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## PROTOCOL GROUP

Among the members of your group:

- What are the common protocols in place for your scene partners, regular playmates, leather families, or puppy packs with regard to rank, responsibilities, appearance, sex, consent, and safety? What has to happen in order for them to change? Is it easy to change them or not?
- How many people have put new protocols in place or re-implemented old protocols in order to address a matter of safety or respecting limitations? Was it done as a result of punishment? How did it turn out in the end? What did everyone learn from the experience? Must every protocol have a suitable matching punishment if it is not properly observed?
- What is the general consensus about when protocol should be disregarded altogether? Does anyone feel there is such a thing as too much structure? Are there too many archaic rules still lingering around the Leather Community, especially in an age where technology plays a larger role in how we meet others or learn about the Leather Community?
- Who feels that enforcing protocols is about maintaining a link to our legacy and history as well as establishing order and control in a scene or amongst partners? How so?



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## PROTECTION GROUP

Consider the following with the members of your group:

- We often consider the Dom in a scene or a BDSM relationship as having the greatest responsibility for safety of all the participants, but how is a sub responsible for the Dom's physical, emotional, and sexual safety as well their own? How is (or can) a sub be responsible for establishing and maintaining those safety measures? What happens if the sub falls short of this duty?
- What's the difference between having rules in place in order to protect your scene partners, regular playmates, leather family and/or pack members and rules that are designed to maintain structure and hierarchy? Are they one and the same?
- When have you had any doubt about your or your scene partner's confidence to either avoid or stop a scene or BDSM situation that was getting out of control or no longer any fun? Were you able to handle it on your own or did someone outside have to help (*i.e.*, another participant, the overseer of a play space, or a trained professional)? What actions were taken and what lessons were learned?
- In what ways is protection a necessary part of BDSM, particularly in this day and age where technology is such a large part of how we find our partners, families and friends? Do you still vet for play partners and/or have people vet for you?



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## PUNISHMENT GROUP

Discuss among the members of your group:

- How important/necessary is punishment in a scene, among play partners, or within a leather family or puppy pack? In what ways does it help maintain a sense of order, responsibility, and proper communication? What about punishment in online/app-based BDSM relationships where distance sometimes complicates enforcing protocols and protective measures?
- Is punishment ever unreasonable? If so, under what conditions and how do you deal with it? Has anyone ever experienced a situation where a punishment was meted out in error or out of proportion with the infraction? What lessons were learned from the experience?
- Have any of the members of your group ever had to use punishment as a way to help guarantee someone else's safety or because a someone failed to protect the safety of another participant? What lessons were learned? What new protocols or rules were ultimately put in place as a result?
- Some may believe that a Dom is the most appropriate member of a scene, leather family or puppy pack to administer or decide upon punishment. Is that ever not the case? Why? What if the mistake is on the part of the Dom? Has anyone in the group had that experience? What changes happened as a result?