



## Instructions and FAQ: Age of Consent Chart for Teen Providers and Parents *February 2023*

- Safe+Sound Somerset recommends using this chart as a conversation tool when talking with minors about healthy and unhealthy relationships or when they have questions about the age of consent. *We find that youth want to have these conversations, and often do not know the legal ages of consent.*
- This chart should not be taken as legal advice; it is our understanding of the law as of February 1, 2023. For questions about mandatory reporting or direct support related to dating, domestic, or sexual violence, please call or text the Safe+Sound Somerset 24/7 helpline at 866-685-1122.
- According to NJ law, the age of consent is for sexual *activity*. It is defined broadly and not limited to sexual intercourse.
- Any sexual activity involving someone younger than 13, and/or any sexual activity between a minor and someone in a caregiver or supervisory role requires a mandatory report to the NJ Child Abuse Hotline at **1-877-652-2873**.

**Consent:** This chart is meant to show New Jersey law as it relates to age and **consensual** sexual activity. Nonconsensual sexual activity is ALWAYS sexual assault, regardless of age.

### **Consent has to be F.R.I.E.S.:**

F: Freely given (by everyone – no pressure, guilt, or forcing)

R: Reversible (able to change your mind at any time, for any reason)

I: Informed (no tricks; everyone knows what they are agreeing to)

E: Everyone agrees

S: Specific (given for every action)

There are also other limits to giving consent, beyond age and pressure: level of intoxication, physical or developmental disability, relationship of the victim/perpetrator, unconsciousness, and vulnerable adults. See [this article](#) from the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) for more information.

**For counseling, supportive listening, and free services:** Call or text the 24/7 Safe+Sound Helpline: **866-685-1122**

**For training or guidance related to this guide:** Contact Joelle Piercy, Safe+Sound Director of Outreach and Prevention, direct line: 908-737-7544

# AGES OF CONSENT FOR SEXUAL ACTIVITY IN NJ

24/7 Call or Text Helpline:  
866-685-1122

