

To navigate the State and Federal Laws section:

1. Click on the link 'View your state laws.'



It's important to be familiar with legal definitions related to consent.

Explore information for state laws with the link below. In the window that appears, view your state's statutes to proceed.

If you are interested, you can compare it to other states by selecting another state from the dropdown menu.

[View your state's laws.](#)

Explore another state:

Select State ▼

2. After reviewing then expand the section 'Statutes' and review.

Consent Laws

Consent

Under Maryland law, consent to sexual contact **cannot** legally be given by someone who is:

- incapacitated by drugs or alcohol
- incapable of understanding the nature of the act, resisting, or saying "no" because of a mental disorder or developmental disability
- physically unable to resist
- unconscious
- underage (generally, the age of consent is 16 years old)

> **Statutes**

Close

It's important to
Explore informa
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Select State ▾

3. After viewing the Statutes section click on Close

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Statutes

Maryland Law Consent Statutes

Maryland Code
CRIMINAL LAW
TITLE 3. Other Crimes Against the Person.
Subtitle 3. Sexual Crimes.

§ 3-301 CRIM. LAW Definitions.

1. (a) **In general.** — In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

2. (b) "Mentally incapacitated individual" means an

Close

4. Click Continue



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Explore another state:

Select State ▼

Continue →



1. Click on the link 'View your state laws.'

← Back

▼ Menu

Federal and State Laws: Sexual Assault



It's important to be aware of federal and state laws about sexual assault.

Explore information for federal and state laws with the links below. In the window that appears, view your state's statutes to proceed.

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[View your state's laws.](#)

[View federal laws.](#)

2. After reviewing then expand the section 'Statutes' and review.

- expressly denies consent
- is forced, threatened, or in fear

Evidence of physical resistance is not required to prove rape.

Sexual Offense

Maryland law defines a **sexual offense** as sexually touching another person's intimate body parts without consent and for sexual arousal or gratification, or to abuse either party.

A sexual offense may be a felony, depending on circumstances such as the use of force or a weapon, the age of the perpetrator or victim, or the incapacity of the victim.

Evidence of physical resistance is not required to prove that a sexual offense was committed.

It is a fourth degree sexual offense, punishable by up to one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine, for a person to engage in sexual contact without the other person's consent.

Visual Surveillance

Under Maryland law, **visual surveillance** is the crime of secretly viewing another person (directly or using a camera or other device) without the person's consent, in a place where privacy is expected, for the purpose of gratifying the viewer's sexual desire.

In addition to facing criminal charges, persons who commit visual surveillance may also be sued for money damages.

> **Statutes**

Close

3. After viewing the Statutes section click on Close

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In addition to facing criminal charges, persons who commit visual surveillance may also be sued for money damages.

▼ **Statutes** ✓

Maryland Law Rape Statutes

Maryland Code
CRIMINAL LAW
TITLE 3. Other Crimes Against the Person
Subtitle 3. Sexual Crimes
§ 3-301 CRIM. LAW Definitions.

(a) **In general.** — In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

.... [Content omitted for clarity.]

(d) **Sexual act.** —

- (1) "Sexual act" means any of the following acts, regardless of whether semen is emitted:
 - (i) analingus;
 - (ii) cunnilingus;
 - (iii) fellatio;
 - (iv) anal intercourse, including penetration, however slight, of the anus; or
 - (v) an act:
 1. in which an object penetrates, however slightly, into another individual's genital opening or anus; and

4. Click Continue



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[View your state's laws.](#)

[View federal laws.](#)

Explore another state:

Select State ▾

Next →



Taking Action

Contributing to a supportive community includes recognizing and taking action when you see something inappropriate, risky, or potentially dangerous. While taking action may feel uncomfortable or even dangerous if you don't know what to do, arming yourself with strategies may give you the opportunity to safely support someone who is in a potentially harmful situation. One way to think of these strategies is as the "four Ds" — Direct, Distract, Delegate, and Delay.

Use the arrows to read about each of the four Ds of taking action.



Direct

If you feel confident in the environment and it appears to be safe to do so, direct intervention is the most immediate way to take action. This involves offering to help the person who seems uncomfortable or at risk or interrupting the person who is creating the situation.

Even a simple, direct question can let someone know that you're aware they're uncomfortable and you're available to help. An example of this approach might sound like: "Hey, is everything OK?" You could also opt to interrupt the person whose behavior is making someone else uncomfortable by asking, "What's going on here?" or "Can I talk to you for a minute?" This lets them know that you've noticed the situation and are willing to intervene.



I have gotten you past the 2 sections in the red box.

You are now at Taking Action

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface. On the left, there is a dark blue header with the text '← Back' and 'Menu' on the right. Below the header, the main content area is titled 'Taking Action' and contains text about recognizing inappropriate behavior and strategies for taking action. Below the text is a photograph of two young women. On the right, there is a white navigation menu with a list of sections. The sections are: 'Introduction', 'Values, Identities, and Relationships', 'Sexual Harassment and Stalking', 'Consent, Coercion, and Taking Action', and 'Reporting and Responding'. Under 'Consent, Coercion, and Taking Action', there is a list of sub-sections: 'Communication is Key', 'Defining Consent', 'Test Your Knowledge', 'Eva and Jake', 'A Couple of Weeks Later', 'Ben and Dai', 'Defining Coercion', 'Coercion Comes In Many Forms', 'Hannah and Jaime', 'Hannah and Jaime', 'The Impact of Alcohol', 'State Laws: Consent', 'Federal and State Laws: Sexual Assault', 'Taking Action', 'Student Groups and Organizations', and 'Summary'. The 'State Laws: Consent' and 'Federal and State Laws: Sexual Assault' items are highlighted with a red box. A yellow arrow points to the 'Taking Action' item.

Follow these steps at the next 'Laws' section.