Age of Consent in Pennsylvania

Age and experience can create a power imbalance.

That imbalance can make it impossible for the younger person to consent to sexual activity.

Children less than 13 years old* cannot give consent to sexual activity.

Teens ages 13-15 years old cannot consent to sexual activities with anyone who is 4 or more years older than them.

People ages 16 years and older can legally consent to sexual activity.

PENNSYLVANIA LAW

Statutory Sexual Assault

It is considered felony statutory sexual assault when...

- one person is 13 and the other is 17+
- one person is 14 and the other is 18+
- one person is 15 and the other is 19+

Pennsylvania also recognizes that power imbalances in certain relationships make consent impossible, regardless of age.

PENNSYLVANIA LAW

Institutional Sexual Assault

It is considered felony institutional sexual assault when an employee/agent of a...

- School (teachers/coaches)
- State or County Jail
- Personal care/group home
- Other licensed residential facility serving youth

...engages in sexual activity with anyone receiving services.

*ages are determined by birth dates © Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape 2018. All rights reserved.