



Dealing with Consent Incidents

Deal with any consent incidents on a case-by-case basis. Keep in mind that limits can be violated deliberately or through poor communication, misunderstandings, miscommunications, accidents, lack of knowledge, and/or lack of experience. Here are some things to do if a consent incident is reported:

1. If there is an injury that requires medical care, offer to have a staff member take them to the hospital or call 911 if it's an emergency.
2. If someone wants to report the incident to the police, have them call 911 or offer to take them along with a friend to the police station. The staff member should not express their views on what has occurred nor discuss the incident except to (a) respond to medical questions about the person's injury and (b) to answer—factually and truthfully—police questions.
3. If no emergency care is requested, have two staff members speak individually to the person reporting the consent incident, as well as to anyone directly involved and any witnesses to what happened. Record the names and contact information for everyone involved in the consent incident.
4. When a consent incident has been reported to you, whether or not it happened at your event, talk to each person individually to ask them what happened and what they would like to have happen now. Ask all involved and the witnesses:
 - What was negotiated?
 - What were the limits?
 - Did the bottom safeword or withdraw consent?
 - Was there any impaired thinking or a mental health issue?
 - What is the history of interaction between the participants?
 - How much experience do you have with the BDSM activities that were done?
 - Was there an injury done that exceeded the negotiated limits?
5. Don't bring everyone involved together to discuss the incident. If the person reporting the incident would like mediation for a minor consent incident, only do so if the person who committed the act is eager to apologize and rectify the situation. Otherwise, recommend a trained mediator.
6. Have someone or a group of people who are empowered to make an immediate decision, even if the ultimate decision is made by your board at a later date. Take into account what the person reporting the consent incident would like to have happen.
7. Consider the seriousness of the consent incident by consulting the guidelines in **Drawing the Law**. If you decide to apply any penalty, follow the guidelines in **Sanctions**.