
PROTOCOL MANUAL

Protocols for Submissives

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with collected material as noted

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IDEOLOGY CONCEPTS AND BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Many Dominants who write or adapt protocol sets for their submissives include an introduction which gives a framework for the D/s relationship, and an explanation of the reasons why one would wish to serve them as a submissive.

I feel that the Protocols are a technical document, and while they may contain some conceptual information, I do not think that this is the time or place to attempt that explanation. More to the point, I do not know all these answers, and think that they are likely vastly different depending on who has come to submission and why.

Ultimately it is my belief that every submissive has to answer for themselves the question “why do I choose to submit” and that while I may be able to help them to that understanding, I cannot provide it. It is my wish that every girl who chooses to submit to me explore this for themselves, without being told by me how they should feel about it. There is no one answer, thus the only introduction is to state that these are my Protocols, and that they are a living work, growing and adapting as I grow and adapt.

WHY PROTOCOLS

In *Protocols: Handbook for the female slave* author Dr. Robert J. Rubel suggests that protocols “turn routine actions into ‘defined, repeatable, events.’” He adds notes on Protocols as a guide to declaring mutual intent, and focuses on the concept that Protocols make a relationship special, by communicating “to the other person – and anyone watching – just how valued this relationship is.”

CLASSICAL TRAINING

I do not believe there is really a “classic” form of training submissives. I hope to expand this essay at some point, but will comment that for now, a few things seem clear.

- 1) The classic D/s “training” disciplines came out of the gay leather movement after the Second World War, and followed military training
- 2) There were probably various heterosexual “training” systems in place before then, in various places. Pauline Reage (Anne Desclos) relates a hypothetical one in “O” which was probably as much based on some pre-existing work as on any personal knowledge.
- 3) There is no evidence that there is one ancestral training system that everything we know today descended from. Instead it seems the reverse is more likely true. Over the years, various individual trainers have traded ideas, and as communication improved, begun to develop some rough standards. The Apex/Butchmann Protocols likely deserve a nod in this regard.

Despite this it is my hope to develop a set of protocols that offer a “classical” training routine, combining the better elements of various existing sources to arrive at something which is a balanced and rather classic-seeming training. With the understanding that Classicism is usually contemporary.

POWER EXCHANGE

This is the place for a discussion of the concept of consensual power exchange. The backbone of this protocol is a consensual surrender of power and authority. There are many conceptual reasons for power exchange, however the backbone is a voluntary surrender of personal control to another.

SSC v. RACK

“Safe Sane and Consensual” is a standard designator of Power Exchange. Unfortunately there is no particular agreement on what “safe” and “sane” mean. Typically we can assume that “safe” means something which the Dominant and submissive both believe will not be unduly harmful to either of them. The problem comes when the submissive is in a state where she is not really able to make good, logical, determinations about her own safety. In a simple example, a blindfolded submissive cannot estimate the safety of an attachment point. So “safe” becomes something which the Dominant must evaluate.

“Sane” is more difficult to assess still. Gary Switch has said: *The "sane" part of SSC is very subjective. Who's making the call? Person A might think fisting is insane; persons B and C might enjoy it very much. "Sane" always reminds me of Pat Paulsen's campaign slogan from the old Smothers Brothers show: "Vote for Paulsen; he's not insane!" If you go around constantly reassuring folks that you're not crazy, they'll start to wonder.... I've heard "sane" interpreted as "able to distinguish fantasy from reality" and "not intoxicated," which are both perfectly valid, though the latter is similar to the above -- you don't go around constantly reassuring folks that you're not drunk, either.*

Switch proposes the term “RACK” or “Risk Aware Consensual Kink.” One very simplistic dissection of the terms suggests that “RACK is playing without a safeword,” but that is far from clear. There is no element of RACK which seems to preclude the use of safewords or any other safety precaution which is deemed to be reasonable, though it is worth noting that this is a not-uncommon generalization.

Writing at WithinReality.com, danae has said:

...the intent of RACK is education and awareness. You should try to know as much as you can about what you are doing...be aware of the risk. Do you consent or have cosent - and also know the different forms it takes. If you are aware of your risk and you consent to it - go forward. That is the "spirit" of RACK. There is no, "this is safe and this is not." There is only safer and less safe.

I embrace the concept of RACK – that it is impossible to eliminate all risk, and that it is incumbent on the Dominant to know and understand at all times what the safety risks are, and what is and is not consensually acceptable with a particular submissive. I also accept the responsibility that there are times when the submissive cannot or will not be able to give explicit consent (see safewords) and that during those times, I am the responsible party.

That said, it is incumbent upon the submissive to know as much as possible about safety, and about her situation, and to assist in every way in making herself safe.

SLAVE V. SUB

A very commonly cited definition, which I believe but cannot establish was coined by Sadie, says: *“A submissive renews the choice to submit every time a demand is levied upon hir. A slave makes a one-time choice to submit, up front, and thereafter it is incumbent upon hir to obey.”*

In Guy Baldwin's *Slavecraft*, the essay author gives a far more expanded description, but it is one which leaves us with questions. He speaks of conditional slavery sometimes for as short a time as a night, and sometimes with many conditions which we would associate with submission. Ultimately he seems to consider slavery the "act" and submission the "state." But he also seems to consider bottoms as "mere submissives."

A meaningful suggestion is that submission involves "power exchange" – giving up control over limited direct areas, whereas slavery involves "authority exchange," – giving up control of elements of one's life and decision making capacity in a larger sense.

Robert Rubel writes about slavery, but conducts a daily "Coming Present" ceremony in which he asks his slave if they wish to continue in his service.

It is clear that there is no "gold standard" which separates "slavery" from "submission." In general it might be suggested that the difference is a complete submission without backing out, but it is equally clear that safewords may be used. The terms are widely and contradictorily used.

For purposes of these protocols, a **submissive** is a girl who is in limited service, bounded by sessions and some agreement to work outside the sessions. A **slave** is a girl who has undertaken for whatever reason to agree to a substantially wider commitment in terms of overall time and attention, even if within that commitment she is allowed significant pre-negotiated latitude. This is no part of any "official" definition, but merely constitutes a definition of usage for these purposes.

INVOLVING OTHERS IN OUR SCENES

In general we do not involve those outside the BDSM Community in our scenes. Our standpoint is that this constitutes an invasion of their privacy – of forcing our sexual selves into their sphere of attention. There is no "hard and fast" rule on this, however. We are not doing anything criminal or morally wrong, and it is within our rights to expect a certain degree of tolerance.

In general our behavior will be moderated based on the nature of the place that we are present, the demeanor of everyone else there, and the risk/consequences of coming to their attention, both in general and with regard to the special circumstances (career, family, etc.) of the submissive. Thus doing sceneplay or sexplay in a bathroom in a downtown bar may be perfectly fine, while ordering a position drill in an art gallery would not be. In general we default to a "reasonable norm" in regards to public behavior.

CORE CONCEPTS

OVERRIDING REQUIREMENTS

Dr. Robert Rubel has said

The slave's overriding requirements are:

- To obey My instructions;*
- To anticipate and solve My problems;*
- To serve with grace and elegance*

HONESTY, DEDICATION, PUNCTUALITY AND SPREZZATURA

Rubel has also suggested three base concepts that he expects his submissives to embrace. There is also a fourth which is referenced below.

Honesty – clearly a submissive should be honest. Emotionally and factually.

Dedication – a submissive must truly desire to serve and wish to succeed at submission.

Punctuality – a submissive must be on time, and see to all matters she is assigned in a timely fashion. Not being punctual suggests a lack of regard for and value of others.

Sprezzatura – an Italian term meaning “effortless technique.” It is not enough to simply obey. Like a geisha, a submissive must infuse every movement, every action with grace and elegance, making everything that the submissive does seem smooth and effortless. This is not only attractive, but also humble as it does not attract extra attention to the submissive’s labors.

FOUR CONCEPTS: IDENTITY, OBEDIENCE, TRANSPARENCY, HUMILITY

In Guy Baldwin’s book *slavecraft*, the essay author identifies four principles of slavery. These have become popular and widely used concepts.

Identity

The concept of Identity is a focus on one’s identification as a submissive. To some extent, this is the identification of the part of the person who is submissive which makes them crave control and want to submit.

- Each submissive builds his or her own “submissive identity.” There is no universal identity no one “right way” to be a submissive.
- Communication is important. Even if a Dominant cannot know, understand, and experience everything the submissive experiences, it is the Dominant’s duty to provide a safe place for the submissive to grow and learn, and ideally to learn enough about the submissive to help them on the path. That cannot occur without good communication, and focus.

Obedience

A submissive should generally radiate a quiet, and obedient demeanor.

- She should appear generally cheery or neutral. She should not scowl, frown, knit her brows as if puzzling or other actions which draw excessive attention to her attitude. If she is unhappy in **Public, Low, or Club** protocol, then the reason for this should be addressed directly. “Sir, she is unhappy because...” In **Formal** or **High** protocol she should exhibit a resilience and exhibit a cheerful or serious resignation to her situation. If there is a problem serious enough to require addressing in **Formal** or **High Protocol**, she should **Present** and address the issue quietly, directly and seriously, or use the safeword “Yellow”
- In **Any Protocol** She should not give displays of anger or moodiness, or in any way act disruptive. She should not display by tone, body language, or expression her disagreement with, evaluation of, or lack of earnest acceptance of any order. If she has questions about her orders she should express them immediately and directly.
- In **Any Protocol** she should not delay beginning any action, but begin immediately after acknowledging the command.

- In **Any Protocol** she should avoid judgment or criticism. In general she should avoid introducing gossip or other personal issues into scene conversation.
- In **Any Protocol aside from Social**, she is welcome to take up any complaint with Sir, but he should never hear of or witness her complaining in front of anyone else.

Transparency

Transparency is the concept that in order to serve the submissive must hide nothing from the Dominant. In limited service, we understand that the submissive must hold back quite a lot of personal information. To submit in a limited way is not to give one's Dominant carte blanche with one's personal history.

Our focus on transparency is emotional transparency and transparency of the moment. The submissive must be prepared at all times to provide a clear "transparent" window into the workings of their mind and emotions at that given point.

Humility

To have humility is to be humble. To be truly humble is not a matter of acting downcast, it is a state of mind. A humble person is open and accepting. They understand they are not perfect, and that they have much to learn. They are eager and ready to be shown things and experience things that they have not before, and they have gratitude for what they are shown or given.

Humility is not the opposite of Pride. The *opposite* of Pride is a lack of self-respect, and that is not a good quality for a submissive to have. A submissive may be proud of themselves, may be proud of their performance of their duties or of how their Mistress values them. Humility is a *balance* to pride.

It is the opinion of the author of these protocols that humility is a trait which should be present, balanced with pride in Dominants as well as submissives. Every Dominant should appreciate that they have much to learn and be grateful for those opportunities that are made available to them to learn.

THINGS WORTH KNOWING ABOUT

LEATHER COMMUNITY

FROM WIKIPEDIA: In recent decades the leather community has been considered a subset of BDSM culture rather than a descendant of gay culture. Even so, the most visibly organized SM community has been a subculture of the gay community, as evidenced by the International Mr. Leather organization. Meanwhile, other subcultures have likewise appropriated various leather fashions and practices.

The Leatherman's Handbook by Larry Townsend, published in 1972, epitomizes the association of the leather subculture with BDSM. This book also encoded what is retrospectively described as Old Guard leather culture. This code emphasized strict formality and fixed roles (i.e. no switching). Other Old Guard practices emphasize discipline, honor, brotherhood, and respect, and are said to promote a stricter lifestyle, education, and intra-community privilege based on successive ranks or levels.

In a broad sense, there are organized "Leather Communities" with traditions and some internal consistencies which are heterosexual or partially heterosexual in many areas. The term "Leather Family" is in wide use even in the local DC area community. It is worth knowing that this is a subculture that in some areas views itself as very cohesive and may view outsiders as "less serious" about BDSM or D/s,

however there is much to learn from this culture. Most of the D/s practices in these Protocols originate with the Gay BDSM community, and are interpretations of various “Old Guard” traditions.

GOR

FROM WIKIPEDIA: Gor, the Counter-Earth, is the alternate-world setting for John Norman's (the pen-name of Dr. John Lange) Chronicles of Gor, a series of twenty six novels that combine philosophy, EROTICA AND SCIENCE FICTION...The customs, terminology and imagery depicted in these books has inspired a related BDSM-influenced subculture. On- and off-line followers of this lifestyle are called Goreans.

Knowing of the existence of Gor is a useful reference point. A few Gorean terms such as “nadu” have come into common use in the BDSM world, and the wide popularity of Gor in online BDSM communities makes it likely that the coming generation will have more, rather than less exposure to Gor.

NOT USING “MAY” OR ASKING PERMISSION

In the widely used Butchmann protocol, it is put forward that: *A submissive never asks permission, nor is permitted the use of the word "may." Either of those expressions implies that the submissive could want something that the Master does not. The Master's response then becomes one of either acquiescing to the request of the submissive or denying the request. Since a submissive only wants and needs what her Master wants and needs, there can be no conflict and the submissive only asks Sir's intention regarding the activity of the submissive.*

It is worth noting that we explicitly reject this assumption. It is our belief that in many cases it is perfectly permissible for the submissive to have desires or needs, and to express them and that this does not present a conflict with the will of the Dominant. The constructions that are required to maintain this element of protocol are laborious and it is my belief that they actually subvert the purpose of Protocols by necessitating the formation of passive-aggressive constructions in order to handle basic needs.

ELEMENTS OF PROTOCOL

TERMINOLOGY AND CONCEPTS

REQUESTS, ORDERS, STANDING ORDERS

Requests – are things which the Dominant would like the submissive to do. They should be taken seriously and generally followed, but there is limited consequence for failing to carry them out. The limited consequence would be correction in the form of a reminder. In general this would only happen if the Dominant felt the girl was in a position to carry out the request and failed to. Requests may be ignored if something more important comes up or it is difficult to follow them. An example is that Sir Requests that he be addressed as “Sir” when there is no one else present and the girl is under Low Protocol. Failure to do so may elicit a reminder, but not a harsher correction. *In Fluid Protocols, all statements of the Dominant’s wishes are taken to be requests unless they are specified to be otherwise.* Typically Sir would distinguish an order in this context by saying “this is an order” or “this is an instruction”

Orders/Instructions – are things which the Dominant means for the submissive to do. They should be done, immediately or timely, and as ordered. *In Rigid Protocols, all statements of the Dominant’s wished are taken to be Orders or Instructions unless they are specified to be requests.*

Standing Orders/Instructions – are ongoing or open ended tasks or wishes to fulfill. An example of a “Standing Order” might be “when I take a shower, always lay my clothes out on the bed.” A Standing Order may require time and attention outside the negotiated scene. For example “I wish you to clean these boots by next Thursday” may imply time spent between scenes in completing the task. This falls under “assignments/homework.”

Assignments/Homework – typically I feel that it is incumbent upon both partners in a D/s relationship to spend some time outside that relationship doing work to maintain it. This will typically take the form of writing, reading and studying for myself, and of directed assignments or homework for my submissive.

SAFEGWORDS

Every submissive should have two safewords. Typically the standard safewords are “red” and “yellow”

Red – means to stop the activity immediately or as soon as practical. In the case of bondage she should be freed as soon as is possible

Orange/Yellow – means to stop the scene to discuss, adjust, etc. It may be called for any number of reasons. There is a preference for “orange” because “yellow” may be heard as “oww” in noisy situations or if the submissive is having trouble breathing.

Help – is recognized as a call for a DM to intervene in many club settings. “Help” should not be used in roleplay scenes without prior planning.

Personal Safewords – may take the place of “red” or “yellow.” Sir is responsible for knowing them, but it is useful to know the generic safewords as they will also be recognizable to others.

Bratting with Safewords

Sir expects a very high standard from his submissives. There are a very limited number of submissives who use the “yellow” safeword to constantly adjust the scene, essentially regulating each situation or stimulus to the point where they are in fact the ones in control. This is basis for punishment. Such punishment will not occur without warning, and without out of scene discussion as to whether or not the relationship can and should continue.

In this event, Sir reserves the right, as punishment, to remove the “yellow” safeword, and to make it clear that either the scene must be called (using “red”) or the situation endured.

This is a very uncommon issue, since most submissives are better than this, however it does bear mentioning in these Protocols. This will not happen without prior warning and opportunity for discussion.

Failing to Safeword

It is important that a girl be able to safeword, and training her to be able to safeword is a legitimate part of training. That said, it is incumbent on Sir to be well aware that when she is sufficiently worked up she may lack the ability to safeword. Failure of a submissive to safeword is no excuse for injuring a submissive.

CORRECTION V. PUNISHMENT

Correction is when a submissive forgets or fails, but is trying.

Punishment is for when a submissive fails to try or lets her pride get in the way of doing what she is told to do, or being subversive towards her own submission. Typically it is a matter of substantial negligence or willfulness. The worst thing about punishment is that you disappoint your Dominant.

There is no “endless curve” of Punishment. Safewords always apply to punishment. Depending on a girl’s tolerances and the nature of the offense, the most severe punishment is to end the scene, withdraw Sir’s collar and have a discussion as equals about whether or not to continue the relationship.

Punishment is never delivered for safewords unless there is a standing warning concerning using them to “top from the bottom.”

IN SCENE

Some Protocols may specify “except when in scene.” This pertains specifically to a BDSM scene in which there is an element of duress that exceeds the existing D/s relationship. There is no crystal clear determiner of “in scene,” however typically it would begin when she had either begun to be restrained with the clear intent of starting a scene, or when Sir had begun to use a toy or tool on her. To some extent this requires intelligence and judgment on her part. Waiting for Sir to prep toys or a surface at a club is not “in scene” but being tied down or cuffed is. If it is clear a scene is beginning it is incumbent on her to review whether or not she has any requests (water, bathroom, etc.) which cannot be accommodated in scene.

ASKING FOR DISCIPLINE

There are times when a submissive may wish for bondage, pain, or other S/M treatment in order to help her to focus. In this situation she may address Sir and state “she needs discipline, Sir.” Sir may determine for himself what discipline is to be applied, or may ask her for more information. This is a request, and may be denied, however it is a request that will typically be given fairly high priority.

COLLARS

A collar is an object which belongs to Sir, which may or may not be given into the safekeeping of the submissive. A training collar is typically Sir’s property. Other collars are treated under the terms they are offered. Typically an analogy is an “engagement ring” wherein the collar is a gift to the submissive, but she would be expected to return it if she chose to end the relationship. The terms of each full collar are set with the individual who holds it.

These are the collars which are in use under these protocols:

Collar of Protection

This is a collar which carries no actual obligation. It signifies that Sir has chosen to extend his protection and hospitality to a given submissive, but there are no duties or discipline incumbent upon it.

Collar of Consideration

This is a very short term collar which is offered to a girl for specific sessions. It carries no external obligations or commitment outside the scene. It may be physically the same as a Training Collar.

Training Collar

The Training Collar represents a collar which is presented when the Dominant and submissive have worked together, conversed about BDSM, and explored interests, desires, and their compatibility to determine if they are a good match. A “vanilla” relationship may or may not exist outside of this Collar.

Sir typically uses a training collar made of chain with a good quality brass or steel padlock. The training collar is the property of Sir and may or may not be left with the girl.

Collar

There is no specific term for this collar, though it might be called a “Full Collar.” This is a token of a mature relationship in which the submissive has established that she is committed to the service of the Dominant, and the Dominant has established that he is adequately meeting her needs.

Formal Collar or Presentation Collar

At any point afterwards, a more “formal” collar may be offered, which carries with it special terms, qualifications, or signifies some specific deepening of the relationship. A presentation collar is not “higher” or “more important” than a full collar. It has been suggested that this collar is like a PhD, in that one can collect any number of them, for different reasons, each significant in itself but no less or more significant than any other.

“Going Out” Collar

A “Going Out” Collar is not a separate collar in and of itself. Instead it is a “substitute” for the girls’ principle collar when she is unable to wear it. Situations include social awkwardness, including situations that would be awkward to others, and situations where it would clash with the mood/tone/dress she is expected to present. This collar will typically be a necklace, choker or piece of jewelry. In general a “Going Out” Collar is not appropriate to Rigid Protocols, and its presence indicates that one of the fluid protocols is in force.

PROTOCOLS

Fluid Protocols

In the Fluid Protocols, emphasis is on style and “intent” rather than precise execution. Allowances are made for sudden changes of situation and the demands of address and posture are somewhat minimal. In general the Fluid Protocols are less formal and exacting.

Punishment will not be given for failing to act in accordance with fluid protocols, and correction will be limited to a verbal reminder.

Downtime

***Downtime** is invoked automatically by Sleep or Aftercare unless otherwise specified, and can otherwise be called.*

Downtime is a Protocol which has no requirements other than “general respect for the Dominant.” There are no restrictions on posture, on address, or any other behavior.

Downtime is invoked automatically by:

Sleeping – once the Dominant has kissed the submissive and said “good night” she is on **Downtime** unless she has been told otherwise. She remains on **Downtime** until either her scheduled waking time, until she is obliged to wake her Dominant, or until her Dominant awakes. She may return herself to **Low Protocol** from **Downtime**. If she has not been told “good night” but is given no instructions to maintain protocol, **Downtime** begins as soon as she is asleep. This protocol allows her to get water, take medication, or should she be insomniac, work a crossword, or whatever else is necessary to get back to sleep without breaking protocol.

Aftercare – once the Dominant has said “it’s over” or “we’re done,” after a **Scene**, **Downtime** is automatically invoked for aftercare. **Downtime**, continues until the girl is given a direct order, such as “Stand up.”

Downtime can also be invoked by specific command at any other time.

Since there are no standing orders for Downtime, the following requests pertain:

Appropriate use of Downtime: Downtime may be used, or even scheduled, to allow for personal business (cellphone calls, e-mail, etc.) during times when the submissive is kept collared for a long period of time. However, Downtime which is allowed for sleep or aftercare should not be used for activities which do not conform to the basic pattern of the submissive mindset. Thus if insomniac, doing a crossword, or watching an old movie would be perfectly reasonable, however playing a multi-participant online game, or calling an old boyfriend would be less acceptable. The guiding principle is that activities

may distract, but should not create new focuses which take the mind entirely away from the submissive condition.

Masturbation: in general **Downtime** is not sexual, and her sexual fulfillment should come from her Dominant. There may be rare exceptions such as insomnia that would justify masturbation, but it is a general request that she not seek sexual gratification during **Downtime**.

Public

***Public Protocol** is invoked automatically when in **Low Protocol** if there are “average citizens” present. It can also be specifically called.*

Public Protocol is the Protocol that is used when going out into a public situation among other people. This is done for two reasons. The first is to make the submissive more comfortable in going out. The second is to obey the general caveat that we do not inflict scenes on other “non-scene” people – on “average citizens.”

Specific **orders**, usually arranged by advance negotiation, may override **Public Protocol**. Being collared is being collared, and the submissive is still expected to obey direct **orders/instructions**.

Public Protocol and **Low Protocol** are linked.

When in Public, all conduct towards Sir which cannot be overheard by others should be conducted in **Low Protocol**. Likewise when not being observed, the girl should default to **Low Protocol**.

The arrival of a “normal citizen” in scene space automatically allows for a drop to public protocol. This is intended to cover a situation where say, room service is being delivered to a hotel room, and the bellman enters the scene space. It would be awkward to the bellman for the girl to behave in **High Protocol**.

Low

***Low Protocol** is the default Protocol if no other Protocol has been established. It is invoked automatically when the “Relax” command is given in High or Formal Protocol.*

Low Protocol has a specific interaction with **Public Protocol**, described above. When there are “average citizens” present, Low Protocol may lapse automatically into Public Protocol.

In general in **Low Protocol** there are fairly few rules of behavior. There is some formality of address and an attention to bearing, and some basic requirements for movement, but the protocol is mostly a relaxed one.

Club

***Club Protocol** is always “called” explicitly by the Dominant.*

Club Protocol is a very special set of variant protocols designed to deal with “informal” leather situations where a strict protocol might be too glaring or obvious, and create a negative impression, but a lack of any protocol is not desirable either. **Club Protocol** is similar to **Low Protocol** but has it’s own specialized positions and rules. The focus is more on appearance and movement and less on address or formalities.

Rigid Protocols

Rigid Protocols are D/s oriented Protocols with an emphasis on movement, address, and obedience. These protocols are typically invoked only when the submissive is wearing a normal collar, not a “going out” collar.

Having “average citizens” present does not mean there is an automatic drop to **Low Protocol**, however the Standing Order that “Behavior should not attract unwanted attention, or public criticism,” may justify exceptions to strict obedience if there are “average citizens” present.

High

High Protocol is invoked automatically on occasions that include being collared with a Full Collar, or when it is specifically called.

“High Protocol” is the classic and standard form of interaction between a disciplined submissive and a Dominant. It involves forms of address and speech restrictions, positions, movement and rules.

Formal

*Nothing other than a direct or standing order ever triggers **Formal Protocol***

“Formal Protocol” is a show protocol which adds a few elements of “strong discipline” including eye contact, and a more complex formal address.

COLLARING

Entering Collaring Space

This means any situation in which collaring is imminent, whether it is beside a car, in a mall, or in a house. Conduct in collaring space should conform to Low Protocol or Public Protocol, though there are no explicit rules. The submissive should be composing herself in preparation for the acceptance of her collar.

Accepting the Collar

Typically she will either recite a statement that she has learned or written that affirms her desire to serve in Sir’s collar, or she will be asked a question, to which her affirmative answer indicates her desire to receive the collar.

If her collar is in her possession, typically before or as she answers or recites, she will offer it to Sir laid across her hands. The offering should be “open” with the collar lying on her hands, so that sir does not have to take it from her grasp.

Sir will typically raise the collar to his lips though this may be omitted when placing her “Going Out” collar on her in public depending on circumstance.

He will place his hand on her neck or shoulder to indicate the direction she should turn, typically anti-clockwise. He will extend the collar around her throat. She will not offer any assistance unless requested but will take her hands and sweep her hair upwards to clear her neck so that the collar does not become tangled in her hair. She will keep her hair up until Sir begins to turn her, then release her hair and unless instructed otherwise snap into the appropriate default position for her.

Collaring with a “Going out” collar automatically creates a situation of “Low Protocol”

Collaring automatically creates a situation of “High Protocol” until she is told to relax.

Treatment of the Collar

Any collar should be kept in a safe place, a box or a bag. It should be treated respectfully. Permission to touch or play with her collar is a privilege, and should not be assumed. After sessions, if she is handed her collar that is assumed to constitute permission to handle it or hold it. Between sessions at times she is not otherwise supposed to be wearing it, she should seek her Dominant’s permission to handle it. This does not include moving it from place to place as necessary or cleaning it, however it should not be taken out and handled with intent without her Dominant’s explicit permission either given as a blanket, or on a case by case basis.

Self Collaring

Self Collaring automatically invokes **Low Protocol**, unless otherwise specified.

There may be times when she is called on to meet her Dominant already in her collar. This does not occur without an **Order**, either delivered individually or as a **Standing Order**. A standing order might be “I wish you to always greet me in your collar at the train station.”

Unless explicitly Ordered otherwise, she would wear her going out collar. On any occasion she is to collar herself, she should bring her other collar, in case her Dominant should intend to switch to that collar later. If she is not able to easily carry it, she may ask her Dominant his intentions.

“Put on your Collar” is the one **Order** which she can be given when not collared at all. Any other statement by her Dominant is a request.

Removing the Collar when necessary

Her first duty to her collar is to preserve it. It is Sir’s property not hers, and she holds it in trust for him when she is wearing it. Therefore it is incumbent upon her to protect her collar at all times. This includes removing it, or if it is locked, requesting that Sir remove it, in any circumstance where she feels it may be damaged.

Notably this includes

- a) When doing dirty physical work
- b) When bathing or swimming

In such a circumstance her collar is not “off” she is simply “not wearing it.” She should keep it in the closest location where it will be safe, and put it back on neatly and without any ceremony when she is done with her task or activity. She may or may not need to place it in a container.

It is important to note that during these period she is still “collared” and liable to all the responsibilities of her collar, even though it is not physically on her person.

Removing the Collar at the end of a session

The collar is removed the same way it is put on. If she keeps the collar, when she is turned back to face Sir, she should extend her hands to receive it. The ceremony is over when she is handed her collar. If Sir keeps it, he will typically kiss her forehead or cheek to end the ceremony.

WOMEN

For Protocol purposes, anyone presenting as a woman is considered to be a woman. Anyone who is presenting an ambiguous gender is considered to be a man.

STANDING ORDERS

SELF-PRESERVATION

A submissive gives her body and her will to her Dominant, under whatever circumstances. Thereafter, preserving her body and mind becomes an act of loyalty to her Dominant.

She is obligated at all times to undertake any action which are necessary to protect her from incidental substantial or consequential physical or mental harm.

Substantial harm would be a broken bone, chipped tooth, or worse injury. Consequential harm would be a stubbed toe. Even though this would not in any way jeopardize her life, it might render her unable to walk gracefully which would impair Sir's use of her body.

Mental harm is more subjective, however again, any situation which rendered her useless to Sir because of mental incapacity or too distracted to focus on her duties and obligations can be construed as diminishing her value to Sir.

In all Protocols the obligation to act in her own self preservation is paramount and takes precedence over all other issues. If it causes her to ignore a rule, or appear to misbehave, she is to issue a brief, polite, apology "this girl is sorry for dropping Sir's hand, but she needed to avoid stepping in the hole."

In Scene, her obligation and permission to act in her own self preservation is limited to

- a) Clear, present, and unmistakable danger (a falling object) over which there is no time to negotiate
- b) Calling Red to stop the scene and discussing the danger with Sir.

This is actually a safety issue. In Scene she may be under considerable duress, and could for example be restrained in a way she was not fully cognizant of. For her to freely take action if she was alarmed but not in obvious clear and present danger might actually create a greater hazard of which she was unaware (for example knocking over some dangerous or heavy object due to dragging a rope).

Acting Physically or Verbally on Sir

The one circumstance in which she is explicitly allowed to act physically on Sir without explicit permission (pulling, grabbing, knocking down) is one in which Sir is in clear and present danger which she perceives and he does not, and which there is no plausible time to communicate.

Warnings involving physical or mental danger also allow a contravention of speech rules. For example if Sir is discussing a subject that she knows is very sensitive to another Dominant and that Dominant is approaching Sir from behind she would be acting within her charge to say “behind you!” even without an honorific. In this case she is acting to protect Sir from mental harm.

It is not her job to act as a protector, but it is to be presumed that her loyalty is such that she should not be enjoined from doing so if by some chance it becomes the case that she has the opportunity.

DISRUPTION IN ORDERS/COMMUNICATIONS

It may occur that the submissive is in a situation where she is unable to contact Sir, and feels that she is under orders, but is not clear what the intent of her orders is.

Likewise it is Sir’s intent that if she is to be subject to gross physical or mental duress, including lengthy inactivity or boredom, she will be informed of it, or at least informed that she should have no expectations and prepare herself for anything.

Therefore if she finds herself in a situation where she is either unable to figure out what orders to follow, or where obeying orders seems to be pointless she may consider her line of communication to be disrupted. At this point, her primary duty becomes to re-establish communications with Sir, and obtain further orders.

Concurrent with this, it is her duty to obey the laws and protect her own person.

She should attempt to contact Sir by ordinary means (cellphone, etc.) within fifteen minutes of his non-arrival or unexpected/unexplained departure. If this is successful there is no need for further concern.

Likewise if there is some regular source of news (late arrival announcements at a train station or airport, metro traffic, etc.) she should consult that within fifteen minutes to see if she can develop some reasonable surmise as to the reason for delay.

If there is a clear reason for the delay she should take whatever action is most appropriate under the assumption that Sir will continue to attempt to reach her, and will need any transportation resources she is responsible for providing. Domestically she should re-order any food preparations or inasmuch as possible any reservations based on her knowledge.

She is also free to undertake any other reasonable measures to contact Sir. Reasonable would mean any public means of communication that would not constitute a major embarrassment or hassle. For example, calling a scene friend who might have better cellphone access, or has access to SMS is reasonable. Calling a disapproving ex-partner would not be. Paging Sir at a hotel or airport would be reasonable. Calling the Metropolitan Police would not be (unless she has some legitimate reason to believe that Sir may in fact be in significant danger).

She may assume that Sir will undertake the same measures to contact her.

Waiting times

Locally wait 1 hour and 10 minutes absent any indicator of reasons why. Otherwise until the situation abates.

Long distance (if Sir would be traveling over 300 miles) wait two and a half hours

At an airport or train station, wait until the next likely arrival, unless the previous arrival was the last of the day.

Waiting places

After fifteen minutes she is free to go to any public location that is nearby and serves food and drink or allows patrons to sit. Upon arrival Sir will begin a canvas of local restaurants and bars in the immediate proximity. She should tell the hostess she is expecting a friend and give Sir's description. She should attempt to sit facing the door, and maintain some vigilance.

Likewise if she is late, Sir will go to any public location that is nearby and wait. If she arrives late and Sir is not present she should begin a canvas of local restaurants and bars.

By keeping in mind the same factors, it should be fairly easy to arrive at the same location even in a situation such as a mall where there are many choices available.

- a) Physical proximity to the meeting point. Within reason the closest place should be chosen. The exception would be that it is either very pricey, requires exceptional attire, very noisy or has no clear lines of sight. In this case the next location should be chosen
- b) Line of Sight – the point with the best line of sight to the meeting place should be chosen.
- c) Noise level/Staff cooperation. A place where there is little noise (to allow for phone contact or paging) and where the Staff is more likely to immediately recognize someone arriving is desirable.

Leaving

After the requisite wait she should go home, or to wherever she is staying. There she should attempt to make herself available to contact by telephone, cellphone, or e-mail as is practical. She is not obligated to further service but should be aware and receptive.

OUTSIDE AUTHORITY

The Dominant is not the only authority in her life. She is responsible to the following other parties in all situations.

These relationships take precedence over even explicit **orders**:

- a) Blood Relatives, or agreed upon "adopted relatives." This presumes an overwhelming emergency (sister taken ill) not "taking a call to shoot the shit with Uncle Joe."
- b) Other Partners who have a relationship with the submissive which is acknowledged to be stronger or more direct than her relationship with Sir. Abuse of this may be a basis for terminating the relationship but occasional issues are to be understood.
- c) Duly constituted Civil authority (Police, fire, EMT), or military authority on a military base or in any other situation where they act in lieu of civil authority.
- d) She may act advisedly against Orders or Standing Orders on the advice of her Medical Professional including any Therapist or professional Counselor.

These relationships take precedence over any standing orders or requests, and are a basis for breaking any non-explicit orders.

- a) In a dungeon/club/house that is owned by another, the DM (Dungeon Monitor) or Host
- b) Authority figures with a legitimate claim on authority (Parking garage officers, Hotel managers, etc.)

The reason for this exception is that the quality of hosts, DMs, Managers, etc. is not uniform. In the absence of explicit orders from Sir, he expects her to obey them. However a request from a minor authority figure does not automatically free her from obeying explicit orders. For example in a particularly badly run club or irregular situation, Sir might instruct her to stand firm and ignore a junior DM while he goes to seek a host or senior DM who he feels needs to be consulted.

Likewise she might be instructed to ignore a hotel security guard while Sir seeks a General Manager. Sir might also instruct her not to answer questions of a Hotel Manager if he knew for example that the manager carried sexual prejudices and that answering his questions would compromise her security or that of other guests.

These reasons are generally far fetched and unlikely. In the absence of direct orders to the contrary, she should obey anyone who seems to be in a position of legitimate authority where that obedience does not do any severe and lasting harm.

Likewise, she should obey any authority if she feels that she is actually threatened.

In the case of such a situation she should get Sir if she knows his location, or return to a neutral visible area, their lodging place (hotel room, etc.) or car if she does not.

STANDING ORDERS FOR BEHAVIOR TOWARDS OTHERS

A set of **Standing Orders** makes it easier to manage behavior in public.

- Behavior should not attract unwanted attention, or public criticism.
- Be helpful to others
- Do not be unreasonably importuned (importune is a word for “request” which typically carries a negative connotation). “Reasonable” in this case is the best judgment of the submissive. The criteria for judgment is whether or not the benefit to her Dominant of carrying out a request is equal to or greater than the inconvenience to her Dominant. She should consider:
 - Social reflection on the Dominant, through the perception of the politeness of his submissive.
 - The importance and station of the person asking
 - How legitimately important the request is – a very important request that is difficult might be deemed reasonable. A ridiculous but trivial request might also be considered reasonable, because granting it is less trouble than explaining why one will not.
 - Fatigue and stress, mental and physical, on the submissive. She must consider that she has a limited quantity of energy. When she uses it on requests for others, less of it is available for

her service to her Dominant. This does not mean she should not do things which are reasonable, but to do things which are unreasonable is to throw away her energy which during the time she is a submissive is not hers to dispose of.

- Acknowledge and cultivate friendships and ties within the Community

PERMISSIONS

In **Public** and **Low**, and **Club** protocol, the submissive may undertake any normal action without asking permission which does not:

- a) Take her out of Sir's visual range
- b) Disrupt the current activity. The examples of this are myriad, but the best example would be that while the submissive is allowed to use her cellphone, she would not disrupt a conversation with it.
- c) Constitute a "major undertaking." For example she could take a compact out of her wallet and check her makeup, but would not take out a pack of cards and start a card game without asking permission.

In **Public** and **Club** protocol, she need not ask permission to go to the Bathroom, even if it violates the rule on visual range. In Low Protocol, she should ask permission but may assume it will be granted.

In **High** and **Formal** protocol, the submissive may undertake any of the following without asking permission unless actually involved in scene.

- Take Medicine
- Eat Food or Drink liquid that is at hand
- Ask permission to go get a drink or food - this is to avoid a constant double question where she first asks if she may ask a question, then asks if she may get a drink or have food.
- Ask permission to go to the bathroom – as above, this avoids an annoying double question

Ask for the scene to be modified in some way that she feels is respectful and appropriate. E.g. – she notices that a bright spotlight will be shining in her eyes when she is strapped onto a certain bench, and asks if Sir would be willing to rotate the bench slightly.

TOUCHING BDSM EQUIPMENT

In All Protocols the girl is not to touch any device or information which is directly used in the control, discipline, or training of his submissives without explicit permission. This includes papers and data storage devices (Laptops, etc.)

WHAT SIR PUTS ON, SIR REMOVES

Anything including clothing, cuffs, hats, or jewelry, which Sir puts onto a submissive is to be left on, unless the girl is specifically ordered to remove it.

TOPICS OF CONVERSATION

The following topics of conversation are forbidden

- Gossip or personal discussion of friends not in the scene, with the exception that in Low Protocol in a Social Setting, she may ‘follow the lead’ of another’s conversation.
- In Rigid Protocols, there is no reference to other individuals except in the most specific sense. No gossip, discussion of their lives, motives, etc. Referencing individuals who have said or done things is fine as long as it is in context.
- In general emotional/weighty topics of conversation about real life (money, mortgages, cars, work) are to be avoided. The exception is where they directly impact the relationship where the conversation should be sharply focused.
- Griping, or whining is prohibited in all protocols.

ORGASM CONTROL

For all protocols: The submissive will ask permission to masturbate, or touch herself sexually, even when she is allowed to “relax.”

The submissive will ask permission to come. She will ask it sufficiently far in advance that she is able to stop if she is denied permission, but she will generally not ask for a blanket permission until she feels it is nearing the point where she will.

The submissive will inform Sir when she comes. This is the one time that she is not obligated to say "sir." Sir expects her to inform him just as she is coming, so he expects to hear..."coming...", or some other vaguely intelligible statement.

EYE CONTACT

Under **Formal Protocol**, or when ordered: the submissive will not make eye contact with the Dominant’s eyes. This is the case no matter what head position she is in. In the case of positions that have no default or where head position is optional, she will maintain **Eyes Downcast**.

POSITIONS

For most information about positions, refer to the Positions Chart, which shows each position, along with the relevant information about it.

Each position has default hand, arm, leg and head positions, however there is a separate chart of these. By moving the girl into a position, and issuing an additional command a wide variety of alternate positions can be achieved.

Positions are classed roughly and for purposes of utility and ease of finding them in the chart.

Core positions - these make up the principal positions that are used commonly in day to day D/s training.

Submissive positions – these are positions that are particularly expressive of her submission.

Sitting positions – these positions include her default sitting positions.

Service positions – these positions indicate how she should stand when engaged in service, or presenting an object to Sir or someone else.

Kneeling positions, All Fours, Lying Positions – self explanatory

Presentation positions – these are specialized positions that are designed primarily to make the girl appear decorative.

Club Positions – these are specialized positions used with **Club Protocol**. They may also be called in other context, but are the default positions for that protocol.

Stress Positions – these are generally disciplinary positions. They are not intended to be comfortable, but are used either for punishment, duress, or mental training.

PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

It is incumbent on the Dominant to know the physical limitations of the submissive, and only call those positions which they have jointly agreed she is able to maintain, and only hold them for the length of time she can maintain them. Positions should not present a danger to health, anymore than any other scene should.

RELAX

Relax has the function of *temporarily* dropping protocol from one level to another.

In **Low** or **Club**, “Relax” sends her into **Public**

In **High** and **Formal**, “Relax” sends her into **Low**

Any command involving a position or the **Present** order returns her from **Relax** to the level of Protocol that was previously in force.

Relax has the further effect of freeing her from holding a default position. She may maintain her default position, but is not obliged to. She is expected to present herself in a poised and attractive manner. She should sit or stand in such a way as to show a small amount of tension, as that is attractive, and should never appear to “flop” or move in a way that is undignified.

CONTINUE/PROCEED

Continue which is interchangeable with **Proceed**, is another word which has a special meaning. One of these words is used to release her from “Present” and to indicate that she should go on with her duties. “Continue” at any other time or place frees her from any specific instructions that are holding her in place, and indicates that she should continue with whatever duties she is expected to be doing. If she is told to “Continue” and has no other duties, then she may ask for clarification, permission to undertake an action, or simply stand in attendance.

EXPRESSING HERSELF

This typically means a physical expression of affection, such as wrapping her arms around her Dominant's legs, pressing herself against him, etc. The freedom to express herself freely physically comes from:

- Being given the "Continue" order after presenting when she has no other duties
- Asking and being given (or more rarely simply being given) permission to express herself.

PRESENTING

Coming Present

Coming Present is a ceremony which is a more formal "Present." It may include an affirmation of the BDSM relationship, or an exchange of creeds. **Coming Present** is distinct from the **Collaring** ritual, though it may have similar elements. During periods where a submissive may be 24/7 **Coming Present** replaces the **Collaring** ritual entirely. Typically during an evening date, the Coming Present ceremony will be conducted before dinner. It should generally not be the first thing done, and should not be rushed. It should wait until the atmosphere allows for a pause.

Public and Private

There may be a public and private version of the Ceremony. The Ceremony is by nature intimate, and watching others exchange intimacies is often awkward or unpleasant to others. Since it is not the goal of these Protocols to create awkward situations, typically in public a "silent" Ceremony will be used. The silent Ceremony will consist of the following:

- The submissive Presents in the most formal manner that she has been trained to and is capable of.
- Sir will stretch his hands out, palms turned up.
- She places her hands in Sir's.
- At that point she has permission to look into Sir's eyes, despite any other prevailing Protocols or Orders. She will make eye contact. When she is ready she will nod.
- Sir will release her hands, which should drop back to the previous position.
- He will lay his hand on her head, cheek, or shoulder.
- He will then order her to "Continue" or "Proceed" or give some other order such as "Stand." The next order ends the Ceremony.

Present

A submissive acknowledges entering and leaving Sir's presence and control. When she leaves she is implicitly asking Sir to extend his presence and control to her while she is apart.

When presenting herself after being apart a short time or distance, a less formal **Present** is usually called for.

Protocol	Verbal	Physical	Expected Response
Public	None	At Ease if practical, not required	Nod or hand gesture
Low	“Sir”	Standing Present	“continue,” command or hand command.
Club	None	Club Stand	“continue,” command or hand command.
High	“Sir”	Standing Present or Full Present	“continue,” command or hand command.
Formal	“Master, Sir.”	Full Present	“continue,” command or hand command.

The submissive remains in the **Present** position until being told to **Continue** or given some other order. When she is given the **Continue** command, if she was carrying out an order, or duties, she continues with those. If she was not in the process of doing anything, then she may express herself, or stand in attendance.

Leaving Sir’s Presence

“Presence” is a vague term. In a house it will typically mean “out of the room.” But a very small room, or a suite might not really constitute leaving presence. Likewise, in a club, going to a widely removed area would certainly be leaving Sir’s presence even if it were within eyeshot. Typically the definition would be eyeshot or earshot at normal conversational levels, whichever is nearer.

Bathrooms have a special rule. In the case of a bathroom which is a small room adjoining a bedroom or other living area, and private to it, providing other rules concerning bathroom use have been obeyed, there is no need for any special action, and going to the bathroom can be treated as leaving when bidden.

There are two ways that the submissive may leave Sir’s presence

- a) If she is directly bidden to. This includes obeying a standing order, such as “answer the telephone” – in this case the submissive simply
 - a. If she has not been given instructions on when to return, and it is unclear for any reason, she asks.
 - b. gives a curtsy and leaves.
 - c. If she was doing something specific, and Sir gives her an order and bids her “and return” she is not to present upon her return, but to go back to whatever activity she was doing.

- b) If she believes that she should leave in order to fulfill an order, to go to work, to take leave, or to take care of a chore, or wishes to have free time, but has not been directly ordered to.
 - a. Presents herself
 - b. Says “Sir?”
 - c. Awaits acknowledgement
 - d. Asks “Does Sir wish the girl to....,” and describes her intended course of action. If her intent is to be excused, or to have free time, or see to some personal matter, she should phrase it clearly as a request, “does sir object if she...”, and describe to what extent she expects to be excused.
 - e. If her leaving Sir’s presence does not end the session, and there is no specific element that suggests she will return, it is incumbent upon her to either make a clear statement of her intentions in regards to returning, or to ask Sir’s pleasure in the matter ...”if Sir has no objections she will return when she has completed the ironing” or “at what time will Sir next require her presence.” The exact wording is not important provided it is formal and cordial
 - f. She curtsies and departs.

PRESENTING WITH OTHER SUBMISSIVES

Whenever another submissive **presents**, all submissives in the presence of the one who is required to **present** will **present** with that submissive, i.e. a submissive never watches another submissive **present** herself, she joins the other submissive in presenting. Once presented, all submissives must wait for an order which allows each submissive to move once again.

The two exceptions are:

- a) When the non-presented submissives have been ordered to sleep and are in their ordered positions to sleep or when bound or otherwise encumbered in such a way that the presentation position cannot be physically achieved. **Presented** submissives always align in an orderly fashion.
- b) When a submissive is actively engaged in a work task, specifically assigned by the Dominant. This includes serving at meals.

HAND SIGNALS

The following are the standard hand communications, used and accepted the same as an oral order. They are commonly used because distance or noise make speech difficult to understand, or to maintain existing quiet. Unique positions are defined here.

Flat Hand Down - Sit

Means on the floor. If immediately previous position was non-standing, return to previous position.

Flat Hand Up - Stand

Means stand up into the default position for the protocol.

One Finger - Points To Location

Submissive goes to and remains in general area, goes to person, takes position on seat or bed, helps someone with or answers door, answers phone, retrieves indicated object, or otherwise performs the task the point would imply.

Scooped Hand Push - Go/Proceed/Continue

Submissive moves ahead, completes some action, or fulfills some task. Different from **one finger** in that it does not imply a location, but a course of action. Gives implicit permission to leave the immediate vicinity of sir to fulfill a task.

Two Fingers On Bicep Muscle Of Right Arm - Come To Me/Listen To Me.

Submissive should come to Sir, and unless this is followed by the **two fingers** sign for present, assume the default at ease pose. If she is close to sir, she should lean over and place her ear near his head, so he can speak to her privately. If this was done to impart information that would cause embarrassment if it were clear what was said, she should take some covering action such as hurriedly adjusting her skirt, hair, etc. as if she was being advised on her appearance if it is practical to do so.

Two Fingers - Present

Submissive should approach and assume the default **Present** position for the current protocol level, at the location indicated. Submissive should watch for a deliberate downward motion of the fingers which indicates that she should assume the kneeling **Full Present** position. If she misses this signal, Sir will repeat it directly in front of her once she is standing in **Present**.

Three fingers - stand at location

By planting one foot which does not move from the present location, or location pointed to. Free to talk or move but must keep Sir in sight and be ready to respond.

Five fingers - inspection

Remove any clothes, stand in **Two**

Single Push On Shoulder - Standing Present

This is given in the **Full Present** position, and indicates she should rise.

Hand Raised Palm Forward - Stop/Silence

MOVEMENT

MINOR BUSINESS

It is the submissive's responsibility to take care of all "minor business" involved with traveling, etc. This includes

* carry change or tokens for any tolls or fares

* carry any personal item which Sir hands her to carry. In general if it is something he will need, such as a card key, she should be aware what she is carrying and anticipate it.

* typically she will carry cash and handle small transactions. Paying for drinks, or tickets.

* she will be responsible for anything which involves standing in line and does not require both she and Sir to stand in line. Sir may or may not stand in line with her. e.g. she would stand in the will call line.

* typically she should plan to carry a clutch or purse when she is traveling with Sir, in order to have a place to carry necessary items.

BASIC MOVEMENT

On Point

In **Public Protocol**, she may walk next to Sir.

In **Low** and **Club Protocols**, she may walk just slightly behind Sir, preferentially to the right. This can also be stated as “nearly abreast” but she should trail by a slight margin.

In **High** and **Formal Protocols** she should walk “on point” which is trailing about a full step to the right.

On Arm

At any point that Sir extends his arm to her, she is to take it and walk abreast of him, on his arm.

Single File

If traffic, a narrow passage, or any other situation makes it awkward for her to walk on point, she should drop into a trailing position, far enough behind not to collide with Sir if he stops, but not so far as to allow anyone else to step between them. If there is a dense crowd, she may put her hand on his shoulder or waist in order to keep from being separated.

In Front

Periodically Sir may gesture for her to walk ahead of him. Once bidden “Go” she should walk ahead to her destination without hesitation. If Sir puts his hand on her shoulder, this is a signal for her to slow down, and if he taps her shoulder she should stop.

LEASHED MOVEMENT

Learning her standard gait

She should walk leashed in “standard steps.” Her gait will give her a standard step, usually from 22” to 30” It may be useful to measure her standard step with a line, and tie it around her ankles and practice walking with it. A half step is half her gait and a quarter step is a quarter of her standard gait.

Special signals are used for movement when leashed, especially if blindfolded or hooded.

Start - two tugs

Turn – the leash is used to pull in the desired direction. This has proven very easy and effective.

Stop - hand on chest

Slow - pull-down = slow

Speed up – keep pace - pull-forward

Take a step to the side - taps on the appropriate shoulder, one for each step, given slowly so they are easy to count.

Take steps back – taps on the back, one for each step, given slowly so they are easy to count.

DOORS

Standard Doors

Under Fluid Protocols and High Protocol: Sir will open any doors for her, and she will go through them, moving to the right so that she can step back into the “on point” position, or come up beside Sir, depending on the protocol.

Under Formal Protocol: Sir will stop before a door. She will step around on the side that the door is hinged, open it for Sir, and allow Sir to pass through, then return to walking on point.

Doors under her control

If a door is owned by her, and not by Sir, she will walk through it first.

Encumbered

It is unseemly for a large man to be seen walking with a young woman, who is being forced to carry a heavy load for him. Unless specifically planned this scene represents a situation where the fulfillment of her duty to assist creates an embarrassment that is humiliating to Sir, since any normal person seeing the situation would certainly question Sir’s behavior and think him either ungentlemanly or infirm.

Therefore, in most cases, even if she is acting as a valet, Sir will carry heavy bags, boxes, etc. He may or may not task her with carrying smaller items, however she should not walk burdened while he carries nothing.

When Sir is encumbered, she will open doors, and will walk in front of Sir, clearing a path and making sure that no one collides with him, or knocks the parcels from his hands or arms.

Revolving Doors

Under All Protocols: Sir will go first through the revolving door. A gentleman walks through a revolving door first, in order to push it so that it is easier for a woman to follow.

Elevators

An elevator is treated as a room with standard doors. However, once inside, it becomes a “minor duty” and she is expected to take care of pushing the buttons while Sir steps to the rear of the car. If the elevator is crowded, or any of the other riders are objectionable she may without asking take hold of Sir’s arm.

CONVEYANCES

Escalators

She will fall in behind Sir and Stand to the right. If Sir indicates they should hurry, she will walk single file behind him.

Trains

Sir will walk first down the aisle to clear it, and she will follow. She will follow him down the steps to the platform.

Automobiles

If Sir is driving, wait for Sir to open a door. If it is the submissive's door, then he will help her from the car. If it is the back door or the trunk, then she should assume that "unpacking" is taking priority, let herself out of the car, and stand ready to assist.

If the submissive is driving, she will always let herself out.

If the submissive is Chauffeuring, then she will let herself out, then anyone elderly, then any women, then Sir, then any other passengers.

Rubel says: *"The proper way to enter a vehicle is to first sit on the car seat facing outwards with legs together, then rotate the body into the car as a unit to end up facing forward. When exiting reverse, the process. The slave will rise to a standing position using her legs, not her upper body."*

FURNITURE AND SITTING

In Fluid Protocols, she may sit if

- a) She asks permission
- b) Sir gestures for her to be seated
- c) Sir takes a seat

In Rigid Protocols she may sit on furniture only if explicitly ordered to.

If told to **Relax** she may sit on the floor, or on a bed or futon, but not on a chair or couch.

When sitting without being told to Relax, she should adopt the default sit position for the level of protocol.

At Dinner

She should adopt an upright posture, on the forward half of her chair, feet on the floor or in one of the default positions.

ADDRESS

THE FORMAL ADDRESS

The origin of “formal address” is probably military. It was likely introduced to the BDSM community in the 1950s-70s, as the Gay Leather community influenced the heterosexual BDSM community.

In the **Fluid Protocols**, all rules of address are **requests**. This means that while the girl may be reminded of them, she is ultimately not under any obligation, nor can she be punished for failing to observe them.

Public Protocol – by definition in public protocol there are no Communications rules. The submissive is expected to show proper respect, but has no specific rules of address.

Low Protocol – She should follow the “basic” speech rules when speaking privately with her Dominant, but

BASIC RULES

Sir may be referred to as “Sir,” “Master,” or any other title or honorific which has been negotiated. Sir may be referred to as “Sir James” though this is exceptional unless it is to differentiate him in a conversation.

In **Low Protocol** all **Basic Rules** of address are **Requests**. In **Formal Protocols**, they are **Orders**.

A submissive does not say “You” when speaking of her Dominant. She says “Sir,” referring to him in the third person.

A submissive's primary reference to herself is always "this girl" when speaking to Sir. When speaking with others, a submissive refers to herself as "this girl" and uses "she" as a secondary reference. A submissive will never use the words "me", "my" or "I". The only exceptions are that a submissive can say "my Master." Any other object which belonged to her would be referenced as “hers.”

e.g. “Sir, this girl wonders if she may use her cellphone”

HIGH PROTOCOL RULES

All **Basic Rules** are followed

Third Person Address for Others

She addresses anyone in her presence in third person, and speaks of herself in third person. If another person indicates that they are uncomfortable with this, she should immediately shift to whatever form of address they state that they prefer.

“Yes Sir”

She replies “Yes Sir,” when she is:

Told any piece of information

Answers any question affirmatively. Her negative answer is “No Sir, Thank you Sir.”

She replies “Thank you Sir,” when she is

Given any acknowledgement

Is corrected or punished, or told that she is to be corrected or punished

Getting Sir’s attention, asking a question, or making a statement

A submissive never speaks unless spoken to. When the submissive feels a need for Sir's attention, the submissive comes into Sir's consciousness by:

Presenting herself appropriately, either full or standing

Immediately asking only one time "Sir?"

If she has a question that is urgent (which includes one without the answer to which she cannot proceed with an assigned task) she may say “Sir, may she ask a question.”

If she has a statement that is urgent, she may say “Sir, may she make a comment?”

The submissive expresses her request for Sir's attention regardless of what Sir is doing at the time. The request is presented in such a way as to not disturb what Sir is doing at the time, but sufficient to make Sir aware of the request.

She then awaits acknowledgement.

If the question implies an action (as when the submissive asks about using the lavatory), the submissive, after the normal " Thank You Sir!" response, must complete what is then an order.

She should not phrase a question as a statement. For example, if she needs to go to the bathroom, she should ask “Sir, may this girl have permission to go to the bathroom?” not “This girl needs to go to the bathroom.” If she is informing Sir of her state, she should recall that one of her duties is to take care of problems and that if she has a proposed answer, she should phrase it as a question. “Sir, this girl is hungry” is appropriate only if there is nothing available for her to eat. Otherwise she should ask “Sir, may this girl go to the kitchen and get something to eat?”

Apologizing

A submissive should not say “sorry” or “excuse me.” to Sir. "Sir, beg Your pardon Sir" is the only way a submissive expresses her accidental activities.

Talking with other Submissives

Submissives are free to speak between themselves, even in the presence of their Master, so long as it is not distracting, does not compete with what Sir wants to express, can be immediately and easily interrupted by Sir interjecting, and doesn't interfere with the position the submissive is currently holding. **Presenting** is a non-moving position. Speech is not an excuse to move.

FORMAL PROTOCOL RULES

Sentences are begun and ended with “Sir”

Thus “Sir, may this girl use the bathroom, Sir?”

A submissive says "Sir, Yes Sir, Thank You Sir!" every time she:

- stands, no matter what the circumstance
- whenever Sir stands or enters the same room or space as a submissive. Even if the submissive has been told to "stay" or to "sit", that order is only good until Sir next enters or stands.

WRITTEN ADDRESS

Self-revelatory or exploratory writing follows normal rules for English writing.

Essay writing that is assigned as part of homework follows normal rules for English writing.

Periodically the submissive may write formal notes to her Dominant, either out of necessity or because he has asked her to "report" on some issue to him, usually a homework. A "report" is a formal note written to her Dominant directly not an essay.

In formal writing to her Dominant, the submissive will use lower case for words that relate to her. "I", "me", and "my" are not used. "she," "this girl," "submissive" and so forth are written in lower case.

References to persons or positions of respect are capitalized. Thus: "Dominant," "Sir James," "His," "Sir."

Despite it being the norm, Sir prefers that submissive references are capitalized at the beginning of the sentence. His logic is this. Nothing about this construction otherwise violates the rules of written English.

Given the presumption that the submissive is, in formal reference a property which is the possession of the Dominant, terms relating to her are not capitalized for the same reason that "refrigerator" or "stereo" are not capitalized. However valuable, they are not a "named thing."

The capitalization of terms related to the Dominant represents a slightly archaic usage, but one that survived in some venues well into the current century and is still seen from the best known example, the Bible where "His" is capitalized in relation to the Divine. The capitalization of terms of Importance was common in English until the early 20th century and while certainly a dated construct is not one which violates the basic rules of the language.

Failure to capitalize words at the beginning of sentences, however, is a violation of basic English construction.

DRESS

WORKING CLOTHES

The submissive is to have a uniform which I will call "working clothes" for doing informal sessions. This

Top – a black tank top. The style is flexible. The top should be generally plain.

Bra – a black sports bra, or built in support for the top.

Underwear – black underwear, in whatever style is comfortable. Cotton briefs are fine.

Pants – black running shorts, or other very short bottoms

Shoes - simple black flats or slippers allowing for full movement.

Hair band – a black hair tie sufficient to keep her hair out of her face.

DINING

At present, we use an adaptation of *Protocols: Handbook for the female slave*, by Robert J. Rubel, PhD, pp. 92-127 for Dining Protocols. Eventually we will present full Dining Protocols in this section.

VISITS

PREPARING FOR INFORMAL EVENINGS

There are no special preparations that the submissive must make for informal evenings, other than to observe any specific requests branching from homework or interim orders

PREPARING FOR FORMAL EVENINGS

At the Submissive's Home

For a declared “formal evening” at the submissive's home

She is to self collar either 15 minutes before the earliest time that Sir expects to arrive, or within five minutes of her arrival if she is running behind Sir.

If she is picking Sir up from public transport she should be self collared when she arrives.

If Sir is showering she is to be ready with a towel when he steps out of the shower

Sir's clothes should be laid out on the bed, in order, with deference for any specific request, when he exits the shower

At Sir's Home

Any specifications for drawing a bath or laying out of clothes should be specifically stated.

BEHAVIOR IN PUBLIC

TYPES OF PUBLIC

We need to distinguish two types of “public” in this case. The first is a situation of being out in the “general public” among people who are not kink involved. The second is a situation at a gathering of some sort where the entire body of attendees is kink involved.

In general the submissive will be on **Fluid Protocols** when among the general public. Under **Fluid Protocols**, anytime individuals who are not kink affiliated are present, protocol reverts to "Public." The exception is **Club Protocol**, which is intentionally subtle.

There is no specific prohibition against having a submissive among the general public in a Rigid Protocol. The concept is unusual, but there are contexts where it could occur, such as a situation where no significant interaction was expected, or at some event where there is a mix of kink community individuals with others. In general appearing before the general public under Rigid Protocols is something that should be negotiated or at least explained to the submissive. As in any other situation a submissive may safeword on a behavior.

RESPONDING IN PUBLIC

Responding to her Dominant

In public under Club, High, or Formal Protocol, a submissive responds to Sir in the same way she would in private, with the following major caveat. The submissives *behavior should not attract unwanted attention, or public criticism*. "The submissives behavior should engender respect for submission and for Sir." This concern is paramount and may override other elements of Protocol.

Thus in a situation where most of the attendees or the environment is kink oriented, the submissive would behave according to normal protocols. In a situation where that was not the case, she might vary her behavior based on an informed judgment as to what would be cause unwanted attention or criticism.

Direct Orders

A formal direct order overrides any other consideration.

Greeting Others

She will curtsy to a known Dominant. If he or she extends a hand, the submissive will take it.

Presenting

In general public, a submissive will **Present Standing**

In a restaurant, a submissive stands at the end of the booth or table in the "at ease" position until Sir tells the submissive, or points to the seat, to indicate that the submissive should sit. The submissive would discretely say "Thank you Sir" and take her seat.

Under **High** and **Formal** protocol, when Sir stands for any reason, the submissive would again rise to the modified **Present Standing** position. it would enter the position gracefully, and naturally, to not look hurried, clumsy, or "put on." The submissive remains in that position until Sir issues another order. A submissive stands by in the same modified **Present Standing** position under any circumstance within the restaurant that it would be doing so privately.

Exception: if seated on a fixed bench seat in a booth, the submissive does not rise unless Sir indicates that she should. This eliminates awkwardness. Likewise she does not rise if to do so she would have to ask someone else at the table to excuse her in order to be able to do so.

Under all Protocols: A submissive refers to every man, of greater than schoolage, or of any age if they are kink affiliated as "Sir" at least once in every conversation. This includes check out clerks and

everyone else with whom the submissive comes in contact. The only exception, is a clearly declared submissive, or schoolboy. A submissive refers to any woman of station, position, or authority as “ma’am.” She does not refer to younger women this way, because it could be seen as mockery or an insult, but should treat them politely and formally.

Responses to Requests

The submissive is not the servant of others, but if she has no other duties she is free to make herself generally useful in the sense that would be appropriate to a thoughtful and service-oriented individual. If another person, submissive or Dominant, asks her to do something for them, and it is not a significant importunity, she should do it.

She should not ignore a request, but should in all cases respond politely affirmatively or negatively.

If she responds affirmatively she should behave as if she is under Sir’s orders until she has completed the request. This is in compliance with the presumed **Standing Order** “be helpful to others.” Under **Fluid Protocols** her response should be, “Certainly, she would be happy to....” If the request is shorter or peremptory “please stand out of the way,” she may acknowledge it with a nod and compliance.

Under **Rigid** Protocols her response should be, “Yes Sir, she will be glad to....” If the request is shorter or peremptory “please stand out of the way,” she may acknowledge it with “Sir/Ma’am” and compliance, even if she is not going to be heard by the person making the request.

If she feels that a request is unreasonable she may respond negatively. Under **Fluid Protocols** her response should be, “I’m sorry but I cannot right now.” This is not a lie, but represents compliance with the presumed **Standing Order** “do not be importuned.” She may add at her discretion “she would be happy to help you with that later.” Under **Rigid** Protocols her response should be, “Sir, she this girl is not permitted to do that at this time, Sir.” In the case of a woman, she should of course use “Ma’am,” if an honorific is desirable. Under **Formal Protocol** she should always use “Sir” or “Ma’am” unless corrected, no matter the apparent age or position of the person she is addressing. In any case where another person requests to be addressed in a certain way, she should quickly and fluidly comply with their request.

Importunities or Inappropriate Contact

Sir’s submissive is not public property and should not be touched, fondled, grabs, or otherwise used without his permission. Under **All Protocols Except Formal** exceptions to this may be permitted at her discretion under the Standing Order “Acknowledge and cultivate friendships and ties within the Community.” Therefore she may accept a hug or other social contact without explicit permission if she feels that it furthers this Standing Order.

Under **Formal Protocol** she should give the barest response and say “Sir/Ma’am this girl begs your pardon but she is under Formal Discipline and is not free at the moment.” It is presumed that anyone in the Community would identify from her posture and conduct that this was the case, and not think her rude.

If she feels the request is inappropriate she may respond with “Sir/Ma’am this submissive is under discipline of Sir James. Please get his permission to make use of her.” If she continues to be importuned, she may violate any other orders to seek either Sir, a DM, or any other Dominant or authority figure who she has reason to trust, or to seek a social area where there is “safety in numbers.” She should report the incident to Sir as soon as it is reasonably practical.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER SUBMISSIVES

RESPECT

It is not a part of every submissive's agreement with Sir that she will work alongside of, or have any sort of relationship with, Sir's other submissives. However should she encounter them she is obliged to show them cordiality and respect.

WORKING TOGETHER

When working together submissives will

- a) Show loyalty to each other. They will not speak ill of each other to third parties or Sir. If they have a legitimate grievance they will address it directly to Sir.
- b) Not complain to each other, or outsiders. For girls in Sir's service to grouse and complain about their duties to each other or to other parties makes Sir out to be a tyrant, and is disrespectful. Any complaints about duties or situation should be directed to Sir. Complaints about other issues create a gloomy atmosphere, and constitutes an attention-seeking behavior. It is fine to request advice, but this should not be a poorly disguised complaint.
- c) Do more than is asked of you. At all times attempt to carry more than your fair share of the burden. Never do this in such a way as to 'take away' another girl's duties, or upstage her. If another submissive seems to need help, ask once "may this girl help you with that."
- d) Do not refuse help. If help is offered and it would make accomplishing a task simpler, faster, or more efficient, do not refuse it out of pride. This is a violation of the principle of "humility." It is fine to have pride – the point where it becomes an ill is when it affects performance. It is a disservice to Sir to do a task more slowly or poorly because of pride.
- e) Be reliable. If you promise or say you will do something, then do it as you agreed.
- f) Be flexible. If a situation changes, Sir may make changes to the existing plans. Accept, support, and know when to step back, or out of the way. Sir seldom changes plans on a whimsy.

SERVICE

SUBMISSIVE KIT

The submissive should carry a bag on trips which has all of the following items:

- mini shoe shine kit
- superglue
- mini first aid kit
- multitool
- mending kit
- iron
- concealer
- nail trimmers
- safety pins
- ductape
- ziploc bags
- tampons
- condoms & lube
- scissors
- string
- matches/lighter
- flashlight
- breath mints / mouthwash
- lint roller
- \$20 and quarters
- acetaminophen
- protein bars
- water bottle
- slim-fast
- candies (non sugar free!)
- pen & paper
- emergency phone numbers
- mini pack of tissues
- alcohol wipes
- latex/nitrile/whatever gloves
- cat toy
- mini bottle of booze
- an emergency spare of any pill that she absolutely must take daily

SKILLS

CLOTHING MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

IRONING

BOOTBLACKING

SIR'S DRINK/FOOD PREFERENCES

BARTENDING

MASSAGE

MAKEUP

WOMEN'S FASHION

BATHING SIR

SHAVING SIR

SERVING AT DINNER

ARRANGING A DINNER

UNDERSTANDING GLASSWARE

MANNERS

WINE

CIGARS AND TOBACCO

SEWING MENDING

GENERAL DECORATING

POLISHING SILVER

SCENE PLANS

STANDARD DRILL

Coming Present
Learning/History/Lore/Theory
Position Drill/Posture
Discipline/Control
Service
Bondage
Humiliation/Pain

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REFERENCE

PROTOCOLS

Protocols: Handbook for the female slave, by Robert J. Rubel, PhD (The Nazca Plains Corporation, Las Vegas, 2006)

Slavemaster's Slaves' Principles And Commitment, by SlaveMaster Mike McDade

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