

Welcome to the playa!

This is a zone of experimentation, creativity, and community. It does not come without its dangers, however, especially in sexuality. We want to help you navigate these complex situations so you get what you want and avoid what you don't want.

What is Consent?

Sexual consent is an agreement between people about what should and should not take place in a sexual situation. Consent is the bare minimum required for legal and ethical sexual activity.

Consent requires people 18+, who are properly informed, are not under coercion, are sufficiently sober, and are not incapacitated. If you are not sure about any of these then you must not assume consent.

Consent may be withdrawn at any time. If one partner says "Stop" or even "I'm not sure" then consent is not there, and the activity has to stop.

Silence is not consent, nudity is not consent, drunk is not consent, asleep is not consent. Only a clearly expressed "Yes!" is consent. To be sure about consent you have to communicate.

Communication is the Best Lubrication

Communicating about sexual consent can be scary because we don't have good models for it. Most people do their negotiating in private, so we don't get to see it happen. The media are massively unhelpful.

The solution is simple: practice, practice, practice. Talk to your prospective partners about your desires and your boundaries. Talking is sexy all by itself, even if you've been with your partner for years!

BED recommends that you clearly talk about desires and boundaries. Assess your own first! Then talk about your own, your partner's, and see where they meet.

Desires and boundaries can often be expressed together, as in "I like to be nibbled on my neck, but absolutely no breaking the skin."

Some people like to say that they have no boundaries. However, extremely few of these people would actually like to get really hurt, so take any such statements with a grain of salt.

Don't hang in there with anyone who is not interested in your desires or boundaries.

Really.

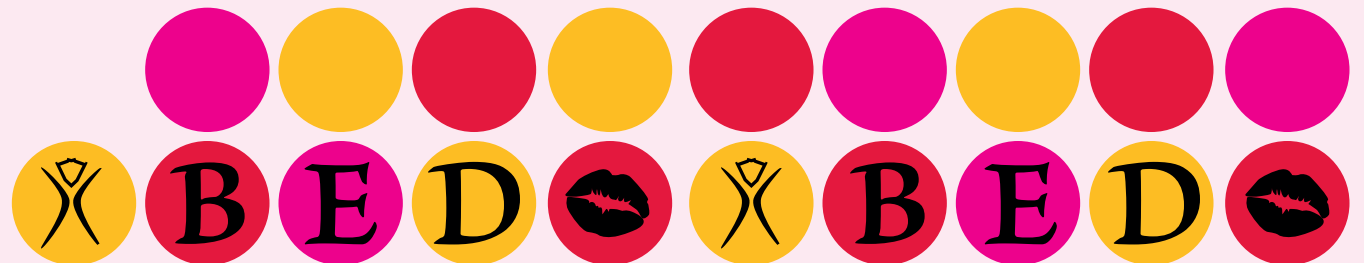
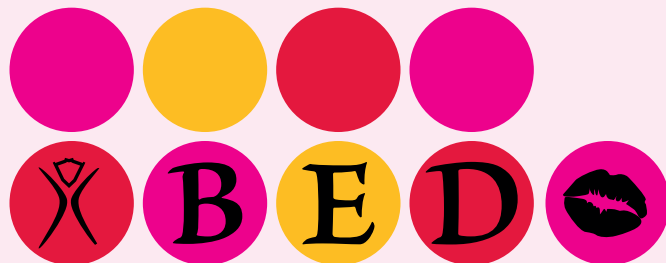
Sexual Assault and Rape

Regardless of what you call it, unwanted sexual contact is simply unacceptable, on or off the playa.

Rape is most often committed by someone the victim knows. Off-playa, an estimate is that 70% of rapes are done by partners, family or friends.

If you get sexually assaulted, please know that you are not alone. There is a loving community here to support you. Find a safe environment, find a friend, tell someone you need help. Do not blame yourself!

If you are assaulted, we recommend that you go to Black Rock Emergency Services (ESD) where they have people trained to help you, not judge you. This makes it easier to get you assistance and easier to find the perpetrator. Get a friend to help you, because you need not do this on your own. ESD is bound by law to report the incident, but only you can decide if you want to press charges.



Safety Tips

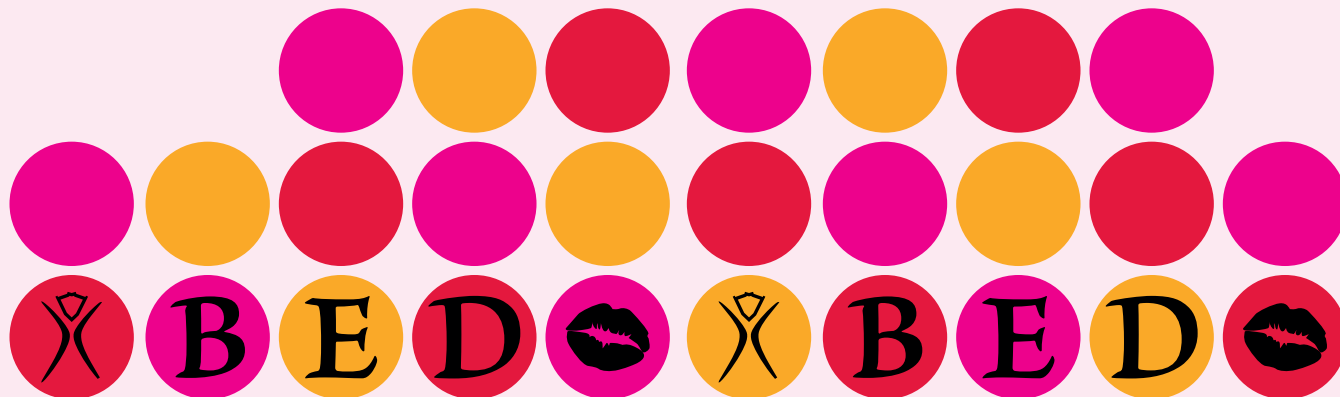
Rape is never the victim's fault, and blaming the victim is never acceptable. However, there are steps that one can take to reduce the risk of sexual assault.

- Stick together with a friend or a group. Rapists are generally cowards who prey on the isolated.
- Be loud. If saying "NO!" to some jerk is not sufficient, then call for a ranger or just yell "HELP!". This is no time to be shy.

A disturbing trend is the use of "rape drugs" or "dosing". The effect is to make the victim incapable of resisting and incapable of consent. Rape drugs can be put into anything, but most often it's a drink. You can be a safer drinker by providing your own cup, preferably with a top, and to pour your own, or at least watch it being filled.

If you start to feel dizzy, confused or just plain strange and you didn't mean to take anything, try to get a good look at the person who gave you something and get away from them fast. Find a ranger by simply yelling "I need a ranger!"

Alcohol and dehydration may have similar effects to rape drugs, but these are things that you can control (well, mostly).



Community Support

We help each other build the city, feed each other, provide art and entertainment for each other. We can help reduce sexual assault as well by acting together.

Check things out. If someone appears to be too inebriated to fend off a companion, then ask if things are all right. If someone appears to be lurking, engage them in conversation (it might be innocent).

Help anyone who needs it get to a BRC Ranger or ESD.

B.E.D. Challenge for Camps - A camp that accepts the BED guidelines about clarity and consent, and agrees to help anyone who needs it, has accepted the B.E.D. Camp Challenge. Find a B.E.D. volunteer to get a poster for display.

Visit B.E.D. Online At

<http://www.bureauoferoticdiscourse.org/>



Clarity and Consent on the Playa

Some advice from the Bureau of Erotic Discourse (B.E.D.)

