

MALE SEXWORK HANDBOOK:

A BASIC GUIDE TO WORKING SAFE, SANE,
AND SMART IN THE SEX INDUSTRY

NOTE FROM HOOK

This handbook represents a collaborative effort to collect information from a wide range of sources and experience to present a clear, concise guide for those who work in the industry and those who work with male sexworkers.

For those who work in the industry, this handbook serves to communicate the kind of street-sense knowledge that helps you work with both eyes open in hopes that your sessions and experiences enable you to meet your immediate and long-term goals, whether that be a life in the sex industry or recovery from some strokes of bad luck. While cautionary, this guide does not serve to support or stigmatize the industry or the men who work in it. HOOK seeks to educate so that those who choose the industry or who have no other apparent alternative engage in safe, sane and smart decision-making.

Moreover, this handbook helps those that work with male sexworkers in social services and professional businesses by stating the concerns and negotiations that face male sexworkers. Our hope is that this information allows them to better communicate, comprehend, and be sensitive to male sexworker situations and decisions.

As stated above, this handbook is an effort made possible by the work of many sexworker activists, including Synn Stern, whose writing for female street workers gave us a starting point for this piece. I would also like to thank the many escorts and HOOK volunteers that shared their opinions, feedback, and suggestions for this guide.

Thank you. Joy everyday.

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HOOK is a national, grassroots organization that seeks to support men who are or were part of the sex industry. By creating positive relationships among sexworkers to enable communication, sharing, and support, HOOK educates male sexworkers, clients, and the general public about the industry - its risks and benefits - to reduce harm and to develop a network of trained sexworker-sensitive service providers and nonprofit programs.

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SELLING TO THE CLIENT

CLOTHING

Wear comfortable shoes that come off easily but allow you to run if necessary.

Suggested: Athletic shoes, lightweight boots, casual dress shoes. Not suggested: shoes with large platforms, extra long shoestrings, heavy hiking or workboots and flip-flops or sandals.

It's best to avoid all jewelry, but if you choose to wear necklaces or earrings, make sure they are small and come off easily and can afford to be lost in case of emergency or if the client tries to rip you off. Be cautious of crosses or charms that can be used as weapons if taken from you.

Suggested: Clip-on jewelry, thin necklaces with loose clasps. Not suggested: Long earrings, multiple-loop earrings, heavy or thick necklaces, valuable metal jewelry

Remove all body piercings before meeting with clients because the jewelry can be grabbed onto and ripped out. If body piercings are part of your selling points, be clear with clients about proper play to avoid them cutting their mouths, chipping teeth, or accidentally injuring you during a session.

Keep the clothing simple. The fewer pieces of clothing you have, the fewer items to keep track of, have stolen, or lost. Also, it is fewer items to grab if you should need to leave quickly. You might want to make sure your clothing is 'straightjacket-proof' and can't be pulled over your shoulders to lock your arms. Prevent showing track marks by wearing longer sleeves.

Avoid wearing underwear. Underwear with thongs or g-strings might irritate or chafe your asshole. Avoid underwear with straps or strings. Jockstraps allow easier access and do not need to be removed to fuck, but be cautious of a client's ability to pull on the elastic straps.

Backpacks, bookbags, over-the-shoulder bags are a risk. If they don't carry necessary items (condoms, lube, etc.), leave them in a locker or at home. The straps can be used to hold you or choke you. Only bring items you can afford to lose and never wear bags that go around or near your neck or shoulders.

Stash keys and other important personal items where they can be safe. Pockets are useful but are the first place a thief will look. Other locations might include inside your shoe, a hidden pocket in athletic pants, or hidden lining of a baseball cap. Try to keep them accessible to you if you need them.

BODY

Keep pubic hair trimmed short to avoid getting it pulled on accident or intentionally. This also enables you to check periodically for body lice and other STDs.

Make sure you can see your clients by wearing contacts or glasses if you need them. If you are using drugs, be aware that your vision may be obscured, and it is best to leave lights on at all times to know the location and behavior of your client.

Always maintain body language that suggests confidence and control by using eye contact, direct language about what you are comfortable doing with your client, and watching his hands. Even if you are high, it is important to state clear limits about what you are willing to do and stay focused on the behavior of your client.

Keep your mouth moist by drinking water to avoid gum, lip, or throat irritation during sex. Cocaine and other drugs can dry out your mouth - so take care to drink extra water if you are getting high. Sucking hard candies or chewing gum also help keep your mouth wet. Don't brush before taking clients.

Wait until after you're done with all clients before douching, using enemas, or flushing out your system. Doing it between clients raises your risk of catching a bacteria or virus. Another option is to douche many hours before a client allowing time for your system to recover and reduce risks.

Urinate often. It will help flush out bacteria and other germs from your system or acquired from your client during oral sex. Cocaine, speed, and other drugs may make you feel as if you don't need to piss, but it is best to do it anyway and press your abdomen to clear out your system as often as possible.

Be aware that infections or open cuts increase your chances of getting an STD if they come into contact with a client's fluids. Bandage hangnails, papercuts, and inspect your dick and ass for any abrasions or cuts.

If you are getting fucked often, it is best to drink lots of water, eat oily foods, and lots of fruits and vegetables to help keep your system clean. Cocaine and speed (like a laxative) may force your system to flush often.

NEGOTIATING WITH A CLIENT / SELF-DEFENSE

THE BASICS

Stick to your prices and limits. There is no negotiation when it comes to a contract you make with yourself. Before meeting with a client, decide what you are and are not willing to do.

Charge by the hour. It is illegal in the U.S. (outside of areas in Nevada) to charge by sexual act you are performing. Be clear to your clients about how much of your time they are paying for, whether they cum or not. They are paying for your TIME, not your BODY. You always have the right to deny requests that are outside your boundaries. Make the time limit clear to your client.

Prepare a hand-carried travel kit that includes condoms, lube, and napkins (or towel). You can also use this kit for storing your clothes when you are with a client - allowing a 'single-grab' should you need to exit quickly. Keep the kit within sight, either next to bed or near the door. Avoid using backpacks or any bags with straps that go around shoulders or neck.

Be willing to turn down a client, a particular request, or offers of payment below your standards. Trust your instincts and reject clients that give you a bad vibe or make you feel uncomfortable. Don't let the immediate money outweigh your own safety.

Require your clients to shower or be clean ahead of time. If you arrive and they aren't, suggest a shower with them as foreplay. This also gives you a chance to inspect the client for STDs, cuts, sores, or lesions in addition to making them more tolerable during sex.

Plan your exits. Always be aware of escape routes, and never let a client get between you and the nearest exit.

Try to negotiate out of anal sex by offering to let a client use your ass cheeks or increase the per-hour charge for the session.

Don't negotiate or start a session when you are high or drunk. Letting customers know that you use drugs allows them to tempt you with drugs instead of cash for a session, which means you might lose out on the cash you need. Insist on getting paid in cash, not drugs.

Be careful getting high with clients or taking food or drink from them - as it gives them more opportunity to take advantage of you.

PHYSICAL SELF-DEFENSE

Don't carry a weapon that can be taken from and used against you.

Try using your voice and speed instead of your strength. Make a lot of noise. Scream. In a car, turn on the car lights, hit the horn, or try to get the door open, attack and run.

Attack areas that are easily injured, such as throat, eyes, nose, testicles, Adam's apple, shins, insteps. Use keys, fingers, nails or kicking.

Run against traffic and towards light and people.

LEGAL

If you are arrested, you should say, "I want a lawyer."

Do not talk to the police. Only talk to your lawyer. If you don't have a lawyer, you will get a free lawyer in court.

Make sure you get your lawyer's name, your lawyer's telephone number, and your case docket number.

Do not sign anything. If police have not said you are under arrest, you may ask if you are free to leave.

You may plead "not guilty." If you are told you must plead "guilty", simply stop talking and wait for your lawyer.

If the police approach you, stay calm and be polite.

If they think you have a weapon, the police can stop you and pat you down to look for a weapon only.

If they want to come into your home or search your bag, ask to see a warrant. If they insist on a search without a warrant, say "I do not agree or consent to a search."

The police may search a car and everything in it at a traffic stop if they think there is something illegal in the car. Police must have a special reason to search the trunk.

Let your lawyer know right away if the police searched you against your will.

THE SESSION

FELLATIO (BLOWJOBS/ORAL SEX)

Suggest strongly to the client that he use a condom to avoid risks of STDs.

Swallow instead of spit to reduce risk of infections

if you are unable to use a condom. Stomach acids will kill viruses and bacteria. Spitting increases risk by exposing gums or open oral sores.

Try not to rest any part of your face (chin, cheeks, forehead) on his balls or thighs. If he has sores, herpes, or lice, you may get them, too.

Make sure you can breathe. Breathe through your nose and don't close your eyes. To maintain control over your ability to breathe, avoid allowing clients to crouch over you or sit on top of you.

To deep throat, make a straight line from your chin to your neck. Most men thrust when the cum, so make sure he's a comfortable depth in your mouth.

If staying hard is a challenge with a client, you can squeeze the base of your penis or gently massage the testicles or prostate gland to produce an erection. To fake it, try squeezing the base of your penis or using a cockring. Poppers and other drugs may make an erection more difficult to achieve or maintain.

If you are finding it hard to cum with a client, it's best to concentrate on an arousing experience or attempt to distract the client by getting him off so you can leave.

FUCKING

Use a lubricated condom and lubricate the entire genital area. If client refuses to wear one, slip it on with your mouth and swing on top of him quickly (hiding his cock in your hands) so he doesn't see it. Other tips below.

If you are getting fucked, the best position is on top, riding his cock so you can watch him and his hands. In any position, use your fingers to open your ass and insert his dick yourself to ensure he is wearing a condom and to avoid hurting you. The closer together your thighs are, the shallower the client will be able to fuck you.

Keep your hand on the base of the client's dick to reduce the depth of his thrusts and ensure that the condom doesn't slip or tear.

When he enters, exhale slowly while pushing down like you're taking a shit (you won't). His penis will go in more easily. Deeper breaths allow you to remain calm. If you're nervous, your sphincter will tighten and tear more easily.

If you are fucking the client, the best position is to fuck the client from the back or 'doggie-style', but all positions require that you watch the client's hands to ensure your safety. Put the condom on yourself while inspecting the client's ass for sores, cuts, or lesions.

When fucking, try to avoid getting shit or other fluids on your hands or near your mouth. Even when using a condom, take a piss afterwards to cleanse the urethra as an added preventative measure.

TIPS FOR CONDOM USAGE

TALKING A CLIENT INTO CONDOMS

Try appealing to his safety or his sense of honor about your safety. Remind him of his status as a customer. He is paying you as an expert, so he should trust your advice.

Suggest that condoms allow your client to fuck for a longer period of time without cumming.

SNEAKING THE CONDOM ON

Use hands to stroke the client and slip the condom on while stroking. If he wants to touch his dick and doesn't know he is wearing a condom, distract his hands to your chest and nipples.

Once he cums, keep firm pressure on condom with lips and hands to prevent semen leaking into your mouth. Sneak off the condom with hand furthest away from the client and hide it in a napkin, baggie, or pocket.

ORAL SEX WITHOUT A CONDOM

Inspect the dick before putting in your mouth.

Avoid getting cum or precum in your mouth. It is best to have him cum on you than in your mouth. If he does cum in your mouth, it is better to swallow than to spit - stomach acids kill viruses and bacteria that cause STDs.

Avoid facefucking. Try to control his moves to avoid tears or abrasions to your mouth. Try and keep contact shallow in the mouth and use your tongue on the head of the penis to make him feel like he is going deeper than he is.

If you must deep throat, don't panic. Stress and tension will tighten throat tissues and make them easier to tear.

When possible, gargle with mouthwash, hard liquor or hydrogen peroxide to kill bacteria. Don't brush your teeth. Keep lips, mouth, and throat as wet as possible with water.

OTHER TRADE SECRETS

RIMMING (ASSLICKING)

Avoid getting Hepatitis A or B or other infections from shit or an unclean ass. Fake licking their ass by sputting on your knuckle while lowering your head. Wash your hands after. Use local health resources to get a free hepatitis vaccination.

If you can't fake it, apply a layer of lube before using a dental dam, a cut condom, a piece of plastic wrap or latex glove. This increases the sensation and decreases your risks.

SEX WITH PISS (WATERSPORTS)

You can ALWAYS say 'NO' if you do not feel comfortable when a client requests you use piss during a session. This is also called 'Golden Showers', 'Piss Play', or 'Watersports'.

It is best to be the 'top' or pisser in any situation, giving you control. Require that the client allow you to shower afterwards. Piss stinks and can reduce your chances of attracting another client.

Urine is a sterile fluid, but it can make your stomach upset. You can drink it, but it might make you feel sick afterwards. Not to mention, most people do not like the taste.

SEX WITH SHIT (SCAT)

You can ALWAYS say 'NO' if you do not feel comfortable when a client requests you use shit during a session.

It's NEVER safe to get shit in your mouth (even your own shit) or near your urethra.

If you are forced or have to eat shit, seek medical advice immediately afterwards.

If the client wants to eat your shit and you can do it, go ahead. However, do not let him kiss you, give you head, or lick your ass until he has cleaned up afterwards.

SCENEPLAY (BONDAGE, S&M)

You can ALWAYS say 'NO' if you do not feel comfortable when a client requests this kind of service.

It's NEVER safe to let a stranger tie you up or hit you. You should always be able to escape any situation.

Be the 'top' in any scene play, so that you are in control of the client.

BAREBACKING

Barebacking puts you at HIGH risk of HIV infection. Pulling out before ejaculation may slightly reduce your risks. HIV and other infectious agents are in pre-cum.

Use lots of lubricant to help prevent against tears that may allow infections to get in to your system. Don't rely on saliva or spit. Don't rely on pre-cum or cum as a lubricant. Avoid lubricants that contain Nonoxynol-9 as it can cause skin irritation. Allow time for tears in the rectum, urethra and outer skin of the penis to heal before having more anal sex.

Douching or using enemas can strip away protective cells in the rectum. They can also cause small tears or openings as well. If you have multiple sexual partners it best to wait until you have had sex with your last partner before douching.

Get vaccinated for Hepatitis A and B. Barebacking exposes you to fecal matter and other fluids that can carry hepatitis. Active hepatitis can lower your immune system and make it difficult to fight off infections.

Urinate frequently to help flush out any infectious agents in your urethra. Drink lots of water and avoid dehydration.

Ask your client their HIV and STD status. It is punishable by law to knowingly infect another person with HIV.

Look and feel for warts, lesions, discharges and other signs of STDs. If something does not look or feel right, you have the right to stop.

MALE-TO-FEMALE (MtF) WORK

Avoid long dresses so you don't get caught in car doors.

Men working as women may wish to tuck their penis between their legs, securing it with bathing suit thickness underwear, surgical plasters, or tape. In many cases, however, the organ can still be felt. An extra security measure is to hide the penis inside a maternity-length (extra-long) sanitary napkin.

Be aware how your emotions affect your decisions. The hormones in birth control pills and other hormonal preparations that enhance feminine characteristics (thinner skin, loss of facial hair, breast development) can also cause moodiness, mood swings, and occasionally, severe depression. With combination or lower-dose hormone preparations, this is often less problematic.

SELLING ON THE STREET

APPEARANCES

Wear clothing that doesn't have to be removed to fuck. This helps to hide tracks, keep your money close to you, and allow you to escape clothed in case of emergency.

Don't get caught in car doors - avoid long coats, oversized belts, or oversized bell-bottoms (flares) or baggy jeans.

Limit your heroin use at night. If you are using heroin, be aware that your pupils do not admit much light.

Avoid bacterial infections by turning socks and underwear made from cotton (or cotton blends) inside out on alternating days.

Get access to an 'anal condom' (i.e. 'female condom' or insertive condom). It can be inserted before working on the streets and allows you to feel secure about staying protected. If needed, the 'anal condom' can be rinsed out and used more than once.

NEGOTIATING WITH CLIENTS

Pick your own parking spot or hotel. Don't leave it up to the customer. Pick someplace that provides you the ability to escape in case of emergency or near a populated area.

Do not charge for each service performed, but raise the cost for amount of time for a particular service. Double the per-session fees for fucking versus a blowjob even if the session is 30-minutes long.

Keep condoms, lube, and napkins in your pockets at all times. Never rely on clients to have them.

You ALWAYS have the ability to say 'NO'. If a client gives you a bad feeling on the stroll, it will only get worse once you are in his car.

Run against traffic, not with it. The further from the stroll that you get with a client, the harder it will be to turn them down and the fewer opportunities to escape.

The shorter the stroll, the more you have to guard your reputation. In a small town with a small number of clients, you can't afford to get caught stealing, faking an orgasm, undercutting the going price, or not using condoms.

Stand where you can be seen and where you have a good glare-free vision of the stroll, approaching cars, and a lookout for police.

BODY

Approach the driver's window with cautious distance to avoid being grabbed, assaulted with spit or spray paint, or pleasing 'window shoppers'.

Study the customer, the car, and the door lock system. Electric locking systems may prevent you from escaping the car in some situations.

Arrange price, service and location while you are outside of the car.

Circle the car completely before entering to ensure the number of passengers and to take the license plate number (or pretend to). Be extra careful to look in the backseat for any additional people.

Wave goodbye to work partner (or pretend to) and shout an expected return time. This sends the message that you are not alone and your absence will be noticed.

IN THE CAR

Ensure that you can re-open the car door. Always be aware of escape routes.

Get a good look at the customer and the car.

You can ALWAYS say 'NO'. If you find the customer drunker than you thought, see a weapon in the vehicle, or get a creepy feeling, seek an immediate escape.

Get money up front. Let him see you stash your payment and keep it away from the rest of your money. If he tries to rob you, he won't likely find your hidden money.

Keep the door open a crack, if he allows.

FELLATIO

Know your best position: crouching outside the driver-side door or in the passenger seat. Avoid the backseat or being cramped into the footwell at his feet on the drivers' side.

FUCKING

Reactivate lubricant with spit as needed.

DRUG USE ON THE JOB

COMMON DRUGS

Ecstasy (E)

Ecstasy (E) produces a relaxed, euphoric state but does not cause hallucinations. Effects begin 20 to 40 minutes after taking a tablet and last three to five hours.

Caution: E tablets can contain other drugs, and can be at varying strengths. Avoid mixing E with other drugs or alcohol. E is illegal and possession can result in prison terms.

Ketamine (K)

Ketamine (K) is a liquid anaesthetic that is cooked into a powder and snorted in small lines called "bumps". Effects begin after 5-10 minutes through "bumps" or 10-20 minutes if snorted. Injected into muscle, it takes effect in 4 minutes.

Caution: K caplets are sometimes sold as E. The two are nothing alike. If injecting K, never inject it into a vein, always the muscle. It is extremely dangerous when combined with other downers like GHB or alcohol.

Nitrous Oxide

Nitrous Oxide (laughing gas) is a mild anesthetic resulting in a temporary loss of motor control and disconnected perception, including hallucinations. The effect is immediate and usually lasts less than a minute. Repeated use can extend and intensify the experience.

Caution: Brain damage can occur. Nitrous oxide is extremely cold when coming out of the canister, causing skin burns. Long-term use can result in neurological problems.

GHB (G)

GHB (G) is an odorless depressant with a slight salty taste in liquid, powder and capsule form. Effects begin 10-60 minutes after ingestion. The primary "peak" occurs within 2-3 hours with residual effects through the whole day. Large doses can cause dizziness, vomiting, loss of consciousness and spasms.

Caution: If impatient users take another dose before "peak", it can lead to overdose and death. Do not mix with other depressants.

Poppers

Poppers are various alkyl nitrates that are sold as video head cleaner, incense, and leather cleaner. Effects are felt within a few seconds and last about 1-2 minutes by sniffing the vapor from an open bottle. Poppers cause the muscles in the anus to relax for sex.

Caution: Deadly if swallowed. It can cause irritation and rashes on the skin and can damage the nose and lungs. Combining poppers with other stimulants can increase risks. Do not use with Viagra as both can cause blood pressure to drop. Poppers can effect judgment.

TIPS WHEN USING

If you can manage, stay sober when you work - it keeps you aware and in control.

Stay hydrated and wet. Drugs, hot clubs and dancing can dehydrate you. Drink plenty of water. Not alcohol as it can dehydrate you as well. Sex can be difficult if you are dehydrated. Energy level can be down and it's easier for tearing of membranes and skin during sex.

Avoid mixing drugs. Mixing club drugs, alcohol, or other drugs (even prescription) has caused the deaths of many people.

Round two, think twice. Give yourself times in-between doses and enjoy what you have taken. Some drugs take time to give you their full effect.

Try smaller doses. Drugs like E, GHB, and K are sensory enhancing drugs and tend to give more pleasurable effects at relatively low doses. High doses can even lessen the effect.

If you get in trouble tell a friend or a safe person.

Remember people have died so don't waste time. Tell the doctors what you have taken. They are not the police.

Avoid Viagra. Mixing Viagra with stimulants like poppers, E, Speed or cocaine can have a damaging effect on your heart and can cause death.

Avoid taking drugs from people you do not know or if you're alone. If you pass out or black out others could take advantage of that. Clients could do things sexually or steal your stuff. Also if you pass out you may miss other paying appointments.

Plan ahead. How you feel about sex when your high is different then how you feel when you come down. Make sure you are prepared for sex before you start taking drugs.

If you are shooting dope, have a place where you can hide your stuff near where you work. If you are stopped by the cops while you are working, you don't have any syringes or drugs on you, but you can access them when it's time.

If you use a lot or cop a lot, you need to know your local law enforcement. The safest time to cop is when police are on shift change. If someone is really putting pressure on you to buy, or to help them buy, and you're uncomfortable, don't do it. Stay in charge of when and how you buy heroin.

Crack is a binge drug, and once you start, you may not want to stop. If you can work and earn the money first, then you can enjoy the ride more when you start smoking. Working going up or coming down can be rough.

RESOURCES & NOTES

Harm Reduction Coalition - <http://www.harmreduction.org>

HOOK - <http://www.hookonline.org>