

Guide for Clients of Sex Workers





This guide is intended for anyone interested in the services of a sex worker, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. You may already use sexual services, be considering your first appointment with a sex worker, or be unsure where to go with your specific wishes and needs. Whatever your situation, it is advisable to be well-informed about what sex work involves, what is and is not possible, what services exist, and how appointments generally take place.

One thing should always be kept in mind: sex work is work. A sex worker provides professional sexual or erotic services in exchange for payment. As with any professional appointment, clear communication, mutual respect, and consent are essential.

This guide is an initiative of Violett and UTSOPI, two organizations that support sex workers. Through this guide, we provide an overview of the different forms of sex work, the practical arrangements involved, and several important points to keep in mind. We deliberately use the terms sex work and sex worker instead of prostitution and prostitute, because the latter terms often carry a negative connotation.

This guide has been translated from Dutch.
Not all the websites referred to are also available in English.

Is Sex Work Legal in Belgium?

In Belgium, neither the sex worker nor the client is committing a criminal offense when sexual services take place between adults who voluntarily consent to them.

However, this does not mean that everything is permitted. Sexually inappropriate behavior and sexual acts without consent are punishable by law. You can also face criminal prosecution if you fail to respect agreements regarding sexual services, do not pay correctly, or distribute images without consent.

Photos that sex workers post online in advertisements or on platforms such as OnlyFans or WhatsApp are intended solely for promotional or personal use. You may never forward or distribute these images, including to friends or acquaintances.

Sexual contact with minors is prohibited. If you have doubts about a sex worker's age, are not certain that they are at least 18 years old, or they cannot provide identification showing that they are of legal age, stop the contact immediately and do not proceed with the appointment.

Violence Is Unacceptable

Verbal or physical violence is not tolerated. Removing a condom during an appointment without consent or pressuring someone into sexual acts is also punishable by law.

If you suspect the exploitation of minors, you can anonymously contact **Child Focus** through the **free helpline 116 000** or via their **online reporting form** (NL/FR).



[online reporting form](#)

Consent and Respect

Consent means that all parties involved voluntarily agree to the sexual activities, the price, the location, and the duration of the appointment. Consent therefore applies not only to sex itself, but also to all practical arrangements surrounding it.

Be aware that consent can be withdrawn at any time. This also applies if someone indicates during the appointment that they want to stop or no longer wish to engage in certain activities.

Good communication is therefore essential. Be clear about your wishes and expectations, but also listen to the sex worker's boundaries. A "no" must always be respected.

**Sexual acts without consent
are punishable by law.**



Where Can You Go?

Sex work includes all sexual or erotic services provided in exchange for payment, with or without direct sexual contact.

The best-known form is probably **window sex** work, where sex workers receive clients in rooms behind a window, usually in designated areas of larger cities.

There are also **erotic bars** and **clubs**, where clients can have a drink in the company of sex workers and where private rooms are often available as well.

In **private houses** or **apartments**, one or more sex workers receive clients. Some establishments are operated by a manager or owner. These can usually be found through advertisements on erotic websites.

Erotic massage parlors do not always explicitly advertise sexual services. In addition to tantra or erotic massages with a happy ending, some salons also offer intimate sexual contact.

With **escort services**, a sex worker meets you at your home, in a hotel, or at another location. These appointments are usually arranged through websites or escort agencies.

Some **sex workers operate on the street** or in public places. Sexual services may take place in a car, a hotel, or a nearby park. In various locations in Belgium, both sex workers and clients risk receiving a fine for street-based sex work.

Strip clubs can be found both in cities and outside them. You pay an entrance fee to watch strip shows. Inside, you can have a drink with the dancers, who may offer private lap dances. Intimate sexual contact is usually not available. Not everyone who works in a strip club considers themselves a sex worker.

Not all sex workers have physical contact with clients. **Online sex work**—such as webcam shows, erotic chats, or creating and sending photos and videos—is also a form of sex work. These services can typically be found through erotic websites.

Be clear about your desires and boundaries, and make clear agreements about them beforehand.

Sugar Dating

Sugar dating is a relationship between a “sugar daddy” or “sugar mommy” and a “sugar baby.” The sugar baby receives financial or material support in exchange for companionship and/or intimacy.

Sugar dating can be a form of sex work when intimacy or sexual services are exchanged for financial or material support, but this is not always the case.

A typical feature of sugar dating is that two people enter into a longer-term connection. While this commitment can be enjoyable, it also increases the risk of misunderstandings and unrealistic expectations. It is therefore important to remember that your relationship remains a professional one. This means that a new agreement begins with each date. Each time, discuss what the sugar baby is willing to offer and what will be provided in return. A previous sexual experience does not automatically mean that the same activities will take place on a future date.

More information can be found on sugar dating platforms and websites.

BDSM and Specific Preferences

Some sex workers offer services related to Bondage, Discipline, Dominance, Submission, Sadism, and Masochism (BDSM). This information is usually indicated in advertisements or at their workplace.

Not everyone offers the same experiences, so it is important to inform yourself beforehand. BDSM can be intense and carries risks when practiced without the proper knowledge and preparation. Sex workers will clearly communicate their boundaries and safety rules and will ensure that activities are conducted safely and hygienically.

Be open about what you would like to try, but remain realistic. Your fantasies do not necessarily match your actual pain tolerance. Pushing your own boundaries without careful consideration is not only physically dangerous, but can also damage the trust that is essential within BDSM.

Look for a good match with someone who has experience in the specific forms of BDSM you are interested in.

Verbal domination and specific assignments can take place entirely without physical contact.

Some dominatrixes (“dommes”) or dominants (“doms”) do not offer intimate physical contact at all, while others may engage in certain forms of contact.

In activities such as impact play (for example, spanking or whipping) or breath play (manipulation of breathing), there may be more physical contact, as well as in medical role-play scenarios.

**Look for a good match
with someone who has
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forms of BDSM you are
interested in.**

Sex Workers of Various Genders

Are you a woman looking for a male sex worker?

Or a man looking for a male sex worker?

Or a woman looking for a female sex worker?

In these cases, contact is usually arranged through online advertisements or escort services. They are less likely to work from visible locations such as private houses, window prostitution areas, or bars. **Transgender sex workers** can also be contacted online, as well as in some window prostitution districts, for example in Antwerp and Brussels.

If you have questions about a sex worker’s gender identity, ask them respectfully in advance. This helps avoid misunderstandings during the appointment.

Some sex workers welcome couples or offer threesome services.

You can find them in bars, private houses, and online.

Why Do People Choose Sex Work?

People choose sex work for many different reasons, although financial considerations naturally play an important role. The reasons behind someone's choice to engage in sex work are private. Therefore, do not ask about them unless the person brings up the subject themselves.

Likewise, a sex worker will generally not ask why you are seeking sexual services.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Chemsex

Alcohol and drugs can reduce inhibitions, but they also affect your judgment. As a result, it becomes more difficult to recognize and respect boundaries—both your own and those of someone else.

Chemsex refers to the intentional use of drugs in combination with sexual activity. This involves additional risks. Always discuss expectations beforehand, and never pressure someone else to use alcohol or drugs.

Some sex workers refuse clients who are under the influence; respect their decision.



More information can be found at:
allesoverseks.be/chemsex-of-seks-en-drugs (NL)

Services Offered

Not every sex worker offers the same services. Advertisements, erotic websites, and workplaces usually provide an overview of what is available. There are many specific terms and abbreviations used in the industry, so it is perfectly normal not to understand everything right away.

If you do not understand something, do not hesitate to ask for clarification. Sex workers are accustomed to receiving such questions.

If you have specific wishes or preferences, communicate them respectfully. Clear communication helps prevent misunderstandings.

Also keep in mind that what is listed in an advertisement is not a guarantee. The sex worker ultimately decides what is and is not possible, both before and during the appointment.

Your First Appointment

Clear communication about your sexual experience and wishes is especially important if it is your first appointment. This can feel exciting or nerve-racking. It can help to choose a location in which you feel most comfortable.

Some people prefer to receive a sex worker at home, while others feel more at ease in a private house, hotel, or window prostitution district. The timing of the appointment can also be important.

Sex workers are professionals who have experience working with clients who may feel nervous. If you have little or no sexual experience, feel free to say so. The sex worker can then take your pace, insecurities, and preferences into account.

Do not expect everything to go perfectly right away. It often takes time to discover what you enjoy and what you do not.

In Belgium, the age of sexual consent is 16. However, sex workers must always be at least 18 years old.

Think carefully about whether you are ready for sex. If what you are mainly looking for is intimacy within a romantic relationship, then seeing a sex worker may not be what you are seeking. In any case, do not let others pressure you into making a decision. The choice is yours, not theirs.

How Do You Make an Appointment?

Discuss in advance which services you want, how long the appointment will last, where you will meet, and what the price will be.

Appointments are usually arranged by phone, WhatsApp, chat, email, websites, or advertising platforms. Read advertisements carefully before making contact.

Introduce yourself briefly, clearly, and politely, and explain what you are looking for. Avoid lengthy conversations or sending a large number of messages.

Ask your questions beforehand so that you understand how the appointment will proceed and how you will recognize each other.

If you cannot reach an agreement, do not insist. Remain polite and, if necessary, look for someone whose services better match your desires.

When meeting in bars, private houses, or window sex work districts, practical arrangements are usually made on site. Never enter without permission, and respect the sex worker's personal space. Physical contact is only allowed once you've agreed on the terms.

Payment and Pricing

Rates vary depending on the length of the meeting, the services requested, and the location. Do not negotiate the price; sex workers set their own rates.

If the price is out of your budget and you cannot come to an agreement, remain polite. Do not take it as a personal rejection.

Payment is most often made in cash, although bank transfers, debit cards, or Payconiq may sometimes be accepted. Payment is generally made at the beginning of the appointment to avoid disputes afterward. A deposit is also often required.

Make sure to withdraw cash in advance so that you do not have to worry about payment arrangements during the appointment.

If you would like extra time or additional services during the appointment, discuss this first and ask what additional fee may apply.

Prepare for an appointment

Personal hygiene is very important. It shows respect for yourself and for the sex worker.

Take a shower beforehand, wash your private parts thoroughly, brush your teeth, and wear clean clothes. It's best not to smoke right before your appointment, and use only a little perfume.

If you are receiving a sex worker at home, make sure your home is tidy, your bedroom is clean, the sheets are fresh, and the bathroom and toilet are clean.

Do you have pets? Let the sex worker know in advance.

It can feel quite exciting or nerve-racking to invite a sex worker to your home. If you are concerned about discretion or a nosy neighbour, you can ask the sex worker to arrive in 'neutral' clothing. In any case, give the sex worker the opportunity to freshen up or change clothes.

Excessive alcohol or drug use can make communication more difficult, blur boundaries, and negatively affect sexual experiences.

Some sex workers refuse clients who are clearly under influence. Respect that.

Do not pressure anyone to drink alcohol or take drugs.



How Does an Appointment Proceed?

You may notice during an appointment that certain things do not feel right after all. Simply communicate what you do and do not feel comfortable with. People working in this sector are accustomed to discussing sexuality openly.

It is common for a sex worker to ask you to shower at the beginning of the appointment. For many, this is a standard part of their hygiene practices.

Sex does not have to begin immediately. A brief conversation or sharing a drink can help ease any nervousness or tension. Arrive on time. If you are late, the appointment will usually not be extended, and the price will generally remain the same.

Respect the agreed duration of the appointment, even if you have not reached orgasm.

If you would like to stay longer, ask whether this is possible and what additional fee may apply. If you cancel too late, a cancellation fee may be charged.

After the appointment, do not send unsolicited messages or make unnecessary phone calls. Respect the professional boundaries of the relationship.

Safer Sex

When anal, oral, and vaginal sex are practiced with a condom, the risk of contracting a sexually transmitted infection (STI) is very low. A condom protects both you and the sex worker.

Anyone who has sex without a condom can contract an STI and may pass it on to other sexual partners.

You can have an STI without noticing any symptoms yourself, which means you could unknowingly infect others.

For this reason, do not negotiate about condom use. Sex workers consciously practice safer sex because they often have intimate contact with different people on a regular basis.

Some sex workers choose to offer unprotected sex for an additional fee. However, this remains strongly discouraged because it increases the risk of STI transmission.

Some clients worry that a condom will not fit properly or that sex with a condom will feel less pleasurable. If this is a concern, discuss it openly—many sex workers have condoms available in different sizes.

Despite all precautions, it is still wise to get tested regularly if you have multiple or changing sexual partners, especially after situations that may have involved a higher risk of infection.

Testing can be arranged through your general practitioner (family doctor) or through specialized centers such as the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp.

Ask your doctor for:

- A **blood test** (for HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B)
- A **vaginal swab or urine test** (for gonorrhea and chlamydia)
- possibly a **throat and anal swab** (for gonorrhea and chlamydia)
- Also discuss vaccination against: HPV, HBV and HAV

In Belgium, sex workers are not legally required to get STI tests, although regular testing is recommended. Testing and support are available through organizations such as Violet.



More information about STIs,
such as symptoms, testing, PEP
and treatment, can be found at:
allesoverseks.be (NL)



Privacy and Discretion

Almost all sex workers use a professional or working name. Respect their privacy and do not ask for personal information. Likewise, you decide how much information you want to share about yourself.

If you happen to encounter a sex worker in a supermarket, restaurant, or other public place, act as though you do not know each other. This helps protect both your privacy and theirs.

Feelings and Emotional Boundaries

It is not uncommon for clients to develop feelings for someone they see regularly. Intimacy and attention can evoke strong emotions. Nevertheless, sexual services remain, first and foremost, a professional relationship.

Ask yourself whether you truly know the person outside of that professional context.

If you want to share your feelings, do so without applying pressure and without expectations. Respect rejection if it occurs, and remain realistic about what is possible. If you notice that your feelings are becoming too intense, it may be wise to create some distance.

The Ideal Client

A good client shows respect, communicates politely, presents themselves in a clean and considerate manner, does not pressure others, keeps agreements, pays correctly at the beginning of the appointment, and respects the sex worker's privacy.

An ideal client also takes the surrounding environment into account: keeping noise levels down in the street and hallways, ringing the doorbell discreetly, parking appropriately, and generally helping to avoid problems with neighbors, the police, or local authorities.



Negative Experiences

Not every appointment goes as hoped. If you feel disappointed, try to discuss the situation calmly. Insults, threats, or the sharing of private information do not solve anything and may be punishable by law.

If you are considering writing a review on a forum for clients of sex workers, remain respectful, even if your experience was less positive.

If you are left feeling uneasy or if you believe you experienced inappropriate behavior, a violation of boundaries, or fraud, you may consider seeking legal advice or contacting the police.

If a Sex Worker Does Not Want to Meet Again

Respect that decision. Everyone has the right to choose who they work with.

If you encounter the sex worker elsewhere or under a different name, do not persist in trying to contact them.

If you feel hurt by the decision, give yourself some distance and try not to take it personally. View it as a professional decision.

If you are looking for companionship or sexual intimacy, you can seek contact with a different sex worker.

Suspected Human Trafficking

Most sex workers choose their profession voluntarily, but forced labor and human trafficking unfortunately do occur. Be alert to possible warning signs such as fearful behavior, control by third parties, visible injuries, poor working conditions, or being required to remain constantly available, even when sick or pregnant.

A warning sign does not automatically mean that exploitation is taking place.

Also keep in mind that sex workers are unlikely to spontaneously tell you about a problematic or exploitative situation.

When making a report, provide as much specific information as possible, such as the address, details about the sex worker, information about the advertisement or website, and the reasons for your concern.

The Sex Worker Says They Are Struggling

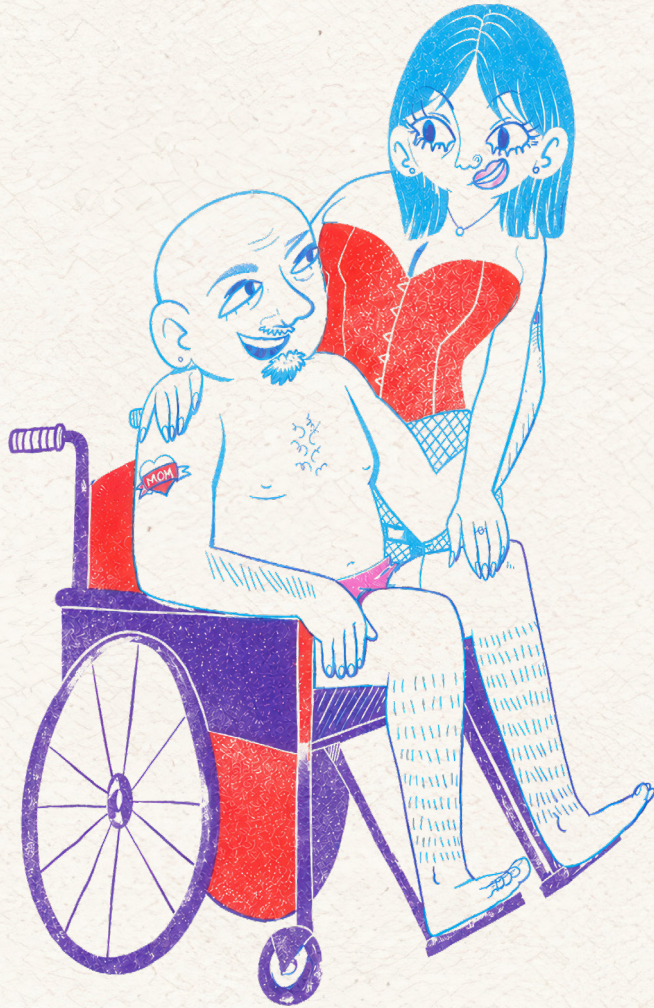
Normally, sex workers keep their private lives separate from their work. However, there may be occasions when someone confides in you about a difficult situation.

It is also possible that the sex worker does not tell you anything directly, but you still feel that something may be wrong. Since your interactions are usually brief, it can be difficult to accurately assess the situation.

If the sex worker indicates that they need help, you can suggest contacting organizations such as Violet or UTSOPI. The sex worker can then decide for themselves whether they wish to seek that support.



If you are seriously concerned, contact the point of contact for victims of **human trafficking**, the police, or emergency services by calling **112** in case of immediate danger.



Services for People with Disabilities or Additional Care Needs

Some sex workers have experience working with clients who have disabilities or additional care needs. This information can sometimes be found on erotic websites, through escort agencies, or at other workplaces.

If you are unsure about using an escort agency or are concerned about how you may be received at a club, call the person in charge beforehand. If you need help finding a sex worker or a suitable venue, you can seek assistance from someone you trust.

If you find it difficult to arrange an appointment independently or visit a location on your own, you can contact Aditi vzw. Aditi supports people with disabilities, individuals with mental health care needs, and vulnerable older adults in getting intimacy and sexuality-related care.

For Aditi, “vulnerable older adults” are people aged 65 or older who have additional sexuality-related care needs due to age, disability, or illness.



More information:
www.aditivzw.be (NL)

Feelings of Shame or Guilt

Some people feel shame or guilt about paying for sex. Sex work remains a significant social taboo, which often leaves clients feeling that they have little opportunity to discuss the subject openly.

It can help to talk about these feelings with someone you trust.

For advice, you can contact Violetta or UTSOPI by telephone. Their physical offices are accessible only to sex workers.



If you have questions, doubts, or need support, you can contact **a psychologist, or a sexologist** seksuologen-vlaanderen.be (NL)

When Sex Becomes an Obsession

If sexual desires begin to dominate your life or cause serious problems in your relationships, work, or overall well-being, professional help may be appropriate.

Consider discussing the issue with a family doctor, psychologist, or sexologist.



More information can be found at: allesoverseks.be (NL) by Sensoa.



For more information
about **the Belgian
Union of Sex Workers**,
visit utsopi.be



For more information
about **medical and social
support for sex workers**,
visit violett.be

This guide was originally written in Dutch. The original was made possible thanks to a grant from the Flemish government. Given the need to raise awareness among beneficiaries, and given the multilingual and diverse background of our beneficiaries, it was decided to translate this guide into French and English.



Vlaanderen
is zorgzaam en
gezond samenleven