

Sexting

Please Think Before You Send

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Sexting

Sexually explicit messages, photos or videos have permanent, long-term consequences

Let's talk about

- Limits of Control
- Terminology
- Consequences
- Permanence of digital images



Sexting is:

- Someone between 13-15 knowingly and voluntarily sending sexually explicit image to someone between ages 13-17
- Possession of sexually explicit images by someone 13-17 of sexually explicit images of someone 13-15

Sexting

If you send inappropriate photos of yourself to a boyfriend or girlfriend, you can be charged with a misdemeanor.

If they forward your photos to someone else, they could be charged with a felony.



Electronic Communication and Control

Before internet and cell phones - Harder to spread rumors, harmful messages or photos.

Today - Technology makes it easy to copy and forward content. **Impossible** to know how many people will see message, photo or video.

Once you hit “send” you have no control over where that message, picture or video will end up.

<http://youtu.be/pGkaw44-QI4>

Consequences of Sexting

Making the decision to send or forward sexual images can have serious consequences in a variety of ways:

- **Legal**
- **Social**
- **Emotional**
- **Education and Career**

Consequences of Sexting – Legal

Legal consequences depend on person's age and number of pictures sent or received

- Can be charged with misdemeanor for sexting or felony for possession or transmission of child pornography
- Under age 18, may include probation or commitment to state facility for up to 18 months with possible extension for another 18 months
- 18 or older, penalties range from minimum of 1 year to maximum of 20 years in prison

Connecticut Law

C.G.S. § 53a-196h applies to very narrow circumstances:

- Knowing and voluntary transmission, by electronic communications device, of visual depiction of sender, age thirteen years or older but under age sixteen, engaged in sexually explicit conduct, to a person who is thirteen or older but under age eighteen.
- Possession, by a person who is age thirteen or older but under age eighteen, of visual depiction of sender, age thirteen or older but under age sixteen, engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Connecticut Law – Key Factors

Age of sender, age of recipient, age of subject

To qualify for the reduced penalty of sexting, all of these must be true:

- Sender must be age 13, 14, or 15
- Recipient must be age 13, 14, 15, 16 or 17
- Sender must be the subject of the picture or video

Connecticut Law – Key Factors

Age of sender, age of recipient, age of subject

Sending images is no longer sexting and becomes felony child pornography or risk of injury to a minor if **one of these is true:**

- Sender is under age 13
- Recipient is under age 13 or over age 17
- Depiction is of someone other than the sender

Connecticut Law – Child Pornography

Definition of Child Pornography

Any visual depiction including photograph, film, videotape, picture or computer-generated image or picture, whether electronic, digital, mechanical or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a person under sixteen years of age engaging in sexually explicit conduct, provided whether the subject of a visual depiction was a person under sixteen years of age at the time the visual depiction was created is a question to be decided by the trier of fact.

Connecticut Law – Child Pornography

1st Degree is possession of:

- **50 or more** visual depictions of child pornography
- One or more visual depictions of child pornography that show infliction or threat of serious physical injury
- Series of images, 2 or more frames, intended to be displayed continuously that depict
 - More than one child in sexually explicit conduct
 - More than one act of sexually explicit conduct

Possession in 1st degree is a Class B felony.

Connecticut Law – Child Pornography

2nd Degree is possession of :

- **20–49** visual depictions of child pornography
- Series of images, 20 or more frames, intended to be displayed continuously, that depict a single act of sexually explicit conduct by one child

Possession in 2nd degree is a class C felony.

Connecticut Law – Child Pornography

3rd Degree is possession of:

- **Fewer than twenty** visual depictions of child pornography
- Series of images, 20 frames or fewer, intended to be displayed continuously, that depict a single act of sexually explicit conduct by one child

Possession in 3rd degree is a class D felony.

Penalties for Sexting

For someone under age 18, penalties range from

- Dismissal with warning by the judge
- Probation for period of time set by the court
- Commitment to DCF for placement outside of home
- Commitment to secure treatment facility for up to 18 months (court may extend this for 18 more months)

Those 18 or older are subject to child pornography charges.

Penalties for Child Pornography

For someone under 18 who is convicted as a juvenile in juvenile court, penalties are same as sexting penalties.

These charges are felonies.

Someone as young as 15 may be transferred to adult criminal court.

This could mean:

- Loss of confidentiality
- Consequences of felony conviction
- Incarceration in adult prison
- Public registration as sex offender

Penalties for Child Pornography Conviction

1st degree – class B felony

- Prison for 5 – 20 years in prison
- Fine up to \$15,000

2nd degree – class C felony

- Prison for 2 – 10 years
- Fine up to \$10,000

3rd degree – class D felony

- Prison for 1 – 5 years
- Fine up to \$5,000

Person convicted may also have to register on public sex offender registry.

Consequences of Sexting – Social

You may sext to get someone's attention or be funny, but it could have a negative effect on

- Your reputation
- Your relationships with friends
- Your relationships with family

Consequences of Sexting – Social

- Bad reputation and undesired attention
- Isolation from your friends and peers
- Unwanted attention and sexual harassment
- Dating for the wrong reasons
- Serious harm to friendships and family relationships that were healthy and trusting

**Once you send images,
you have no control over who sees them.**

Consequences of Sexting – Social

Video of Megan, a girl who sent a sexting message, the reactions of those around her and effect on her.

<http://youtu.be/DwKgg35YbC4>

Consequences of Sexting – Emotional

When relationships with friends or family are negatively affected by sexting, this can be hard on you emotionally and last much longer than you think.



Consequences of Sexting – Emotional

Embarrassment and Humiliation

In both videos, girls sent photos of themselves. Friends, brother, parents, students and others saw the video.

Loneliness

- Friends may avoid you
- You may be embarrassed to ask for help
- You may feel like no one can help
- Your parents may take away your cell phone
- You may feel like you cannot communicate with friends

Consequences of Sexting – Emotional

Fear

- You may be afraid to go to school or other places because you don't know what people are going to say
- You may fear going to social events because you won't know if someone will mention or show the image or video
- You may fear for your safety because of sexual advances or harassment
- You may become a victim of bullying, like teasing or being excluded by peers

Consequences of Sexting – Emotional

Betrayal

When a boyfriend or girlfriend, friends, neighbors, and family members share inappropriate images of you, you may feel betrayed.

Even strong friendships and other relationships may be ruined by using social media in an unethical, inappropriate, irresponsible way.

Consequences of Sexting – Emotional

Long-term effects

An electronic image can circulate forever.

Remember:

- Once you send an image you have no control over who sees it
- Most people remember embarrassing events and may feel negative emotions again and again
- A search of your name at any time in the future may bring up the image

Consequences of Sexting – Education and Career

Sexually explicit pictures or videos of you can end up on the Internet and could prevent you from

- Joining or continuing to participate in school activities
- Getting into college
- Getting a job



Consequences of Sexting – Educational and Career

Your behavior now will impact your adult life.

Extracurricular activities - School policies may stop you from participating, even if you are not charged or convicted.

Job applications - Employers may turn you down if you have a criminal record or they are concerned about your character. They may search your name on the internet.

School admissions - Colleges may turn you down if there are inappropriate pictures of you on the internet. Schools check social networking sites and search engines.

Additional Consequences of Sexting

In addition to all of these consequences, sexting can also result in you having to deal with:

- **Bullying**
- **Cyberbullying**
- **Harassment**

Sexting can be related to all of these behaviors

Bullying

- **Imbalance of Power**
People who bully use their power to control or harm someone. The person being bullied may have a hard time defending herself.
- **Intent to Cause Harm**
Something done by accident is not bullying. The person bullying has a goal to cause harm.
- **Repetition**
Incidents of bullying happen to the same person over and over by the same person or group.

Bullying

Connecticut Law says bullying can occur two ways:

- Repeated use by one or more students of written, oral or electronic communication (cyberbullying) directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same school district
- Physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same school district

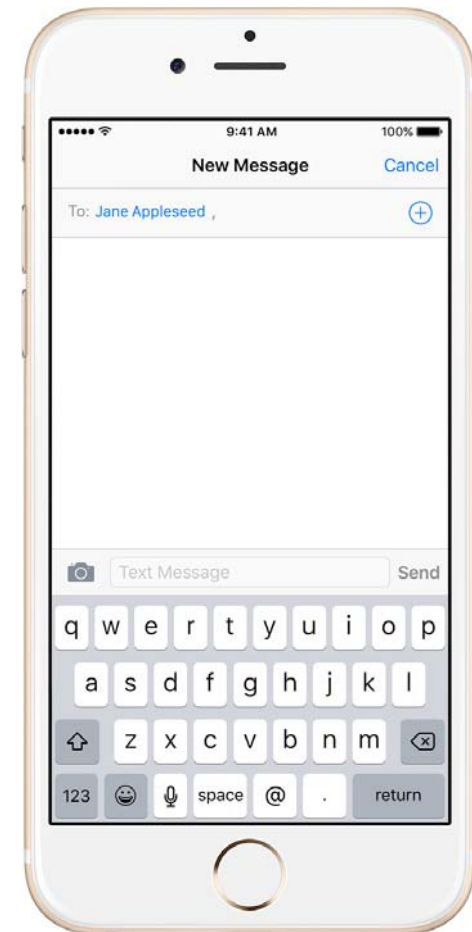
Examples

How Sexting Can Lead to Bullying

- **Verbal**
Name-calling, teasing
- **Social**
Spreading rumors, leaving people out on purpose, breaking up friendships
- **Physical**
Hitting, punching, shoving

Cyber Bullying

Cyberbullying is bullying through the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular phones or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.



Examples

How Sexting Can Lead to Cyberbullying

- **Posts, Emails, IMs, Texts** that are insulting, harassing, humiliating, threatening
- **Slam Pages** - Profile, Blog, YouTube, etc.
Picture placed on voting site without permission; profile on anonymous response site; fake profile used for humiliation or fake relationship
- **Digital Correspondence**
 - Fake friendship, then "turn & burn"
 - Trolling: provoking emotional response (push buttons)
 - Flaming: subtle trolling for emotionally intense convo (gaming)

Harassment

- Threats to kill or injure, with intent to annoy, alarm or terrorize by phone, mail, computer, or other written communication
- Likely to cause annoyance or alarm



Examples

How Sexting Can Lead to Harassment

- Constantly asking for someone to send more picture
- Purposely sending and posting a photo over and over to embarrass someone
- Unwanted groping, hugging, kissing
- Using vulgar or sexually provocative language

Think before you send.

**Ask yourself the question
your parents, your friends, police will ask:**

Is it really worth it?

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