

## **Reducing The Risk Of Being Accused Of Sexual Misconduct**

Show your potential partner respect if you are in a position of initiating sexual behavior. If a potential partner says “no,” or otherwise indicates, “no,” accept it and don’t push it. If you want a “yes,” ask for it, and don’t proceed without clear permission.

Clearly communicate your intentions to your potential sexual partners, and give them a chance to share their intentions and/or boundaries with you.

Respect personal boundaries. If you are unsure with what’s OK in an interaction, ask. Avoid vagueness. Don’t make assumptions about consent, about whether someone is attracted to you, how far you can go with that person, or if the individual is physically and mentally able to consent. If you have questions or are unclear, YOU DON’T HAVE CONSENT.

Don’t take advantage of the fact that someone is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, even if that person chose to become that way. Others’ loss of control does not put you in control.

Recognize that even if you don’t think you are intimidating in any way, your potential partner may be intimidated by or fearful of you, perhaps because of your sex, physical size, or a position of power or authority you may hold.

Do not assume someone’s silence or passivity is an indication of consent. Pay attention to verbal and nonverbal signals to avoid misreading intentions.

Understand that consent to one type of sexual behavior does not automatically grant consent to other types of sexual behaviors.