

THE PHENOMENON OF “SEXTING”

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“Sexting”

- Considered to be the act of sending sexually explicit messages and/or nude or semi nude photos electronically
- Most common forms of distribution:
 - Text Messages
 - E-mail
 - Facebook
 - My Space



Incidents Across the Country

Law enforcement has been called out recently to investigate _____ sexting-related crimes by dozens of teens in many states across the nation

- **Michigan-** At least 10 students were suspended from a high school in October for spreading a nude cell phone picture of a classmate.
- **New York-** Police have charged a 16-year-old boy with allegedly enticing a 15-year-old girl to text him sexually explicit photos and a movie of herself that he then forwarded to friends.
- **Seattle-** Two cheerleaders were suspended recently when nude pictures of them spread through their school via cell phone.



Incidents Across the Country

- **Texas** – A 13-year-old boy was arrested on child pornography charges after he received a nude picture of an eighth-grade student on his cell phone.
- **Utah**- A 16-year-old boy was charged with a felony for sending nude photos of himself over a cell phone to female classmates.



Incidents Across the Country

- **Wisconsin**- A teen who posted nude pictures of a 16-year-old girl on his MySpace page was charged with possession of child pornography, sexual exploitation of a child and defamation.
- **Wisconsin**- Teenager was charged with exposing a child to harmful material for showing classmates nude cell phone pictures of his former girlfriend and other girls



Federal & State Laws

- Federal law makes it illegal when images of anyone 18 years or younger are created, posted, sent, shared or viewed
- State laws would depend on the content of the photos transmitted and the ages of the people involved



Consequences

- About 30% of teenagers believe those who exchange suggestive content are "expected" to date or hook up
- Pictures that are taken on a cell phone are going to be available for 30-50 years



Consequences

- Pictures may be distributed all over the Internet
- Limit a person's ability to get into college, join the military or get a job for the rest of his or her life
- Significant emotional fallout



Legal Ramifications

- Probation (result of most cases)
- Requirement to register as a sex offender for up to 10 years



Legal Ramifications

- Jail time up to and including life in prison
 - Possible if prosecuted as an adult
 - Possible if prosecuted when they reach 18 for things that took place when they were not of age



School Consequences

- Students are subject to consequences if the behavior takes place in school or disrupts the school community.



Tips for Teens

- Immediately delete nude or inappropriate images
- Don't assume anything you send or post is going to remain private
- There is no changing your mind in cyberspace—anything you send or post will never truly go away



Tips for Teens

- Don't give in to the pressure to do something that makes you uncomfortable, even in cyberspace
- Consider the recipient's reaction
- Nothing is truly anonymous



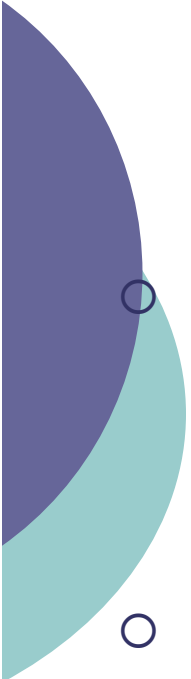
Related Articles

- *Bodies of Evidence*
 - On the Media (January 23, 2009)
- *Sexting, Seduction and Spring Breaks*
 - **Townhall .com (March 17, 2009)**
- *Sydney schoolgirl, 13, in sexting investigation after sending nude photo of herself to boyfriend*
 - **News.com.au (April 5, 2009)**
- *“Sexting” is newest challenge facing schools*
 - **Journalpilot.com (April 2, 2009)**
- *Study: Teens have no qualms about uploading naughty pics*
 - **Pittsburgh Tribune (December 10, 2008)**
- *Teens' nude photos get unexpected results*
 - **The Boston Glovbe (December 10, 2008)**

Related Articles

- ['Sexting': Zooming Out to See the Bigger Picture](#)
 - **TechNewsWorld.com (April 3, 2009)**
- [*Sex + Texting = Sexting*](#)
 - **The Washington Post (December 10 , 2008)**
- [*Photo fallout may be severe*](#)
 - **TheTimesTribune.com (November 13, 2008)**
- [*Sheriff's Office Educating Teens On Perils Of 'Sexting'*](#)
 - **TampaBayOnline.com (April 4, 2009)**
- [*'Sexting' a growing problem among teens*](#)
 - **Citizen.com (April 5, 2009)**
- [*US judge rules for teen girls in "sexting" case*](#)
 - **REUTERS UK (March 31, 2009)**
- [*Sex and Tech: The Stats*](#)
 - **Cosmogirl.com**
- [*'Sexting' Hysteria Falsely Brands Educator as Child Pornographer*](#)
 - **Wired.com (April 3, 2009)**

Resources

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- Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and Unplanned Pregnancy
 - www.thenationalcampaign.org/sextech
 - Chris Munsey
 - Nassau County District Attorney's Office
 - (516) 571-3399



Resources

- Detective John McGhee
 - Nassau County PD, CAP Squad (Crimes Against Property)
 - (516) 573-5275
- Parry Aftab
 - Privacy Lawyer
 - parry@aftab.com
 - (201) 463-8663



Resources

- www.wiredsafety.org
- <http://www.aftab.com/>
- <http://www.netsmartz.org/netteens.htm>
- <http://www.ciconline.org/pointsmartclicksafe>
- http://www.oag.state.ny.us/bureaus/internet_bureau/internet_safety_awareness.html

Protect your digital footprint



- Google yourself!
- Do not put personal information about yourself online
- Do not send pictures of yourself to anyone you don't know and trust
- WHAT GOES ON THE INTERNET STAYS THERE FOREVER



Questions to ask before posting:

- **Does the content contain anything illegal or dangerous?**

- Fights, drinking and drug use, pornography, etc.

- **Does the content identify you?**

Check for revealing details such as a wide shot of your home, a curb address, a license plate or a T-shirt with the logo for your school.

- **Does the content violate anyone's privacy?**

- Not everyone wants to be in pictures. Kids should get permission from people who are in their videos.

- This is especially true if the picture is of a friend or, for that matter, a stranger doing something that is potentially embarrassing.





Questions to ask before posting:

Are you prepared for comments?

Are you willing to give up ownership?

In the fine print of the agreement on the YouTube and other sites, contributors grant video websites the right to use their videos in other ways such as a collection of funniest clips.

Of course, by posting a video online, young artists effectively give up control of where and when their creation will be viewed.

Also, in the future, search engines may be able to search images as easily as they now do words.

Imagine yourself as a thirty year old with a job, a family and, perhaps, political ambitions. Will this video still seem like a good idea?

