

Questions About Rape, Sexual Abuse and Consent

What gives people a motive to rape?

Rape is often not about desire or urges, but more about power, control and dominance,

Rape culture: comments blaming and shaming victims and protecting the offender.

Unequal women's rights.

Environmental factors: society, upbringing, internet, thoughts – no direct answers.

Most people don't wake up thinking "I'm going to rape someone today" it's usually due to circumstances, opportunities, situations.

What other ways can the victim prove it was a certain person? For instance, if the offender denies that it was them and refuses to admit it. Are there ways the victim can prove it?

Your story is the evidence. If you wish to take this to the police, they have processes in place for their investigations which they will explain to you.

What do you do if nobody believes you?

If you wish to share your story, do so. Find safe people you can trust, or use a service like ours. It takes a lot for someone to come forward, we recognise that courage. If someone doesn't believe you, go to the next person you trust.

What do you do if you're scared to say you got raped?

That is okay. It takes a lot for people to come forward. You have options: police/ no police, our service, telling someone you trust, or doing nothing if you're not ready to take that step yet.

Should I engage if I witness somebody being raped/ sexually abused?

People can intervene in many different ways. Sometimes, due to your own safety, you may not be able to intervene directly, but you can call the police or yell out for help.

Can you defend yourself?

To get away, yes, use whatever force you need to get yourself safe and away. But use common sense. Use self-defence to get yourself out of a situation, not to punish someone.

Do you have to go to the police?

This is entirely up to you. The police will be involved as much or as little as you like, or not at all if you wish.

What's the average amount of years someone would go to jail for rape/ sexual abuse?

Depends on the case. 20 years max for rape.

Why do some people not get arrested for rape?

Individual cases. Some people don't even go to the police.

Have you had people own up to raping before? If so, how often?

Yes, we are aware there have been a few cases of people going to the police and owning up to raping someone. Police have been in touch with us to support the victims.

If your friend set you up to get raped, is he/she going to jail with the offender?

They will certainly be investigated by police, and will almost certainly be charged. But the exact charges depends on the situation.

Is it possible to rape someone by accident?

This is highly unlikely. But it does come down to consent and voicing what you are/ aren't comfortable doing. People need to be educated on what consent is and isn't.

Is it still rape if you both consent, but you don't want to because you feel scared to say no?

If you were scared because of a threat (spoken or implied), this is not true consent and the offender can face criminal charges. If you led the person to believe you were okay with having sex, it is unlikely they will be charged. You need to be able to COMMUNICATE and have conversations with your partner about sex. Ask yourself: if I can't talk about sex with someone, why would I have sex with them? People aren't mind-readers.

If a guy wants to have sex but the girl didn't, but she said she wanted to and they did it, is that rape?

Not likely (assuming all of age, no coercion, both sober etc.). If a person doesn't want to have sex, they need to COMMUNICATE this with their partner – we need to have these conversations and be able to talk about sex if we're considering having sex with someone.

What happens if someone said you raped them when you didn't?

False rape allegations are taken seriously by police and can lead to criminal charges. Remember, it doesn't happen as often; it takes a lot for someone to come forward.

Sometimes these false allegations come forward because of jealousy, break-ups or regret, but that is not rape.

What do I do if a person consents, but a few days later they regret it and make a rape allegation?

Regretful sex is not rape. This is why it's really important to be sure about what you want to do, and be able to communicate this with your partner. In this case, if there was no pressure, coercion etc. then this is not rape.

What if 2 guys have sex?

All good if they're 16+ and consenting. If we're talking about non-consensual sex, this is rape where the person could face charges of Unwanted Sexual Connection.

What happens if there is rape between trans-people?

Consent is always needed between the people engaging in sexual activity, regardless of sex/gender. You always need consent.

What is it called if you don't consent to kissing?

If someone kisses you without your consent, this is still illegal. Voice that you don't want this if you can do so safely. However, this is not rape.

If you get pregnant and you want an abortion, but the boy doesn't, who gets to decide?

The only person who has the right to decide is the pregnant woman, without her partner's or parents' consent, regardless of her age. Talk to health professionals – nurse, GP, Family Planning etc. or go to their websites.

Questions About Underage Stuff

If you're both underage is it still rape, and would you be charged?

What if we are both 15 and consent and don't tell anyone?

Taken on a case-by-case basis; police may investigate but won't necessarily lead to criminal charges. Education and knowledge is key.

What is the age limit for a relationship with an 18-year-old?

Anyone can have a "relationship" with an 18-year-old (e.g. friendship). But for a sexual relationship, 16 or older.

Why is the legal age to drink 18, but sex is only 16?

It all comes down to politics. If you want to see changes in this area, get involved with the change you want to see for your futures.

If you're both underage and the girl doesn't give consent, but he forced her into it, what would happen?

This is rape. Both underage, but one didn't consent too. If she went to the police, they will investigate and this could lead to criminal charges.

What if a young kid rapes an old person (grandma/grandad)?

Depends on the kid: what is their age? Is the child a victim themselves? What's their background? There's no age for sexual abuse; older folk can be victims too.

Questions About Online Stuff

What will happen if we both share nudes? Is that a crime or is that alright?

If both are consenting, this is okay. If you're underage, this MAY be investigated. Just be aware and be safe, you can't always trust the other person even if you know them well.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have sensitive images or videos online, you can go to the police to get them taken down. They do not need to know details, it takes them about 10 minutes, and they do not need to involve your parents in most cases. If you have content you want removed, you have options and don't have to suffer in silence. You can also try the 'Take It Down' website:

<https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/>

How much trouble will you get into for sending around people's nudes?

Sending someone else's nudes without their permission is illegal, a massive breach of trust, and can lead to criminal charges.

If someone has been talking to me through social media in a dirty way and they keep making new accounts to continue, is that a sort of abuse?

Yes. Harassment and Harmful Digital Communications Act. Delete people, block them. You don't have to have these people in your life. Can go to the police about this too.

Questions About Being Under the Influence

What if you're both under the influence of alcohol and drugs?

You're both in a position where you cannot give/ refuse consent, so you probably shouldn't be having sex (just like you wouldn't drive a car under the influence).

If you're high and you touch them, what happens?

If that person wanted to go and make a complaint they could. That person could still feel violated. Excuses of being high or drunk aren't an excuse for rape or sexual abuse.

If a person is raped while drunk/ on drugs and they're a minor, would the offender be charged for supplying drugs to minors? Would the minor be charged for underage drug use?

Yes, the offender will be charged for supplying drugs to minors AND for the crime of rape. No, the minor would not be charged for being drugged.

Can you speak on watching porn content of animated children? Like drawings or made on a computer. Is it still child sexual abuse?

This is not okay, and could be investigated. Anyone engaging in sexual pleasure from characters of children (even if they are animated) would concern me. There is a possibility that the animations could resemble a real child too, but that could be hard to prove.