 fine
'B' Misdemeanor	<3 months and/or up to \$500.00 Fine