

Laws to protect people from sexual abuse



Everyone has the right to agree or not agree to sexual activity.



It's ok to learn about sex and relationships. There are some laws about sex that everyone must follow.



The laws are there to protect people from sexual abuse.



Sexual abuse is when someone does something to you, in a sexual way, that you don't want or when you are too young to agree.

Some examples of when sexual abuse can happen:



When you are too young to agree to sex. In South Australia anyone under 17 years of age is too young to agree to sexual activity.



When you have sex but don't want to.



When you are touched in a sexual way;
or

You have to touch someone else in a sexual way but you don't want to.



When someone is doing sexual things around you, including touching their own bodies but it makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe.



When someone is talking about sex in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe.



When someone shows you pictures of sexual things which you don't want to look at.

Help is available:



Sexual abuse is wrong and against the law. The police and courts can stop people who do sexual abuse to you.



Workers and volunteers are not allowed to make you do or be around sexual activity that you don't want. This is against the law.



Did sexual abuse happen to you? Do you think sexual abuse is going to happen to you? You do not have to put up with it. You can ask for help. There are people who should listen to you and help you.

If you need help:

Talk to someone who makes you feel safe.

You can talk to the Police:

Call 131 444

You can talk to a counsellor at the Rape and Sexual Assault Service (Yarrow Place):

- Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm:
8226 8777
- 24 hours for recent sexual assault:
8226 8777
- Country callers within SA free call:
1800 817 421

