

SEXUAL ABUSE SECOND DEGREE
(A Misdemeanor)
(Complainant Less Than Fourteen [14] Years Old)
PENAL LAW 130.60(2)
(Committed on or after February 1, 2001)

The _____ count is Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree.

Under our law, a person is guilty of Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree when he or she subjects another person to sexual contact and when such other person is less than fourteen (14) years old.

Under our law, it is also an element of this offense that the sexual contact was committed without the consent of that other person.¹ Sexual contact 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 incapable of consenting to sexual contact when he or she is less than seventeen (17) years old.² Thus, sexual contact with such a person is always deemed to be without that person's consent, even if in fact that person did consent.

It is not a defense to this charge that the actor did not know that the person with whom the actor had sexual contact was less than fourteen (14) years old, or that the actor believed that such person was fourteen (14) years old or more on the date of the crime.³

The term, "sexual contact," used in the definition of this crime has its own special meaning in our law. I will now give you the meaning of that term.

¹ See Penal Law § 130.05(1).

² Penal Law § 130.05(3)(a).

³ See Penal Law §15.20(3).

SEXUAL CONTACT means any touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of a person not married to the actor for the purpose of gratifying the sexual desire of either party. It includes the touching of the actor by that person as well as the touching of that person by the actor, whether directly or through clothing.⁴

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), subjected (name of complainant) to sexual contact; and
2. That (name of complainant) was less than fourteen (14) years old.

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 Sexual Abuse in the Second 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 Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree as charged in the _____ count.

⁴ See Penal Law § 130.00(3). If in issue, see Penal Law § 130.00(4), for the definition of “not married.”