

Intimacy Coordination Policy

Department of Film Production

Purpose

This policy is designed to create a safe, respectful, and collaborative environment for film productions involving scenes of intimacy. It provides clear guidance for productions, with or without a dedicated intimacy coordinator.

Scope

This policy applies to all students in department-affiliated film productions that include intimacy or sensitive content.

Policy Summary

- **Naked simulated sex** requires the presence of an intimacy coordinator.
- **Simulated rape** is not allowed for Student Film Productions. Alternate strategies must be used to represent such scenes.
- **Intimate scenes must be pre-discussed and consented to** by the actors. No improvisation of intimate scenes is permitted.

Guiding Principles

1. Consent and Boundaries

- All intimate scenes must be performed with the **documented, informed consent** of all participating actors. A written outline detailing the intimate scenes must be sent to actors **in advance** for their review and approval.
- **No on-the-day improvisation** of intimate scenes is allowed.
- Actors and directors must discuss and agree upon:
 - **Comfort levels**
 - **Physical boundaries**
 - **Scene limitations****More information on these topics at the end of this policy.**

Physical boundaries include:

- **No Touch Zones:** Specify areas of the body that may be touched and those that should not be touched (e.g., face, neck, chest, genitals), based on the actor's comfort level.
- **Safe Word System:** Establish a predetermined word that any actor can use to immediately stop the scene if they feel uncomfortable.

2. Use of an Intimacy Coordinator

- A dedicated Intimacy Coordinator is required for scenes involving naked simulated sex.
- For less complex intimate scenes, actors and directors may proceed without an intimacy coordinator but must:
- Follow established procedures for discussing boundaries.
- Obtain written consent from all participants.

3. Choreography and Blocking

- Intimate scenes should be planned and rehearsed similarly to stunts, with specific blocking and movements agreed upon beforehand.
- No changes to choreography or blocking may be made without re-approval from all participants.

4. Closed Set Protocol

- Intimate scenes must be conducted on a **closed set**, with only essential crew members present. Essential crew includes:
 - Director
 - Sound Person
 - Camera Operator
- The actor should be asked if they would like a **support person** of their choice on set during the scene.
- All crew members must maintain **confidentiality** and **professional conduct**. Absolutely No recording of the scene with cell phones or cameras that are not the A Camera.

5. Right to Refuse or Pause

- Actors and crew have the right to **pause or withdraw** from a scene at any time if they feel uncomfortable.
- Directors and crew must be prepared to adjust or reschedule scenes to accommodate any changes in comfort or consent.

This policy ensures that all productions prioritize respect, safety, and clear communication when handling intimate scenes.

Further Explanation

Comfort Levels

Comfort levels refer to an actor's personal feelings and boundaries regarding specific actions, dialogue, or interactions within a scene. These can vary widely from person to person and depend on factors such as physical contact, emotional vulnerability, or how the scene is portrayed.

Further Explanation:

- Actors should feel safe expressing what they are or are not comfortable doing on screen.
- Comfort levels might include preferences about eye contact, proximity to other actors, or dialogue that addresses sensitive topics.
- Discussing comfort levels ensures mutual respect and creates a supportive environment on set.

Example:

- An actor might say they are comfortable holding hands with another actor but not comfortable with kissing on the lips.

Physical Boundaries

Physical boundaries refer to specific areas of the actor's body that are off-limits to touch or interaction, as defined by the actor. This ensures that physical contact remains within the agreed-upon scope of the scene.

Further Explanation:

- Physical boundaries should be clearly communicated and documented during pre-production.
- Boundaries protect actors from feeling violated or uncomfortable during intimate or vulnerable scenes.
- It's important to honor these boundaries without exception.

Example:

- An actor may specify that their neck, chest, or face should not be touched during a scene.
- Clear choreography should be established to avoid accidental crossing of these boundaries.

Scene Limitations

Scene limitations refer to restrictions on the scope of the scene, including actions, dialogue, or visuals that are not permitted. These limitations can be determined by the actor, director, or production guidelines.

Further Explanation:

- Scene limitations may include avoiding specific types of content (e.g., nudity, simulated sexual activity, or emotionally triggering dialogue).
- They also encompass technical limitations, such as camera angles or lighting choices, to ensure actors feel secure.
- These limitations help balance creative vision with the comfort and safety of everyone involved.