

Decisions you make about sex will affect the rest of your life. The wrong decision can have devastating consequences - for you, your partner, and your family.

If you are convicted of sex offenses, even as a juvenile, you may be required to register as a sex offender. You may be required to submit a DNA sample, which will be placed in a law enforcement database for the rest of your life. You may be required to take an HIV test. You will have to notify the police every time you move.



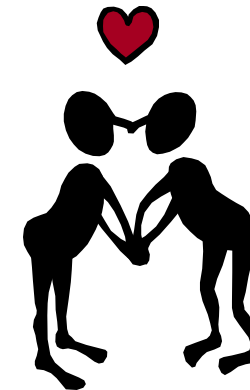
**How will you explain it to your grandparents?
Or your next boyfriend or girlfriend?**

Along with the criminal charges you may face, there is always the risk of pregnancy or contracting a sexually transmitted disease, including HIV, even with protection.

For additional copies of this brochure,
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What Teenagers need to know about



Sex Offenses

**North Dakota Office of
Attorney General**

**Wayne Stenehjem
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If you are eighteen, you are considered to be an adult - even if you are still in High School. Anyone younger than 18 is a "minor."

In North Dakota, a person can be charged with a serious crime if he or she engages in a sexual act or sexual contact with a minor. The seriousness of the crime and the penalties are **even greater** if the minor is under 15 years of age.

Even if **you** are a minor, if you have consensual sexual contact with someone under the age of 15, you can be charged with **gross sexual imposition** in juvenile court. If your case then is transferred to adult court, you will be treated as an adult sex offender and will be subject to the same penalties as an adult.



The law does not make an exception for you because you are in love.

Did you know?

"Second base" can get you **arrested!** Although it may seem harmless to you, you can be charged with a sex offense!

If you **fool around** with someone you know has been given a "date rape" drug, you can be in **just as much trouble** as the person who gave it to the unsuspecting victim.

Having **sex** with someone who is **too drunk** to know what is happening to them is a **Class A Felony**, even if the person got drunk voluntarily.

Even if your boyfriend or girlfriend **wants** to have sex with you, your friend's **parents** can still have you **arrested** if they find out? A shotgun wedding may be the least of your worries.

If you **slap** or pinch someone's **breast** or **butt** as a joke in school, it may not be a joke to that person. If the person you pinch finds it **offensive**, the legal system won't take it as a joke, either.

LEGAL TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

THE CRIMES

- SEXUAL ACT** Anal sex, oral sex or intercourse.
- SEXUAL CONTACT** Any touching, even through clothing, of sexual or other intimate body parts of a person, for the purpose of arousing or satisfying sexual or aggressive desires.
- GROSS SEXUAL IMPOSITION** An adult who engages in sexual acts or sexual contact with a minor under age 15.
- CORRUPTION OF MINORS** An adult who engages in a sexual act with a 15-17 year old minor.
- SEXUAL ASSAULT** Fondling of a 15-17 year old, or sexual contact with a person whose ability to consent is impaired.
- LURING MINORS BY COMPUTER** Using a computer to talk about or arrange sexual encounters, sex acts or sexual contact with, a minor.
- FORNICATION** A minor engaging in a consensual sex act.
- INDECENT EXPOSURE** Exposing yourself, or masturbating in public for the purpose or arousing another person or satisfying your own sexual desires.
- SURREPTITIOUS INTRUSION ("PEEPING")** Seeking to satisfy a sexual desire by window peeping, or intruding on another person's privacy in their home, hotel room, tanning booth, etc. Intruding on privacy includes things like recording, photographing, broadcasting and videotaping.

THE PENALTIES

- If you are adjudicated for a sexual offense as a juvenile, you can be removed from the custody of your parents and sent to a juvenile facility. **But, if you get transferred to adult court, these penalties apply:**
- FELONY** If you are convicted of a felony, you may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of up to 20 years, be fined up to \$10,000, or both. A felony conviction will remain on your record forever, and has to be disclosed on most job applications.
 - MISDEMEANOR** If you are convicted of a misdemeanor offense, you may receive a sentence of up to one year, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both.

Is it Worth It?