

Nudity and Simulated Sex Rider Basics

For actors new to the industry, actors without representation, background actors, and day players

Nudity Riders

A nudity rider, or simulated sex rider, is a contract between an actor and the production they are hired by that defines what will happen onset when filming nude, intimate, simulated sex, or simulated sexual assault scenes. It might also be called a nudity waiver, simulated sex act rider, simulated sex waiver, intimate scene rider, or proposed written consent.

Any actor filming a nude, intimate, simulated sex, or simulated sexual assault scene, or appearing nude or simulating a sex act onset, even if not depicted in the film, should **negotiate terms for a nudity rider before filming begins**. The casting professional who hires you will tell you if the role requires intimacy or nudity.

The Basics

Below are the basic terms that should be included in a nudity sex rider. Under SAG-AFTRA rules, producers are required to provide principal performers with proposed riders at least 48 hours in advance of call time.

The SAG-AFTRA rules governing nudity riders differ for background actors. It falls on the casting agencies hiring background actors to obtain as much information as possible from the producer regarding nudity or simulated sex acts in the role and inform you prior to booking. If you are NOT notified of nudity or simulated sex in advance of your call time, you may refuse to engage in the performance and still get paid for the day.

You (or your representative, if you have one) should discuss the terms with the person the production has designated to manage nudity riders. They can provide further clarity on the details of the scene(s), walk you through its choreography, and address any questions about onset safety. If the production has an intimacy coordinator, they may be your point of contact and can help negotiate your rider terms. Otherwise, if you are unsure of who to speak to, ask the production coordinator or producer.

MUST INCLUDE

For SAG-AFTRA union productions, the nudity rider must include the following terms. For non-SAG-AFTRA productions, it is reasonable to request that these terms be included in your nudity rider.

- ▶ The relevant script pages for all scenes that the actor is agreeing to perform
- ▶ A general description of the degree of nudity, contact, or simulated sex the actor consents to have on-film, for example:
 - ▷ Full rear nudity, nudity above the waist
 - ▷ Hand placement over front of genital area while covered by a cloth, nudity above the waist and to perform simulated sexual activity such as, simulated oral sex
 - ▷ Closed mouth kissing, open-mouth kissing, open-mouth kissing with tongue
 - ▷ Wearing a swimsuit, wearing a g-string or pasties, body parts you are unwilling to show
 - ▷ Places you consent or do not consent to be touched, such as your breasts, chest, bottom, or neck
 - ▷ Places on other people's bodies you consent or do not consent to touching

ADDITIONAL RULES

For SAG-AFTRA union productions, the following rules apply and are not necessary to include in a rider. For non-SAG-AFTRA productions, it is reasonable to request that these terms be included in your nudity rider.

If you have agreed to be in a scene, but then withdraw your consent, the producer can double you for the remaining scenes. The nudity and simulated sex portrayed through doubling shall be limited to what was originally agreed to by the actor. This applies to digital or physical body doubling.

While shooting the scenes, the set shall be closed to anyone who is not essential to the filming or rehearsal of the scene, including non-crew visitors, journalists, videographers, and photographers. These rules also apply to anyone observing via monitor. "Essential personnel" should be defined in the rider.

No BTS footage or unit photography is allowed without the actor's prior written consent.

If you are nude, or wearing only modesty garments, the producer must provide a cover-up or robe when not rehearsing or shooting the scene.

You must be provided with the name and phone number of a designated producer representative who can address questions about the interpretation or application of the proposed consent. Suggested discussion topics include (and are required by SAG-AFTRA):

- ▶ Assurance that hygienic sex barrier(s) will be required and will be made available, with the option for you to bring your own
- ▶ Clarity on what the production's guidelines are for a "closed set"

In addition to those above, the production may include the following terms in the rider:

- ▶ Acknowledgment that the filmmakers (producer and/or director) can make changes to the nudity or physical contact as long as it's similar
- ▶ Acknowledgment that the production owns the filmed scenes and has exclusive rights to the footage

Beyond the Basics

Depending on the prominence of your role in the film, you may be able to negotiate additional or different terms. However, as a day player or a background actor, negotiating for more extensive rights outside of the basic terms listed above may be difficult.

To learn more about your rights at work, including during nude, intimate, simulated sex, and simulated sexual assault scenes, visit our [TIME'S UP Guide to Working in Entertainment \(Volumes 1-3\)](#). Important things to remember:

- ▶ Keep a copy of the nudity rider signed by you and the production for your records
- ▶ You have the right to be physically and emotionally safe while filming a sex scene
- ▶ You are never expected to have genital-to-genital or skin-to-genital contact.
- ▶ Text SAFESETS to 306-44 if you need more information