

General Information on Paraphilias

Paraphilia versus Paraphilic Disorder

In general, a paraphilia results from very strong and ongoing sexual arousal outside of interest in genital stimulation or fondling with physically mature, consenting human partners. Some paraphilias concern an individual's erotic activities (e.g., spanking, binding), while others centre on the erotic targets (e.g., children, animals, shoes).

A Paraphilic Disorder is a paraphilia that causes distress or impairment within the individual and/or leads to personal harm or risk of harm to others (e.g., acting on the paraphilias with a non-consenting individual).

There are a range of paraphilic interests that a person can have. A select group of these interests is briefly described below for informational purposes only.

Pedophilic Disorder

Pedophilia is a strong or preferential sexual interest in prepubescent children. A strong or preferential sexual interest in pubescent children is sometimes referred to as Hebephilia. Pedophilic Disorder is a diagnosis provided to a person when their sexual interest causes them some level of impairment or distress and/or they have acted on their urges.

Not everyone with Pedophilia commits a sexual offence. Likewise, not all individuals who commit sexual offences have Pedophilia.

Voyeuristic Disorder

Voyeuristic Disorder is strong sexual arousal from observing an unsuspecting person who is naked, in the process of disrobing, or engaging in sexual activity, as seen in fantasies, urges or behaviours. For a diagnosis to be made, these fantasies, urges, or behaviours must have caused distress or impairment, or were engaged in with a non-consenting person.

Exhibitionistic Disorder

Exhibitionistic Disorder is strong sexual arousal at the exposure of one's genitals to an unsuspected person, seen in fantasies, urges, or behaviours. For a diagnosis to be made, these fantasies, urges, or behaviours must have caused distress or impairment, or were engaged in with a non-consenting person.

Frotteuristic Disorder

Frotteuristic Disorder is strong sexual arousal from touching or rubbing against a non-consenting person, seen in fantasies, urges or behaviours. For a diagnosis to be made, these

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fantasies, urges, or behaviours must have caused distress or impairment, or were engaged in with a non-consenting person.

Sexual Masochism Disorder

Sexual Masochism Disorder is strong sexual arousal from the act of being humiliated, beaten, bound, or otherwise made to suffer, as seen in fantasies, urges, or behaviours. For a diagnosis to be made, these fantasies, urges, or behaviours must have caused distress or impairment of the individual.

Sexual Sadism Disorder

Sexual Sadism Disorder is strong sexual arousal from the physical or psychological suffering of another person, as seen in fantasies, urges, or behaviours. For a diagnosis to be made, these fantasies, urges, or behaviours must have caused distress or impairment, or were engaged in with a non-consenting person.

Fetishistic Disorder

Fetishistic Disorder is strong sexual arousal from either the use of nonliving objects or a highly specific focus on non-genital body part(s), seen in fantasies, urges, or behaviours. For a diagnosis to be made, these fantasies, urges, or behaviours must have caused distress or impairment.

Transvestic Disorder

Transvestic Disorder is strong sexual arousal from cross-dressing, as seen in fantasies, urges, or behaviours. For a diagnosis to be made, these fantasies, urges, or behaviours must have caused distress or impairment.

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