

Pandora's Rose Membership Book

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Introduction

Pandora's Rose Membership Book is intended as a basic introduction to information that is helpful for anyone new to the group and/or new to the practice of kink. The members of Pandora's Rose hope this will increase communication and comfort within the group and kink community. All members of Pandora's Rose should have access to this Membership Book. It is especially important that all new and probationary members review its contents and discuss concepts about which any questions arise.

Finally, it should be understood that Pandora's Rose Membership Book will always be a working document. Please do contribute to additions, edits and revisions but contacting any member of the Board of Pandora's Rose with your ideas.

Pandora's Rose Bylaws

Last revised September 13th, 2022

Article I - Name

The name of this organization is Pandora's Rose, founded on August 29, 2008.

Article II – Mission Statement

Pandora's Rose is an organization that promotes education, support, and the exchange of experiences and ideas amongst its members. It is open to anyone twenty-one (21) years of age and older, of all races, genders, beliefs, abilities, and orientations (hereafter referred to as "Adult") in the mid-Missouri and surrounding areas. Pandora's Rose supports the free and open exploration of the adult BDSM and fetish communities in a safe, risk-aware and consensual manner by providing an accepting and non-judgmental organization.

Article III – Membership

1) Eligibility for Membership

- a) Application for membership to Pandora's Rose is open to all Adults who understand and support the Mission Statement.

2) Application Process for Membership

- a) Application for membership involves a multi-step process. Only upon completion of all steps will an individual be considered a full member of Pandora's Rose with all the rights and privileges thereunto.
- b) A prospective member must attend a minimum of six (6) Pandora's Rose sponsored events.
- c) After attending at least six (6) events, a prospective member may request an interview.
- d) Upon requesting an interview, the Membership Coordinator will provide a Membership Packet containing the Bylaws, Rules of Etiquette, Discretion Agreement, and Membership Application.
 - (1) After reading the Membership Packet, the prospective member must complete, sign, and return the Discretion Agreement and Membership Application. The membership application must include the applicant's:
 - (a) Legal name (to be verified by photo ID when submitted),
 - (b) Scene name (a preferred alias or nickname to be used),
 - (c) Date of birth (to be verified by photo ID when submitted), and
 - (d) Applicant's signature.
 - (2) The Membership Coordinator must also sign the application after verifying the prospective member's information and signature. The Membership Application and Discretion Agreement will then become the property of Pandora's Rose. These documents will be filed and kept confidential.
- e) After receiving the completed application, an interview will be conducted (see A3S3). The interview must include four (4) current members in good standing. Two (2) of those members must currently hold positions on the board.

- f) After an offer of membership, the prospective member must accept the offer, and then must pay the membership dues, which will be prorated in accordance with the annual payment period.
- g) Once all the application and interview processes have been completed, the prospective member will then be considered a new member of Pandora's Rose.

3) Interview and Voting Process

- a) The questions and standards for the interview are to be set by the Membership Coordinator and shall include, but not be limited to, questions and comments regarding:
 - i) Discussion of privacy, discretion, and respect issues.
 - ii) Expectations of Pandora's Rose and of the applicant.
 - iii) Affiliation with media, journalism, or law enforcement.
- b) Following the interview process, the Membership Coordinator will notify all members of the prospective member's scene name and online profile (if one exists), and request a vote for approval or denial of membership. Voting members may vote for approval, denial, or probationary approval. Votes will be compiled by the Membership Coordinator.
- c) Result of voting and board deliberation will be one of:
 - i) Full Membership is approved with two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority (of those voting) in favor of full membership of the prospective member.
 - (1) Probationary membership may also be designated by the executive board on a case-by-case basis.
 - ii) Membership is denied with two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority (of those voting) in favor of denial of membership.
 - iii) If a simple majority (of those voting) votes in favor of either Membership or Probationary Membership, then Probationary Membership may be approved by the Executive Board.
 - iv) In the rare but possible instance that votes are evenly split, the board retains the right to make a final decision about membership based on responses of members.
- d) Membership Coordinator will inform prospective member regarding results of voting and board deliberation within fourteen (14) days. If membership was denied, then the prospective member may reapply for membership after a period of one year. Any offer of membership will be rescinded if the application process (A3S2) is not completed within ninety (90) days. If the offer is rescinded due to expiration, then the prospective member may restart the application process at any time.
- e) When Probationary membership is offered, a second vote will take place at the end of a six-month probationary period. Voting members must re-address membership with the same three possible results (approval, denial, probation). A second term of probationary membership may be approved. Probationary membership expires at the end of the second probationary period, and full membership must be approved or denied by a vote as listed above.

4) Types of Membership

- a) Probationary Membership
 - i) A probationary member is any adult who follows and supports the bylaws and rules of Pandora's Rose, has successfully completed the membership process and has been offered the designation of probationary member through the application process. Probationary status will be for a period of six (6) months, and may be renewed one time as described above.

- (1) A probationary member is considered to be in Good Standing if all of the following are fulfilled:
 - (a) The member follows and supports the mission, purpose and rules of Pandora's Rose.
 - (b) Membership dues are current
 - (c) Participates as much as possible in all educational opportunities offered
 - (d) Continues attending both open and membership events as possible for maximum positive interactions with voting members. The member should attend at least one (1) Pandora's Rose event every two months.
 - ii) To remain in good standing, probationary members will complete the following responsibilities during the six-month probation period:
 - (1) Meet with one or more board members at least twice per six month probationary period.
 - (2) Meet with mentor at least monthly as requested or arranged (Either mentor or probationary member may request meetings)
 - (3) Use membership book to assist with understanding this community:
 - (a) Read entire contents.
 - (b) Review contents with mentor.
 - (c) Sign Statement of Understanding.
 - (d) Sign agreement to abide by all rules and expectations.
 - iii) Current Pandora's Rose Full Members in good standing are asked to volunteer to mentor the new probationary member. The probationary member may then choose a mentor from a list of volunteers. If a second probationary period is warranted, the probationary policies will apply with one difference: a new mentor will be assigned by the president and/or membership coordinator.
 - (1) Mentor responsibilities:
 - (a) Review membership book with probationary member.
 - (b) Schedule meeting with both probationary member and membership coordinator to gather information about voting member concerns.
 - (c) Meet with probationary member at least monthly.
 - (d) Work with probationary member to facilitate continued growth and education in the community as outlined in the membership packet.
 - (e) Report progress to the President, Vice President and Membership Coordinator at least quarterly, preferably after meetings.
- b) Full Membership
- i) Full Member: Any Adult who follows and supports the bylaws and rules of Pandora's Rose and has successfully completed the membership application process.
 - (1) A member is considered to be in Good Standing if all of the following are fulfilled:
 - (a) The member follows and supports the mission, purpose, and rules of Pandora's Rose.
 - (b) Membership dues are current.
 - (c) The member attends at least one (1) Pandora's Rose event every three (3) months.
 - (d) If a member loses Good Standing due to non-attendance, it can be regained by attending at least one (1) event per month for two (2) consecutive months.
- c) Reciprocal Membership
- i) Any Adult member in good standing of an organization with whom Pandora's Rose has a reciprocal agreement, allowing them the rights and privileges of a member to

attend Pandora's Rose events. Anyone who has been barred from Pandora's Rose events due to past behavior is exempted from this type of membership.

5) Membership Dues and Privileges

- a) All members of Pandora's Rose shall be assessed annual membership dues of \$24.00. Dues will be collected during the month of March. All paid dues are non-refundable. If membership dues present a hardship for any member or potential member, that member may request other means of fulfilling dues.
- b) Privileges of Membership
 - i) Full Members in good standing are entitled to the following:
 - (1) Right to attend all Pandora's Rose members-only events,
 - (2) Reciprocal membership in organizations with whom Pandora's Rose has a reciprocal membership agreement.
 - (3) Right to make a motion, nominate members for Executive Board positions, and vote in the members' meetings and elections,
 - (4) Hold a position on the Executive Board
 - (5) Participate in interviewing prospective members
 - (6) Bring non-member guests to events
 - (7) Borrow equipment and books owned by Pandora's Rose.
 - ii) Probationary Members in good standing may
 - (1) Attend all membership meetings.
 - (2) Attend play parties if recommended by their mentor and approved by current board members.
 - (3) Borrow books and educational materials from Pandora's Rose.
 - iii) Probationary Members may NOT
 - (1) Vote.
 - (2) Bring guests to play parties or membership meetings.
 - (3) Interview new prospective members.
 - (4) Hold a position on the Executive Board.
 - (5) Borrow equipment owned by PR.
 - (6) Receive any benefits of reciprocal memberships.

6) Guests of Members

- a) Full Members in Good Standing may bring guests to Pandora's Rose events. However, the following rules shall apply:
 - i) Each full member in good standing may bring one (1) Adult guest or couple to a private event. Members may not bring as a guest anyone who has been barred from any Pandora's Rose event due to past behavior.
 - ii) All guests to private events must first sign a Guest Discretion Agreement or have one on file. When the guest signs the Guest Discretion Agreement, they must show appropriate identification. The Guest Discretion Agreement is the property of Pandora's Rose and will be filed and held for a period of three (3) years, after which it will be destroyed.
 - iii) All guests must read and sign a copy of the Rules of Etiquette. The sponsoring member is considered responsible for the behavior of their guest(s) and adherence to Pandora's Rose rules. The sponsoring member must be present at all times with their guest(s). Violations committed by the guest(s) could result in warnings or other consequences for the sponsoring member.

- 7) Loss or Revocation of Membership
 - a) Should a member choose to leave the group, their Discretion Agreement and Waiver will continue to be the property of Pandora's Rose for a period of three (3) years. After that time the Discretion Agreement and Waiver will be destroyed.
 - b) Should a member willfully, flagrantly, or in an ongoing manner violate the Bylaws, Rules of Etiquette, or Discretion Policy, another member or the Executive Board may bring the details of the situation to the membership as a whole, for the purpose of determining proper action, up to and including reduction to probationary membership or an expulsion vote. The Executive Board may also give advice and/or a warning to the affected member in hopes of remedying the situation.
 - c) Emergency suspension of membership privileges, or other immediate actions, for the sake of safety or security may be implemented by the President or Vice President. These actions will remain in force until such time as the membership meets to determine what actions should be taken.
 - d) Upon written complaint of misconduct or conflict between members, a Mediating Committee of three (3) full members in good standing shall be formed.
 - i) This committee shall be composed of one (1) member selected by each party, and chaired by a third which would consist of a member of the Executive Board, as determined by the Chain of Authority.
 - ii) If the Mediating Committee is unable to find a solution, they shall present their findings to the Executive Board. If the Executive Board finds cause, they will present the situation at a business meeting to the membership for a vote.
 - iii) Prior to the meeting, a post will be sent to the membership encouraging all members to attend the meeting. No information about the complaint will be included in this post.
 - iv) A fifty-one percent (51%) vote of the members in good standing is required to pass any action. If at this meeting a majority of the members in good standing is not present, then all possible actions will be discussed and a member of the Executive Board, as determined by the Chain of Authority, has the exclusive say on what action will be taken.
 - e) Any revocation of membership shall be for a period of one (1) calendar year. After that period has expired, a person has the right to reapply for membership as noted above.
- 8) Expired and Returning Individuals
 - a) An individual whose membership has expired within one (1) calendar year may rejoin without going through the application process. They will only need to pay their prorated membership dues.
 - b) An individual whose membership has expired beyond one (1) calendar year must go through the application process again to rejoin Pandora's Rose.
- 9) Privacy
 - a) Pandora's Rose understands and embraces its obligation to safeguard membership privacy to the very best of its ability. With this in mind the following procedures are established:

- i) Membership Applications and Discretion Agreements are considered confidential. The information contained therein shall be only shared with the Executive Board, and only on a need to know basis.
- ii) Everyone is encouraged to provide a scene name on their Membership Application and Discretion Agreement, which will be used to reference them in all Pandora's Rose correspondence and communications.
- iii) No one may give out another member's personal information. This includes, but not limited to, their name, address, phone number, or occupation without the express permission of the individual.
- iv) Any information regarding the involvement of any individual at a Pandora's Rose event shall be held in the strictest confidence. This shall include, but not be limited to, attendance or activities at any event.

Article IV - Executive Board

1) Board Positions & Responsibilities

The management of the day-to-day affairs of the organization shall be vested in an Executive Board, as defined below, who shall exercise general authority to control and manage the affairs and properties of Pandora's Rose. No committee members shall have any right, title, or interest in or to any property of the organization and all actions taken shall be done only by further interests of the membership of Pandora's Rose. The Executive Board shall be comprised of the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, Event Coordinator, Head Security Officer, Security Officer, and Technology Coordinator. In the event that a member of the Executive Board will be absent, they are encouraged to appoint a proxy to act in their place. If the officer does not appoint a substitute, then any member of the Executive Board may do so.

a) The President is responsible for:

- i) All actions, activities, and equipment of Pandora's Rose.
- ii) Preparing agenda for membership consideration by the Friday prior to the business meeting.
- iii) Reserving the business meeting location.
- iv) Overseeing that all tasks and preparations from all board members is completed in a timely manner before all events or actions take place.
- v) Presiding over all meetings, activities, and presentations that Pandora's Rose is representing. If the President is unable to preside over any function, then it will be presided over as dictated by the Chain of Authority (A4S3).
- vi) Responsible for the welfare of the Reciprocal Group Agreements for other BDSM related organizations.
- vii) Has the capability of enacting emergency suspension over any members' privileges for reasons of safety, security, or other immediate measures.

b) The Vice President is responsible for:

- i) Filling in for absent board members during all meetings.
- ii) Aid the other board members with any assistance that they may require in order to get the tasks completed within a reasonable time.

- iii) In the event the President is removed or leaves Pandora's Rose, the Vice President will be required to step into the President's position. If this happens, a temporary Vice President will be elected by the board until the next election period.
 - iv) Has the capability of enacting emergency suspension over any members' privileges for reasons of safety, security, or other immediate measures.
- c) The Secretary is responsible for:
- i) Recording the minutes for all Pandora's Rose members meetings.
 - ii) Maintaining a record of all minutes from past Pandora's Rose members meetings.
 - iii) Giving a brief history of events from the previous Pandora's Rose members meeting at the current members meeting.
 - iv) Posting members meeting minutes within fourteen (14) days to the membership.
- d) The Treasurer is responsible for:
- i) Maintaining and balancing the Pandora's Rose financial holdings, including all funds, receipts, and disbursements.
 - ii) Submitting an annual budget report for all members at the Business Meeting in March.
 - iii) Depositing all money within fourteen (14) days of receipt in the appropriate Pandora's Rose repository.
 - iv) Reporting current financial balances at each business meeting.
 - v) Dispersing funds as voted upon by the membership of Pandora's Rose.
 - vi) Managing any necessary correspondence in order to maintain timely financial operations of business.
 - vii) The Treasurer cannot be the spouse, partner or relation of the President in any way. This is to protect the integrity of Pandora's Rose.
 - viii) If someone becomes Treasurer whose spouse/partner/relation is an authorized signature on the checking account, their spouse/partner/relation must remove their name from the authorized signature list prior to the new Treasurer taking office.
- e) The Membership Coordinator is responsible for:
- i) Maintaining all records of members, including Discretion Agreements and Waivers, which must be kept in a locked box and brought to all play parties so they can be verified if needed.
 - ii) Maintaining an up to date list of current members and their status. This should not include personal information such as address or phone number.
 - iii) The primary questions that will be asked during the interview process of the new members.
 - iv) Meeting with new members to present them with a Membership Packet and verify the application information and signature. Once the information is verified, the form must be signed by the Membership Coordinator.
 - v) Notifying new applicants of acceptance or denial within fourteen (14) days of their interview.

- vi) Ensuring that all probationary members have mentorship.
 - vii) Promoting, recruiting new members, and addressing inquiries regarding Pandora's Rose.
 - viii) Keeping track of "members in good standing" status.
- f) The Events Coordinator is responsible for:
- i) Organizing all events, including communicating times and locations as needed.
 - ii) Managing notifications to members for events.
 - iii) Consulting with the Head Security Officer regarding upcoming events.
 - iv) Forming committees or enlisting assistants for larger events.
 - v) Making necessary reservations for all Pandora's Rose events except the business meeting.
- g) The Head Security Officer is responsible for:
- i) Security and privacy issues related to Pandora's Rose.
 - ii) Enforcing policies, rules, and regulations in accordance with Pandora's Rose guidelines, federal, state, and local laws.
 - iii) Investigating any incidents of breaches in confidentiality or rules.
 - iv) Recruiting and training additional security officers as needed for large Pandora's Rose events.
 - v) If unable to attend an event, making sure the Security Officer can handle his/her half of the Dungeon Monitor (DM) shift and finding someone else to cover the other half of the DM shift.
 - vi) If the Head Security Officer determines that someone has had alcohol or is unfit to scene, they are responsible for making sure no scene happens for the involved participants.
 - vii) The Head Security Officer can, in the interest of security, safety of an individual, and/or Pandora's Rose override the wishes of any member (including board members) at any event where the function of a DM is required. If the situation includes a non-board member, appeals may be made at the next meeting. If the situation includes a board member, the situation will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - viii) If the Head Security Officer says a scene stops, the scene stops. No exceptions. All board members are to support the Head Security Officer's decision at least until it is discussed at the next business meeting.
 - ix) Security is required for all events that have more than five (5) members/guests present not counting security officers.
 - x) All security officers are required to wear a security sash when on duty.
 - xi) The Head Security Officer is required to keep an up-to-date inventory count of all medical and safety supplies, ensuring none are expired.

- xii) The Head Security Officer is required to make sure the fire extinguisher(s) are still good prior to each event. If they are not, they are required to get them filled (if refillable) or get new ones that are refillable.
 - h) The Security Officer is responsible for:
 - i) Covering as DM for half of an event where security is required.
 - ii) If the Head Security Officer is not present, the Security Officer has all the rights and authority of the Head Security Officer.
 - iii) If a situation occurs during the security shift, the Security Officer is to stop the scene then consult with the Head Security whether scene should be allowed to continue.
 - i) The Technology Coordinator is responsible for:
 - i) Managing, supervising and/or assisting with translating Pandora's Rose group needs for technology.
 - ii) Contributing to relevant social media accounts associated with Pandora's Rose.
- 2) Election of the Executive Board
 - a) Elections - The Executive Board shall be chosen by simple majority vote of the full members in good standing in attendance.
 - i) Requirements for election to the Executive Board:
 - (1) A person must be a full member in good standing and have demonstrated actions, attitudes, and communications that would be an asset to, further the goals of, and support the mission of Pandora's Rose. A person must agree to perform the duties as described in the Bylaws.
 - (2) A person must have been a full member in good standing of Pandora's Rose for a minimum time period of six (6) months prior to election for all positions except President.
 - (3) To be elected President of Pandora's Rose, a person must have served a position on the Executive Board for a minimum period of one (1) year.
 - ii) Means of Election
 - (1) The elections shall be held at the annual March meeting in the manner prescribed. Nominations shall be made beginning in February for all positions. Nominations may be done orally, posted to the members' forums or emailed to the President. Elections are done by secret ballot. Officers shall be elected by the membership to serve for a term of one (1) year.
 - (2) Should an officer position become vacant prior to the completion of its term, the Executive Board may appoint a temporary officer until the next election.
 - (a) The only exception is if the President's position becomes vacant, in which case the Vice President is required to step into the President's position and a temporary Vice President is appointed until the next election.
 - iii) Should a nominee run unopposed, a confidence vote of the majority is still required.
 - iv) If a position is vacant, the Executive Board may absorb the duties or appoint an officer to fill the position until the next election.
- 3) Chain of Authority

The Chain of Authority is used to determine who is responsible in a given situation based on position, availability, and involvement in the situation.

- a) Position determination is by, in order:
 - i) President
 - ii) Vice President
 - iii) Secretary
 - iv) Treasurer
 - v) Membership Coordinator
 - vi) Event Coordinator
 - vii) Head Security Officer
 - viii) Security Officer
 - ix) Technology Coordinator
- b) Any Board Members directly involved in a situation are excluded from the Chain of Authority consideration for that situation.

4) Removal of Officers

- a) If an officer moves outside the State of Missouri, their position on the Executive Board shall be terminated, effective as of the next scheduled meeting but their membership is not affected.
- b) If an officer fails to remain in good standing, their position on the Executive Board shall be terminated, effective as of the next scheduled meeting but their membership is not affected.
- c) An officer can be removed by the membership at any time by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of those on the Executive Board. The removal vote shall take place a month after the motion has been made for removal. The vote will be by secret ballot.
- d) Reasons for removal from the office include, but are not limited to, actions, attitudes, or communications that are inappropriate to the purposes of Pandora's Rose.

Article V – Membership Meetings

Private business meetings are held quarterly on a regularly scheduled day and time. Meetings are for members and their guests only. If possible, members should give advance notice that a guest will be attending.

Article VI – Bylaw Amendments

If a change of the Bylaws is requested a post will be sent to the members' list encouraging all members to attend the members' meeting. At that time, a vote can be called to change the Bylaws. For a change to be made, fifty-one percent (51%) of the total membership in good standing must be present.

Pandora's Rose Party Rules and Member Conduct

Last revised December 3rd, 2019

- 1) Privacy: Any information about the identities or activities of Pandora's Rose, members, or non-members is to be held in the strictest of confidence.
- 2) Harassment: Pandora's Rose will not tolerate harassment of any kind by anyone. Anyone found to be harassing will be asked to leave immediately and may be barred from future Pandora's Rose events.
- 3) Consent: All participants are consenting Adults who shall respect the rights and wishes of other members and guests.
- 4) Discretion: Pandora's Rose Members and Guests must be reminded of the Discretion Agreement at each event they attend.
- 5) Photography: The use of video, audio recording equipment, cameras, or cell phones is expressly forbidden/prohibited. Exceptions are as follows:
 - a) Any recording such as photograph, video or audio must be approved and witnessed by a currently serving dungeon monitor (DM) at the event. No person will be recorded in any way except with express consent.
- 6) Alcohol and Smoking: Moderate use of alcohol is permitted as long as those drinking are not scening or planning on scening. Smoking is permitted in the smoking area only.
- 7) Drugs: Anyone in possession or appearing to be under the influence of illegal drugs will be required to leave immediately and will be barred from future events.
- 8) Respect: All members and guests of Pandora's Rose agree to respect other participants' properties and play areas. All conversations will be kept to a minimum near all play areas. Please save your questions for scene participants until the scene is completed. If a member or guest feels that a scene is problematic, they should inform the DM. Direct intervention is appropriate only when the danger appears to be life threatening or in violation of Pandora's Rose party rules.
- 9) Wax Play: Wax play is limited to a designated wax play area determined by the host and/or Head Security Officer. If one wishes to do wax play, a wax play area can usually be set up once requested.
- 10) Fire Play: Fire play is not permitted, where fire play is defined by application of flame, fire, sparks, or combustible materials to the body. This does not include anything otherwise addressed elsewhere in the bylaws.
- 11) Sex: Sexual intercourse is not permitted. Insertion of toys and/or oral is at the discretion of the host of the venue.
- 12) Blood Play: No blood play activities are permitted. If blood is shed, the scene must be stopped and cleanup must begin for that station immediately.

- 13) Cleanup: Members and guests are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting their play areas as soon as possible, so other members and guests may use the equipment.
- 14) Solicitation: Prostitution, solicitation, or negotiation of compensation for services is not permitted. Violators will be required to leave immediately and be barred from future events.
- 15) Dungeon Monitor (DM): The DM has the authority and responsibility to handle emergency situations. They may intervene in a scene, if necessary, for safety or to uphold Pandora's Rose rules. The decision of the security officer or DM is final. All issues that arise can be discussed at the next business meeting. No discussion is to take place at the current event, once a reason for stopping a scene has been stated. The DMs will make themselves identifiable by wearing an orange sash.
- 16) Weapons: Knife play is permitted, but upon arrival all members and guests must show all knives to the security officer and/or DM. This allows the security officer and DM to know who is carrying a knife. No guns are allowed at any Pandora's Rose events, with the exception of stun guns, tasers, or other electrical devices. If anyone brings a knife to an event without showing it upon arrival, they could be asked to leave. If anyone brings a prohibited weapon to an event, they will be asked to leave and may be barred from future events.
- 17) Safeword: The official party safeword is "Safeword". This is to be repeated at the start of all play parties by all members.

Common Terms

These are general explanations of a group of terms that may be heard where members of Pandora's Rose gather. There are many nuances that may be further defined by individuals or within relationships.

For a more complete list, check the FetLife group "BDSM Glossary." A general internet search will probably also be helpful.

BDSM: The consensual practice of Bondage, Dominance/Discipline, Submission/Sadism, and/or Masochism.

Bondage: Any play that involves restraint

Discipline: A practice of rewards and punishments based on behavior

Dominance: The act of exercising control

D/s: Commonly used abbreviation for Domination/submission.

Masochism: The enjoyment of receiving pain or humiliation

M/s: Commonly used abbreviation for Master/slave

Sadism: The enjoyment of inflicting pain or humiliation upon another

Submission: The act of relinquishing control to another

Dominant: Someone who exercises control in a D/s relationship

Master: An owner of a slave or slaves

Top: Someone who guides the scene and/or provides physical sensation

Bottom: Someone who gives up control and/or receives physical sensation from a top

Slave: A person who gives up total control to a master

Submissive: Someone who relinquishes control in a D/s relationship

PRICK: Personal Responsibility in Consensual Kink

RACK: Risk Aware Consensual Kink

SSC: Safe, Sane and Consensual

Aftercare: The time after a BDSM scene or play session in which the participants calm down, and slowly come back in touch with reality. Depending on the intensity of the scene and the nature of the participants, aftercare may be very important to one or both participants in order to prevent later emotional aftereffects. Aftercare may consist of some or all of the following components: Being away from noise, activity, bright light; physical closeness and touching with the partner; hydration with water or sport drink; keeping warm. Aside from its necessity, aftercare can be one of the most rewarding and loving experiences the participants can share.

A Scene: A consensual episode of play, negotiated by those participating.

Dungeon: A party space with various equipment and spaces set up for people to use for scening (including larger equipment that may not be accessible in most people's private play).

Dungeon Monitor: An individual who is responsible for monitoring scenes in a dungeon to ensure the safety of participants. Commonly referred to as the DM.

Munch: An informal meet up of kinky people, usually in a vanilla environment, where people get to know each other.

Play Party: A party (with various requirements for attendance) that consists of multiple opportunities to scene, usually in a dungeon with various equipment.

Safeword: A word or phrase that indicates a scene must stop. This can be due to a consent violation, a safety issue, an equipment malfunction, a health concern, or the desire for the scene to end. Safewords can be used by either the Top or bottom in a scene. Some dungeons or events may have a specific safeword such as "Red" or "Safeword" that is recognized by all DMs at the dungeon or event.

The Lifestyle: The community of people involved in BDSM, often referred to as kinky people or kinksters.

The Scene: Another way of referring to The Lifestyle.

Consent, Boundaries, and Limits

Definitions of Consent, Boundaries, and Limits as it pertains to the kink lifestyle:

Consent:

- Is not Presumed
- Is not merely the absence of “no”
- Must be mutually agreed upon
- Must be enthusiastic
- Must not be coerced or obtained without access to full information
- Must not be obtained under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Must be ongoing
- May be withdrawn at any time

Boundaries:

- Are set by individuals and/or scene partners
- Are an expression of what is allowed and not allowed in relation to that person(s) and/or situation
- May be physical, emotional, or mental

Limits:

- Are non-negotiable and relate to specific activities in a scene which people will not do, are hesitant to do, or will only do under certain circumstances.
- Hard Limit: What someone absolutely will not do, usually non-negotiable (may or may not be subject to change over time).
- Soft Limit: A limit which is not necessarily set in stone. It may be flexible, may be pushed, or may change over time and/or with experience or knowledge of that type of play.

****No explanation or reason is needed to explain a person’s limits or boundaries, and should not be requested outside of negotiating a scene.****

Etiquette Guidelines

Although many connect BDSM with sexuality, it is NOT advisable that you behave sexually with anyone in the community until there has been some “getting to know you” time, and you have received CONSENT (see section about consent and boundaries).

Do not make assumptions about engaging in any kink-style behavior with anyone until you have received consent.

Do not touch anyone until you have received consent.

Do not touch anything that does not belong to you until you have received permission from its owner.

Never enter a scene or engage anyone who is in a scene until that scene is finished and all aftercare has been completed.

Do talk with community members. Ask questions that are on your mind. Be friendly and polite.

Do read, look up information, use this book, find other books & online sites, etc.

Judgement and Bias

“Your kink is not my kink, but your kink is okay.”

We all have things about which we feel positive or negative. This is normal and expected. In kink, everyone has a wide variety of things they are into and not into. As you gain experience you will come across situations that provoke emotions, whether positive or negative. For the health of both yourself and the community at large, work toward open-mindedness, self-control, and self-care.

When faced with a situation in which what you are seeing or being asked to participate in provokes a strong negative reaction, it **IS** okay to communicate a dislike or level of discomfort. It is not okay to pass judgement on others for liking something that you feel strongly against. The kink community is so diverse yet we depend upon its unity. Such unity exists in part, through acceptance of each other despite differences in fetishes, activities, relationships, and so on.

While not passing judgement is critically important, you must also make sure to take care of yourself. You are not required to witness or experience anyone else’s kink. It is okay to feel negative emotions. It is also okay to address those emotions in a safe way. Open communication with trusted individuals is vital for processing such emotions. It is also okay to remove yourself from a situation or entire event that is provoking such a reaction. This is sometimes referred to as, “get a cookie,” ie: leave the room and get a snack or something, somewhere else.

It is acceptable to ask any board member of Pandora’s Rose if they would be willing to have a conversation about any thoughts, emotions, or experiences you have.

Etiquette Scenarios For Discussion:

Here are some situations we have experienced. We hope they will stimulate thought and discussion. Feel free to use the provided space to write your answers to the questions, or thoughts about the scenarios.

1. You watch a scene. The bottom is hobbling toward a chair. Is it okay for you to assist or to move the chair?

2. You are at a convention. Someone seems to behave like a pony. That person moves to a common area where food is located but continues to behave like a pony. Is it okay for you to start a conversation with that person?

3. You see a bottom that appears to be having difficulty. What should you do?
 - a. What if this bottom has a consistent D/s or M/s relationship in place?
 - b. What if this bottom and Top have just met for the first time at a convention?
 - c. What if this bottom has a Top they regularly play with?
 - d. How would different venues/locations affect these situations?

4. You see a piece of equipment that appears to be experiencing a failure. What should you do?

5. You see a couple in the social area at a convention. They are eating and talking quietly with each other. You have a question about their scene. What should you do?

6. People are scening in a way that makes you intensely uncomfortable. What should you do?

7. You approach and talk to someone. The person does not respond. What might this mean, and what should you do?

8. Someone has a new implement or toy and is showing it to a group. You would like to hold the item. How should you approach this situation?

9. You would like to get the attention of someone whose back is turned. You consider placing a hand on the person's shoulder. Is that an appropriate way to get their attention? What else could you do?

10. You see someone who is wearing a collar, and you find this person attractive. Is it appropriate to ask that person to kneel before you? What should you do?

11. You know someone identifies as a Dominant, and you are at a munch. How should you address this person?

12. You are the top in a rope scene. The next strand of rope needs to be applied near or around the breasts. The bottom has requested “no sexual touching.” How should you move the breast?

13. You are the top in a rope scene and the tie involves crotch rope. The bottom has requested “no sexual touching.” What do you do?

Outline of Activities: **Pandora's Rose and others within driving distance**

Pandora's Rose:

Munches are first Thursday and third Tuesday of the month.

Business meetings are quarterly (March, June, September, December).

Play parties are quarterly (January, April, July, October).

Kink conventions within drivable distance:

St. Louis, MO

Beat Me in St. Louis

– Held in March or April

– <https://beatmeinstl.com/>

Spanksgiving

– Held in November

– <https://spanksgiving.com/>

Kansas City, MO

Chicago, IL

Denver, CO

Thunder in the Mountains

– Held in July

– <https://www.thunderinthemountains.com/>

Other groups / locations:

IX in KC – Vetting required

- Frequently holds classes, activities, and parties of varying themes and foci

Studio Kinbaku in St. Louis – Vetting required

- Rope school led by T0ne and associates

Kinbaku KCMO in Kansas – Vetting required

- Rope group that holds classes at IX

The Black Dog in Kansas – Vetting required

- Dungeon led by Mistress Elliott and associates

Educational Resources

By no means an exhaustive list. You may find others that are very helpful.
Please communicate those to your mentor.

Books

[SM 101 by Jay Wiseman](#) (1996 printing; may be getting old and difficult to obtain)

- <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0963976389>

[The New Topping Book by Dossie Easton and Janet Hardy](#)

- <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1890159360>

[The New Bottoming Book by Dossie Easton and Janet Hardy](#)

- <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B005HZ6GGU>

[The Loving Dominant by John and Libby Warren](#)

- <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00AY88OJ2>

[Playing Well With Others: Your Field Guide to Discovering, Exploring and Navigating the Kink, Leather and BDSM Communities](#)

- <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0937609587>

[Screw the Roses. Send me the Thorns](#) (about sadomasochism)

- <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0964596008>

Web pages

Pandora's Rose - www.pandorasrose.com

A good resource list - <http://www.amyjogoddard.com/kinkyguide-list/>

NCFS Kink Aware Professionals List - <https://www.kaprofessionals.org/>

Autostraddle - <https://www.autostraddle.com/> (good articles for women particularly!)

- Tops - <https://www.autostraddle.com/tag/view-from-the-top/>
- Bottoms - <https://www.autostraddle.com/tag/bottoms-up/>

KinkAcademy - <https://www.kinkacademy.com/>

Femdom Resources - <http://www.femdom-resource.com/femdom-links/>

Essays

Negotiating A BDSM Scene

- <https://www.kinkweekly.com/article-jenn/negotiating-a-bdsm-scene/>

Example Negotiation Checklist

- <https://www.kinkweekly.com/resources/resource-bdsm-negotiation-checklist/>

Group on fetlife BDSM Glossary

- <https://fetlife.com/groups/3243>

Experts

Jay Wiseman, Robert J. Rubel, Midori, Mollena Williams-Haas, Lee Harrington, and many more!

Social Skills and Emotional Adulting

[How to be more straightforward](#)

- <https://www.thecut.com/2018/01/how-to-be-more-straightforward.html>

[What is Emotional Labor and how to do it](#) (from a strongly feminist/gender binary perspective, but relevant to basically all relationships, even friendships)

- <https://the-orbit.net/brutereason/2015/07/27/emotional-labor-what-it-is-and-how-to-do-it/>

[The Grownup Test](#) (from a poly blog but VERY relevant to kink)

- <https://solopoly.net/2013/03/29/the-grownup-test-clear-frank-communication-and-negotiation/>

Groups

Pandora's Rose
AHS Kansas City
Consent Kansas City
STL3

Safety and Personal Responsibility

Everyone who practices any aspect of the kink lifestyle should be taking their own safety into consideration, and be aware of the responsibilities they have to themselves. Regardless of which side of the slash you identify with, it is always your responsibility to keep yourself safe.

Safety:

Whether you are meeting someone for the first time, or about to participate in a scene with a regular play partner, there are always aspects of safety to consider. While there are too many to cover within this book, here are a few fundamentals to get you started.

When meeting a person for the first time with whom you are considering playing or forming a power exchange relationship, it is important to take some steps to keep yourself safe. Taking these steps is important no matter how you identify within gender, sexuality, or power dynamics.

- First, meet in a public place such as a coffee shop or food court. Meeting someone at a munch or other open kink event is a great option.
- Second, set up a safety call with someone you trust. Let that person know where you will be and at what time. Designate a time during your meet-up in which you will call your trusted person, or they will call you. Instruct your trusted person that if you fail to call them or fail to answer their phone call, they need to call the police and tell them where you had the meet-up.
- Third, at a first meeting, do not change locations and especially do not go to the other person's home, or ask them to come to yours. *You and your safety call person must both take this responsibility very seriously. DO NOT forget the call! Also, make sure that your safety call person is willing to make that call to the police. Additionally, remember that text can be faked. Text IS NOT enough to constitute completion of a safety call.*

Sometimes, when people decide to play with each other, one or both people may have their own set of toys or implements that they would like to use. While this is not always a bad idea, there are some things to consider. Toys that are not inserted into the body or do not come into direct contact with genitalia or other body orifices may be safe to use as long as they are sanitized after each scene. If your play partner is offering to use their toys on you, feel free to ask to look them over first. If upon inspection you see anything that makes you feel unsure of their safety or cleanliness, strongly reconsider using those toys. **NEVER** reuse toys or implements that are inserted into the body (insertables) or come into direct contact with genitalia or other body orifices. Toys such

as these are considered “fluid bonded” to the person they were first used on, and going forwards should only ever be used with that person. No amount of cleaning or sanitizing should be considered enough for those items to be safely used on someone else. These toys must also be stored separate from any other toys or implements that may be used on other people. “Fluid bonded” toys belong to the person on which they were first used.

When engaging in a scene with someone, it is important to know what specific safety concerns apply to the activity in which you will be participating. Whether you will be giving or receiving, you need to be aware of the risks so that you know how to mitigate those risks, or what to do if there is a problem. It is also important to be able to identify if your scene partner is taking unnecessary risks, or ignoring certain aspects for safety within the scene. If that occurs, do not hesitate to use your safeword.

Personal Responsibility:

With nearly anything in life, it is important to know what you are looking for (or not looking for), what your standards are, and then be able to communicate these to others. This absolutely applies to participating in the kink lifestyle and community. These could be considered personal responsibilities, as no one can decide or define these things for you. Figuring these things out can help to provide a bit of a roadmap on your journey in kink.

The kink community is full of people who are interested in a wide variety of kinks. Naturally, people are excited to find others who are interested in or curious about the same kinks. Often at parties, conventions, or other large kink events, there are people willing to demonstrate a specific kink to those who are curious. A new play partner may wish to do a scene with you involving a kink with which you are not very familiar. While there is nothing inherently wrong with any of this, it can be helpful to be aware of the kinds of things in which you have or don't have an interest. Even if you do not know where your interests lie, understanding what you are not interested in can help you prevent yourself from getting into uncomfortable or compromising situations. Taking the time to self-evaluate in the beginning can save you from later questioning yourself or regretting the activities you have allowed yourself to take part in.

Similarly to defining your interests, having a set of personal standards or code of ethics can be useful in developing a roadmap for yourself. These standards may help you decide the types of relationships you would like, whether or not you want to include sexual activity in your scenes or dynamics, what types of events you wish to attend, what types of partners you are looking for, and so on. When deciding these things for

yourself, do not consider what it seems everyone else is comfortable with or doing. What you perceive may not be what is actually occurring. More importantly, what others are doing or are okay with should not have any sort of impact on what standards you are setting for yourself. This is an essential part of your participation in kink, and it is individual for you alone. While members of Pandora's Rose hope you will speak up and use them for information, the ideas of others should not unduly influence your own individual desires, tastes, or interests.

Once you have defined your interests and standards, you must be able to communicate them. Most importantly, SAYING NO IS OKAY AND ALWAYS AN OPTION. This goes further than consent, which has already been covered in this book. If someone wants to ask you a question, you can decline to answer it. If someone wants information about you that you are not comfortable providing, you do not have to provide it. If someone wishes to talk with you, saying no is an option. If someone wants to include you in an activity, you can decline. If someone wants you to go to an event, you do not have to go. If someone wants you to teach them something, you can say no. Once you have said no, you should not be pressured to change your mind. You should also not have to worry about someone taking personal offense. If either of these things happen, it would be appropriate to ask a member of Pandora's Rose if you could talk to them about the situation. If you are ever pressured to say yes, or if anyone ever takes offense to you saying no at a PR event, please let the DM or a board member know.

Being able to communicate your interests or standards is also important when it comes to pacing yourself. Similar to new relationship energy, many people who are new to kink experience a rush of energy when they are introduced to the many varieties of kinks and fetishes. There can be a want or desire to "do all the things." This is sometimes referred to as "Sub Frenzy". This can lead to a burnout at some point, or at minimum some severe drop. It can also lead to participating in activities at such a frenzied pace that caution is thrown to the wind and safety is compromised. If you are new to the kink lifestyle, try to pace yourself. You do not have to try everything or do everything. Focus on a couple activities you really like, and slowly over time, introduce new interests, or try things you are curious about. But also keep in mind, even those who have been in the kink lifestyle for several years or even decades, have not tried every kink that has piqued their interest or curiosity.

Scene Negotiation

Scene negotiation refers to the communication before a scene, or during the formation of a relationship/dynamic, in which the parties reach an agreement about the goals, expectations, and limits of one another. This may be anything from a thirty-second conversation to a formal, written Contract.

Above all, negotiation should be as clear and exhaustive as possible.

Scene negotiation should take place before any type of scene or participation in a kink activity. It should also occur during the development of a relationship dynamic such as D/s or M/s. The period of time in which the negotiation is valid should be defined, be it for just one scene, a weekend long event, or a long-term dynamic. Negotiating a dynamic should include what will take place when that dynamic comes to an end, in order to best provide closure and a positive experience.

Topics within a negotiation should include consent, expectations, experience levels, and S.M.A.S.H.T. (see below). S.M.A.S.H.T. is an acronym that can be used as a reminder of other topics that should be included in negotiation.

It is imperative to talk about specifics regarding exactly what things are and are not included in consent. This overlaps with boundaries and limits. Consent can include not only activities within a scene, but can be as specific as what clothing shall not be removed or what sort of touching is allowed. While it is important to talk about limits, boundaries, and what is not included in consent, it is just as important to talk about what you like, hope to experience, and what you are excited about.

What each participant expects from a scene or dynamic should be discussed. For example, a top may intend to simply practice a skill, while a bottom may be hoping to reach subspace. If all parties are not on the same page, disappointment or frustration are bound to occur.

Experience levels should be discussed for the sake of safety and expectations. If a rope bunny wants to participate in a rope scene that involves suspension but the rigger has never suspended someone, the scene or expectations need to be modified. Experience levels are also important when discussing what implements could be used in an impact scene. For scenes involving fire, electricity, or other risky elements – sometimes called “edge play”, it is important for both parties to have an understanding of safety, preparation, and tools, as well as appropriate practice and skill development.

S.M.A.S.H.T.

Safewords – Medical – Aftercare – Soft Limits – Hard Limits – Triggers

Safewords: When negotiating, it is crucial to talk about safewords before playing. Safewords may indicate “Stop” but may also indicate other needs that do not necessitate a scene ending. A common example of this is the Stoplight System, using the words Green, Yellow, and Red. “Red” indicates that for some reason, the scene needs to end immediately. “Yellow” is a way to initiate a pause, potentially for a check-in, a position change, an adjustment of equipment, and so on. Usually, “yellow” being said does not mean the scene needs to end. “Green” is more of a communication tool to indicate that all is well and the scene should continue. This could be used after saying “yellow” to indicate that a scene can continue. Regardless of what safewords will be used, talk about it during negotiation so that everyone is on the same page.

Medical: Before doing any type of kink activity, it is important to discuss any relevant medical concerns or needs. If negotiating a dynamic, the discussion about medical needs should be much more in depth. Relevant medical concerns or needs could include recent or chronic injuries, current illnesses or conditions, psychological conditions, or anything else you feel should be discussed regarding your health. This would include bringing up conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, implanted devices, a history of fainting, a history of head injury, heart conditions, and recent surgical procedures. Anything that could interfere with your safety and enjoyment in a scene or dynamic is important.

Aftercare: Expectations regarding aftercare should be included within a negotiation. People can have different preferences and comfort levels regarding aftercare. Some people may want a period of cuddling or other physical affection, while others may want alone time to process the scene or come down from it. Some may want to be wrapped in a soft blanket. Sometimes there may be a preference for a particular food or drink such as chocolate or tea. Water should generally be offered and available for all parties in a scene. If you know that you have specific preferences, make sure to bring those items with you when you scene instead of relying on the venue or other scene participants to provide them. This is sometimes referred to as a “sub bag”.

Soft Limits: Soft limits are activities that a person may feel hesitant about doing. These activities may be allowed based upon situation, partner, mood, or even timing. It is important to include these in a negotiation, in part to communicate if or when soft limits can be pushed. Even though soft limits are not set in stone, it is still important to respect them when someone does not wish them to be pushed or pursued. Consent must still be given.

Hard Limits: Hard limits are activities that will not take place under any circumstances. These are non-negotiable and do not even require an explanation. Hard limits absolutely should not be pushed or challenged in any way.

Triggers: Triggers are often based on psychological needs or responses. They can be related to past traumas, memories, or childhood events. When someone is triggered, their response may be involuntary and is most often a negative response. It is important to talk about known triggers so that everyone involved in a scene can do their best to avoid them. It is also important to talk about what may or may not be helpful if someone does become triggered. Some may need space and alone time to recover without interference from others.

Etiquette Scenarios For Discussion with suggested answers:

Q: You watch a scene. The bottom is hobbling toward a chair. Is it okay for you to assist or to move the chair?

A: Short answer, no. Why? It is never okay to interfere or participate in a scene if you have not been invited to do so. In this example, perhaps the Top is enjoying watching the bottom struggle. Or perhaps the bottom enjoys being made to hobble as well. You never know what aspects may be in play and how your actions may be affecting the scene.

Q: You are at a convention. Someone seems to behave like a pony. That person moves to a common area where food is located but continues to behave like a pony. Is it okay for you to start a conversation with that person?

A: Short answer, it's okay to ask. In this scenario, you have reason to believe the scene may be finished. Therefore, it would be okay to approach the pony and ask if you may speak with them. If the answer is no or there is no answer, you should assume that the scene has not ended. In that case, find someone else to chat with or a different activity in which to engage. Under no circumstances should you be offended by a lack of response or declination.

Q: You see a bottom who appears to be having difficulty. What should you do?

What if this bottom has a consistent D/s or M/s relationship in place?

What if this bottom and Top have just met for the first time at a convention?

What if this bottom has a Top they regularly play with?

How would different venues/locations affect these situations?

A: First, observe to determine the presence and/or status of a scene. If there is a scene occurring, is the difficulty a safety concern? If so, approach a DM. If there is a scene occurring but there are no safety concerns, you may choose to continue to observe or you may choose to end your exposure to the scene. If there is not a scene occurring, it would be appropriate to ask the bottom if they could use your assistance.

If the bottom is in a consistent D/s or M/s relationship, it would be best to approach their Dom or Master to ask if your assistance would be welcome.

If the bottom and Top have just met for the first time at a convention, again, determine the presence and/or status of a scene. If a scene is occurring, follow the above guidelines. If there is not a scene occurring, consider deferring to the Top before approaching the bottom. If the Top is not available, it would be appropriate to approach the bottom and ask if your assistance is welcome. Again, "no" or a lack of response is an acceptable answer.

If the bottom has a Top they regularly play with, once again establish the presence and/or status of a scene. If there is not a scene occurring, then it would be appropriate to directly approach the bottom and ask if your assistance is welcome. Even though a Top and bottom

regularly play together, it does not mean that there is any type of power dynamic outside of their scenes.

Different venues and locations should affect your response to this scenario. If you are at a munch, workshop, or class, it is reasonable to believe that a scene is not currently occurring. When at a play party or convention, you must be more aware of the possibility of a scene or dynamic.

Q: You see a piece of equipment that appears to be experiencing a failure. What should you do?

A: If the equipment is currently being utilized within a scene, then you should notify the DM. If there is the threat of immediate danger, it is appropriate to interrupt the scene. Otherwise, the decision of how to handle the situation belongs to the DM and the Top.

Q: You see a couple in the social area at a convention. They are eating and talking quietly with each other. You have a question about their scene. What should you do?

A: It is okay to approach and politely ask if you may ask them a question about their scene. However, if they decline or do not respond, it would be best to wait until another opportunity to ask them. Again, take no offense to a lack of response or declination. They may be engaging in aftercare or simply wanting to focus on each other.

Q: People are scening in a way that makes you intensely uncomfortable. What should you do?

A: Short answer, walk away. If you are concerned about safety or consent, you should approach a DM. It would not be appropriate to discuss your concerns or discomfort with any other people watching the scene, and especially not with the people participating in the scene. Absolutely do NOT interfere with the scene. If there is not a safety or consent concern, then recognize your own discomfort means that you may benefit from discontinuing your exposure to the scene by walking away and leaving the area. You may also need to later approach a trusted friend or mentor to discuss your discomfort.

Q: You approach and talk to someone. The person does not respond. What might this mean, and what should you do?

A: Most likely, this means that the person is actively participating in a scene or protocol. Once again, you should take no offense to a lack of response. Also, a lack of response should not be cause for concern. It may be possible that the person is on speaking restrictions. You should find another activity. You could wait for a time when you see that person talking, and try approaching again. You could also observe for a time when that person is accompanied by someone who may be able to talk to you, and try approaching again.

Q: Someone has a new implement or toy and is showing it to a group. You would like to hold the item. How should you approach this situation?

A: Short answer, ask. Never assume that you may touch anyone or anything without permission. Even if the person has let others touch the item, you should still ask permission before doing so.

Q: You would like to get the attention of someone whose back is turned. You consider placing a hand on the person's shoulder. Is that an appropriate way to get their attention? What else could you do?

A: Yet again, never touch anyone without asking permission. A more appropriate option for getting their attention might be to move to within their line of sight, and verbally get their attention. If you know the person is in a consistent dynamic, you might consider approaching their Dom or Master first.

Q: You see someone who is wearing a collar, and you find this person attractive. Is it appropriate to ask that person to kneel before you? What should you do?

A: Short answer, **NO!** No Top should ever expect to receive submission from any submissive unless they have already negotiated such protocols. Further, a person wearing a collar may already belong to someone else. In that case, it would be inappropriate to expect that someone else's sub or slave display submission to you. Since you do not have an established dynamic with this person, you should consider them your equal. Therefore, communicating that you find a person attractive is appropriate as long as it is communicated in good taste.

On the other hand, there are events and venues in which protocols have been established that require submissives in attendance to demonstrate their submission to the Tops in attendance. Usually, the specific protocols are communicated in advance and only those protocols should be expected. This would be considered negotiated due to the advance communication and the option for participants who do not consent to such protocols to not attend the event.

Q: You know someone identifies as a Dominant, and you are at a munch. How should you address this person?

A: Short answer, respectfully. If you are not in an established dynamic with someone, you should treat them as your equal. In this instance, you could ask the person how they prefer to be addressed. Generally, a munch will not have protocols established that would necessitate using titles.

Q: You are the top in a rope scene. The next strand of rope needs to be applied near or around the breasts. The bottom has requested "no sexual touching." How should you move the breast?

A: You could move the breast with the back of your hand, which demonstrates the non-sexual intent. You could also ask the rope bottom to move their breast, if their hands are still available. As a third option, you could “shimmy” the rope into position. However, if you know that the specific tie you have in mind will involve rope around the breasts, it is best to communicate further with the rope bottom to understand their preferences.

Q: You are the top in a rope scene and the tie involves crotch rope. The bottom has requested “no sexual touching.” What do you do?

A: If a rope bottom has requested no sexual touching, then a tie involving crotch rope may not be the appropriate tie for that rope scene. You may also indicate to the rope bottom that the tie you were planning to do involves crotch rope, and let them decide if they would like something different or not. Either way, it is best to be upfront about what a specific tie may involve, especially if it is a tie you have never done with that particular rope bottom.

Example Play Partner Checklist to assist in scene negotiation

This checklist could be filled out by play partners and discussed before playing. This will provide a quick "head-start" to identifying limits, to negotiate, and find common ground for play.

For each item, provide two answers:

- For experience, write YES or NO next to each item to indicate if you have ever DONE that activity.
- Mark N/A if it does not apply to your gender.
- For willingness, indicate for each item how you feel about DOING that activity by rating it on a scale of NO or 0 to 5.

Willingness quick-key:

? = Don't understand this item.

* = I will do with current sex partner only.

NO = I WILL NOT DO that item under ANY circumstances (a hard limit).

0 = No desire, don't like, will permit if special to Dom (a soft limit).

1 = Don't want to do, but will.

2 = Willing to do, but has no special appeal.

2+ = Means you've never done it but, would like to try it.

2- = Means you've never done it and don't really want to try it, but will if asked.

3 = Usually LIKE doing, on an irregular/ occasional basis.

4 = LIKE doing, would like it on a regular basis.

5 = WILD TURN-ON, would like it as often as possible.

- Mark with an asterisk (*) those items which you are willing to do only with your current sex partner(s), but not with casual play-partners.
- Note any additional information or nuances which might be important for your partner to know in the margin to the right. For example under diapers you might wish to distinguish between "wetting" and "soiling".
- There is space at the bottom to write in any missed activities/interests.
- Unless otherwise stated, the Sub is the recipient/target of the activity.
- There is an intentional overlap between categories.

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Abrasion			
Age play			
Anal sex			
Anal plugs (small)			
Anal plugs (large)			
Anal plug (public, under clothes)			
Animal roles			
Arm & leg sleeves (armbinders)			
Asphyxiation			
Auctioned for charity			
Bathroom use control			
Beating (soft)			
Beating (hard)			
Being bitten			
Being serviced (sexual)			
Bestiality			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Biting			
Blindfolds			
Bondage (light)			
Bondage (heavy)			
Bondage (multi-day)			
Bondage (public, under clothing)			
Boot worship			
Branding			
Breast/chest bondage			
Breast whipping			
Breath control			
Brown showers (scat)			
Cages (locked inside of)			
Caning			
Catheterization			
Cells/Closets (locked inside of)			
Chains			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Chastity belts			
Chauffeuring			
Choking			
Chores (domestic service)			
Clothespins			
Cock rings/straps			
Cock worship			
Collars (worn in private)			
Collars (worn in public)			
Competitions (with other subs)			
Corsets (wearing casually)			
Corsets (trained waist reduction)			
Cuffs (leather)			
Cuffs (metal)			
Cupping			
Cutting			
Deepthroat			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Deepthroat (gagging)			
Deepthroat (rough)			
Diapers			
Dilation			
Dildos			
Double penetration			
Electricity (high volt – cattle prod)			
Electricity (low volt – TENS unit)			
Enemas			
Enemas (large)			
Enemas (forced)			
Enemas (retention)			
Enemas (punishment)			
Enforced chastity			
Erotic dance (for audience)			
Examinations (physical)			
Exercise (enforced/required)			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Exhibitionism (friends)			
Exhibitionism (strangers)			
Eye contact restrictions			
Face slapping			
Fantasy abandonment			
Fantasy rape			
Fantasy gang-rape			
Fear (being scared)			
Fisting (anal)			
Fisting (vaginal)			
Flame play			
Flashing (private)			
Flashing (public)			
Flogging			
Following orders			
Foot worship			
Forced crossdressing			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Forced group sex			
Forced homosexuality			
Forced masturbation			
Forced nudity (private)			
Forced nudity (around others)			
Forced multiple orgasms			
Forced servitude			
Full head hoods			
Gags (cloth)			
Gags (inflatable)			
Gags (phallic)			
Gags (rubber)			
Gags (tape)			
Gags (other, specify)			
Gaping (anal)			
Gaping (vaginal)			
Gates of hell (male)			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Genital sex			
Given away to another Dom (temp)			
Given away to another Dom (perm)			
Golden showers			
Hairbrush spankings			
Hair pulling			
Hand jobs (giving)			
Hand jobs (receiving)			
Harems (serving w/other subs)			
Harnessing (leather)			
Harnessing (rope)			
Having clothing chosen for you			
Having food chosen for you			
Head (giving fellatio/cunnilingus)			
Head (receive fellatio/cunnilingus)			
High heel wearing			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
High heel worship			
Homage with tongue (non-sexual)			
Hoods			
Hot oils (on genitals)			
Hot waxing			
Housework (doing)			
HuCow (milking)			
Human puppy dog			
Humiliation (private)			
Humiliation (public)			
Hirsutism (hairiness)			
Hypnotism			
Ice cubes			
Immobilization			
Incest play			
Including other women			
Including other men			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Infantilism			
Initiation rites			
Injections			
Intricate (Japanese) rope bondage			
Interrogations			
Kidnapping (fantasy)			
Kneeling			
Knife play			
Leather clothing			
Leather restraints			
Lactation (ANR)			
Lactation (forced)			
Lactation (play)			
Lectures for misbehavior			
Licking (giving, non-sexual)			
Licking (giving, indicate where)			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Licking (receiving, write in where)			
Lingerie (wearing)			
Manacles & Irons			
Manicures (giving)			
Massage (giving)			
Massage (receiving)			
Medical scenes			
Menophilia (menstruation fetish)			
Modeling for erotic photos			
Mouth bits			
Mummification			
Name change (for scene)			
Needle play (piercing)			
Nipple clamps			
Nipple weights			
Oral/anal play (rimming, giving)			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Oral/anal play (rimming, receiving)			
Orgasm control			
Orgasm denial			
Outdoor scenes			
Outdoor sex			
Over-the-knee spanking			
Pain (during orgasm)			
Pain (mild)			
Pain (severe)			
Persona training (in scene)			
Personality modification (RL)			
Pet play (puppy, kitten, other)			
Phone sex (serving Dom)			
Phone sex (serving Dom's friend[s])			
Pinching (genitalia)			
Pinching (nipples)			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Pinching (other areas - specify)			
Pony slave			
Prison scenes			
Public exposure			
Punishment scene			
Pussy worship			
Riding crops			
Riding the "horse" (crotch torture)			
Rituals			
Religious scenes			
Restrictive rules on behavior			
Rubber/latex clothing			
Rope body harness			
Saran wrapping			
Scat play			
Scratching - getting			
Scratching - giving			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Sensory deprivation			
Serving			
Serving as art			
Serving as ashtray			
Serving as furniture			
Serving as a maid			
Serving as waitress/waiter)			
Serving orally (sexual)			
Serving other doms (supervised)			
Serving other doms (unsupervised)			
Sexual deprivation (short term)			
Sexual deprivation (long term)			
Shaving (body hair)			
Shaving (head hair)			
Shaving (genitals)			
Skinny-dipping			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Sleep deprivation			
Sleep sacks			
Slutty clothing (private)			
Slutty clothing (public)			
Spandex clothing			
Spanking			
Speech protocols (Sir, Mr, Miss)			
Speech restrictions (when, what)			
Speculums (anal)			
Speculums (vaginal)			
Spitting			
Spreader bars			
Standing in corner			
Stocks			
Strait jackets			
Strap-on dildos (sucking on)			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Strap-on dildos (penetrated by)			
Strap-on dildos (wearing)			
Strapping (full body beating)			
Suspension (upright)			
Suspension (inverted)			
Suspension (horizontal)			
Supplying new partners for Dom			
Swallowing semen			
Swallowing urine			
Swapping (with one other couples)			
Swinging (multiple couples)			
Tattooing			
Teasing			
Thumbcuffs (metal)			
Tongue clamps			
Tickling			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Uniforms			
Vacuum cleaner play			
Vacuum pump (anus)			
Vacuum pump (clitoris)			
Vacuum pump (cock)			
Vacuum pump (nipples)			
Vacuum pump (pussy)			
Verbal humiliation			
Vibrator in anus			
Vibrator on genitals			
Vibrator in mouth			
Vibrator on nipples			
Violet Wand (electric toy)			
Vomit (gagging)			
Voyeurism (watching others)			
Voyeurism (your Dom w/others)			
Video (watching others)			

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances
Video (recordings of you)			
Wartenburg Wheel			
Water torture			
Waxing (hair removal)			
Wearing symbolic jewelry			
Whipping (body)			
Whipping (genitals)			
Wooden paddles			
Wrestling			

USE SPACE BELOW TO ADD OTHERS:(use additional sheet if necessary)

Activity/Fetish	Experience yes/no	Willingness No, or 0-5	Notes & Nuances