

Statutory Rape

Connecticut law says that there are some situations where having sex or sexual contact is illegal, even though both people agree to it. Here are some of the most common ways statutory rape can happen:

Younger Person	Older Person	Penetration or Touching?	Punishment
Under 13	More than 2 years older	Touching	Felony: 1-5 year sentence
Under 13	More than 2 years older	Penetration	Felony: 10 - 25 year sentence, No parole for 2 years, Sex offender registration
13 or 14	More than 3 years older	Touching	Felony: 1-5 year sentence
13, 14, 15	More than 3 years older	Penetration	Felony: 1-20 year sentence, No parole for 9 months, Possible sex offender registration

Also, in some cases when an older person has a position of power or influence over a person under 18, sex between those two people can be statutory rape. Examples of this would be sex between someone under 18 and his/her guardian, coach, jail guard, probation officer, psychologist, counselor, employer, or a school employee where he or she is a student.

What is statutory rape?

Statutory
rape
is a crime.

The crime is called sexual assault.

In Connecticut, the law says that there are some situations where having sex or sexual contact is illegal, even though both people agree to it.

Where can I get help?

Statutory rape is a crime called sexual assault. In Connecticut, the law says that there are some situations where having sex or sexual contact is illegal, even though both people agree to it.

If you have questions about your legal rights, call CCA's Teen Legal Advocacy Clinic at (860)570-5327 or (203)223-8975.



Center for Children's Advocacy
65 Elizabeth Street, Hartford, CT 06105
www.kidscounsel.org

I am 14 and my
boyfriend is 17.

Is that illegal?

What is

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What is “statutory rape”?

Statutory rape is a crime called sexual assault. In Connecticut, the law says that there are some situations where having sex or sexual contact is illegal, even though both people agree to it.

The chart on the back of this pamphlet shows some of the ways that statutory rape can happen. Also, in some cases when an older person has a position of power or influence over a person under 18, sex between those two people can be statutory rape. Examples of this would be sex between someone under 18 and his/her guardian, coach, jail guard, probation officer, psychologist, counselor, employer, or a school employee where he or she is a student.

What counts as “sex” for statutory rape?

Any penetration counts as sex. That means oral, anal, and vaginal penetration all count as having sex under the statutory rape law. Penetration can be with fingers or another object.

What does sexual contact mean? What if we’re just touching?

If the younger person is under 13 and the older person is more than two years older, sexual contact of any kind is a crime. Sexual contact is any touching of the private parts, even if there is no penetration.

What’s the difference between rape and statutory rape?

Forcible rape is a crime where someone is forced to have sex when that person doesn’t want to. Usually, it is called “rape.” Statutory rape is *consensual*, meaning that both people want to have sex and there is no force or violence involved. Both are illegal.

If I am 14 and my boyfriend is 18 and we have sex, is he committing statutory rape?

Yes, because he is more than 3 years older than you.

What if I am 14 and my boyfriend is 17?

It depends on when your birthdays are. The older person only needs to be three years older by one day to commit the crime.

Can the younger person get arrested for statutory rape?

No. Statutory rape is a crime committed by an older person who has sex or sexual contact with a younger person.

I am 18 and the girl I had sex with told me she was 16, but it turned out she was 14. Did I commit statutory rape, even though I thought she was old enough?

Yes. The law does not allow you to defend yourself by saying you thought she was older.

Can a girl commit statutory rape on a boy?

Yes.

Is it statutory rape if I am gay or lesbian?

Yes. The same laws apply to same-sex relationships.

How does statutory rape ever get reported?

Even if both people are having sex because they want to, there are a few ways that statutory rape can get reported to the police:

- A parent or other adult may learn of the relationship and report it.
- The people may break up, and then the younger person could report it.
- A school social worker, teacher, nurse or doctor may learn about the relationship and report it.
- The girl in the relationship may become pregnant, and hospital workers could report the relationship if they know the father’s age.
- The girl may have a child and apply for cash assistance to help support the child. She will be required to give information about the father.

