

PROTOCOL FOR THE BDSM SUBMISSIVE

THEORY OF SUBMISSIVE SERVICE

The basic principle of submissive service can be summed up in one word: Attentiveness.

Your behavior should reflect your attentiveness to the dominant's needs and desires at all times. Your role is to serve those needs and desires. Is your dominant about to light up a cigarette? Is your dominant's coffee cup empty or has the coffee grown cold? Does he or she need a chair to sit on? It is your job to ensure that the dominant's comforts are served by making any and all appropriate arrangements to make the dominant's life easy.

Similarly, it is your joyful task to demonstrate, through your attitude and demeanor, that the dominant's needs come first. Your ability to devotedly serve your dominant is a standard by which others will judge you AND your dominant. Not only will your attentiveness please your dominant but it will impress those you meet both with your dominant's power and your submissiveness. In other words, you will be a submissive who a dominant is proud to collar and one who others will believe is worth collaring.

Some submissives mistake their ability to take a heavy beating as the proof of their devotion. Certainly, it can be a highly erotic type of service to endure heavy pain for your dominant, but what about all those moments when your dominant isn't "doing" you? Are you as good a submissive to him during the quiet moments as you are when your dominant is giving you what you crave?

Dominance and submission are anchored in the mental body. D/s involves power exchange and is usually time-delimited. Power exchange is used during a scene or during the time when the dominant and submissive are together; however, some protocols may be established to extend the scope of service to include instances when the dominant and submissive are not together.

The submissive is NOT the dominant's "girlfriend". A "boyfriend/girlfriend" is a person with the same rights and responsibilities as his/her partner. Within the confines of a D/s relationship, the submissive is property of the dominant, and only has those rights and privileges granted by the dominant, as previously negotiated as part of the consensual exchange of power.

The following guidelines will help you to convey to your dominant and others that your wish to serve is sincere.

GENERAL COMMON UNDERSTANDING

Submissive's Obligations

In rank order, the submissive's obligations are to her:

1. God
2. Biological Family
3. Education
4. Career/Professional Goals
5. Dominant
6. Household
7. BDSM Community
8. Extracurricular Activities

Dominant's Responsibilities

Sir is responsible for the submissive's social, emotional, and physical well-being in the context of the BDSM lifestyle. Sir is responsible always to do what is for the highest good of the submissive. In a larger sense, Sir will behave with respect to his submissive as a "Servant Dominant". In essence, Sir will serve his submissive in ways that best help them both to follow their inner natures as they develop, mature, learn and grow in the lifestyle.

Grace, Elegance and Lucidity

Sir seeks to build an environment of grace and elegance within the D/s relationship. To that end:

- The submissive is responsible for identifying and employing ways of incorporating graceful movement into her presentation and style.
- The submissive is expected to have and to use high-level language skills. The submissive will use correct grammar and develop a vocabulary commensurate at least with that of a person with a college degree.
- The submissive is responsible for learning a pleasing vocal tonality, to modulate her voice, and to enunciate words clearly.
- The submissive is responsible for being sensitive to personal dress and appearance at all times.

Core Values and Expectations

For the submissive, following requests, directives or instructions combines many positive attributes, including faithful obedience, respect, dedication and trust. Sir holds the following as core values that are critical to a successful D/s relationship.

- Honesty – Being honest at all times will maximize our understanding of one another. The submissive is to avoid passive-aggressive behaviors, as these combine two unattractive traits: dishonesty and an unwillingness to communicate directly.
- Dedication – By nature, this is destined to be an intense relationship. It takes dedication and commitment to keep it a satisfying experience for both parties.
- Respect – Mutual respect between one another is the cornerstone of any relationship. Sir will respect the limits and safety of the submissive. The submissive will respect the expectations of Sir, as outlined herein.

ETIQUETTE

Rules Governing “House” Relations

The House of Pilam is a polyamorous BDSM family. The following rules and guidelines shall govern at all times, to all members of the House:

- Be loyal to those not present. Family members will not discuss House issues with others outside the House. No personal information about family members will be shared with others outside the House. If the submissive hears someone speaking ill of another, the submissive is to suggest to the complaining party that he/she find a way to discuss it directly and constructively with that person.
- Don't complain to others. If the submissive has a concern or complaint, it should be brought to Sir. Concerns and complaints will receive a better reception if they are presented as facts/issues devoid of emotion and spin. That is, there is an “issue” and there is the “story about the issue.” Sir is not to be concerned with the story.
- Do more than your fair share. Sir recognizes that much is required of a submissive. But that's the nature of the deal. Sir works very hard to create a mutually gratifying world both for himself and his submissives. Sir needs submissives to be searching for ways of helping support their mutual vision.
- Be dependable. The submissive is expected to be where Sir has indicated, when Sir has specified, prepared to do the task-at-hand. The specifics of location and time commitments will be negotiated and agreed to by both parties.
- Anticipate what Sir is going to do next. Good family members rarely need to tell one another what to do next because the partner is already doing it.
- Be flexible. The submissive must be able to act quickly once she understands a situation. The submissive must learn to recognize when situations call for certain actions.
- Be punctual. Naturally, this applies to any commitment. The submissive will take care to complete tasks or arrive at meetings early. If the submissive suspects that she will be unable to keep a time commitment, the submissive must reach Sir by phone to explain the delay and recommit to a revised deadline or arrival time.

Initial Meeting with a Leather Master

The submissive will treat a Leather Master with the same respect and deference that the submissive shows her Sir. The submissive will never speak to a Leather Master without specific permission or without prior introduction by Sir or another Master, Dominant or Top. When being introduced to a Leather Master, the submissive will assume a submissive stance, eyes lowered.

The submissive will not extend her hand or provide any other gesture of personal recognition. However, the submissive will bow and remain in default position, one pace behind and to the right of Sir in a Standing Present position. If Sir decides to introduce the Master to the submissive, the submissive will respond to the introduction thus: “Sir, this submissive is honored to meet you, Sir.”

Initial Meeting with a Dominant

Relations with Dominants who are not Leathermen are less formal. The submissive will be courteous and respectful, but the submissive will not speak to or carry on discussions with a Dom without Sir's permission, unless there is an established relationship well known to Sir, or unless the Dom has approached Sir for such permission and that permission has been granted.

Initial Meeting with a Submissive or Slave

Submissives and slaves will be acknowledged as such and the submissive may converse casually with them in the appropriate setting once permission has been granted. The submissive is free to hug any other submissive, if and only if, the submissive has asked Sir to negotiate with that submissive's Dom either for initial or for ongoing permission to hug this Dom's submissive. It is not appropriate to converse casually with a submissive or another slave while in active service to Sir or if a scene is taking place.

Handshakes

Under no circumstances will the submissive extend a hand to a Master or Dom unless the submissive knows that such a gesture has been pre-negotiated and approved. If the submissive does have permission to shake hands or to hug another master or Dom, the submissive will attend to the length of such contact. Contact must be socially appropriate in order not to be misinterpreted as a "forward" gesture.

When a submissive in our House shakes hands with, or hugs, another submissive, the less senior, or if this is unknown, the younger or less experienced submissive, waits for the older or higher ranking submissive to extend his/her hand in greeting. Junior submissives rise to greet more senior submissives. In low protocol and social protocol settings, the submissive is to follow polite gestures of hospitality.

Forms of Address

The submissive will address me as "Sir" while in protocol. Others who are associated with the House in submissive positions will address me as "Sir". Those associated with the House will address other Masters and Doms as "Sir", unless the individual is a recognized Leather Master, in which case the honorific "Master" will be used along with the person's name. In all cases, with this previous exception, the submissive is never to address anyone as "Master", though it is appropriate to refer to someone as "Master So-n-So" in conversation with others.

Ongoing Contact with a Master or Dominant

If email correspondence occurs with another Master or Dominant regarding service or play, Sir is to receive a CC visible to the other person so that Sir can remain fully informed of this other relationship. When there are private meetings between the submissive and another Master, Dominant, or Top, Sir expects a general briefing. Sir will not pry into details of a relationship that has been previously approved.

Service/Play with Another Master, Dominant or Vanilla Partner

At times, the submissive might have an opportunity to serve another Master or Dominant, or play with another Top. The submissive must first request permission from Sir for the privilege to serve or play with another. In such situations, the submissive will respect their protocols and

rules as best as possible, always remembering that the submissive is bound by contract to Sir's rules and protocols, which will at all times be respected. If the other Master or Dom does not understand or respect the submissive's existing obligations, the submissive will dutifully inform them that she is not permitted to comply with such wishes. If there is any problem, the submissive will inform Sir at once in person or by phone. The submissive will be very careful not to bring disrespect to the House. Following service or play with another Master, Dominant, or Top, the submissive is to give Sir a brief verbal summary of the experience.

The submissive is prohibited from having sexual relations with any other man without prior consent by Sir. The submissive may have sexual relations with any other woman of her choosing. Regardless of gender, the submissive is to inform Sir of all her sexual activity.

Relations in a BDSM/Leather Setting

Leatherfolk and lifestylers will understand our protocols and symbols and will respect the submissive's position within our House. Similarly, the submissive will recognize and respect protocols and symbols of Leathermen and lifestylers from other families. Under no circumstances will the submissive touch a Leatherman or lifestyler or their property without specific permission. This is a serious sign of disrespect and will result in correction.

In the event that a Leatherman or lifestyler endeavors to hug the submissive, but this person has not negotiated with Sir for permission, the submissive will accept the hug, but not return the hug, with grace and tact, careful to avoid publicly embarrassing this person. If this situation occurs out of Sir's sight, or occurs a second time, the submissive will inform the Leatherman or lifestyler that she is in protocol and, with respect, does not have permission to return the hug. The submissive will stand still during this exchange, but then leave the area promptly to report the incident to Sir.

Relations with Family and Outside Friends

Minor children should not be made aware of the submissive's status. Uninvolved adults should not be made fully aware of the submissives status. The submissive is encouraged to maintain friendships with people who are aware of, and generally approve of, our lifestyle.

Conversation Conventions with Others

In our House, there are three overriding principles when non-family members are present. First, don't correct a family member in public. All corrections are conducted in private. Violation of this protocol will have dramatic consequences, because it communicates disharmony and lack of respect. Second, it's better to be interested than interesting. Don't go on at length about how much you know about some topic or where you've been in the world. Third, humility is a good thing. We all have plenty to be humble about.

When the submissive doesn't know the answer to a direct question, admit it, find out the answer and tell the person. The submissive must complete this "loop" and get the answer promptly to the promised person; the submissive must live in integrity.

The submissive will be wary of jokes. There will be no jokes where a person or sub-culture is the subject or where a person's condition is ridiculed. Personal stories are not considered jokes.

Everyone associated with this House is expected to speak grammatically correct English and to strive to build a large and rich vocabulary. To be a good conversationalist, one must first have something to say. Second, one must be able to say it well. To achieve the first goal, members of the House are expected to have personal areas of competence and maintain at least a passing familiarity with current events. Poor grammar and/or the use of a simple vocabulary seriously inhibit one's ability to communicate effectively. Words communicate concepts. An advanced vocabulary improves one's ability to communicate and understand complex ideas.

Conversation Conventions with Sir

It is critical that all family members are honest and direct in all their dealings. One can avoid a great deal of embarrassment by giving precise answers to questions asked. When in private, the submissive should feel comfortable to discuss, in a knowledgeable way, any subject – nothing is taboo. The submissive will always speak to Sir with respect, and in a manner consistent with the state of protocol.

Correctness in Public and Private

The submissive will always act and respond in such a way as to make Sir's orders look "right". The submissive will never give the appearance that she thinks Sir has made a mistake, whether by facial expression, body language, or verbal challenge. Sir is not perfect, but whatever he orders is "right" because it is his will. It is Sir's will that the submissive submits to, not his correctness. If the submissive feels that she has information Sir is lacking, or sees a better possibility that he has not considered, the submissive may, within the limits of the protocol, ask whether Sir wishes her to convey such information or to make a suggestion. If the situation involves potential or imminent peril to the life, health or safety of any individual, then the submissive must act immediately and without regard to protocol. Additionally, Sir may not force the submissive to commit any unlawful or patently unsafe act.

In like manner, Sir will refrain from publicly pointing out or making an issue of the submissive's calling of a safeword or service gaffe. It is embarrassing both to the submissive and to bystanders, and it can interfere with the submissive's desire to serve, resulting in further deterioration of service. Any correction will be done in private, away from other's eyes and ears. The submissive is consensually collared and thus, the submissive's personal feelings must be taken into account.

Apologies for Social Gaffes

If the submissive has harmed or hurt someone needlessly or through carelessness, the submissive must do more than apologize; the submissive must ask that person's forgiveness. If the submissive fails to keep an appointment, she must telephone, email or write a brief note explaining the failure to do so, and the reason must be a good one.

In a high protocol setting, if the submissive is asked by a Dom or Master to carry out some non trivial request, the proper response is: "Sir, that question must be asked of my Sir; this submissive does not have the authority to grant you such a request."

If the submissive breaks or damages something, the submissive will try to replace the article exactly. If this is not possible, the submissive will then send flowers or a book of interest to the

person with a note apologizing for the mishap.

In a lifestyle setting, if the submissive steps or passes in front of someone, or bumps into them, the submissive will say: “Sir, please excuse this submissive’s clumsiness” or “This submissive apologizes for having bumped you, Sir.”

PROTOCOL

Levels of Protocol

We will use no level of protocol around minors. For all other times there are three levels of protocol; each builds upon the other:

- Social Protocol – The submissive refers to Sir as “Sir”, but has no other language restrictions. The submissive is free to speak and to ask questions without limitation. The submissive may walk next to Sir and in all other ways appear to part of a “vanilla” couple. In a group setting, the submissive is released from having to maintain eye contact at all times.
- Low Protocol – Low protocol is used when out in lifestyle events. Walking and standing protocols are invoked. The submissive will not sit until Sir has been seated. The submissive will remain in eye contact with Sir and will ask permission to go somewhere out of eyesight. However, the submissive will not be required to stand “on point”.
- High Protocol – All formal protocols are invoked; most especially the language and attending protocols. The submissive’s sole purpose is to attend to Sir and make his life easier. The submissive is expected to remain highly alert to any logistical issue or problem that may need to be solved. The submissive will remain “on point” at all times, shadowing Sir’s every move.

Safewords

Know and adhere to the credo of Risk Aware Consensual Kink. Play sanely, free of drugs and alcohol and clear of mind. Only parties who are consensually agreed to may be involved in all activities taking place. When the submissive is permitted to play with other Masters, Doms or Tops, the submissive is required to play under RACK rules, practice safe sex and play. Prior to any play, the dominant and submissive will establish physical and emotional safewords. Default community standards include “Yellow” as a warning call, and “Red” as an indication to stop play immediately.

Health and Hygiene

The submissive’s body will be maintained in a manner that ensures good health and provides for our erotic enjoyment. The submissive will attempt to avoid disease. Should any medical issue arise, the submissive will inform Sir immediately.

The submissive will be clean outside and inside. She will shower frequently, and generally exude a pleasing aroma. The preference for the natural scent of a woman is a sexual stimulant and aphrodisiac that has been with mankind since the beginning of time. Nails and hair are to be

kept neat and clean. The submissive's pubic area is to be shaved regularly, from at least the hood of the clitoris down.

Appropriate Dress

At all times, the submissive is to dress in neat and tidy manner, whether in the presence of Sir or not. Clothing shall be clean and free of wrinkles. Colors and styles shall be coordinated to complete a pleasing ensemble. The submissive will endeavor to overdress for any occasion. If the submissive is unsure about the appropriate dress for a particular occasion, she will respectfully inquire with Sir.

When to Present

The submissive is expected to present when the submissive comes into or leaves Sir's presence; thus, at any time when under social conditions a "Hello" or "Goodbye" would be appropriate. The submissive will present when she needs to ask a question of Sir or receive additional instructions to complete an assigned task. When the submissive has completed all currently assigned tasks and awaits Sir's pleasure, the submissive will present.

When another submissive presents in the same space, the submissive never merely stands by and watches, but joins in the process by taking the Present position and holds it while awaiting Sir's order to "continue". This rule underscores that all submissives are sisters and equals who support one another's service in any way possible.

The complete presenting ritual is not required when Sir or submissive comes and goes repeatedly in the course of normal household or other activities. However, if seated, the submissive will ordinarily stand whenever Sir enters the space the submissive occupies and remains in Standing Present position until told to "sit" or "continue".

How to Present

By presenting, the submissive brings herself within Sir's awareness and waits for acknowledgement without disturbing whatever Sir is doing. If it is Sir who enters a space where the submissive is engaged, the submissive stops whatever she was doing and assumes a Standing Present to indicate readiness to follow Sir's direction. With the exception of the Honor Present, all are held without moving until the submissive is released by an order from the Master or Dom she is presenting.

- **Full Present** – The submissive kneels upright on both knees, not sitting on the heels. Knees are spread shoulder width apart, arms locked behind back, each hand clasping the opposite forearm; chest is held forward, wide and strong; head bowed with eyes down.
- **Honor Present** – The Honor Present is the same as the Full Present except only the right knee touches the ground and the left leg is bent. In either case, after the submissive makes a greeting statement, such as: "Sir, on behalf of my Sir, I am honored to meet you.", the submissive stands again without waiting for a command. An Honor Present is used to greet a Leather Master or guest who might be embarrassed if the submissive waits for an order to "continue".
- **Standing Present** – The Standing Present calls for the submissive to stand with legs shoulder width apart, hands behind the back, each hand grasping the opposite

forearm. This is used in private or in public lifestyle events as the default “attending” position.

- **Public Present** – The Public Present uses the same overall posture as Standing Present, except that the hands are positioned in a manner that lets anyone behind the submissive see the open palms held crossed behind the small of the submissive’s back, similar to a military “parade rest”.

Waiting for Recognition

The submissive must continue with the presenting ritual until Sir recognizes the submissive’s presence by a word, look or gesture.

Coming Present Before Beginning an Evening

When Sir and the submissive are prepared to begin their evening together, the submissive will come to a Full Present position in front of Sir. She will remain in the Full Present position as she offers her collar in both hands, palms up and open, at her eye level. Sir will take the collar from the submissive, and she will return to the standard Full Present position as Sir places the collar around her neck. A tap on the submissive’s shoulder will indicate that Sir has finished buckling the collar, at which time the submissive will kiss each of Sir’s boots, then rise for a kiss on the lips given by Sir.

Communications

- **Timely and Relevant** – The submissive will contact Sir in a timely manner by phone, text, and/or email to express needs or to report on anything relevant to her service.
- **Expressing Dissatisfaction** – Should the submissive feel the need to express discomfort, hurt feelings, or the sense of being overtaxed in some way, the submissive is instructed to communicate those sentiments in an appropriate manner as soon as they are recognized. For our relationship to work, it must be fulfilling for both parties. It’s important that the submissive communicate appropriately any unhappiness in an open and honest way.
- **Oral Communication** – The submissive will address Sir as such at all times. This protocol is always to be followed, except in special circumstances. Should the submissive telephone Sir and reach voice mail, the submissive will leave a detailed message for the reason for the call. Sir will endeavor to return the call as soon as he is available.
- **Written Communication** – The submissive will open all written communications to Sir with “Sir”. Normal modes of reference and capitalization are to be used throughout the message. However, the submissive will always close with her name in lower case. All emails, whether from Sir or any other lifestyle, are to be replied to within 24 hours.

Accessibility

The submissive will be accessible by phone at all times. The submissive will leave the cell phone turned on at all times. The submissive is to be sure the cell phone is within hearing distance even in the submissive’s home.

Behavior in Public

This set of protocols establishes a way of being in the world both for Sir and the submissive.

- **Standing** – Any time the submissive is in low or high protocol at a lifestyle event with Sir, the submissive will assume the “on point” position. That is the submissive will maintain Public Present position slightly behind Sir’s right shoulder. So long as Sir is standing, the submissive will remain standing in that physical location. If Sir wishes the submissive to come around to a position facing him, he will either instruct the submissive to move into his range of vision or use silent hand signals to cause the submissive to change positions.
- **Sitting** – The submissive may sit on furniture unless high protocol is invoked, in which case the submissive will not sit on any furniture without a direct and specific order by Sir. However, if we are in a “kinky” setting and there are insufficient chairs for all the Doms or Masters, the submissive is to curl up at Sir’s feet.
- **Walking** – Any time the submissive is in low or high protocol at a lifestyle event with Sir, the submissive will walk in an “on point” position. That is the submissive will walk to the right and about one step behind Sir. The submissive is to assume a position that is natural, yet reflects our respective rank.
- **Eating** – Sir will seat the submissive at the table; under no circumstances will the submissive take a seat unless Sir has directed this action. Once Sir is seated, the submissive will wait until Sir removes his napkin and places it on his lap before doing the same. The submissive will not eat a morsel of food from any course of the meal until Sir has first taken a bite.

Use of Furniture

When together with Sir, in our homes in private, the submissive is permitted to use furniture, unless directed not to. When attending an event in High Protocol the submissive will not use furniture, unless specifically directed to do so.

Doors and Elevators

The submissive will open doors and elevators then stand aside of Sir to pass through; the submissive follows. In the case of elevators, the submissive will enter after all others and then press the elevator buttons for Sir, as needed. The submissive will remain in the elevator, holding the door until Sir has exited.

In the case of door configurations where there is an outer and inner door, the submissive will open the first door to let Sir pass, then enter and, as Sir waits, open the second door. Should Sir be walking with another Dom or Master, Sir will open the second door to let the guest enter, then turn the second door over to the submissive to hold while Sir enters. The submissive will then follow behind. Should a third person be present, the slave will enter after Sir and turn any remaining door holding duties over to the third.

Driving

If Sir is driving, he will open the door for the submissive to enter and exit the passenger side of the car. In those instances when the submissive drives, she will open the passenger side door for Sir.

State of Submissive's Residence and Automobile

The entire house will be tidy, with particular attention to the kitchen and bedroom. Nothing will be found on any surface other than what may be necessary for preparing for an evening meal or drinks. The bed will be made with fresh linen. The bathroom will be clean and uncluttered.

The submissive is to keep the interior of her car as clean as possible and the outside of her car is to be washed on a weekly basis. At no time will Sir enter the submissive's car if there is clutter in any of the passenger compartments.

Agreements

For things that matter, Sir operates in the world of structured agreements. Agreements have four components: state the offer/acceptance; specify the general item to be done; list conditions of satisfaction; specify the time frame. If the submissive suspects that it will not be possible to fully accomplish any of the four aspects of the agreement, the submissive is cautioned not to enter into the agreement – this is the time to explain the conflict/issue; this is a time for honesty and integrity. The modification of any aspect of an agreement must be done before the agreement is accepted, or as soon as the need for modification becomes apparent.

If the submissive has made an agreement and something comes up that makes it impossible to fulfill the agreement on time or in the way agreed upon, the submissive will contact Sir and discuss the situation before the time period expires. Failure to keep an agreement will carry consequences.

Requests, Orders, and Instructions

The submissive will attend particularly to instructions. An instruction is a command that brooks no interference. An instruction usually carries with it a requirement to report progress to Sir. Consequences for failure frequently accompany an instruction. This is not all true for a request and seldom true for an order. A consequence involves a correction, not a punishment. Punishments are only invoked for contract violations, not for protocol violations.

Here are some examples of each form:

- Request: "Please bring me some water."
- Order: "I'd like you to be dressed and ready to be picked up at 7pm tomorrow night."
- Instruction: "This is an instruction: you are to keep the interior of your car as clean as it came of the showroom floor and the outside of your car is to be washed on a weekly basis. At no time will I enter your car if there is clutter in any of the passenger compartments."

Willful or Negligent Failure to Comply

The rare instances where the submissive acts in a willful or negligent manner will result in punishment, up to and including release from service.

- No punishment will be undertaken when Sir is angry.
- Before administering punishment, the submissive will have the opportunity to fully explain how this failure occurred.

- Sir will ask the submissive to recommend the form of punishment.
- Sir will listen to the submissive's proposal and, after consideration, determine the correct course of punishment. Sir will inform the submissive of his decision.
- Sir will use the minimum influence necessary to compel the submissive's compliance with the policies and procedures the submissive previously agreed to.
- Bearing in mind that Sir wishes the relationship to continue, there are no limits to the nature or extent of punishment that could be ordered as a result of the submissive's act of willfulness or negligence, so long as no crime is committed (battery, death).
- After punishment has been administered, Sir and sub will sit down and discuss changes that may be needed in the relationship to ensure that such a breach does not occur again.
- The incident that gave rise to the punishment will then be forgiven and not be spoken of again following the punishment debriefing. The slate is wiped clean.

Protocol Review

These policies and procedures will be reviewed and revised periodically, as Sir directs. Sir will consider a request for protocol review initiated by the submissive. While the submissive may suggest additions, deletions or modifications to any part of this document, such suggestions should be presented for Sir's consideration in a constructive and respectful manner.