

Did I Consent/Agree?

Rape in prison can happen to anyone and in many different contexts. Sometimes there are questions about whether a person was raped or whether he actually agreed to have sex. If you have been raped, you might be confused about what happened. You may be blamed for it or told that you wanted it. You may hear others say that the rape happened because of your sexuality, or because you accepted food from the perpetrator, or because you depend on him for cigarettes, or even for protection. You may be convinced that you brought it upon yourself. But no matter the circumstances, if you did not freely consent (agree) to sex, then you were raped.

Just so you are clear, you did not freely consent if:

1. You were tricked or forced to do something against your will or you were lied to. For example, if you are offered a cigarette and the person who gave you the cigarette later demands sex as payback, then he tricked you.
2. You were pushed into doing something you did not want to do because another person has power over you. For example, if a DCS official has sex with an inmate it's always considered rape, and if a gang member demands sex with someone less powerful, it's also rape.
3. Your physical safety or the safety of your loved ones was threatened, or you were told your property or your family's property would be stolen or damaged. For example, if another inmate threatens to hurt your baby if you don't go along with his demands for sex, that's rape.
4. You did not know what you were doing. For example, if you are living with serious mental disabilities or you were drunk, drugged, asleep, or unconscious and someone had sex with you, you were raped.

If someone pushed you into sex in any of these ways, then you did not consent to sex, and you were raped. If you pushed someone else into sex in any of these ways, then you are guilty of rape.

If you have been raped, please seek help from someone you trust as soon as possible.