

Why So Secretive?

The Importance of Client Confidentiality



Heidi Miranda & Bianca Marino, Fall 2018

Getting to Know SASS: Our Mission



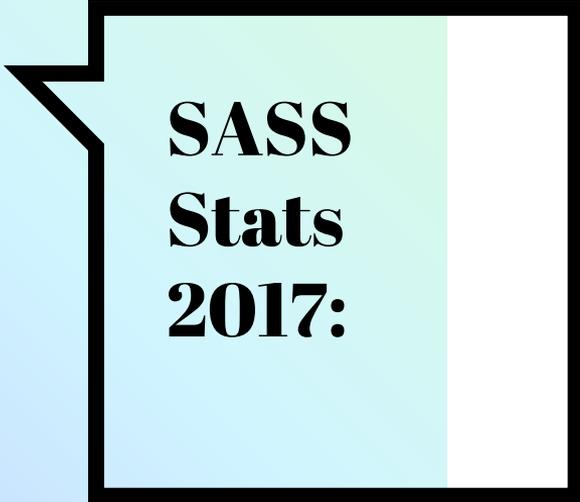
- To provide services to survivors of past and present sexual assault, and to change societal conditions that allow oppression, especially sexual violence, to exist.
- **Sexual Assault Support Services** creates social change by providing direct services; by empowering survivors; through organizing; educating; and outreach.

SASS Services:

**All services
are free and
confidential**



- 24-hour Crisis & Support Line
- Drop-In Center: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tues -Thurs
- 24-hour advocacy response for legal and medical processes
- Legal advocacy
- Transportation to relevant appointments and services
- Support Groups
- Individual Counseling
- Services offered in Spanish (and other languages through language line)
- Outreach to rural and underserved communities
- Community outreach & education



**SASS
Stats
2017:**

Crisis Line calls:

1,614

**In-person
contacts:**

448

New survivors:

661

**Ongoing
survivors:**

1,401

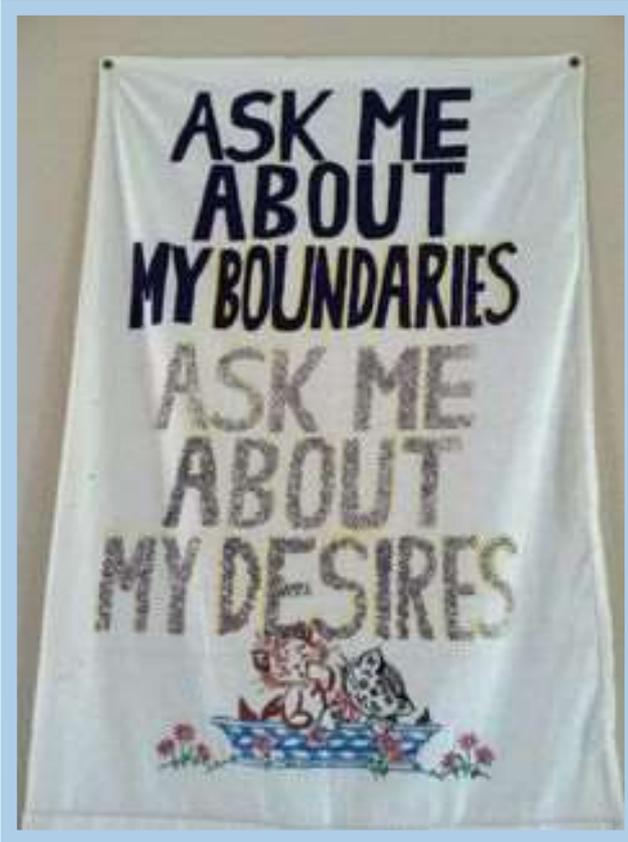
**Hospital
Responses:**

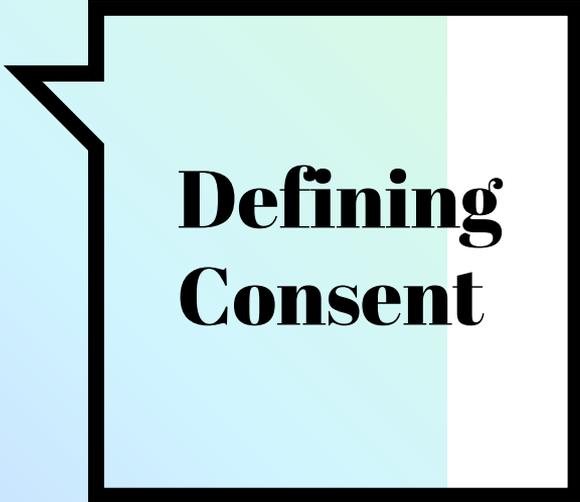
90

Police Reports:

30

Consent!





Defining Consent

- Consent is a “yes” that is freely given, when the option of a “no” is present and viable. (U of O Sexual Wellness Advocacy Team)
- Silence is not consent, not saying “no” is not consent
- Consent is a **conversation** that incorporates a verbal “yes” or a mutually agreed upon signal that means “yes”
- Consent is **not** agreement by coercion **nor** is it submitting to unwanted sexual activity in order to reduce harm to yourself
- **Required** for every sexual or intimate act. **What someone is comfortable with may change over time, with the same partner, or with other partners.**

Why does consent matter?

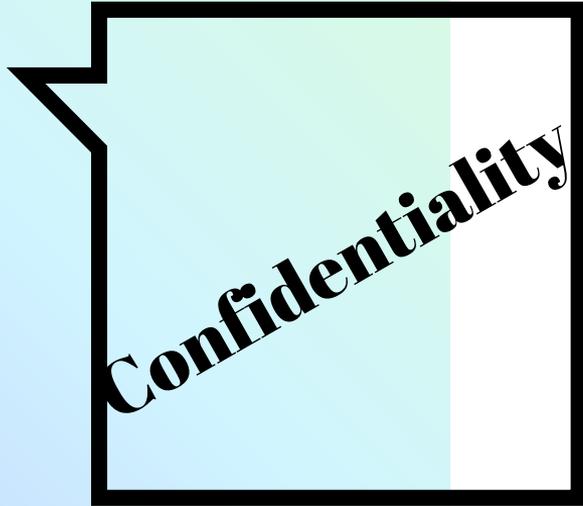


- Personal autonomy
- Ownership over one's story/information
- Respect
- Trust
- Safety
- Vulnerability
- Power dynamics
- Communication
- Modeling appropriate and healthy boundaries
- Professional relationship

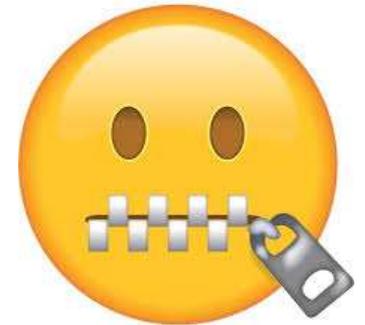


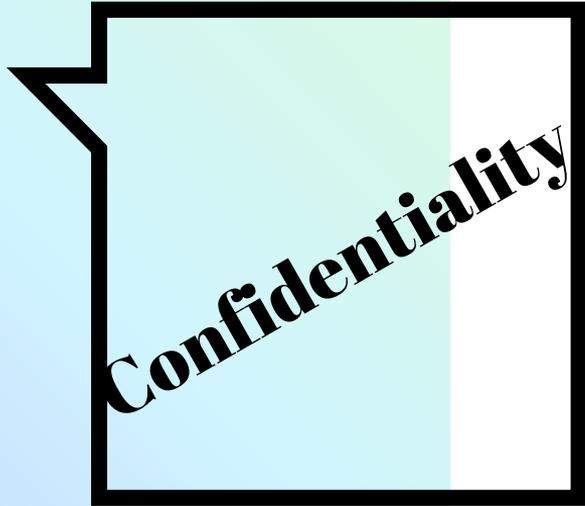
Building a *Consent Culture*

1. In what ways do we learn or not learn about consent as we are growing up?
2. What are some non-intimate examples of interactions where we could practice more consent? (children, friends, strangers?)
3. What are some ways our world would be different if consent was more integrated into daily life?
4. What are some ways our institutions (schools, hospitals, criminal/legal system) would be different if consent was more integrated into them?
5. What are the connections between how we are taught to understand consent and gender roles?
6. How do power dynamics affect consent?



- SASS: All client information (written, oral) is confidential unless there is a specific written release from the client as outlined in the agency's Release of Information (ROI) policy
- This includes: confidential communications made by the survivor to an advocate during advocacy services and records that are created or maintained in the course of providing services regarding the survivor
- Social workers should not discuss confidential information in public or semi-public areas, such as hallways, waiting rooms, elevators, and restaurants (NASW Code of Ethics, 2017)





- When I am no longer working at the agency, confidentiality *does not end*
- Even if my client passes away, confidentiality *still applies* (NASW, 2017)
- Social workers should respect confidential information shared by *colleagues* (NASW, 2017)
- Information that I **need** vs. information that I **want**
- Social workers should avoid gathering information about clients electronically or posting about them on the Web



Boundaries



Boundaries



- What do we mean by boundaries?
 - *Boundaries are limits that we set to define what we are okay with and what we aren't okay with. Boundary setting can take place internally, as in an agreement with yourself, and externally in personal and professional relationships.*
- What is the role of boundary-setting in your work with clients?
- What are some possible barriers to setting boundaries?
- Responsible **to** vs. responsible **for**

Scenarios



Scenarios



- I pass by my client walking down the street
- My client friend requests me on Facebook
- I want to tell my partner about my day at work/debrief
- I run into a client at a protest
- I run into a client at a bar
- A client wants to be friends
- Halloween kid's event
 - Alone vs. with family (boundaries)
- Pumpkin patch
- Panda Express
- Small communities
- **Consent** is *mutually agreed upon*
- *"Conduct yourself beyond reproach"*

**Check
out/
Debrief**

