

Prevalence & Other Tips

*57% of teens admit to being asked to send a sext

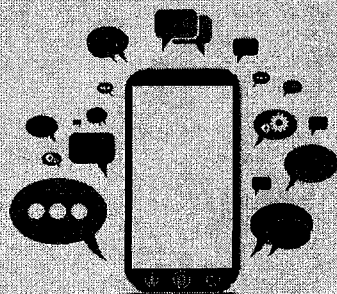
*28% of teens admit to sending nude pictures through Texts or Emails

*Do not allow teens to have their phones in their rooms while they are alone. Most nude pictures are taken in bedrooms. Suggest charging at night in a common area.

*Establish limits on which sites/apps kids are able to have on their phones

*Know who your children are talking to online

*Continue to always talk about cell phone safety



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Sexting



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What you should know

- "Sexting is generally understood as creating, sending, receiving or showing sexually-oriented content, including images and words, via cell phone, email, social media or other online communications. Studies suggest as many as one-fourth or more of all teens are directly involved in sexting, while as many as half have seen inappropriate "sexts" of one kind or another."

Resources:

<https://www.ohiobar.org/ForPublic/Resources/LawYouCanUse/Pages/Sexting-Involving-Minors-Is-a-Crime.aspx>

<https://www.bradleyhospital.org/teens-and-sexting-what-it-and-what-can-parents-do>

Is it a Crime?

- "Whenever sexting involves a minor, i.e., someone under 18, it is a crime. This is true whether the child accepted a "sext," sent or forwarded it, received and kept it, posted it, or showed it to someone else on a school bus. The fact sexting might be shared between "consenting" minors does not mean it is okay."
- "In Ohio, it is a crime to create, reproduce, advertise, buy, sell or possess any sexual material involving a minor. Someone who sexts can be charged with pandering, obscenity involving a minor, child endangerment, possessing nude images of a child, harassment and bullying, and other crimes. If a girl sends a picture to her boyfriend, both can be charged with sexting. If the boyfriend then forwards the image to his buddy, the buddy can be charged. Charges can be brought under both state and federal law, and children and their parents can also be sued based on sexting-related behavior."
- Minors can be charged with Child Pornography or Pandering Obscenity involving a minor. Both are felonies and can result in having to register as a sex offender.

What can I do?

- *Talk to your children about the consequences of sexting.
- *Remind your kids that once a picture or message is sent it can never be retrieved and they are no longer in control of it. Ask them how they would feel if their parents, teachers, or entire school saw the message
- *Call your local law enforcement department
- *Talk to your kids about peer/social pressure as well as social humiliation
- *Tell your kids if someone sends them a nude picture they should delete it immediately. If they don't or they show others they may be prosecuted.
- *Set rules regarding the phone/ electronic devices and complete random checks.
- *Take the phone/electronic devices away if you do not trust your children or learn they have participated in sexting.

