

***Section 1.01 Summary:***

It is important for SM/leather/fetish groups to have an understanding of the relationship between the SM community and law enforcement and of the numerous legalities that can affect their group functions. Once this is accomplished, the group can dispel myths, educate its members, and constructively interact with law enforcement as the need arises. This presentation will focus on three aspects: (1) creating a good relationship with local law enforcement, (2) avoiding legal trouble, and (3) local considerations.

The law is a complex and ever-evolving system. Its intent is to safeguard all the members of our society. However, it has a long way to go before it takes all alternative lifestyles into consideration. Eventually we will get there, but, in the meantime, we need to be as familiar with the law and law enforcement as we can be. Utilizing our knowledge, people skills, and common sense, we can hopefully avoid becoming victimized by the society we live in.

***Section 1.02***

***Section 1.03 Typical Format:***

Lecture with follow-up discussion

***Section 1.04***

***Section 1.05 Handouts:***

- **General Suggestions for Non-Profit SM Groups**
- **Suggestions for Small SM Events**

***Section 1.06***

***Section 1.07 Outline:***

- 1) Introduction(s)
  - a) Disclaimer:
    - i) Options - whichever one you take is up to you
    - ii) Situations, Laws, & Attitudes vary
- 2) Our Attitudes Toward the Police
  - a) Our contacts with LE
  - b) The untrusting & suspicious separation
  - c) "Us versus Them" attitude
- 3) The Attitude of the Police Toward SM
  - a) What they know
    - i) average citizen knowledge & interest
  - b) Consensual activity
    - i) Play parties vs. Private scenes - first impressions
  - c) Is SM a crime?
    - i) Subject to interpretation

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- ii) Victimless crime = no enforcement?
- d) Reasons to take action
  - i) By individual officer
    - (1) Perceived as illegal
    - (2) Peer pressure
    - (3) Fear of not acting
    - (4) Attitude of involved parties
  - ii) By LE Agency
    - (1) Directed by person of authority
      - (a) Perceived illegal activity
      - (b) Political opportunity
    - (2) Political issue
    - (3) Community pressure
- 4) Dealing with LE in General
  - a) Respect
  - b) Courtesy
  - c) Politeness
  - d) Honesty
  - e) Common Sense
  - f) Don't have an attitude problem
  - g) Don't be dishonest
- 5) Crimes and Offenses for local consideration
  - a) Assault
  - b) Battery
  - c) Indecent Exposure
  - d) Indecent / Lewd Conduct
  - e) Kidnapping / False Imprisonment
  - f) Sexual Assault / Rape
  - g) Weapon Violations
  - h) Some states specifically address SM interaction in their statutes
- 6) Group Legality Concerns
  - a) Alcoholic Beverage Laws
  - b) Zoning Ordinances
  - c) Permits
- 7) Things SM groups could do
  - a) Meet with Law Enforcement
    - i) Community Relations Officer
    - ii) Vice / Sex Crimes Unit Supervisor
    - iii) Code Enforcement Officer
  - b) Meet with Prosecutor / District Attorney / Commonwealth Attorney
- 8) Things SM groups should do
  - a) Research state and local laws
  - b) Research local permit rules

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- c) Research local zoning ordinances
- d) Be respectful, polite and honest
- e) Use simple language
- f) When / if explaining what we do:
  - i) Emphasize it is a desired activity
  - ii) Emphasize it is consensual
  - iii) Emphasize that we enjoy it
- g) At events:
  - i) Do not take money at door
  - ii) Establish rules for attendance and enforce them
  - iii) Post "event description/disclaimer" at entryway
  - iv) Post group rules and enforce them
  - v) Separate the entryway from play areas
  - vi) Have a "door answer plan"
  - vii) Maintain a visible first aid supply area
  - viii) Do not draw unwanted attention
    - (1) Sound control
    - (2) Visual control
    - (3) Others?

9) Additional Questions / Answers

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