

# SEX & THE LAW



THE LEGAL AGE OF CONSENT IS 16  
THIS IS THE AGE THAT A PERSON CAN LEGALLY  
ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY

## SEXUAL ACTIVITY =

INCLUDES EVERYTHING FROM KISSING TO PENETRATIVE  
SEX.

IT DOESN'T INCLUDE NUDES?

## NUDES

YOU HAVE TO BE 18 TO

SEND OR RECEIVE NUDES. THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE AGE OF  
CONSENT BECAUSE AT 16 YOU ARE STILL LEGALLY REGARDED  
AS A CHILD. THIS MEANS ANY IMAGE SENT TO OR RECEIVED OF A  
PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18 IS A CHILD EXPLOITATION IMAGE  
AND A CRIMINAL OFFENSE. IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT  
THE LAW IS THERE TO PROTECT YOUNG  
PEOPLE NOT TO PROSECUTE THEM. HOWEVER,  
YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PROSECUTED  
FOR THIS, PARTICULARLY WHEN IMAGES OF A  
YOUNG PERSON ARE BEING SHARED WITHOUT THEIR  
CONSENT. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE  
IMAGE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A "NUDE" BUT CAN  
BE ANY SORT OF SEXUALISED IMAGE



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

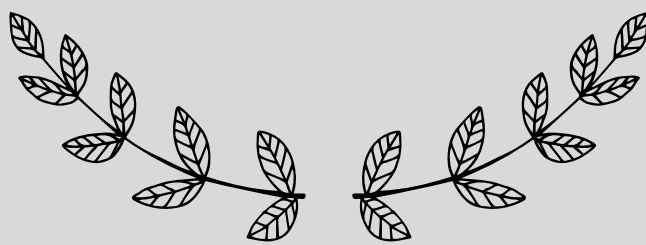
## WHAT DO I DO IF SOMEONE SENDS ME A SEXUAL IMAGE WITHOUT ASKING ME?

Regardless of whether or not you know them this is a criminal offense. No matter what age you are this is illegal. If you are under 18 and someone sends you a sexual photo at your request this is still illegal. You can't send a sexual image under the age of 18. These laws are in place to stop child exploitation. A large percentage of child exploitation happens at the hands of other young people

## WHAT DO I DO IF SOMEONE SHARES MY NUDE WITHOUT MY PERMISSION ?

This is a criminal offence. It is also a criminal offence to threaten to do so. So if anyone ever does either of these things you can report them to the police. If you sent the photo first, and under 18, you have technically broke the law HOWEVER you will not be punished for coming forward and reporting.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING RAISED IN THIS LEAFLET GIVE US A CALL, EMAIL OR COME TO OUR CLINIC FOR A CHAT.



COMMON YOUTH PROVIDES FREE RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE (FROM 11 TO 25 YEARS) ACROSS THE WHOLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND. WE ALSO HAVE A SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC WHICH OFFERS A SAFE, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ACCEPTING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO TALK AND TO ACCESS SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACCESSING OUR SERVICES YOU CAN CONTACT US ON 02890 328866. YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

### BELFAST

MONDAY..... 14:30 - 17:00  
TUESDAY..... 14:30 - 17:00  
WEDNESDAY..... 14:30 - 17:00  
THURSDAY..... 17:30 - 20:00  
FRIDAY..... 14:00 - 16:30  
SATURDAY..... 13:30 - 16:00  
SUNDAY..... 13:30 - 15:00

### COLERAINE

MONDAY..... 14:30 - 17:00  
TUESDAY..... CLOSED  
WEDNESDAY..... CLOSED  
THURSDAY..... 14:30 - 17:00  
FRIDAY..... CLOSED  
SATURDAY..... CLOSED  
SUNDAY..... CLOSED

### MALE CLINIC (BELFAST ONLY)

SATURDAY..... 16:00 - 17:30