

# QUEERING CONSENT

Exploring the practice of consent  
beyond the binary of giving and getting.

**@queersexedcc**

We're making a free curriculum.

- Pleasure centered
- Trauma informed
- Queer inclusive

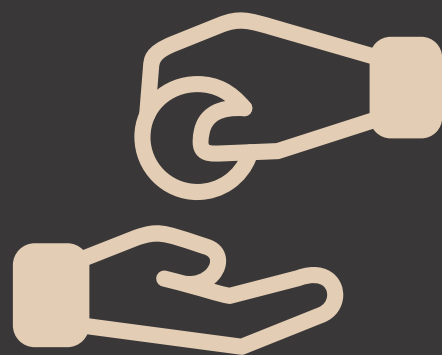


**@comprehensiveconsent**

Helping kids and teens practice consent when the stakes are low, so they're prepared when the stakes are high.

# There is a difference between permission and consent.

Permission is something you **give** and **get**.



As Mia Schachter,  
*@consentwizard*  
puts it:

“The definition that conflates permission with consent is strictly legal, not practical nor ethical.”

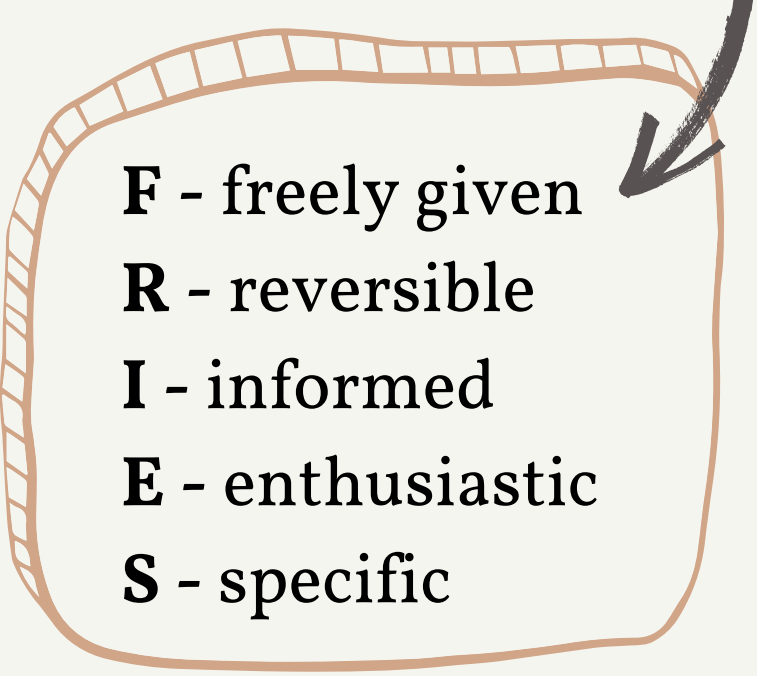
Terminology is important.

You get **permission** in a *moment*, but **consent** is an *ongoing* practice.

# Consent is complicated.

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*It's more than fries.*



**F** - freely given  
**R** - reversible  
**I** - informed  
**E** - enthusiastic  
**S** - specific



This is a binary of **giving** and **getting** consent.



*Instead of thinking about consent as an agreement, **we need to approach consent as a practice that includes agreement.***

The practice of consent will look different depending on the relationships and power dynamics at play.

**There is no one-size fits-all practice.**

# Confirmation bias and implicit cues.

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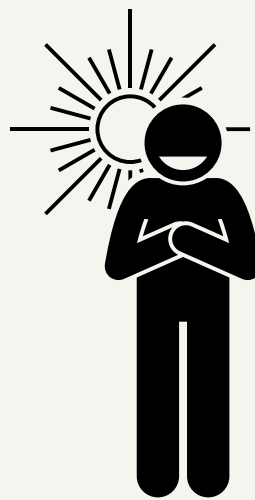
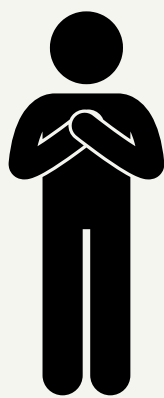
What is **confirmation bias**?

**noun:** the tendency to interpret new evidence as confirmation of one's existing beliefs or theories.

**Confirmation bias** heavily influences our perception of the world.



Implicit cues such as **smiling**, **moaning**, or **eye contact** can mean different things.



When we rely only on our perception without proactive and explicit communication, we are at higher risk for consent misinterpretations.

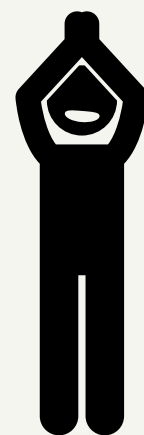
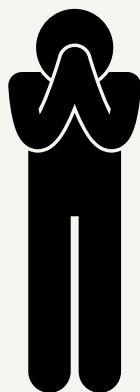
# Body Language and Check-Ins

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Moaning, smiling, and eye contact are all potential cues that indicate a person is having fun.



Moaning can also mean **pain**, smiling can mean **discomfort**, and eye contact can mean the person is trying to get your **attention**.



Paying attention to body language is important.

A change in body language is an opportunity to **ask them what the change means.**

...instead of **assuming** that their body language means *keep going.*

# How to ask about changes in body language:

Was that a **fun moan** or an **ouch moan**?

Is that a **yes smile** or a **nervous smile**?

Does **you** taking your shirt off **mean** it's okay for me to enjoy your chest?

*(When partner shifts position)*  
**How are you feeling?**

## Remember:

You don't get to decide whether the consent is implied.

# When can consent be implicit?

As Nadine Thornhill teaches, with longer-term partners, you can discuss your **opt-in's** and your **opt-out's**.

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## Opt-in's

- This category contains **the kinds of touches you need to opt in to.**
- You put the responsibility on your partner to check-in before engaging in these kinds of touches.
- e.g., *I always want you to ask before you touch my vulva.*

## Opt-out's

- This category contains **the kinds of touches that you are comfortable with your partner initiating without a verbal ask.**
- You put the responsibility on yourself to *opt-out* of these touches if you're not in the mood at that time.
- e.g., *I love when you massage my shoulders. If I ever don't want a massage, I'll tell you.*



**Opt-outs are self-determined based on an individual's preferences and needs.**

the bottom line is...

When it comes to relationships of any kind...

Consent is not something  
you give and get.

Consent is a **practice** that  
requires ongoing  
communication.