

Consent & Ages of Consent

What is Consent?

Consent is the voluntary agreement or giving permission to do something because you want to, not because you feel threatened or forced. When people consent to something they feel like they have equal power and control over the situation. There are many ways that consent can be given verbally and non-verbally.



Consent is **FRIES**

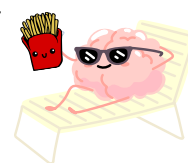
Freely Given

Reversible

Informed

Enthusiastic

Specific



		Other Person's Age									
Your Age		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	12	✓	✓	○	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	13	✓	✓	✓	○	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	14	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✗	✗
	15	✗	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✗
	16	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	17	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	18	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Legend:

You can legally give consent.
Depends on the exact birthdays.
No legal consent can be given.



The chart above shows the ages that youth can legally consent to. Birthdays are very important as this is how the law measures the exact age gaps.

Let's look at this example: Riley, who turned 13 today wants to be in a relationship with Morgan who turned 15 last week. Since Morgan would be 2 years and a week older than Riley, they cannot legally consent to this relationship because youth ages 12 to 13 can only consent to someone who is less than 2 years older.



Close-in Age Exemptions

Under
12

Cannot consent to any sexual activity even if they agree to it

12-13

Can consent with someone less than two years older (2 years less one day)

14-15

Can consent with someone less than five years older (5 years less one day)

16

Legal Age of Consent in Canada

Can consent with anyone over the age of 14, unless the person is in a position of trust or authority

Under
18

Cannot consent if there is a relationship of trust, authority, or dependency

Cannot exchange sex for something (money, gifts, etc.)

The legal age of consent in Canada is 16. However, the law recognizes that youth between the ages of 12-16 are entering relationships and engaging in sexual activity, so the Close-in Age Exemptions were created to give them more protection.



Sexual Exploitation happens when someone exchanges sexual activity for something a person needs such as money, shelter, food, transportation, etc. This can also happen to youth and can often be seen in peer relationships.

The Close-in Age Exemptions is a legal framework that aims to protect young people from older people who have more power and control over them. It does not encourage or discourage relationships and sexual activity among youth. It is important to have conversations with the youth in our lives about healthy relationships, consent, boundaries, and respect.



CCASA

CALGARY COMMUNITIES AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE