HIGH SCHOOL
LESSON XIII
LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIABILITIES

Objectives
Students will:
• Discuss Arizona Laws as they pertain to the duties, responsibilities and rights of both parents for childbirth (see resource section)
• Discuss Arizona Law as they pertain to the financial responsibilities of parenting
• Discuss choices that may come about in the event of a pregnancy
• Discuss what constitutes “sexual conduct with a minor”
• Discuss what constitutes “sexual abuse”
• Discuss what constitutes “sexual assault”
• Discuss parental duties, responsibilities and right

Concepts
1. Understand the financial and legal responsibilities of parenting and the legal liabilities as they relate to sexual intercourse with a minor.
2. A person commits a sexual act with a minor by intentionally or knowingly engaging in sexual intercourse or oral sexual contact with any person under 18 years of age. Sexual conduct with a minor under 15 years of age is a Class 2 felony and is punishable. Sexual conduct with a minor 15 years or older is a Class 6 felony.
3. Students must be informed of those professionals who are obligated to report alleged misconduct including sexual misconduct. Professionals such as physicians, nurses, psychologists, school personnel, social workers, and police officers are obligated to report sexual molestation, abuse, or physical neglect to a municipal or county peace officer or to Child Protective Services of the State Department of Economic Security. Reports should be followed up in writing. Anyone making a report should be immune from any civil or criminal liability by reason of such action unless the person has been charged with or is suspected of abusing or neglecting the child or children in question.
4. Consent includes:
   A. Victim is coerced by the immediate use or threatened use of force against a person or property
   B. Victim is incapable of consent by reason of mental disorder, drugs, alcohol, sleep or any other impairment
   C. The victim is intentionally deceived as to the nature of the act
   D. The victim is intentionally deceived to erroneously believe that the person is the victim’s spouse

Activity Choices
1. Discuss the expenses involved in prenatal care, childbirth, post-natal care, and child care until the child reaches the age of majority (18 years).
2. Discuss choices available to both parents in the event of pregnancy.
   A. If not married, the woman may decide to:
1. Keep the child and seek support from the father.
2. Place the child up for adoption.
3. Name the natural father in a paternity suit in which he could be financially responsible until the child’s 18th birthday.
4. Have an abortion.

3. If the prospective father denies paternity, he may be asked to voluntarily submit to a blood test or the court will order a blood test at the expense of the father (approximately $300.00).
   A. Failure to answer the paternity suit or refusal to take the blood test could result in the court finding against the father and ordering him to pay support.
   B. By answering the paternity suit and taking the blood test, but still denying paternity, a trial will convene, testimony will be taken, the result of the testing will be reviewed along with other facts, and the court will decide.

4. Discuss the legal responsibilities and rights of the father. If he is found to be the father of the child or if he admits to being the father, he will:
   A. Be legally declared as the father.
   B. Be placed on the child’s birth certificate as the father.
   C. Be ordered to pay for the cost of birth.
   D. Be ordered to pay back support from the date of the child’s birth.
   E. Be ordered to pay current support that could automatically be deducted from the pay check.
   F. Be ordered to pay support even though he is not employed.
   G. Be required to provide insurance for the child and to help pay for the medical expenses not covered by insurance.
   H. Be required to have his parents pay for the birth if the father is under 18.
   I. Be held responsible for the support of one’s child until the child reaches the age of 18 years.
   J. Be entitled to the right of visitation. If the father and the mother are unable to agree on terms of visitation, the court can assist in resolving the terms of visitation.
   K. Petition the court for custody or joint custody. Legal action is required which could be costly and time consuming.
   L. Be placed on the child’s birth certificate. This may be done either by court declaration or by signing an acknowledgment of paternity on a form provided by the Vital Records Department.

**Vocabulary**
1. oral sex
2. sexual contact
3. intercourse
4. consent