You've Got Questions...We've Got Answers!

Frequently Asked Questions from Self-Advocates about Sex Education and the Sex Education Bill (Public Act 101-0506)

Question	Answer
Does the Sex	If you live in or attend one of the following programs,
Education Law apply	the Sex Education Law applies to you:
to me?	CILA (Community Integrated Living Arrangement)
	ICF/DD (Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons
	with Developmental Disabilities)
	SOF (State Operated Facility)
	CDS (Community Day Service) Programs
	If you live in a CILA and also attend a CDS, you can
	choose where you want to receive the sex education
	(either at the CILA or at the CDS).
	If you don't know what type of program you live in or
	attend, speak up and speak out to ask!
	Programs will be monitored to make sure they are
	providing sex education as required by law.
	If the law doesn't apply to you, you get sex education
	by contacting <u>ICASA</u> (Illinois Coalition Against Sexual
	Assault) to find the rape crisis center near you.
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Question If the Sex Education Law applies to me, what kind of assessment or evaluation will I have?



Answer

- Some assessments/evaluations might already be done and in your file.
- Other assessments might also be done. You will be asked in private about your understanding of
 - Relationships
 - Sexuality
 - Sexual activities
 - Healthy sexual activities
 - Personal values around relationships and sexual activity
 - Religious beliefs around relationships and sexual activity

The law says I am to receive developmentally appropriate sex education. What does that mean?



Developmentally Appropriate sex education is sex education that:

- Respects your needs, abilities and interests
- Takes into account how you best learn and understand things
- Considers how the sex education might make you feel
- Considers any physical or emotional concerns or needs that you have
- Considers your personal values, religious beliefs, and faith-based perspectives

Question	Answer
What is meant by sexual activity?	Sexual activity can mean lots of things! It includes relationships, actions and topics.
	 Sexual activity can include: Kissing Looking at pornographic materials (videos, magazines, images, etc.) Intercourse Masturbation or touching yourself to feel good
	 Sex education topics can include: Having a boyfriend or girlfriend Communication Boundary-setting Personal Values Dating Types of relationships Types of sexualities Cultural, religious and community values on sexuality and relationships
	Sexual activity can be done alone or with another consenting adult. If a person cannot consent to sexual intercourse, it should not limit other types of sexual activity.

The law talks about decision-making capacity to consent to sexual activity. What does this mean?



Answer

Consent is the right to agree or disagree to do something, to say yes or to say no.

Capacity to Consent to sexual activity means:

- You have the right to say yes or no to any sexual activity at any time.
- You have the right to say yes and the right to change your mind and say no.
- You have the right to make decisions that are best for you.
- You can make a informed decision about whether or not you want to participate in a sexual activity.
- You make the decision on your own and are not forced into an activity you don't want to do.
- You understand what is safe, unsafe and any risks.
- You understand what might happen as a result of the activity.

Can my ability to consent change or does it always stay the same?



Yes! Your ability to give consent or say yes can change for several reasons:

- When you get more information or education about a decision, you might be better able to consent.
- When you get information in a way that you can understand such as through pictures or examples, you may be better able to consent.
- Sometimes you might be able to understand information about some types of decisions but not others.
- Sometimes your ability to understand information about a decision may change if you are sick.
- Using alcohol or illegal drugs or taking prescription medication can make it difficult to make decisions or consent to sexual activity.

How do I get sex education?



Answer

If you want to have sex education, you can:

- Speak Up and Speak Out to a trusted person case manager, family member, legal guardian.
- You can always share what type of sex education you might want and what you want to learn.

If you don't like the sex education that is given or you can't understand it, you can

- ask for different education
- ask for help in understanding it
- asl for changes to the information in a way that you can better understand.

If you don't want to have sex education but want information about protecting yourself from harm, you can Speak Up and Speak Out for that!

What will the sex education be about and who will provide it?



Sex education will be set up or provided by an agency staff person and may include:

- Written information
- Pictures
- Webinars or videos
- Discussion and talking
- Asking questions and getting answers
- Stories and examples

If an agency staff person provides the training, he/she will receive education on how to conduct the training as well as being sensitive to and supportive of your needs.

Answer

Will I have to discuss sex and sex education in front of others or in a classroom?

Sex education should be done in a way that works for you, makes you feel comfortable and respects your privacy.



Speak Up and Speak Out if you do not feel comfortable or respected in learning about sex education.

Does my guardian decide whether or not I can have sex education?

If you have a guardian and the court order for guardianship says your guardian is to be involved in all decisions or medical/treatment decisions, your guardian is required to be a part of sex education decision.



However, your guardian's decision should:

- Include you as much as possible.
- Be based on what you want unless what you want could cause you to be hurt.

Laws say that if you have enough consent capacity to decide if you want sex education, you should be allowed to do so. If your guardian refused to allow sex education and you want sex education, you can Speak Up and Speak Out to a case manager, a treatment team, a doctor, an advocacy agency or the court where the guardianship was established.

What if I want to learn more about the Sex Education Law?



Answer

DDD (Illinois Division of Developmental Disabilities) has created a website that contacts lots of information! You can visit the website by clicking here.

You can also:

- Read the full text of HB3299 here.
- For definitions related to Public Act 101-0506 click here.
- Review the key points of the HB3299 here.
- Check out What Self-Advocates Want you to know about HB3299 by clicking <u>here</u>.
- Visit the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy (IGA) Commission website here.
- Check out the
 - Guardian Fact Sheet
 - o Sexual Rights Statement
 - o Easier to Understand Sexual Rights Statement

Sex education is designed to help you learn about having healthy relationships. Sometimes people are hurt in a relationship. If you have been hurt in a relationship such as not giving consent to sexual activity:

- We are sorry it happened.
- It was not your fault.
- Help is available.
- Tell a trusted person.
- Contact <u>ICASA</u> (Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault) or call 217.753.4117 to find the rape crisis center near you. Each center has a 24-hour hotline that is open every day of the year. Services are free and confidential.





The Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, Inc. (The Alliance) is proud to be an initiative of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. In partnership with the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. This project was supported, in part by grant numbers CFDA 93.630, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.

Developed February 2021