

## KNOW THE LAWS

### *Definitions of Sexual Assault & Rape*

**Rape:** Sexual penetration (genital, anal, or oral, including any intrusion – however slight) into any part of a person’s body (with emission of semen not required) and involving one or more of the following elements:

- ❖ Force or coercion
- ❖ Victim did not consent
- ❖ Victim is unable to give consent

**(8 to 30 years in prison)**

**Aggravated rape:** The offender is armed with a weapon or the victim is made to believe a weapon is present, or inflicts bodily injury or there are multiple offenders **(15 to 60 years in prison)**

**Rape of a child:** The victim is under the age of 13 and the offense includes some form of penetration **(15 to 60 years in prison)**

**Statutory rape:** The victim is at least 13, but less than 18, and the offender is at least 4 years older **(2 years in prison)**

**Child sexual abuse:** Any sexual contact with a minor—sexual abuse, molestation, fondling, or sexual penetration of a child under the age of 13

**Incest:** Sexual abuse by a family member—the victim’s natural parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, stepparent, stepchild, adoptive parent, adoptive child, brother, sister (whole, half, or by adoption)

**Sexting:** An act of sending sexually explicit materials through mobile phones. The word is derived from the combination of two terms: sex and texting.

\*These are the Tennessee laws against rape and sexual assault. All require registration on the Sex Offender Registry.\*

And remember, sexual assault is a crime to express power and control. Sexual assault is not about the need for sex. Power, not sex, is the motivation behind sexual assaults. Any of the following activities could also be sexually abusive without the elements of consent and capacity:

Verbal comments

Fondling

Sexting

Masturbating in front of another

Obscene phone calls

Showing pornographic pictures or films

Nudity

Exposure to sexual behavior of others

Genital exposure

Penetration of any type

Kissing