

A sign of the times? There's an app (a few really) that offers to record mutual consent before two people have sex. Yes, really. If a couple decides to have sex and one is worried about being accused of rape or sexual assault, he (or she) will ask their partner to download the app, scan a QR code that will record and save their mutual decision to have sex. The app records not only their phone information but also the date, time and location.

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ANCHOR INTRO

WITH THE #METOO MOVEMENT AND ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT MAKING NEWS, PEOPLE ARE ASKING THE QUESTION: 'HOW DOES ANYONE ELSE KNOW IF TWO PEOPLE CONSENTED TO SEX, OR WHETHER IT WAS AN ASSAULT OR RAPE?'

BELIEVE IT OR NOT... THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT. OUR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY REPORTER JAMEY TUCKER HAS THE STORY.

PACKAGE

This app is offered as a way to the truth when it comes to a 'He Said, She Said' sexual encounter. Was sex a mutual decision? The app U-Consent could hold the answer.

U-Consent is for iPhones and Android devices. Here's how it works.

Someone downloads the app, gives it permission to access the phone's camera and location. If the user finds themselves in a situation where they feel they need consent from a second party, they open the app and chooses "Request Consent". The app asks 'consent for what?'. The second person then must download the app on their phone, ad select "Grant consent" and answer the question "for what?".

Once that's done the person granting consent must scan a QR code on the other person's phone.

The app notes and saves a record of the consent, the date and time and location which it gets from the phone's GPS. The app states the information is encrypted and no one else can see the consent agreement, unless it is subpoenaed.

The app never asks for a registration and you don't need to give it an email address or phone number. It doesn't require any identification.

U-Consent says it isn't just for a sexual encounter, but can be used for anything where two parties feel a need to a record of their consent.

Lawyers though say the U-consent agreement would not stand up in court because someone could change their mind after consenting. The app maker acknowledges that and says to think of it as a "digital handshake agreement."

The times we're living in...

That's What the Tech? I'm Jamey Tucker.

ANCHOR TAG

SIMILAR APPS HAVE BEEN RELEASED THIS YEAR FOR BOTH IPHONES AND ANDROID DEVICES.

WEB STORY

There are hundreds of apps in both app stores that are built to bring two consenting adults together for an intimate relationship. This is not one of those apps.

uConsent is an answer to recent allegations of sexual misconduct that have been making news all year. Whether it's the Bill Cosby case, the allegations against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein or countless others, the question of whether sex was consensual often comes down to 'he said, she said'. uConsent offers to keep a record of sexual activity to show both people agreed to have sex.

Here's how this app works:

One person downloads the app and gives it permission to access the camera and location settings. Before they engage in a consensual moment they ask their partner to download the app as well. It's available for both iPhones and Android devices. The first person requests through the app to "get consent". The second person taps on "Grant consent".

Both parties must be near each other and enter what act they're asking for or granting consent. The word or phrase must match.

The person granting consent is then asked to point their smartphone camera toward their partner's phone where a QR code will be displayed. Once aimed at the code, both phones record or capture the consent. The app stores the consent in the cloud which is available only if a judge subpoenas it. uConsent states no one will see the information and it is not stored on the phone.

The app makes a record of the date, time and place where consent was granted. Lawyers don't believe the information would be of much help in court because either person can change their mind during the act.

There are similar apps to uConsent. Many have come on the scene in recent months as the #MeToo movement began.