

# LESSON 7: PRIVATE & FAMILY LIFE

Law & Citizenship Course • *Ghid practic de educație juridică - „Elevul și legea”* • Judecător Cristi Danileț



## DIGNITY IN PRIVATE & FAMILY LIFE



The law protects your private and family life — your right to consent, privacy, and respect. It punishes sexual abuse and harassment, and offers support when boundaries are crossed.

# LESSON CONTENTS

## PART 1

### **RIGHTS, CONSENT & PRIVACY**

What counts as consent, how to set boundaries, and how the law protects dignity and private life

## PART 2

### **SAFER INTIMACY & HEALTH**

Basics of protection and safer choices; where to get information, care, and testing

## PART 3

### **PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES**

What counts as non-consensual acts and grooming; reporting, evidence, and available services.

## PART 4

### **RELATIONSHIPS & FAMILY STATUS**

Cohabitation, engagement, marriage; parentage and birth; privacy around pregnancy decisions.

## PART 5

### **REVIEW & PRACTICE**

Quiz, key concepts, and reflection tasks — review what you've learned and apply it

LAW & CITIZENSHIP COURSE

# WHAT YOU'LL LEARN IN THIS CHAPTER

In this chapter, you'll see how the law protects **private and family life** — the right to **dignity, privacy, and consent**. It ensures that everyone can make **personal choices** about their **body, health, and relationships**, free from **pressure** or **abuse**. You'll learn how **consent** must always be clear and voluntary, how the law responds to **harassment** or **violence**, and how **confidentiality** in medical and personal matters is guaranteed. **Respect for boundaries** protects both personal freedom and safety.

By the end, you should be able to explain how **respect, consent, and privacy** work together under the law, what actions violate these rights, and how to seek help or protection when needed.

Lesson 7 — Private & Family Life

HOW PRIVACY AND RESPECT KEEP US SAFE

# SAFE WITH CONSENT

## WHY CONSENT AND PERSONAL CHOICES KEEP EVERYONE SAFE

In a **healthy society**, everyone has the right to make personal decisions about their **body**, **feelings**, and **relationships**.

**Consent** means saying yes or no freely — without fear, pressure, or manipulation. The law protects your **privacy** and your **dignity**, making sure **medical**, **emotional**, and **family matters** stay confidential. Respecting others' **limits** builds trust and prevents **harm**.



### Warm-Up Activity



Write one boundary that helps you or others feel safe — at home, in friendships, or online. Why does it matter? Share your answer with a classmate.

***Respect protects freedom, not control.***

# WHY DO WE HAVE RULES?

Without clear rules, privacy could be invaded, intimate images shared, and pressure used to get what someone wants. Health and family life need boundaries that everyone understands. The law protects consent, dignity, and confidentiality; it bans sexual harassment, grooming, and sharing private images without permission. It sets age limits for sexual activity and marriage, forbids force or manipulation, and defends personal space.

## At School & Online



No harassment or pressure for private photos; don't post or forward private images; report grooming; always ask before sharing photos about others.



## Consent, not pressure

Decisions about intimacy must be free — no threats, gifts, status, or manipulation to obtain sex or affection.

## Why it helps



Clear boundaries protect dignity, reduce pressure, and give everyone a real choice to say yes or no — without fear.



## In Public Spaces

Respect personal space; no unwanted touching or comments. Follow anti-harassment rules on transport, at events, and in parks.

## In Relationships



Consent must be clear, specific, and revocable. Silence isn't consent. Care, protection, and mutual respect come first.



## Shared responsibility

Look out for friends, interrupt unsafe situations, use trusted health info, and support someone who asks for help.

## Imagine and Reflect

Imagine a week with no consent or privacy rules — at school, at home, or online. What would change for safety and wellbeing? Who would be most at risk? Write 2–3 sentences below.

# PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES

## Consent



### Consent & Age Limits

- Minors under 16 cannot legally consent to sexual acts with adults; between 16–18, any sexual act with abuse of authority or exploitation is an offence.

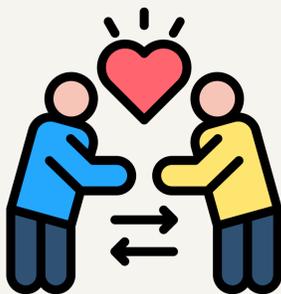
## Offences



### Non-consensual acts

- Rape, forced touching, sexual coercion, and any sexual act without clear consent are crimes.
- It's also illegal to share or threaten to share intimate images, to film someone in private spaces, or to pressure someone.

## Protection



### Grooming & Exploitation

- Grooming means building trust to obtain sexual contact or images.
- Watch for red flags: requests to move chats to private apps, secrecy, gifts, or meeting alone.

## Support



### Reporting & Evidence

- Keep messages, screenshots, dates, and names —don't delete or wash items that might hold evidence. You have a right to confidentiality, a trusted adult present, and free protection.

## Key terms



### Mini-Glossary

- **Coercion** = pressure, threats, or manipulation that invalidate consent.
- **Intimate-image abuse** = sharing private images without consent.
- **Forensic exam** = medical evidence collection after an assault.

# RELATIONSHIPS & FAMILY STATUS

The law protects every person's **choice** to form a relationship, to marry, or to live together **without discrimination**. It defines when a **union becomes legal** and how families are **recognized and protected** by the state. Family relations are based on **equality** — partners have the **same rights and duties**, and **children must always be protected** from neglect or violence.



## FORMS OF FAMILY LIFE

People may choose marriage, cohabitation, or partnership. Marriage is valid only when both partners give free consent and are of legal age. Civil marriage is the only form recognized by the state; religious ceremonies are optional.



## EQUALITY & RESPONSIBILITY

Spouses share equal rights and responsibilities. Both decide about the family home, finances, and children's education. The law forbids forced marriage, child marriage, or treating one partner as inferior.



## PARENTHOOD

Every child has the right to know their parents, to be cared for, and to have their identity protected. Parents must provide education, health, and emotional support. In cases of separation, decisions must serve the child's best interest.



## PRIVACY & RESPECT

Family life is private. Authorities, schools, and institutions must respect confidentiality in personal and medical matters. Public authorities intervene only to protect life, health, or safety.

# FROM RELATIONSHIP TO FAMILY STATUS

## Meeting & Cohabitation

Adults may live together and share a household. Basic protections apply (property, children, safety).



**Live together**

## Engagement

An engagement shows intent to marry but has no legal effects. Breaking it doesn't require formalities.



**Promise to marry**

## Marriage

Marriage becomes legal only through civil ceremony at the local registry office. Both partners must consent freely and be at least 18 years old (or 16 with court approval and parental consent).



**Civil marriage**

## Parenthood & Birth

Parents are recorded on the birth certificate. Parenthood creates rights/duties. Adoption gives the same legal protection as biological parenthood.



**Register birth**

## Divorce & Separation

By agreement or court. Property is divided fairly; custody/support must protect the child's wellbeing.



**Divorce & custody**

## So what for me?

Knowing your rights helps you make responsible choices about relationships and future family life. Equality, consent, and respect build strong, safe connections.

*Try it: Think of a decision that affects both you and someone close (friend, sibling, partner). How can you make sure both voices are heard equally?*

# QUIZ — Lesson 7

Check what you've learned about privacy, consent, and family life under the law. Read each question carefully and choose the correct answer.



- 1** The right to privacy protects:
  - a) Your freedom to make personal choices without intrusion
  - b) Only your online data
  - c) Only adults who are married
- 2** The law bans sexual relations when:
  - a) There's a difference in age or status
  - b) One person is under the legal age or cannot give consent
  - c) Parents disapprove of the relationship
- 3** Why does the law punish grooming and harassment?
  - a) Because they involve manipulation and abuse of trust
  - b) Because they break family traditions
  - c) Because they're impolite in public
- 4** In a family, legal equality means:
  - a) Partners share the same rights and duties
  - b) The man is responsible for major decisions
  - c) Children have no legal rights until 18
- 5** If someone's safety or dignity is threatened, they should first:
  - a) Stay silent to avoid conflict
  - b) Report it to an adult, the police, or child protection services
  - c) Post about it online
- 6** What makes consent valid?
  - a) When it's given freely and clearly, without pressure
  - b) When someone doesn't say "no"
  - c) When others expect it
- 7** Sharing someone's private image without permission is:
  - a) Just rude, not illegal
  - b) Harassment or an offense
  - c) Fine if the face/name isn't shown
- 8** Which situation shows informed consent?
  - a) Agreeing after knowing the full context and consequences
  - b) Saying yes out of fear or obligation
  - c) Staying silent during a decision
- 9** What is the legal minimum age for marriage in Romania?
  - a) 18 years old
  - b) 16, with court approval and parental consent
  - c) 17, if both families agree
- 10** What does the law say about living together without marriage?
  - a) Prohibited by civil law
  - b) It's legal and offers certain protections, especially for children
  - c) Only allowed if partners register at City Hall

# QUIZ — Lesson 7

## ANSWER KEY



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# KEY CONCEPTS FROM LESSON 7



## **PRIVACY**

The right to control your personal information, body, and space — free from unwanted interference.



## **CONSENT**

A clear, voluntary “yes” that can be changed at any time; the foundation of respect and safety.



## **RESTRAINING ORDER**

A court order that keeps an aggressor away from a person or place (no contact, distance rules); breaking it is a crime.



## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Keeping personal, medical, or family information private; breaking it without cause is illegal.



## **GROOMING**

Manipulating someone, especially a minor, to gain trust for later exploitation — a criminal act.



## **INTIMATE IMAGE VIOLATION**

Sharing or threatening to share private photos without consent; treated as harassment or abuse.



## **EQUALITY IN FAMILY**

Partners have the same rights and responsibilities; children must always be protected from harm.



## **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Legal duty to ensure a child’s care, education, and wellbeing — shared equally by both parents.



## **PROTECTION SERVICES**

Institutions that assist victims of abuse or neglect — police, social workers, courts, or helplines.



## **FORENSIC EXAM**

A medical-legal examination documenting injuries or sexual assault evidence; supports protection and legal action.