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# **Statutory Rape: Criminal Attorney Talks About Its Negative Implications On Victims**

As per the FBI description, statutory rape is characterized as non-forcible sex with a particular person who is younger than the statutory age of consent. The actual ages for these laws vary greatly from state-to-state, as do the punishments for offenders. A lot of states do not use the specific term "statutory rape," just calling it rape or illegal sexual penetration among a number of other titles. These kinds of laws and regulations rarely apply simply to intercourse, but instead to any type of sexual contact. Dating an individual without sexual contact cannot be regarded as a type of statutory rape, and it is almost never illegal. All states come with an "age of consent," or an age at which a person can legitimately agree to intercourse and can then no longer be a target of statutory rape.

Most legislatures include statutory rape conditions in statutes that reprimand several different types of sexual assault. Statutory rape is different from other forms of rape in that force and absence of consent are usually not required for indictment. A defendant may be found guilty of statutory rape even if the complainant explicitly consented to the sexual contact and no force was applied by the actor. In comparison, various other rape usually takes place whenever a person overcomes some other individual by force and without having the person's permission.

Most states do not refer particularly to statutory rape; instead they use designations such as sexual assault and sexual abuse to distinguish prohibited activity. Whatever the designation, these criminal offenses are based on the premise that right up until a person actually reaches a particular age, he is officially incapable of consenting to sexual intercourse. Hence, rather than including force as a criminal component, these crimes allow it to be illegal for anybody to engage in having sex with anybody below a certain age, apart from his spouse. The age of consent may differ by state, with most states, such as Connecticut, establishing it at 16. The age of consent in some other states varies from ages 14 to 18.

When such cases hit the courts, it is generally since the activity has been discovered in such a way about make ignorance lawfully actionable, or simply because someone is pressing a case through. Instructors and school counselors, for instance, are by law required to file child abuse, which includes underage sexual activity and molestation, to authorities. Or, a member of family may bring charges because he or she disapproves of the relationship.

The stringent administration of statutory rape laws is the most recent in a series of corrective steps that states have used recently to try to pressure individuals to change their sexual as well as reproductive behavior. There's been significant doubt as to whether other like proposals (e.g., the so-called family cap, which turns down additional cash benefits to ladies who bear kids during welfare) will accomplish their stated objectives - reduced birthrates among females likely to require public assistance and lowered welfare caseloads and expenses. Likewise, there's prevalent skepticism as to whether the utilization of statutory rape laws will have an evident effect on adolescent pregnancy as well as birth rates or with the number of young women who have sexual interactions with grownup men.

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