

# A Note on “The Consent Hierarchy”

Prior work in SIGBOVIK [1] introduced the *consent hierarchy*, which defines a stack of consent levels that are traversed during a flirtation session. However, it trails off before getting to the good stuff, and also does not address other social issues beyond plain physical intimacy, which have become increasingly relevant in recent years. We now flesh out the hierarchy, while maintaining full backwards compatibility with the original protocol. Note that the integer levels ranging from -2 to 4 are preserved verbatim from the prior work.

Table 1: The consent hierarchy.

Level	Description
-2	Don’t even look at me
-1	Don’t talk to me
0	You may speak to me briefly if there’s a good reason
0.5	You may pet my very good dog
1	We can talk
1.5	We can share homemade baked goods during a respiratory pandemic
2	You can talk to me all you want
2.5	We can approach within 2 meters during a respiratory pandemic
3	You can touch my hand
3.5	We can hang out indoors with no masks during a respiratory pandemic
4	Long eye contact might not be creepy
5	We can cuddle
6	We can, like, you know, smooch and stuff
7	We can, like, you know, bang and stuff
8	You can try to solve my problems for me instead of just listening compassionately, when I need emotional support
9	We can organize labor together
10	We can overthrow the state together

Future work may explore more extreme negative consent levels, such as “my friends cannot be friends with your friends,” or imaginary consent levels, such as the petting of not very good dogs.

## References

- [1] R. Copley. Towards a well-defined and secure flirtation protocol. SIGBOVIK, 2017.