



"Sexting" is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photographs, primarily between mobile phones.



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SEXTING

An informational guide.



YORK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



WHY DO TEENS SEXT?

- **CURIOSITY & ATTENTION SEEKING:** Teens are naturally curious about bodily changes occurring during their adolescent years. Some may consider it a joke or a way to get attention.
- **PEER PRESURE:** Acceptance is a powerful motivator for teens. A teen could be told that sexting will prevent the loss of a valued relationship, and the urge to save that relationship can be overwhelming.
- **TO EXPRESS LOVE:** A teen may believe sharing feelings of love or flirting through sexting as a safe alternative to sharing intimacy in a physical sexual way.
- **DON'T UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES:** It is highly probable a teen has never considered their intimate messages could be widely shared without their knowledge.

IS SEXTING ILLEGAL?



“What are the legal consequences?”

The owner of a phone or computer with nude photos of anyone under 18 stored on it could be charged with possession of child pornography. If the photos go to someone in another state there could be federal felony charges.

“What if a stranger gets my photo?”

It is a felony to make it, share it, possess it, or EVEN ASK for it!

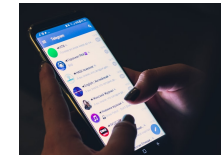
“What if the police get my photo?”

The consequences can be quite severe in terms of possible criminal prosecution, trouble with school authorities or serious social and psychological consequences.

Think B4U Send



TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT 'SEXTING'



Explain to your children the dangers of the internet and behavior you expect.

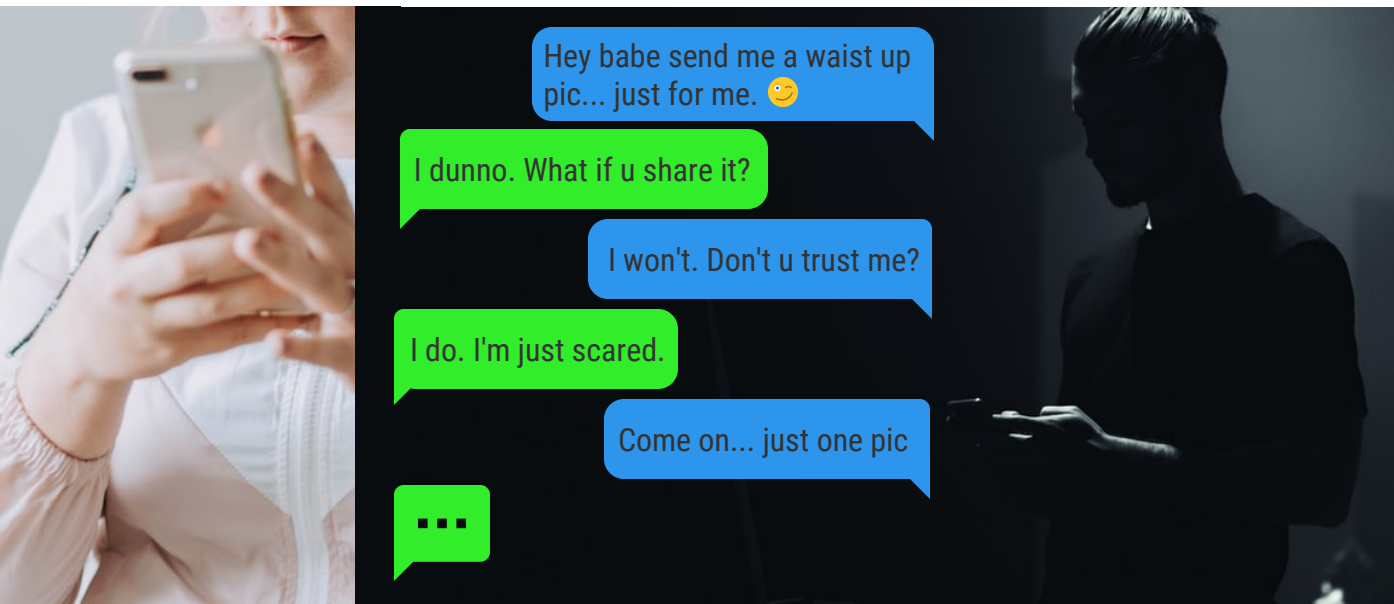
- If a sexually explicit image arrives on your phone, first, do not send it to anyone else (that's not only a violation of trust but could be considered distribution of child pornography). Delete the image(s).
- If you're being victimized – talk with a parent or trusted adult. Tell them the full story so they can figure out how to support you. Ask them to keep you involved.
- The safest way to avoid a picture getting into the wrong hands is to never take it or share it. Sadly, there are cases of revenge where someone shares pictures meant only for them — after a breakup.

It can happen to you:

In 2015, 3 boys and a girl at a high school in Illinois faced felony charges for distributing a video that was classified as child pornography.

In 2018, a 14-year-old Minnesota girl fought criminal charges and other penalties all because she sent an explicit Snapchat of herself to a boy she liked.

In 2019, a Maryland court of appeals upheld the punishment of a 16-year-old girl for distribution of child pornography when she distributed a video of herself performing a sex act.



Hey babe send me a waist up pic... just for me. 😊

I dunno. What if u share it?

I won't. Don't u trust me?

I do. I'm just scared.

Come on... just one pic

