

**Consent:**

(A) Consent is the act of willingly agreeing to engage in sexual contact or conduct. Individuals who consent to sex must be able to understand what behavior they are providing consent. Under this policy, “No” always means “No,” and the absence of “No” may not mean “Yes.”

(i) Consent is informed, knowing and voluntary. Consent is active, not passive. Silence, in and of itself, cannot be interpreted as consent. Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create mutually understandable permission regarding the conditions of sexual activity.

(ii) Consent to one form of sexual activity cannot imply consent to other forms of sexual activity.

(iii) Previous relationships or consent does not imply future consent

(iv) Consent cannot be procured by use of physical force, compelling threats, intimidating behavior or coercion. (v) In order to give effective consent, one must be of legal age and have the capacity to consent. Incapacity may result from mental disability, intellectual disability, unconsciousness/sleep, age or use of alcohol, drugs, medication and/or other substances. Consent given by someone who one should know to be, or based on the circumstances, reasonably should have known to be, mentally or physically incapacitated, is a policy violation. Incapacitation is a state where someone cannot make rational, reasonable decisions because he or she lacks capacity to give knowing consent (e.g. to understand the “who, what, when, where, why or how” of their sexual interaction). Incapacity may result from a level of alcohol ingestion that is more severe than impairment, being under the influence, drunkenness or intoxication. It is less severe than alcohol poisoning or overdose. Whether a person is incapacitated is a subjective determination that will be made after the incident and in light of all facts available. Individuals reach incapacitation at different points and as a result of different stimuli [and] exhibit incapacity in different ways.

Note: Indications of consent are irrelevant if the initiator knows or should reasonably have known of the incapacity of the other person.

(B) Use of alcohol, medications, or other drugs will not excuse behavior that violates this policy.