

**RAPE THIRD DEGREE**  
**(E Felony)**  
**(Incapacity to Consent other than Age, Mental Disability or**  
**Incapacity, or Physical Helplessness)**  
**PENAL LAW 130.25(1)**  
**(Committed on or after February 1, 2001)**

The \_\_\_\_\_ count is Rape in the Third Degree.

Under our law, a person is guilty of Rape in the Third Degree when he or she engages in sexual intercourse with another person who is incapable of consent.<sup>1</sup>

Some of the terms used in this definition have their own special meaning in our law. I will now give you the meaning of the following terms: “sexual intercourse” and “incapable of consent.”

SEXUAL INTERCOURSE means any penetration, however slight, of the penis into the vaginal opening. In other words, any penetration of the penis into the vaginal opening, regardless of the distance of penetration, constitutes an act of sexual intercourse. Sexual intercourse does not necessarily require erection of the penis, emission, or orgasm.<sup>2</sup>

It is an element of this crime that the sexual intercourse takes place without consent.<sup>3</sup> Sexual intercourse takes place without a person's consent when that person is deemed by law to be incapable of consent. Under our law, a person is deemed

---

<sup>1</sup> At this point, the statutory definition continues: “by reason of some factor other than being less than seventeen years old.” Penal Law §130.25(1). That portion of the statute has been omitted here. Instead, those factors are set forth below in the definition of the term “incapable of consent.”

<sup>2</sup> The statutory definition has been amplified in accord with case law. See Penal Law § 130.00(1) and *People v Liberta*, 64 NY2d 152, 169, cert den 471 US 1020 (1984); *People v. Edwards*, 173 A.D. 375 (2d Dept. 1916); *People v. White*, 185 A.D.2d 472 (1992); *People v. Berardicurti*, 167 A.D.2d 840 (4<sup>th</sup> Dept. 1990); *People v. Williams*, 259 A.D.2d 509 (2d Dept. 1999).

<sup>3</sup> See Penal Law § 130.05(1).

INCAPABLE OF CONSENTING to sexual intercourse when he or she is

*[NOTE: Select appropriate alternative <sup>4</sup>:*

committed to the care and custody of the state department of correctional services or a hospital,<sup>5</sup> and the actor is an employee,<sup>6</sup> not married to such person,<sup>7</sup> who knows or reasonably should know that such person is committed to the care and custody of such department or hospital.<sup>8</sup>

*or*

committed to the care of a local correctional facility,<sup>9</sup> and the

---

<sup>4</sup> “Mentally disabled” and “mentally incapacitated” have been omitted here because they are also separately included in the crime of Rape in the Second Degree [Penal Law § 130.30(2)]. Thus, if necessary, the charge for Rape in the Second Degree can be modified to charge the instant crime as applied to a person who is “mentally disabled” or “mentally incapacitated.” Likewise, “physically helpless” has been omitted here because it is also separately included in the crime of Rape in the First Degree [Penal Law § 130.35(2)]. Thus, if necessary the charge for Rape in the First Degree can be modified to charge the instant crime as applied to a person who is “physically helpless.”

<sup>5</sup> If in issue, the definition of “hospital” is set forth in Correction Law §400(2).

<sup>6</sup> If in issue, the definition of “employee” is set forth in Penal Law §130.05(3)(e).

<sup>7</sup> If in issue, the definition of “not married” is set forth in Penal Law §130.00(4).

<sup>8</sup> Penal Law §130.05(3)(e).

<sup>9</sup> If in issue, the definition of “local correctional facility” is set forth in Correction Law §40(2).

actor is an employee,<sup>10</sup> not married to such person,<sup>11</sup> who knows or reasonably should know that such person is committed to the care and custody of such facility.<sup>12</sup>

*or*

committed to or placed with the office of children and family services and in residential care, and the actor is an employee,<sup>13</sup> not married to such person,<sup>14</sup> who knows or reasonably should know that such person is committed to or placed with the office of children and family services and in residential care.<sup>15</sup>

*or*

a client or patient and the actor is a health care provider<sup>16</sup> or mental health care provider<sup>17</sup> and the act of sexual conduct occurs during a treatment session, consultation, interview, or

---

<sup>10</sup> If in issue, the definition of “employee” is set forth in Penal Law §130.05(3)(f).

<sup>11</sup> If in issue, the definition of “not married” is set forth in Penal Law §130.00(4).

<sup>12</sup>Penal Law §130.05(3)(f).

<sup>13</sup> If in issue, the definition of “employee” is set forth in Penal Law §130.05(3)(g).

<sup>14</sup> If in issue, the definition of “not married” is set forth in Penal Law §130.00(4).

<sup>15</sup>Penal Law §130.05(3)(g).

<sup>16</sup> If in issue, the definition of “health care provider” is set forth in Penal Law §130.00(12).

<sup>17</sup> If in issue, the definition of “mental health care provider” is set forth in Penal Law §130.00(13).

examination,<sup>18</sup> and, such conduct was not performed for a valid medical or mental health care purpose.<sup>19</sup>]

*NOTE: This is the end of definitions and the resumption of the charge:*

Thus, sexual intercourse with such a person is always deemed to be without that person's consent, even if in fact that person did consent.

In order for you to find the defendant guilty of this crime, the People are required to prove, from all the evidence in the case, beyond a reasonable doubt, both of the following two elements:

1. That on or about (*date*), in the county of (*county*) the defendant (*defendant's name*), engaged in sexual intercourse with (*complainant's name*); and,
2. That (*complainant's name*) was incapable of consent.

Therefore, if you find that the People have proven beyond a reasonable doubt, both of those elements, you must find the defendant guilty of the crime of Rape in the Third Degree as charged in the \_\_\_\_\_ count.

On the other hand, if you find that the People have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt either one or both of those elements, you must find the defendant not guilty of the crime of Rape in the Third Degree as charged in the \_\_\_\_\_ count.

*[NOTE: If an affirmative defense set forth in Penal Law § 130.10 applies, omit the final two paragraphs of the above charge, and substitute the charge at the end of this article.]*

---

<sup>18</sup>Penal Law §130.05(3)(h).

<sup>19</sup> Penal Law § 130.10(2).