

**SEXUAL ABUSE THIRD DEGREE
(Forcible Compulsion)
Penal Law § 130.55
(Committed on or after Oct. 13, 2010¹)**

The (*specify*) count is Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree.

Under our law, a person is guilty of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree when he or she subjects another person to sexual contact without that person's consent.

The following terms used in that definition have a special meaning:

SEXUAL CONTACT means any touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of a person for the purpose of gratifying the sexual desire of either party. It includes the touching of the actor by the victim as well as the touching of the victim by the actor, whether directly or through clothing, as well as the emission of ejaculate by the actor upon any part of the victim, clothed or unclothed.²

Sexual contact takes place **WITHOUT A PERSON'S CONSENT** when the lack of consent results from forcible compulsion.³

FORCIBLE COMPULSION means to intentionally compel either:

¹ Except for the amendment to the definition of "sexual contact," effective October 13, 2010, as explained in the footnote to that definition, this charge is effective for crimes committed on or after Nov. 1, 2003.

² Penal Law § 130.00(3), as amended by the L.2010, c. 193, effective October 13, 2010, which struck the phrase "not married to the actor" after the word "person," and added the concluding phrase "as well as the emission of ejaculate by the actor upon any part of the victim, clothed or unclothed."

³ Penal Law § 130.05(2)(a).

(1) by the use of physical force;

or

(2) by a threat, express or implied, which places a person in fear of immediate death or physical injury to himself or herself [*or another person*] or in fear that he or she [*or another person*] will immediately be kidnapped.⁴

In order for you to find the defendant guilty of this crime, the People are required to prove, from all the evidence in the case, beyond a reasonable doubt, both of the following two elements:

1. That on or about (date), in the county of (county), the defendant, (name of defendant), subjected (name of complainant) to sexual contact; and
2. That the defendant did so without (name of complainant)'s consent by the use of forcible compulsion.

If you find the People have proven beyond a reasonable doubt both of those elements, you must find the defendant guilty of this crime.

If you find the People have not proven beyond a reasonable doubt either one or both of those elements, you must find the defendant not guilty of this crime..

⁴ Penal Law §§ 15.05(1), 130.00(8). The definition has been modified by adding the term “intentionally” in the first line to reflect the holding of *People v. Williams*, 81 N.Y.2d 303 (1993). See also *People v. Grega*, 72 N.Y.2d 489 (1988), directing the trial court not to charge both definitions of forcible compulsion when the indictment alleges only one of the two definitions.