

# MANDATORY REPORTING IN NEW JERSEY

**Mandatory reporting does not apply to most cases of sexual assault.** Under New Jersey law, it is up to the survivor to decide whether to report the crime to law enforcement. This is also true in many cases involving teens. However, there are some exceptions where it is mandatory to report. These include:

**Minors (17 years old and under) and the perpetrator is in a supervisory position over the minor.** This includes parents, guardians, teachers, coaches, camp counselors, babysitters, someone residing in the same home, etc. Under these circumstances, this must be reported to the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) at 877-NJABUSE.

**The age of consent in New Jersey is 16 years old.** At this age, a 16 year old can consent to sexual activity with someone as young as 13, and as old as 85 (as an extreme example). If they are a minor and the older individual is in a supervisory position, this is reportable, however if not, no action is required by law.

**For minors aged 13—15.** For individuals within this age bracket, it is legal to consent to sexual activity with another individual, as long as they are within 3 years of their age. Once the other individual is 4 years older or more, legally consent cannot be given. *However, this is not a mandatory report unless the older person is in a supervisory position as stated above.*

**For more information on reporting and options, contact YWCA Bergen County Rape Crisis Center at 201-487-2227.**

**Rape Crisis Center**  
Hotline: 201-487-2227

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
bergen county

[www.ywcabergencounty.org](http://www.ywcabergencounty.org)